Bibliographical Essay Climate Justice and The Question of Agency in Environmental Negotiations

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Abstract – The change brought forth by anthropogenic activities has paved the way to what is now being called the Anthropocene. The adverse impact of this can be seen in the research on climate change and the lived experience of people. Climate change has also brought a shift in material and power balances leading to further inequality and impacting the already disadvantaged (Mikulewicz 2018). However, we can see some positive change in climate governance with the Paris Agreement being signed by 195 states and ratified by 176 states as of May 2018 (United Nations 2018).

Keywords – Select, Bibliography, Climate, Justice, Question, Agency, Environmental, Negotiations.

Introduction– The change brought forth by anthropogenic activities has paved the way to what is now being called the Anthropocene. The adverse impact of this can be seen in the research on climate change and the lived experience of people. Climate change has also brought a shift in material and power balances leading to further inequality and impacting the already disadvantaged (Mikulewicz 2018). However, we can see some positive change in climate governance with the Paris Agreement being signed by 195 states and ratified by 176 states as of May 2018 (United Nations 2018). Paris Agreement builds upon the UNFCCC and is trying to ameliorate the adverse impact of global warming by limiting the rise of global temperature to 2 degrees Celsius and trying that it does not go beyond 1.5 degrees Celsius (Jafry et al. 2019)

At the same time, we also need to realise that the mechanisms adopted in much of the environmental negotiations do not consider the uneven impact climate change has upon people from different communities and having dfferent identities. The idea of "Climate Justice" tries to address the gap in the present environmental negotiations and climate governance by critically engaging with climate-related challenges. It tries to study how the

environmental negotiations by reinforcing the state-centric bias have neglected how social inequality and discrimination have shaped human experience.

I have tried to criticise the orthodox realm of state-centric international relations for this bibliographical essay. I have also pointed out the inherent problems with state-centric environmental negotiations by pointing out the violence that unjust state practices have created either by acting as middlemen for the corporates or by their policies in the name of 'development'. This makes it crucial to give agency to different voices in the form of women, indigenous people, and other sections of civil society to pluralise the dangers of climate change.

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