

## POLITICAL CONSENSUS ON CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE IN CHITRAL: PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES

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Received: May 11, 2024

Revised: June 15, 2024

Accepted: June 21, 2024

Published: June 30, 2024

### ABSTRACT

This research endeavors to address the critical issue of the absence of a unified political consensus on climate change in the Chitral region of Pakistan. Situated in a geographically vulnerable area characterized by mountainous terrain, Chitral faces escalating climate-related threats such as flooding, landslides, and glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs). Despite these risks, coordinated political efforts to tackle climate challenges and build resilience remain lacking. This research seeks to unravel the underlying factors that have hindered the establishment of a shared consensus on climate change and propose strategies for its revival. Through a comprehensive methodology involving literature review, key informant interviews, focus group discussions, content analysis, and comparative analysis, the research aims to shed light on the intricate relationship between political dynamics and climate change concerns. The research will uncover the diverse interests, perspectives, and priorities of political actors and stakeholders, analyze discourses, and identify barriers to consensus. Drawing on successful consensus-building experiences from other regions, the research will propose policy options and communication strategies to foster collaboration and prioritize climate resilience and adaptation. The significance of this study lies in its potential to drive transformative change in the Chitral region's response to climate challenges. By bridging political divides and generating collective commitment, the research seeks to contribute to policy interventions that safeguard lives, livelihoods, and infrastructure. Moreover, the research's findings have broader implications for climate governance, inspiring collaborative action in regions facing similar challenges. Ultimately, this research envisions a future where Chitral's resilience to climate change is fortified through renewed political consensus, propelling sustainable development and improved well-being for its communities.

**Keyword.** Climate Change, Political Consensus, Resilience, Chitral

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Because of its rocky mountainous topography, the Chitral region in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, which is the country's most Northern Province, is extremely vulnerable to the effects of climate change. As a consequence of this geographical vulnerability, there are various urgent challenges. In the first place, because of the unpredictable and severe patterns of precipitation that are being caused by climate change, this region is at a greater risk of experiencing floods. These floods have the potential to inflict enormous harm on

both the communities and the infrastructure they pass through. Changing patterns of precipitation might compound the danger posed by the region's perilous landslides, which are already present due to the region's steep slopes and loose soil. Thirdly, an alarming possibility for glacial lake outburst floods (also known as GLOFs) has arisen as a result of the increased pace of glacier melting in Chitral, which is a direct result of the rising temperatures. These glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs) are caused when natural dams made of ice and rock that were

holding back glacial lakes break, which then leads to catastrophic flooding farther downstream. In general, the distinct topography of the Chitral region, along with the effects of climate change, produce a complicated set of issues. In order to safeguard the region's populations, it will be necessary to employ both global climate mitigation initiatives and local adaptation techniques. (Khan, 2021).

These environmental dangers not only put the region's physical infrastructure in jeopardy, but they also throw a shadow over the safety of the population and the viability of their means of subsistence. Regrettably, despite the clear threats posed by these adversities, there exists a distinct void in terms of cohesive political endeavours aimed at successfully addressing the complicated climate change dynamics in Chitral. These political endeavours are intended to solve the issue by effectively addressing the complex climate change dynamics in Chitral. This research endeavour is expressly aimed towards delving into the underlying issues that have led to the absence of a shared political agreement regarding worries about climate change and proposing new tactics to revitalise and reconstruct such a consensus. Additionally, this research endeavour is explicitly oriented towards formulating novel strategies to address the concerns that have contributed to the absence of a shared political consensus. This research aims to accelerate collective efforts that are both political and sociological in nature, creating a fresh commitment to mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change in the Chitral region by exploring the sources of this consensus failure and proposing concrete remedies. (Gall, 2021).

This study recognizes the essential necessity of understanding the delicate interplay between the specific geographical vulnerabilities of the Chitral region and the socio-political dynamics that have prevented integrated climate change mitigation and adaptation measures. These vulnerabilities are a result of the territory's location in a part of the world that is particularly susceptible to the effects of climate change. The stark reality of the rising challenges associated to climate change, which range from the immediate dangers posed by flooding and landslides to the long-term repercussions of glacial retreat, highlights the imperative for comprehensive and concerted action. In spite of the undeniable seriousness of these problems, there is currently no political agreement that can be identified as a

significant barrier. The line of inquiry that has been presented takes a multipronged approach in order to properly solve the problem that has been identified. The research will build a contextual backdrop by undertaking an in-depth analysis of the relevant literature. This will highlight the significance of political consensus in the context of climate change initiatives. The research will obtain insights into the varied viewpoints and priorities held by various stakeholders through a series of interviews with key informants. These interviews will include engagements with political leaders, civil society activists, climate specialists, and local representatives, among other types of participants. In addition, the use of focus group discussions will further expand this understanding by capturing the feelings and hopes of affected populations, who are frequently at the forefront of the repercussions of climate change.

Also, the study acknowledges the paramount significance of fully comprehending the intricate relationship between two important factors: the distinct geographical vulnerabilities that are inherent to the Chitral region, and the socio-political forces that have impeded concerted efforts to address climate change mitigation and adaptation cohesively. The hilly geography of the Chitral region amplifies the dangers that are connected with a changing climate, making it more vulnerable to the negative effects that climate change may have on the area. These dangers present themselves in a variety of ways, ranging from immediate hazards like flooding and landslides to longer-term repercussions like the retreat of glaciers, which has a substantial impact on the hydrology of the region as well as the amount of water that is available.

Due to the severity of the situation, there is an immediate need for a powerful and coordinated reaction that covers a wide range of possible courses of action. It is impossible to properly combat the growing difficulties brought on by climate change through the use of individual efforts; rather, a comprehensive strategy is required to assure the resiliency of the region and to promote sustainable development. Nevertheless, in spite of the undeniable seriousness of these dangers and the undeniable necessity of concerted action, the lack of a cohesive political consensus has become a substantial impediment to the successful movement of the issue forward. In essence, the region's inability to form a unified political consensus hinders its

capacity to muster the required resources, policies, and strategies to confront the complex implications of climate change. This research intends to shed light on the complexity that underpin this lack of consensus by gaining a knowledge of the interaction of geographical vulnerabilities and socio-political dynamics. This understanding is essential because it may serve as a direction for the development of strategies and initiatives that not only transcend ideological barriers but also capitalise on shared issues and goals. In the end, the objective is to change the way people talk about climate change in the Chitral region, with the intention of fostering a collective commitment among political stakeholders to participate in collaborative efforts that will protect the ecological and societal integrity of the region in the face of ongoing climate challenges.

This multifaceted problem calls for a response that takes into account the interdependence of societal and environmental elements and requires a holistic perspective. Because of the interplay between Chitral's geographical precariousness and the complex web of socio-political dynamics, there is a pressing need for a sophisticated understanding of the obstacles that inhibit the creation of a cohesive political consensus. This need is emphasised by the fact that Chitral is home to some of the most dangerous terrain in Pakistan. Given both the short-term and the long-term effects that climate change will have on the region, it is impossible to exaggerate how important it is to remove these obstacles as soon as possible.

Communities in Chitral are in danger of losing their lives and their ability to provide for themselves as a direct result of the cascading effects of climate-related hazards, such as the increased frequency and intensity of floods and landslides. In addition, the glaciers' slow but steady retreat puts the region's water resources and agricultural output in jeopardy, which is exacerbated by changes in the patterns of precipitation. Because of these facts, it is more important than ever to take swift and efficient action, which can only be accomplished via political collaboration and a mutual understanding of the situation.

At such a pivotal point, the lack of a solid political consensus presents both a difficulty and an opportunity for those who are interested. The difficulty lies in overcoming the various interests, philosophies, and goals that have, up until this point, acted as a barrier to the success of collaborative

endeavors. On the other hand, this difficulty presents an opportunity to close these gaps and foster a common commitment to climate resilience and adaptation, which can be found within the task itself. This research aims to identify the fundamental causes of this failure to reach a consensus, using views from a wide variety of stakeholders. Using these insights, the research will then create methods that can rebuild political unity (Khan, 2021).

In the end, this research is more than just an academic exercise; rather, it is a call to action. It intends to generate a revolutionary shift in how people understand climate change, framing it as an issue that transcends partisan lines and requires rapid and aggressive action. This research aims to create a meaningful discourse between political players, members of affected communities, and members of civil society by addressing the obstacles to consensus and suggesting solutions that may be implemented. The goal is to establish a sustainable road towards climate resilience via community commitment and collaborative involvement. This will ensure the prosperity and well-being of the Chitral region for years to come.

The study used the lens of comparative analysis to examine effective examples of consensus-building around climate change from other regions, with the goal of glean useful lessons that can be adapted to the circumstances of Chitral. The final synthesis of findings will lead to a more comprehensive understanding of the many obstacles that have hampered efforts to reach a consensus up to this point. Armed with this knowledge, the research will bring forward creative policy ideas and communication tactics, portraying climate change as an issue that transcends partisan lines and calls for collaborative engagement and support from across the political spectrum. In conclusion, the research that has been presented takes into consideration the urgent need to bridge the gap between the growing climatic problems that the Chitral region is currently experiencing and the political agreement that is necessary for effective action. The purpose of this research is to pave the path for a fresh commitment among political actors, civil society, and local communities to collectively confront climate change vulnerabilities. This will be accomplished by delving into the numerous layers that make up the failure of the consensus to form. The research envisions a transformed narrative that places climate resilience and adaptation at the forefront of the agenda for the

Chitral region, thereby ensuring its future in the face of a changing climate through its comprehensive methodology and concrete recommendations. This research was conducted by the University of Chitral.

### **1.1 Statement of the Problem**

The Chitral region, situated in the northernmost part of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in Pakistan, faces a critical and immediate challenge in its inability to establish a coherent political consensus regarding climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies. Despite being highly susceptible to the adverse impacts of climate change due to its mountainous terrain, the region confronts a lack of unified political efforts aimed at effectively addressing these vulnerabilities. The consequences of this failure are far-reaching, as escalating climate-related threats, including flooding, landslides, and glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), pose imminent risks to lives, livelihoods, and vital infrastructure. This persistent absence of political consensus stands as a substantial impediment to marshaling the necessary resources, policies, and actions required to build resilience and adapt to the changing climatic conditions in the region. Consequently, there is an urgent need to investigate the underlying factors that have hindered the formation of a shared political consensus on climate change and to identify viable strategies for rebuilding such consensus. This research seeks to address this critical gap in the context of Chitral, with the aim of catalyzing collaborative action among diverse stakeholders to prioritize climate change adaptation and resilience-building measures.

### **1.2 Significance of the Research**

The significance of this research is multifaceted and holds far-reaching implications for both the Chitral region and the broader discourse on climate change resilience and political consensus. First and foremost, Chitral's vulnerability to climate change impacts makes the research critically important for the safety and well-being of its residents. By uncovering the reasons behind the absence of a political consensus, the research can offer insights that pave the way for informed decision-making and targeted interventions. This can lead to the development and implementation of effective climate adaptation and mitigation strategies that directly contribute to reducing the risks faced by

communities in Chitral, safeguarding lives, livelihoods, and infrastructure.

Additionally, the research has the potential to empower political leaders, civil society activists, and stakeholders with the knowledge and tools to foster cross-party collaboration. By identifying shared interests and common ground, the research can facilitate the building of bridges between political actors who may have previously been divided on the issue of climate change. This renewed political consensus can serve as a foundation for enacting policies that prioritize climate resilience and adaptation, transcending party lines and promoting the long-term well-being of the region. On a broader scale, the research can contribute to the field of climate change policy and governance by offering valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities associated with consensus-building in regions vulnerable to climate impacts. The strategies and lessons learned from this research can potentially be extrapolated to other regions facing similar challenges, contributing to a more comprehensive and effective global response to climate change.

Furthermore, the research holds the potential to stimulate academic discourse and drive further investigations into the intricate interplay between climate change, political dynamics, and consensus-building. This can inspire interdisciplinary collaborations and inform the development of innovative frameworks for addressing complex challenges at the intersection of climate science, political science, and policy implementation.

In summary, the significance of this research lies in its potential to directly improve the resilience of the Chitral region to climate change impacts, foster political collaboration, contribute to global climate governance knowledge, and inspire further academic exploration. Ultimately, the research endeavors to make a tangible difference by transforming the discourse surrounding climate change and political consensus in Chitral, serving as a catalyst for sustainable development and improved quality of life for its inhabitants.

### **1.3 Research Rational**

The rationale behind conducting this research is rooted in the urgent need to address the pressing challenges posed by climate change in the Chitral region and to bridge the gap in political consensus that has hindered effective action thus far. Several



key factors underscore the necessity of this research endeavor:

1. **Geographical Vulnerabilities:** The Chitral region's mountainous geography makes it acutely susceptible to the adverse impacts of climate change, such as increased flooding, landslides, and glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs). These hazards threaten lives, livelihoods, and infrastructure, necessitating swift and well-coordinated responses.
2. **Lack of Coordinated Efforts:** Despite the evident risks, there is a dearth of cohesive political efforts directed towards climate change adaptation and resilience building in Chitral. This void impedes the formulation and implementation of comprehensive policies and strategies necessary to address the region's vulnerabilities.
3. **Implications for Communities:** The absence of a unified political consensus directly affects the well-being of Chitral's communities. Inadequate or disjointed responses to climate change could exacerbate existing vulnerabilities and leave communities ill-equipped to withstand climate-related challenges.
4. **Potential for Collaboration:** A renewed political consensus can pave the way for collaboration between diverse stakeholders, including political parties, civil society groups, and community leaders. Such collaboration is vital for generating collective political will, pooling resources, and implementing effective measures to mitigate climate impacts.
5. **Global Relevance:** The challenges faced by Chitral in terms of climate change and political consensus are not unique to the region. The research can yield insights and lessons that are applicable to other regions grappling with similar complexities, contributing to broader efforts in global climate governance.

#### **1.4 Research Questions**

The research seeks to address the following questions:

1. What are the prevailing political dynamics in the Chitral region in relation to climate change, and how have these dynamics influenced the lack of coordinated efforts to address climate challenges and build resilience?
2. What are the primary interests, priorities, and perspectives of major political parties,

community leaders, and stakeholders in the Chitral region concerning climate change, and how do these factors contribute to or hinder the formation of a shared political consensus?

3. What are the key barriers and challenges that have impeded the establishment of a unified political consensus on climate change adaptation and resilience building in the Chitral region, and how do these barriers differ among various political actors and stakeholders?

By addressing these research questions, the study aims to illuminate the complex interplay between political dynamics and climate change in the Chitral region, offering insights that can inform policy decisions, foster collaboration, and catalyze effective climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies.

#### **1.5 Research Objectives**

The research objectives are as follows:

1. **Explore Political Dynamics and Climate Change:** To comprehensively examine the prevailing political dynamics within the Chitral region concerning climate change, including the interactions, power dynamics, and ideological differences among political actors and stakeholders.
2. **Identify Interests and Priorities:** To uncover the primary interests, priorities, and perspectives of major political parties, community leaders, and stakeholders regarding climate change in the Chitral region, and to analyze how these factors contribute to or hinder the formation of a shared political consensus.
3. **Analyze Barriers to Consensus:** To identify and analyze the key barriers, challenges, and obstacles that have impeded the establishment of a unified political consensus on climate change adaptation and resilience building in the Chitral region, considering variations among different political actors and stakeholders.
4. **Examine Discourses and Narratives:** To conduct a detailed analysis of the discourses and narratives surrounding climate change among different political actors, and to assess how these discourses shape public perception, influence policy decisions, and impact the potential for consensus-building.

## 2. Review of Literature

In order to effectively address the problems that are presented by this worldwide phenomenon, it is vital to have a complete grasp of the hydro-meteorological changes that have been brought about by climate change. Understanding the complexities of how climate change influences precipitation, snowmelt, and river flow is especially important in the context of the Chitral region, which is being affected particularly hard by the effects of climate change. In addition, the text highlights the need of overcoming the obstacles in presenting the scientific agreement on climate change, which is especially important when dealing with complicated scientific concepts and data. The effective transmission of this consensus is of the utmost importance for both the making of informed decisions and the rebuilding of political consensus about policies related to climate change in Chitral. The passage also makes reference to a study that was carried out by Burhan. This investigation made use of the Hydrologiska Byråns Vattenbalansavdelning (HBV) model in order to evaluate changes in hydro-meteorological conditions in the snow-dominated region of the Chitral river basin. This model was able to accurately simulate and project streamflow, which provided some extremely helpful insights into the ways in which the effects of climate change will manifest in the region's freshwater supply. In the end, this knowledge is essential for policymakers and other stakeholders as they prepare and adapt to the changing climate situation in Chitral. This is especially true in terms of protecting freshwater resources and meeting the difficulties that are posed by climate change. (Burhan, 2020).

Particularly in the context of Chitral, where the region is struggling with pressing and varied difficulties, it is of the utmost importance to re-establish political consensus on the topic of climate change. This agreement serves as an important step in the process of resolving the urgent challenges that Chitral is currently facing as a direct result of the changing environment. It is vital that many stakeholders, including governmental authorities, civil society organisations, and the local community, come to an agreement and commit to implementing climate policies and adaptation plans in order to effectively battle climate change and its repercussions. The only way for policies and strategies to adapt to climate change to produce significant effects is for all of these critical parties to

come together and make a collective commitment to support them. In situations in which the political agreement on climate action has been weakened or shattered, as has taken place in some instances, the reestablishment of this consensus becomes an absolutely essential requirement. Rebuilding political consensus ensures that efforts to cut emissions of greenhouse gases and adapt to the effects of climate change are integrated, coherent, and robust. This, in turn, eventually improves the region's resilience and sustainability in the face of difficulties associated to climate change. (AKRSP, 2021)

In addition, the process of re-establishing a political consensus on the subject of climate change is necessary not only for the purpose of fostering coordinated efforts but also for the purpose of instilling a sense of shared responsibility. Because of the far-reaching effects of climate change, it is imperative that collective action be taken on both a local and global scale. It is even more important to take a cohesive approach in Chitral since it is a location that is extremely susceptible to the effects of climate change, such as changes in the availability of water and flooding. When many stakeholders reach a consensus on the need of addressing climate change, there is a greater chance that resources will be distributed effectively, that policies will be put into place in an efficient manner, and that communities will be better prepared for the problems that are yet to come. (AKRSP, 2021)

Rebuilding political consensus can also assist in bridging gaps in both understanding and awareness. Because climate science can be difficult to understand at times, effective communication is necessary in order to educate a wider audience, such as decision-makers in government and the general public. A refreshed consensus can make it easier to have educated conversations, help more people learn about climate change, and boost public participation. It gives those who make decisions the ability to prioritise concerns related to climate change and allocate resources to research, mitigation, and adaptation activities.

In re-establishing political consensus on climate change in Chitral is an essential step towards resolving the climate-related issues that the region is experiencing. Not only does this ensure coordinated action, but it also places an emphasis on the shared responsibility that all stakeholders have. This consensus has the potential to pave the way for

effective policies, sustainable practises, and resilient communities in Chitral, ultimately assisting the region in navigating the problems provided by a changing climate. This can be accomplished by unifying efforts and boosting awareness. (AKRSP, 2021).

**Efforts That Are Coordinated** The phenomenon of climate change is a worldwide problem that calls for actions that are both varied and coordinated. In Chitral, which is a region that is prone to climate-induced catastrophes such as floods and landslides, fractured or polarised political attitudes on climate action can be a barrier to efficient disaster management and preparation. Re-establishing political consensus means that governmental agencies, civil society organisations, and local communities may work together with a shared goal, pooling resources and skills in order to solve climate change concerns in a more organised and effective manner. This unity is very necessary in order to build comprehensive climate policy and adaptation strategies that have a better chance of being successful

Everyone is impacted by climate change, but populations who are already vulnerable, like those in Chitral, may feel the effects more acutely than others. The concept of shared responsibility is strengthened when there is a political consensus on climate action. It places an emphasis on the fact that every stakeholder, from policymakers to citizens, plays a role in reducing the effects of climate change and adapting to its effects. This shared duty not only ensures that sufficient resources are committed to climate projects, but it also fosters active participation and engagement at all levels of society. Specifically, it assures that adequate resources will be allocated to climate initiatives. (Adeel, 2020)

**Allocation of Resources** When a political agreement on climate change is re-established, it frequently leads to an increase in the amount of resources allocated to projects and research that are related to climate. When politicians are in agreement that it is important to solve climate challenges, there is a greater likelihood that financing will be allocated to support the measures being pursued to do so. This can include investments in infrastructure that is resilient to the effects of climate change, early warning systems for extreme weather events, and educational programmes to promote climate knowledge and preparedness among the people.

**Effective Communication** The ability to effectively communicate about climate-related concerns is made easier when there is political consensus. It is much simpler to convey to the general public the critical nature of taking action on climate change and to push for the necessary changes in policy when there is alignment among political leaders. It has the potential to result in public awareness campaigns, educational programmes, and community engagement efforts that assist individuals and communities better understand the effects of climate. (Adeel, 2020)

**Collaboration on a Global Scale** The issue of climate change is one that must be addressed through international cooperation. Rebuilding political agreement on a local or regional level can also contribute to larger-scale initiatives being made all across the world to tackle climate change. The sending of a positive signal to the international community and encouraging cooperation on a global scale is achieved when places like Chitral exhibit their commitment to addressing climate concerns. (Ali, 2019)

In essence, re-establishing political agreement on climate change in Chitral is not simply about agreeing on climate policy; rather, it is about constructing a foundation for effective governance, shared accountability, and greater resilience in the face of difficulties associated to climate change. It contributes to the larger global effort to mitigate climate change while also empowering communities, strengthening disaster preparedness, and strengthening disaster. In addition, the passage draws attention to the difficulty of conveying the scientific agreement on climate change to a larger general audience as well as decision-makers in government. The field of climate research frequently makes use of complicated models, data, and terminology, all of which can be difficult for laypeople to fully understand. It is absolutely necessary to close this understanding gap in order to motivate people to take action and to make decisions based on accurate information. To effectively explain scientific findings to a wide audience and to raise awareness about the local implications of climate change, effective communication tactics, such as those utilized in the study that was linked, play a vital role. In having a thorough understanding of the hydrological and meteorological shifts that have been connected to climate change, along with the ability to effectively communicate the scientific

consensus, serves as a basic pillar for the process of rebuilding political agreement on climate action in Chitral. (Ali, 2019)

It is essential for the region to make these efforts in order to successfully respond to the difficulties, posed by a changing climate, protect its freshwater resources, and assure its continued viability. When it comes to resolving political disagreements on climate change. (Russill, 2018).

The author of this essay contends that the use of consensus messaging can make it more challenging to inform the general people about climate change. When attempting to reconstruct political frameworks in the wake of a failed political consensus, it is essential to keep this perspective in mind, since it is possible that new methods will be required to effectively express the necessity of immediate climate action.

Kythreotis emphasizes on the fact that a post-political climate consensus that is built on global communal politics is still in its infancy. The paper makes the case that interrogating the spatial ramifications of climate change politics is an essential part of geography and other disciplines that are related to it. This viewpoint implies that in order to rebuild a political consensus in Chitral, it is necessary to have a complete grasp of the effects that climate change will have on both the local and regional levels. (Kythreotis, 2011).

Kakenmaster contributes to the conversation by drawing attention to the contested nature of climate change as an idea that is both culturally mediated and politically contested. The point of view presented in this article is that reaching a consensus on the issue of climate change is not only unachievable but also undesirable. (Kakenmaster, 2019)

Ashraf and Akbar present some interesting insights into the specific climate change concerns that are influencing the cryosphere-fed Kuhl irrigation system in the Upper Indus Basin of Pakistan, which includes the Chitral region. This viewpoint questions the concept that taking an approach that is based on consensus is the most effective way to rebuild Chitral's political consensus on the subject of climate change. The article emphasizes the necessity for an efficient early warning mechanism and appropriate resources for preparedness in order to cope with the negative impacts of climate change on irrigated agriculture in

the region. The paper also emphasizes the need for adequate resources. (Ashraf., Akbar, 2010)

Multidimensional strategy is necessary in order to rebuild political consensus on the topic of climate change in the Chitral region. This consensus has previously failed. This involves gaining an awareness of the hydro-meteorological shifts that are being caused by climate change, addressing the issues of communicating scientific consensus, taking into consideration the ramifications of climate change on a local and regional scale, and conducting research into the contentious nature of climate change. Taking into consideration the aforementioned aspects would allow the many players in Chitral to strive towards the reconstruction of a political consensus that will successfully meet the issues posed by climate change. (Moorthy, 2023).

### **3 Research Methodology**

The study began by conducting a detailed stakeholder mapping exercise to identify and document all relevant groups and individuals with a stake in climate change issues in Chitral. This included government bodies, political parties, civil society organizations, religious groups, youth organizations, women's groups, media outlets, and thought leaders. In total, 46 key stakeholders were identified. Qualitative in-depth interviews were conducted with each of the identified stakeholders. These interviews followed a semi-structured protocol, allowing for flexibility in questioning. The primary goal of these interviews was to gain insights into the stakeholders' perspectives, concerns, and positions concerning climate change. Following the interviews, a thematic content analysis of the collected data was undertaken. This analysis sought to uncover common themes, areas of disagreement, underlying interests, and any potential points of consensus or "bright spots" within the collected information. The study team organized a series of four multi-stakeholder workshops. These workshops were thoughtfully designed to facilitate trust-building, mutual understanding, and collaborative problem-solving among stakeholders who may hold differing views on climate change. The findings from the analysis were presented and discussed during these workshops. As a result of the workshops, emerging areas of consensus and potential solutions were identified. Core working



groups were formed to synthesize these findings into joint policy recommendations and action plans. These recommendations were based on

the collective input of the participating stakeholders. Table 4.1:

**3.1 List of Identified Stakeholders in Chitral**

Stakeholder Category	Number of Stakeholders
Government	12
Political Parties	6
Civil Society	8
Religious Groups	4
Youth Organizations	5
Women's Groups	3
Media Outlets	5
Thought Leaders	3
Total	46

**4 In-Depth Interview Findings/ Analysis**

**Key Themes from In-Depth Interviews**

Themes	Common Concerns	Disagreements	Areas of Consensus
Climate Change Awareness	High	Differing views on causes	Urgent need for action
Stakeholder Perspectives	Varied	Political polarization	Collaboration potential
Policy Priorities	Diverse	Resource allocation	Shared policy goals
Climate Adaptation	Local impacts	Disagreements on strategies	Need for adaptation
Mitigation Efforts	Limited progress	Disagreements on priorities	Collective responsibility

**Analysis of Workshop Outcomes**

**Key Outcomes from Multi-Stakeholder Workshops**

Workshop Number	Participants	Key Findings
Workshop 1	20	Enhanced mutual understanding of perspectives
Workshop 2	22	Identification of shared concerns and goals
Workshop 3	24	Collaboration potential recognized
Workshop 4	20	Joint policy recommendations and action plans

**Policy Formulation Results**

**Joint Policy Recommendations**

Policy Area	Recommendations
Climate Change Awareness	Launch an awareness campaign involving all stakeholders to educate the public on climate change impacts and mitigation measures.
Stakeholder Collaboration	Establish a multi-stakeholder climate change council to facilitate ongoing dialogue, cooperation, and policy development.
Climate Adaptation	Develop localized adaptation strategies considering the unique challenges faced by different communities in Chitral.

Policy Area	Recommendations
Mitigation Strategies	Implement measures to reduce carbon emissions at both local and regional levels.
Resource Allocation	Allocate resources for climate resilience projects, infrastructure, and research in Chitral.

This results chapter provides an overview of key findings and outcomes related to the rebuilding of constructs in the failed political consensus on climate change in the Chitral region. The tables present data on stakeholder mapping, in-depth interview themes, workshop outcomes, joint policy recommendations, and the impact of dissemination efforts. These findings form the basis for addressing climate change challenges and fostering collaboration among stakeholders in Chitral.

## 5 Conclusion

In conclusion, this research endeavor is driven by the imperative to address the critical challenges posed by climate change in the Chitral region and to overcome the hindrances posed by the absence of a unified political consensus. The unique geographical vulnerabilities of the region, coupled with the potential for devastating climate-related impacts like flooding, landslides, and glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), underscore the pressing need for cohesive and collaborative action. The research seeks to unravel the intricate interplay between political dynamics and climate change concerns, offering a holistic understanding of the factors that have contributed to the lack of coordinated efforts. By engaging with a diverse array of stakeholders through key informant interviews and focus group discussions, the research aims to illuminate the multifaceted interests, priorities, and barriers that have shaped the consensus landscape. The anticipated outcomes of the research, ranging from a deeper understanding of prevailing political dynamics to insights into shared interests and policy recommendations, hold significant promise for transformative change. By reframing climate change as a non-partisan issue requiring collective action, the research endeavors to reshape the discourse, fostering collaboration among political parties, civil society, and communities.

Ultimately, the research envisions a future in which Chitral stands resilient in the face of climate challenges, armed with a renewed political consensus that translates into effective policy interventions, community engagement, and sustainable practices. By contributing to the global

discourse on climate resilience and political collaboration, this research underscores the potential for positive change that can be achieved through informed analysis, shared commitment, and collaborative action. Through its findings and recommendations, the research aspires to be a catalyst for a brighter and more secure future for the Chitral region and beyond.

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