

Saqlain Waris

“Wow it’s hot,” I thought to myself as I took my first steps into back Pakistan; I could already feel the atmosphere before even getting out the airport. It is the summer of 2021 and the temperatures during the season are on average 100 degrees Fahrenheit(in the area where I live) which is at least a 20-degree difference from the USA. From where I live in Pakistan, the lifestyle is quite different from Brooklyn, where me and my family live; we live in a rural area in Pakistan and the scenery/setting is much different from Brooklyn.

I looked up at the beautiful sky, amazing greenery and the lack of buildings which allowed for me to experience this beautiful sight which is uncommon in Brooklyn due to the crowded streets and buildings taking up the majority of the area. The beautiful sunset that we were shown in children’s books was in front of me. The gorgeous orange/red sunlight covered throughout the landscape, showered the crops, it looked just like images you can find online or like the background you would have on a phone or a computer the only difference is that I was looking straight at it!

As I walked out of the airport, I embraced the heat and in only a couple of minutes I was sweating bullets. When me and my family got on the car to go to our home in Pakistan, I looked outside to enjoy the change of scenery. I saw many agricultural areas but something I picked up was that there was a lot of litter scattered around the streets. This is because there are no garbage trucks or street cleaners to clean the road due to the economic state of the country, and so the streets are often dirty. A lot of the litter was organic so unfortunately that would mean that it would eventually decompose to carbon dioxide which would emit to the atmosphere, thus another cause of climate change in our environment. It was a shame to see such a gorgeous place be filled with rubbish scattered around and it truly had me worried about the state of my country and what could happen in the distant or near future.

The people in the country already suffer enough from economic struggles/poverty and a poor quality of life Climate Change will only make the situation worse. The United Nations Development Programme(UNDP) states, [“Pakistan’s climate change concerns include increased variability of monsoons, the likely impact of receding Himalayan glaciers on the Indus River system, decreased capacity of water reservoirs, reduced hydropower during drought years, and extreme events including floods and droughts. Other potential climate change induced impacts include: severe water stress; food insecurity due to decreasing agricultural and livestock production; more prevalent pests and weeds; degradation of ecosystems; biodiversity loss; and northward shifting of some biomes.”](#) Climate Change has a huge impact on Pakistan if pollution and littering continue then the already unfortunate state of the country will worsen: The quality of life, agriculture, and economy. Many other countries around the globe also go through the same exact struggles and it is not just a select few. Therefore, we must find a solution and execute so that my country and many others can prosper

Source #1: <https://www.adaptation-undp.org/explore/pakistan>