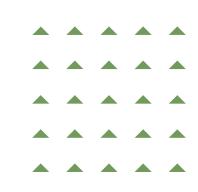


COMMUNITY VOICES ON CLIMATE CHANGE

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School - GMSSSS, -UCT OHS







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Challenge Overview

The climate crisis affects everyone, but those who contribute least suffer the most. We interviewed community members to understand how climate change impacts daily life and what changes could improve resilience.

Methodology

We interviewed four community members via text and audio messages to capture their experiences, impacts, and suggested solutions. Voices were condensed into an Instagram mini-story, with full interviews included here.



Community Voices



"The biggest thing this year is the unpredictable climate. It has been hotter than usual, which has increased the use of ACs, which further affects our climate. The floods in northern India were also unpredictable. We can build stronger houses that can withstand floods and increase the chances of survival. We could also develop more effective technological systems to predict heatwaves, floods, or other major climate-related changes. As a society, we can plant more trees and greenery in empty areas to help improve the environment."

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"The heat this summer reached up to 48°C, it felt almost unbearable. Even while riding a bike at high speed, the 'loo' (hot wind) was intense. I experienced 3–4 heat strokes this summer and had to stay home to recover. The monsoons were significantly stronger this year, causing major damage to infrastructure. Roads developed huge potholes, and traffic across the country got heavily clogged. This also delayed ambulances and essential vehicles, potentially risking lives.

Improvements are needed: better roads are the first step. Germany has an innovative system where roads absorb water and channel it to underground tunnels, preventing waterlogging and ensuring steady traffic flow. A system like this in India would help immensely. Most importantly, it would help if our leaders focused on the people's safety and infrastructure rather than assuming everything is fine or that the country is perfect."

Chandigarh, India





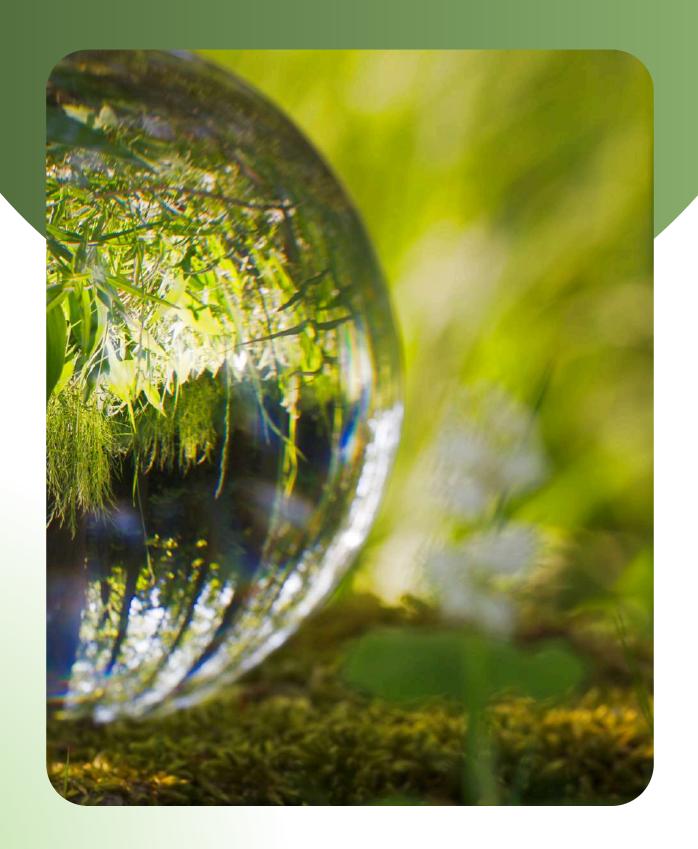


Pearl, South Africa

"In South Africa, we still rely a lot on coal power, and it's making us one of the top CO₂ emitters on the continent. It's not just about the air, the pollution is hitting our farms hard, especially in places like Mpumalanga. Crops are struggling, prices are going up, and food is becoming seasonal because of the changing climate.

But there are solutions. If more households start using solar energy for cooking and lighting, and if communities build small greenhouses to grow their own food in cleaner environments, we can protect our health, our food, and the planet."

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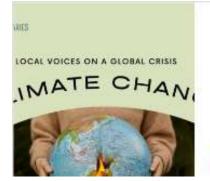
Mzolisi, South Africa

"Honestly, it's already making a big impact. Big events like the FIFA World Cup have to change their dates because it's just getting too hot, like Qatar 2022, which had to be moved to winter instead of summer to avoid the crazy heat.

I don't think soccer alone can fix climate change, but since it's the most popular sport in the world with billions of fans, it's in a great position to lead by example. If clubs, players, and fans all pitch in to cut emissions, take care of the fields, and spread the word, football could become a powerful voice for climate action. It's a solid way to get people thinking and encourage everyone to take action."



Mini-Story / Instagram Post



ECOVISIONARIES (@eco_visionaries) • Instagram photos and videos

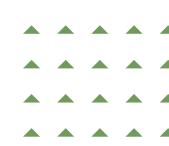
2 likes, 0 comments - eco_visionaries on October 3, 2025: "\$The climate is changing...

o Instagram

https://www.instagram.com/p/DPWPsb_gtJ1/?igsh=MjExaWU2aWR4N3pt



We transformed these voices into a mini Instagram story carousel to raise awareness:





LOCAL VOICES ON A GLOBAL CRISIS



A DEFINING

How climate change is impacting daily lives

48°C

- Recorded this summer in parts of India
- Locals reported 3-4 heat strokes each.

20-30%

 Increase in AC usage during peak heat days * driving up electricity demand and carbon emissions.

VOICE 1: EXPERIENCE

"This year has been hotter than usual. AC use went up everywhere, and floods in northern India were unpredictable. People are struggling with both heat and water damage."



Reflection

Through these interviews, we learned that climate change is visible, local, and personal. Heatwaves, floods, and unreliable infrastructure affect health, safety, and daily life.

Community-led solutions such as planting trees, building resilient infrastructure, using renewable energy, and adopting predictive technologies can strengthen resilience and protect lives.

Listening to local voices is essential to understanding the real impacts of climate change and advocating for effective action.







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THANK YOU!