



Earth in crisis: environmental policy in an international context

Awareness of Climate Change

Commentary

Although local people are acutely aware of changes to the weather in their local environment, there are varying levels of awareness of climate change as a global phenomenon.

Interviewer (Subtitled)

Have you heard of climate change?

Bibi Jan (subtitled)

I haven't heard of this.

Shaymol Dhali (subtitled)

Because of industries all over the world the climate is changing and the temperature is rising. Different problems are arising because of this and because of the use of different kinds of gas.

Nirapad Byne (subtitled)

The whole world is polluted and I believe the whole universe has been polluted so it's no wonder it's happening here. The West have caused this damage and we are only a small country so I believe they should compensate us. In my humble opinion they should do this and they should stop polluting immediately.

Commentary

The people living here don't benefit from the energy produced by burning fossil fuels.

Shaymol Dhali (subtitled)

We don't have electricity here. We have a solar panel...

Interviewer

What sorts of machinery can you run with it?

Shaymol Dhali (subtitled)

It powers 3 fans, our lights and our television.

Sabihuddin Ahmed

Bangladesh is a country whose global emission per capita is the lowest in the world. So basically Bangladeshis are not responsible for what is happening to them. So therefore I think there is a bounded duty on those who are responsible for the carbon emissions, the burning of fossil fuels, should pay for it. Simple as that.

Commentary

The environmental changes making life more and more difficult for the people living in the village of Paik Gacha are spreading further north. Just 70 km away there are freshwater ponds and the fields are still green, but if saline river water continues to spread north and sea levels rise these farmers too will find their livelihoods under threat.

Shaymol Dhali & father (subtitled)

All these trees here, the flowers come out but they just fall off and there's no fruit. It's because of the salt water. On this side the fruit trees are in the same state. Look at the coconut trees; have you seen any coconut trees like this before? Forget about any coconuts, the top of the tree is smaller and thinner. The cause of the poor condition of the trees is climate.

You cannot imagine it now but we used to have fruit trees and flowers here. It's painful to remember this now. It would be wonderful if we could have that again. We used to have everything we needed from the land but now we have nothing. Except salt and kerosene we could afford all other household products if we could grow vegetables properly. But because of the salt water we can't do it any more.