

Endangered Communities: Managing Human Rights Exigencies in Climate Change Impacted Regions: A Case Study of People of the Sahel, Nigeria

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Abstract

Climate change poses a severe threat to human rights in Nigeria's Sahel region. Droughts, floods, and erratic weather patterns disrupt livelihoods; reduce food security, and cause displacement, disproportionately impacting women, children, and people with disabilities. Against this backdrop, this study investigates how climate change exacerbates existing vulnerabilities of the Sahel region and explores opportunities for strengthening community resilience. In the method section, analytical literature review was utilized to extract qualitative data from extant literature. Anchored on Political economic theory, the appraisal reveals that climate shocks worsen pre-existing inequalities exacerbating community vulnerabilities. Girls with limited education due to societal barriers face even greater challenges when climate disrupts schooling, hindering future opportunities. People with disabilities encounter difficulties accessing essential services due to climate-induced disruptions, further marginalizing them. The study identifies key opportunities to empower Sahelian communities. Raising awareness about climate risks and adaptation strategies in local languages is crucial. Supporting climate-smart agriculture and livelihood diversification can improve food security and economic resilience. Investing in infrastructure that withstands extreme weather events with accessibility for people with disabilities is essential. Social safety nets, fostering local participation in decision-making, and strengthening local governance can further bolster community resilience. It

is recommended that legislative representatives of these communities or their nearest constituencies device a legal framework for pursuing the maintenance of the rights of those living in those communities.

Key words: Climate change; Displacement, Endangered communities; Environment problems; Human rights; Migration; Sahel region

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Sahel region in Africa is experiencing significant climate change impacts leading to devastating consequences and violations of fundamental human rights. In Nigeria, peasant farmers, engaged in animal husbandry and subsistence agriculture are greatly impacted in many practical ways. In consideration this threat, and the policy failure of many developing nations such as Nigeria partly owing to institutional corruption (Ezeh & Etodike, 2016) and distributive injustice (Ezeh et al., 2018) is preventing government's proper allocation of resources to the region. Thus, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) which is the leading UN entity on human rights has described global climate change in such circumstances as critical issue entangled with complicated outcomes on the human lives (OHCHR, 2022). This is because, the impact of climate change is far reaching including, typical unemployment problems (Etodike et al., 2018), human rights abuse (Nenger et al., 2023) and environmental injustice (Martinez & Nenger, 2023).

Though this precarious situation of the people in the Sahel especially Nigerians to a large extent is covered by their unique mandate provided by the UN General Assembly through OHCHR to promote and protect all human rights for all people impacted in any way including people endangered by changing climates; yet, a little has been achieved in this regard. For instance, Nadir et al. (2021) contends that rising sea levels, erratic rainfall patterns, and increased flooding threaten the right to life, health, food, water, sanitation, and housing patterns. These of climate changes are creating more endangered communities than ever without commensurate action thus leading to the creation of many vulnerable communities with bruised human rights.

The vulnerabilities created by climate changes disproportionately affect particularly women, children, and people with disabilities (Sabine & Stephanie, 2013). For instance, the right to life is jeopardized by extreme weather events, flooding, and the spread of waterborne diseases (OHCHR, 2017) whereas rights to decent employment and livelihoods in those communities which are often dependent on agriculture and pastoralism are disrupted, thereby impacting the right to food (FSIN, 2022). Unlike the exacerbated man-made environmental pollution recordable in developing regions (Akagbue et al., 2024), in the area of health, Ahmed et al. (2018) opined that climate change also exacerbates health issues by increasing the prevalence of zoonotic and vector-borne diseases. In this perspective, Zickgraf et al (2016) contend that water scarcity due to salinization and droughts is a serious threat to the rights to water and sanitation; so, also, inadequate healthcare infrastructure and limited access to medical services further endanger human health (OHCHR, 2022). In both instances, the elite owe these communities proper citizenship behavior (Okoye et al., 2018) in order to bring their challenges to fore through legislation and government affirmative action.

Thus, in many endangered communities such as the Sahel in the northern Nigeria, in which these exigencies abound with serious detrimental human rights outcomes there is need for affirmative action. It is considered that many people in the Sahel are forced to migrate against their wishes due to climate-induced hardships raising the questions about their rights to live and livelihood. This displacement is injurious to other life enhancing endeavours as it disrupts access to education, particularly for girls and means of livelihood e.g. access to land for agriculture (OHCHR, 2022; UNFPA, 2019). This is because, when they become migrants, they may be faced with precarious living conditions and heightened vulnerability to exploitation, lack of access and abuse (OHCHR, 2016). In the presence of these conditions, it will almost be impossible for such communities to thrive, and to understand in fullness their plight given their vulnerabilities. This study therefore, aims to analyze

the human rights implications of climate change on communities in the Sahel, with a specific focus on Nigeria exploring the kind and manner of occurrence while drawing attention of stakeholder to the issues.

Problem and Gaps

Though several literatures have attempted to x-ray the climate change problems in the Sahel region; however, investigating its conundrums with human rights dimensions presents several pragmatic and empirical gaps owing to dearth of literature. Firstly, the complexity of the interplay between environmental degradation, human rights violations, and forced migration is difficult to untangle largely because the communities have undocumented ordeals both communally and individually. For instance, studies by Ogunjobi et al. (2016) and UNDP NCO (2021) documented how environmental factors like droughts and erratic rainfall patterns lead to food insecurity and poverty without traces to how these problems breached the rights of the community members or the consequences thereof. Hence, quantifying the precise impact on human rights, such as the right to food or water, though challenging due to overlapping factors like poverty and pre-existing vulnerabilities but yet remains pragmatic steps of understanding how climate change endangers certain vulnerable communities.

Also, research is inadequate in addressing the dangers of emigrational rights which exposes the gaps that exists in exploring legal framework for protecting climate migrants (Nenger et al., 2024) especially from the complex challenges arising from climate changes. Greater attention is usually paid to persecution with understanding the lived lives of such community members and how legal frameworks can help protect them. This aspect leaves an important legal grey area in order to augment the 1951 Refugee Convention which falls short of migration rights caused by climate changes as highlighted by UNHCR (2023). In this perspective, studies like IDMC (2023) which illustrated the plight of Nigerians displaced within their borders due to climate change sheds important light to literature in creating protection gaps and hindering access to humanitarian assistance.

Thirdly, gathering reliable data in conflict zones can be difficult due to security concerns and limited access. This makes it challenging to fully understand the human rights violations faced by displaced communities, such as exploitation and abuse documented by OHCHR (2016). Existing literature on climate change and human rights in Nigeria's Sahel often focuses on specific consequences, like food insecurity (Ogunjobi et al., 2016) or displacement (IDMC, 2023).

In consideration ns of the currents and existing gaps, this study therefore aims to take a more holistic approach, examining the full range of human rights impacted by climate change, including the rights to food, water,

health, education, and security. Additionally, while previous studies acknowledge the legal limbo faced by climate migrants (UNHCR, 2023), this study will delve deeper, exploring potential solutions and best practices for mitigating the human rights costs of climate-induced migration. By addressing these gaps, the current study aims to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the human rights crisis unfolding in Nigeria's Sahel. This understanding can inform policy recommendations and interventions that effectively protect the rights of vulnerable communities facing the devastating consequences of climate change.

The above gaps open the following curiosity and questions on human rights implications of climate change on vulnerable communities in the Sahel, with a specific focus on Nigeria.

- In what ways does climate change threaten the human rights to life, health, food, water, sanitation, housing, education, and decent work in the Sahel, with a focus on Nigeria?
- How do climate-induced hardships exacerbate pre-existing vulnerabilities and inequalities within the Sahel communities, particularly for women, children, and people with disabilities?
- What strategies can be implemented to enhance the resilience of Sahelian communities to climate change and ensure the protection of their fundamental human rights?

Aim and Objectives

The main aim of this study is to analyze the human rights implications of climate change on vulnerable communities in the Sahel, with a specific focus on Nigeria. Specifically, the objectives are:

- To assess the impact of climate change on the enjoyment of fundamental human rights in the Sahel, using Nigeria as a case study.
- To investigate how climate change exacerbates existing vulnerabilities and inequalities within Sahelian communities.
- To identify opportunities for strengthening the capacity of Sahelian communities to adapt to climate change and protect their human rights.

2. REVIEW

2.1 Climate Change, Human Rights and Migration in the Sahel

The impact of climate change on human needs, particularly food and water security, safety, employment, and poverty, is profound in Nigeria's Sahel region. Partly caused by executive and legislative corruption (Ezeh & Etodike, 2016) which hinder lack of environmental sustainability programs in the region or the reinvestment in climate protection; the prolonged droughts, reduced rainfall, and erratic weather patterns have led to declining

crop yields and livestock deaths, exacerbating food insecurity, malnutrition, unemployment (Etodike et al., 2018) and poverty, especially among vulnerable populations such as women and children (Ogunjobi et al., 2016; UNDP NCO, 2021). In extension, these have impacted the organizational climate of industries operating in the region (Joe-Akunne et al., 2018) as well as affected the citizenship behavior in those regions (Okoye et al., 2018). The climate related challenges also bear on communal conflicts as water scarcity and decreased availability of water sources intensify competition among various stakeholders, leading to conflicts and displacement, as witnessed in conflicts between farmers and pastoralists in Zamfara state (Premium Times, 2019). Furthermore, extreme weather events such as floods and droughts have led to loss of life, displacement, and infrastructure damage. For instance; UNICEF (2013) reported that floods affected over 2 million people in Nigeria in 2012 with significant impacts on the Sahel region. Climate change-related challenges have also worsened unemployment, particularly in the agricultural sector, leading to increased poverty (Etodike et al., 2018) and exacerbated socio-economic vulnerability (UNICEF, 2020; Nenger et al., 2024).

According to Nenger et al. (2024), the migration driven by climate change in the Sahel region raises many human rights concerns such as displaced populations, in their quest for basic survival, encounter many challenges. Access to clean water, healthcare, education, and protection from violence becomes tenuous for these climate-induced migrants (UNHCR 2020). Furthermore, the right to life, security, food, water, and shelter, enshrined in international human rights conventions, is at risk for these vulnerable populations. The violation of these rights underscores the urgent need for a human rights perspective in addressing climate-induced forced migration.

The Sahel region, situated between the Sahara Desert and the Sudanian Savannah, faces escalating challenges due to climate change, including increased temperatures, erratic rainfall patterns, desertification, and frequent droughts (Adebayo & Oruonye, 2020; Smith, 2021). These environmental changes directly impact agricultural productivity, water availability, and livelihood security, compelling communities to migrate in search of better living conditions (Smith, 2021). However, the impact of climate change on migration in the Sahel is not solely an environmental concern; it raises significant human rights issues, as forced displacement often violates fundamental human rights such as the right to life, health, and an adequate standard of living (Olawuyi, 2019). The complex nexus of climate change, migration, and human rights in Nigeria requires a multifaceted approach to effectively address these interconnected challenges, emphasizing the protection and promotion of human rights in the face of climate change impacts.

Consequently, the relationship between human rights, climate change, and migration in the Sahel is deeply intertwined - the impacts of climate change result in forced migration, creating significant human rights challenges. Recognizing the vulnerabilities of rights of a person in the face of climate change represents a better chance of improving the standard of living for the endangered communities in Sahel and beyond.

2.2 Human Rights Consequences of Climate Change in Nigeria's Sahel

Climate change is significantly impacting human rights in Nigeria's Sahel region and there are consequences across various rights enshrined in international human rights treaties in the following instances:

2.2.1 Climate change vs right to life

Climate change threatens the right to life through rising sea levels, flooding, and increased rainfall. These events lead to mortality, injuries, and poor physical and mental health (OHCHR 2017). People interviewed by OHCHR in Nigeria have experienced these dangers firsthand, with some losing their homes and livelihoods due to floods (OHCHR 2022). A landmark Nigerian Supreme Court case in *Centre for Oil Pollution Watch v. NNPC* (2018) recognized the right to a clean and healthy environment. This right empowers people to hold polluters accountable and demand action on climate change (Alatise 2022).

2.2.2 Climate change vs right to food

Multiple years of food and nutrition crisis have plagued the Sahel, with the number of people facing severe food shortages doubling between 2019 and 2020 (FSIN 2022). Children are particularly affected, with a high prevalence of severe malnutrition (OHCHR 2022). People interviewed by OHCHR in Nigeria reported losing farmland and livelihoods due to climate change. This has resulted in difficulty securing food, with some resorting to sex work, child labor, and sexual exploitation to feed themselves and their families (OHCHR 2022).

2.2.3 Climate change vs rights to water and sanitation

The human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation are severely impacted by climate change. Rising sea levels have salinated freshwater sources, while droughts and floods have affected water quality and availability (Ahmed et al. 2018). This disproportionately affects vulnerable populations and can be a driver of migration (Wetlands International 2017).

2.2.4 Climate change vs right to health

Climate change has numerous adverse impacts on health in the Sahel, including death and illness from extreme weather events, disrupted food systems, and increased prevalence of water-borne diseases (UNHCR 2021). These challenges are further amplified by limited access to healthcare services and social determinants of health (WHO 2021). OHCHR visits to camps for

internally displaced persons in Nigeria revealed a lack of proper health facilities, overcrowding, and poor waste management, all contributing to the spread of diseases (OHCHR 2022).

2.2.5 Climate change vs right to housing

Climate change threatens the right to adequate housing by displacing people due to floods, landslides, and droughts (OHCHR 2022). Makeshift shelters used by displaced people are often inadequate and vulnerable to destruction.

2.2.6 Climate change vs right to education

Climate change impacts on traditional livelihoods have highlighted the importance of education. Education allows people to pursue diverse livelihoods and adapt to changing circumstances (OHCHR 2022). However, low access to education, particularly for girls, hinders this adaptation and increases vulnerability (UNFPA 2019).

2.2.7 Climate change vs rights to decent work and just and favorable conditions of work

Climate change can force people to migrate in search of work, making them more susceptible to labor exploitation and abuse (Zickgraf et al. 2016). Research by OHCHR revealed limited access to livelihood options and essential services for displaced people in Nigeria (OHCHR 2021).

2.2.8 Climate change vs right of access to information

Limited access to information about climate change risks and weather forecasts hinders people's ability to make informed decisions about their lives and livelihoods. OHCHR reported that many community members in the Sahel lacked climate change literacy and information on how climate change is affecting their environment (OHCHR 2022).

2.3 Climate Changes Escalating Existing Vulnerabilities and Inequalities

Without doubt, climate changes usually increase the vulnerabilities of existing members of the community. The Sahelian experience presents a typical situation because climate-induced hardships in the Sahel disproportionately exacerbate pre-existing vulnerabilities and inequalities within communities, particularly for women, children, and people with disabilities. In women and girls, UNFPA (2019) contends that it is obvious that limited access to education for girls hinders their ability to adapt to a changing environment and limits their future livelihood options. Food insecurity forces some girls into sex work or early marriage (OHCHR 2022). In children, it leads to malnutrition (FSIN 2022). It further extends to disruptions to education caused by climate-related disasters or displacement which hinder children's development forcing children to work to support their families due to lost livelihoods (OHCHR 2022).

Equally, climate change does augur well with members of the community with certain disabilities as it creates real difficulties in accessing essential services

which may be located within very inconvenient locations due to disruptions of climate. These hardships build on pre-existing inequalities. For example, girls who traditionally have less access to education are even further disadvantaged when climate change disrupts schooling. Similarly, people with disabilities who may already face societal barriers are even more marginalized when climate disasters strike.

2.4 Opportunities for Strengthening the Capacity for Climate Change Adaptation and Protection of Human Rights

The Sahelian is endangered due to the vagaries of climate change which further weakens the already disadvantaged community. Recognizing their basic rights represent a modest way of articulating the problems of the community into a policy whole. This approach will aim to utilize both domestic and international frameworks to encapsulate the problem and by so doing empower the Sahelian communities to adapt to climate change and protect their human rights. OHCHR (2022) contends that this perspective requires a multi-pronged approach especially in identifying opportunity for action in order to address their specific needs and vulnerabilities. Such opportunities may appear in the form of;

i. Enhancing access to information and education by raising the awareness about climate change risks and by formulating adaptation strategies through local languages and culturally appropriate means.

ii. Investing in climate change education in schools, which will emphasize rights endangered by climate change as a natural occurrence especially for girls, to equip future generations with the knowledge and skills to adapt (UNFPA, 2019).

iii. It also provides opportunity for strengthening livelihoods and food security; (FAO, 2021) emphasized that this can be actualized through proactive support to climate-smart agriculture practices like drought-resistant crops and water conservation techniques.

iv. Considering that most endangered communities of the Sahel depend on agriculture as their source of livelihood; diversifying livelihoods beyond traditional agriculture, for example, by promoting skills development in ecotourism or renewable energy will provide the most policy makers fronts for solution building (World Bank, 2023).

v. There is also greater opportunity in building climate-resilient infrastructure especially those which can withstand extreme weather events, such as flood-resistant housing and early warning systems (UN Habitat, 2020). Other forms of infrastructural provision which may be targeted to improve the rights and lives of the people can be extended to people with disability especially for relocation efforts. This effort should also prioritize the needs of vulnerable children with disabilities (OHCHR, 2022).

vi. There should also be campaigns to improve on the social protection rights by promoting social protection programs within endangered communities. This approach will aim to providing social safety nets like cash transfers or food assistance for vulnerable populations who are disproportionately affected by climate shocks (World Bank, 2023).

vii. Bringing government closer the plights of the endangered communities can be actualized by fostering local participation and governance and integrating them in the mechanisms of governance to participate in decision making. Strengthening local governance will likely ensure effective implementation of climate change strategies and hold authorities accountable (UNDP, 2023).

It is believed that within these strategies lie opportunities for effective framework and action in protecting the rights of the endangered Sahelian communities rather than disaster approach mechanism it has received. These opportunities can help build resilience to climate change and protect the human rights of all their members and can be borrowed to save other similar communities facing similar challenges.

2.5 Framework

This study has been anchored on the principles propounded by Political economic theory by Ake (1981) emphasizing that human development evolution is somehow tied on the interplay between politics and ethnic sentiments of the elites and the government and until both find a common ground, there may not be a true economic and human development to the highest level. Importing this framework to the discourse, it is obvious that the Sahel region is populated by a certain ethnic group in Nigerai which may affect development there in certain dimensions due to ethnic polarity in the country which leads to shambling of available resources. Except Nigerian find a common ground on the ethnic ground pushing human development to these vulnerable communities may be practically impossible given that they may not be the priority of government at the moment. With electoral corruption still thriving as politicians exploit ethnic loyalties to rig elections and secure leadership positions (Mustapha, 2020), focusing on essentials such as vulnerable and endangered communities may become dream without tribal sentiments and justice in the distribution of economic resources.

3. METHOD

The study adopted an analytic literature review approach extract data from primary and secondary sources which focused endangered communities and managing human rights exigencies in climate change impacted regions as a case study of people of the Sahel, in Nigeria. The review tried to identify gaps or inconsistencies in the existing

literature, and highlighted areas for future research, reviewing/evaluating primary research undertaken by other researchers. This method is highly valuable in gaining a broad understanding of a research area in order to generate hypotheses or to provide answers to research questions for further investigation. By carefully examining data from these sources, analytic literature review helps in identifying potential gaps or limitations in current knowledge, which can provide knowledge and then inform future research efforts.

3.1 Databases selection

A thorough search for academic journals related to the study's aim and objectives, utilizing several reputable secondary source databases such as Google Scholar, Researchgate, Cinari, and Open Access databases and published primary source data. These databases were carefully selected as they are known for their quality, advanced search tools, citation data, and accessibility. This in line with Baas et al. (2020) which allows the researcher to access relevant literature with ease, ensuring the accuracy and validity of the research.

3.2 Search Strategy and Keyword

To conduct this study research, articles on the above listed databases published between \pm 5years (2019-2024) were searched for “endangered communities and managing human rights exigencies in climate change impacted regions (a case study of people of the Sahel, Nigeria)”, AND/OR “Climate threat in Sahel”, AND/OR “Climate induced migration”, AND/OR “social factors in climate changes in the Sahel region”, AND/OR “role of climate change in human rights challenges in the Sahel region, Nigeria”, AND/OR “effects of climate changes on unemployment and livelihood in the Sahel Nigeria”, AND/OR “Impact of natural disasters on the Sahel region, Nigeria” AND/OR “legislation challenges on addressing the effects of climate changes in the Sahel Nigeria” Also, Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT) was utilized to refine the search.

3.3 Study Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

The study's inclusion criteria cover the following:

- i. Studies on climate change in the Sahel region of Nigeria
- ii. Studies examining the impacts of climate on human rights
- iii. Studies examining how climate impacts weaken livelihood in the Sahel region
- iv. Studies examining the climate impacts engender forced migration and loss of livelihood
- v. Studies examining extant government intervention on the plight of vulnerable communities in the Sahel

Excluded were;

- i. Studies outside the Sahel region of Nigeria
- ii. Studies on man-made problems such as deforestation

- iii. Studies which generally do not meet the objectives of the current study

3.4 Data Synthesis

The result of the analytic review was synthesized based on the quality of evidence, the consistency of the findings across studies, and the generalizability of the results. As this is a qualitative study (analytic review), the researcher selected, compared and synthesized its findings mostly from empirical studies and other relevant literature on climate impacts on the Sahel region.

3.5 Ethical Considerations

Priority was given to ethics, especially regarding the rights of the communities being studied. Since the methodology for the analytic review do not require any direct contact with human participants, all data obtained from secondary sources were duly acknowledge and referenced to ensure academic integrity of the data in accordance to Suri (2020).

4. FINDINGS

Through literature exploration and appraisal, the following findings were made as answers to the research questions from the body of literature examined and acknowledged:

Research Question 1: In what ways does climate change threaten the human rights to life, health, food, water, sanitation, housing, education, and decent work in the Sahel, with a focus on Nigeria?

4.1 Impact of climate change on human rights in Nigeria's Sahel

Climate change has severe consequences for human rights in Nigeria's Sahel, impacting access to food, water, sanitation, health, housing, education, and livelihoods (OHCHR, 2022; UNDP NCO, 2021).

Research Question 2: How do climate-induced hardships exacerbate pre-existing vulnerabilities and inequalities within the Sahel communities, particularly for women, children, and people with disabilities?

4.2 How climate change exacerbates existing vulnerabilities

Climate change disproportionately affects those already facing inequalities, particularly women, children, and people with disabilities (OHCHR, 2022; UNFPA, 2019).

Research Question 3: What strategies can be implemented to enhance the resilience of Sahelian communities to climate change and ensure the protection of their fundamental human rights?

4.3 Opportunities for strengthening Sahelian communities' capacity

A multi-pronged approach is needed to address the specific needs of Sahelian communities (OHCHR, 2022). Key opportunities include: Enhancing access to information and education, strengthening livelihoods and security and providing support.

5. DISCUSSION

Extreme weather events like floods and droughts cause injuries, deaths, displacement, and infrastructure damage (UNICEF 2013, OHCHR 2022). Food insecurity and malnutrition are on the rise due to declining crop yields and livestock deaths (Ogunjobi et al., 2016). Water scarcity leads to conflicts and displacement, especially impacting vulnerable populations like women and children (Premium Times, 2019). More so, it is considered that girls with limited access to education due to pre-existing barriers are further disadvantaged when climate disrupts schooling, limiting future livelihood options (OHCHR 2022, UNFPA 2019). People with disabilities face difficulty accessing essential services due to climate disruptions, worsening their marginalization (OHCHR 2022). Furthermore, raising awareness about climate change risks and adaptation strategies in local languages (OHCHR, 2022) was found critical to actionable policies that can be initiated. Strengthening livelihoods and food security: Support climate-smart agriculture practices and livelihood diversification (FAO, 2021; World Bank, 2023). Building climate-resilient infrastructure: Invest in flood-resistant housing and early warning systems, ensuring accessibility for people with disabilities (UN Habitat, 2020; OHCHR, 2022). Promoting social protection programs: Provide social safety nets for vulnerable populations (World Bank, 2023). Fostering local participation and governance: Include communities in decision-making processes related to climate change adaptation (OHCHR, 2022; UNDP, 2023).

5.1 Implications of the Findings

The impact of climate change on Nigeria's Sahel region is undeniable, with severe consequences for human rights across various aspects of life. Droughts, floods, and other extreme weather events threaten lives, livelihoods, and access to basic necessities like food, water, and sanitation. These hardships disproportionately burden the most vulnerable members of society, including women, children, and people with disabilities. Girls with limited education and people with disabilities facing existing societal barriers are further marginalized when climate disrupts essential services and livelihoods.

5.2 Limitations of the Study

The Sahel is a special region with several vulnerabilities; however, the scope of the current study focused only on the vulnerabilities exacerbated by climate change regarding the rights of the members of the Sahelian communities. These vulnerabilities are evident in disrupted agriculture, means of livelihood and perennial migration.

CONCLUSION

Despite the observed implications of climate impacts in the Sahel especially how they affect the rights of the vulnerable communities, the good news is there are opportunities to empower Sahelian communities to adapt to climate change and protect their human rights. A multi-faceted approach that addresses specific needs and vulnerabilities is crucial. Raising awareness about climate change risks and promoting climate-smart agriculture are essential steps. Investing in infrastructure that can withstand extreme weather events and ensuring accessibility for all is equally important. Social safety nets, fostering local participation in decision-making, and strengthening local governance can further bolster resilience. Approaching this problem through legal rights perspectives of citizen through these strategies, it is hoped that the Sahelian communities can build a more sustainable future where human rights are protected for all. These findings can also inform efforts to support similar communities facing climate challenges around the world.

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