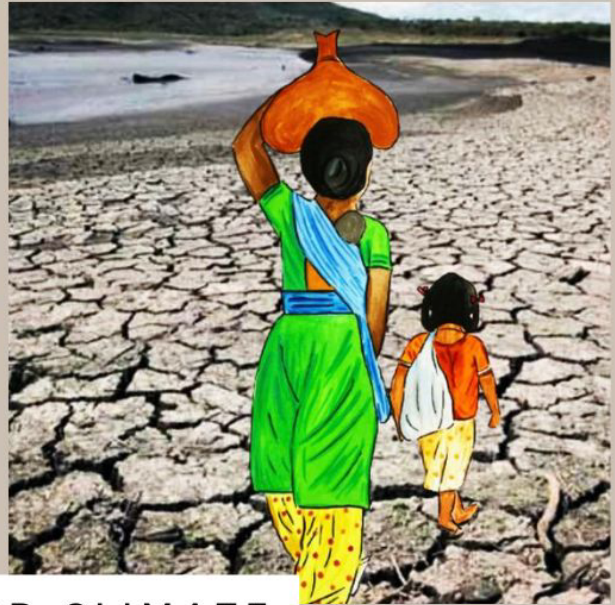


FINAL SUBMISSION



WOMEN AND CLIMATE



Link/QR to the submission: <https://climatevulnerabilities.wordpress.com/2023/05/15/work-hard-work-smart/>



“If you are invisible in everyday life, your needs will not be thought of, let alone addressed, in a crisis situation.”¹ - Match Phorn-In

Motivation: I have studied various courses from a feminist lens, courses that one can imagine can have a gendered-angle (for instance, sexual harassment or caste). However, when I first became acquainted with a school of thought that talked about climate change and feminism, it peaked my interest. I could hardly think of ways in which climate and gender intersected. But after having done my preliminary research, I was surprised to see how intrinsically they're both connected and the far-reaching impacts of silencing feminist conversations around climate justice. Since there was enough information available online, I realised that perhaps the need of the hour was to assemble the information in more creative and accessible ways.

Problem: It is evident that women experience greater hardships during climate change compared to men, and these challenges stem from various biological, social, and economic factors. Biologically, menstruation is a monthly process that many women find painful. However, social and economic factors further exacerbate their difficulties. Insufficient access to sanitary materials, clean water, proper sanitation facilities, and other necessary infrastructure, along with prevalent social taboos (particularly in India), contribute to the additional burdens women face.

Food security is another significant concern for women, particularly within patriarchal societies where they are expected to prioritize the needs of their families over their own. Consequently, women often find themselves forced to consume less food, leading to adverse health effects. Additionally, studies have shown that rates of domestic violence increase during times of disaster, further magnifying the challenges faced by women.

Furthermore, climate disasters also tend to disrupt women's education, resulting in a setback for their personal development and a loss of earning potential for their families. These examples only scratch the surface of the numerous ways in which women are disproportionately impacted by climate change.

¹ 'Explainer: How Gender Inequality and Climate Change Are Interconnected' (UN Women – Headquarters, 28 February 2022) <<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/explainer/2022/02/explainer-how-gender-inequality-and-climate-change-are-interconnected>> accessed 7 April 2023.

Problem Evidence:

1. **Menstruation:** <https://www.humanrightspulse.com/mastercontentblog/period-poverty-in-refugee-camps-a-multifaceted-challenge>
2. **Food Security:** <https://www.wfp.org/news/climate-crisis-threatens-food-security-women-and-girls>
3. **Domestic Violence:** <https://unfccc.int/news/climate-change-increases-the-risk-of-violence-against-women>
4. **Education:** https://assets.ctfassets.net/0oan5gk9rgbh/OFgutQPKIFoi5lfY2iwFC/6b2fffd2c893ebdebee60f93be814299/MalalaFund_GirlsEducation_ClimateReport.pdf

Objective: I am addressing the issue of a lack of awareness regarding the specific ways in which climate change affects women. Currently, this lack of awareness is primarily due to the inaccessibility and impersonal nature of available online information. My project aims to enhance accessibility and personalization by transforming the existing data into art and stories that humanize the subject matter. The artworks are intended to engage a broader audience, particularly those who struggle with comprehending academic and scientific texts. The stories narrate the artwork in a storytelling format, with the goal of conveying the diverse impacts of climate change on women in a more emotive manner. To further support the information presented, each story's heading includes a link to a source directing readers to relevant data/study on the highlighted issue.

Inspiration and Justification for Methodology: My project is an art piece inspired by the works of multiple artists who seek to raise climate awareness through different artistic mediums. Through their works, they have been able to create awareness in ways that science has failed to. Apart from being informative, the artworks have been moving, captivating and alarming. For example, a permanent art installation created by Tomas Saraceno, makes people visualise the devastating impacts of an increase in temperature by a single degree Celsius.² He created floating aerosolar sculptures that rise and float only with the help of natural sunlight; an idea that seeks to debunk "gravity and fossil fuel mentality".³ Thus, the reason I choose to make an art piece is not only because it raises awareness in more effective ways but also because it challenges the assumption that climate study necessarily involves scientific lens. It is not to say that a scientific approach towards climate is inferior in any way, but to say that it is not the "only correct" approach.

² Can Art Help Raise Awareness about Climate Change?' (National Geographic, 9 July 2021) <<https://www.nationalgeographic.co.uk/environment-and-conservation/2021/07/paid-content-can-art-help-raise-awareness-about-climate-change>> accessed 6 April 2023.

³ 'Aerocene – Fly around the World, Free from Borders, Free from Fossil Fuels' <<https://aerocene.org/>> accessed 6 April 2023.

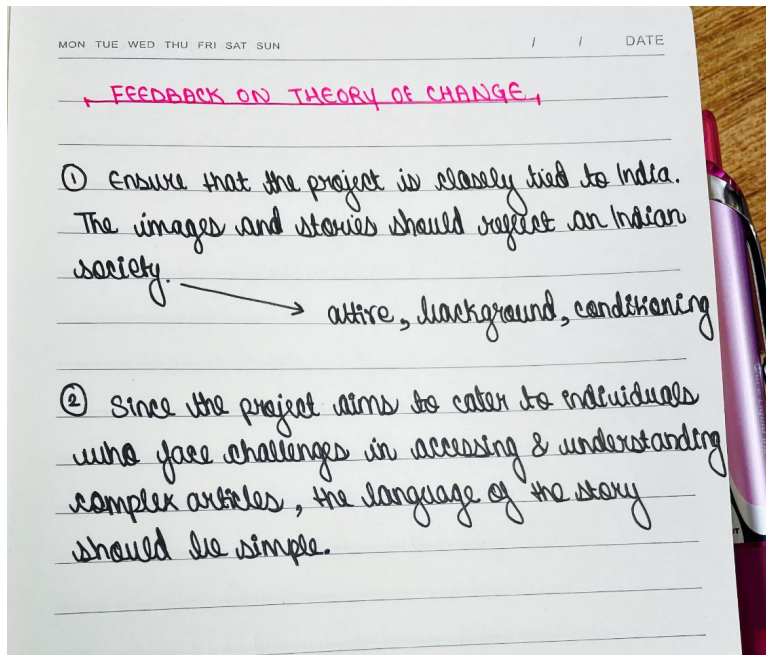
The Significance of the Project: Art is one of the greatest yet most underutilised tools to raise awareness. It can not only deliver information in more appealing ways but also more moving and accessible ways. A climate report spanning hundreds of pages is not comprehensible by many who just want to begin learning about it. So, my project seeks to prove that a complex subject area such as gender and climate justice can also be learnt in simple and creative ways. In that sense, it is transformative.

Dissemination of the Project: Together with my fellow participants from the climate justice course, I have established a webpage dedicated to climate vulnerabilities. In order to increase its visibility, I have shared the webpage links across all of my social media accounts. Additionally, I have placed a poster featuring a central QR code on my campus's notice board, allowing individuals to access the webpage conveniently. Furthermore, I have reached out to my friends and family members, requesting their assistance in spreading the word. While the number of views on the webpage can still be improved, I maintain a hopeful outlook as it gradually gains an audience.

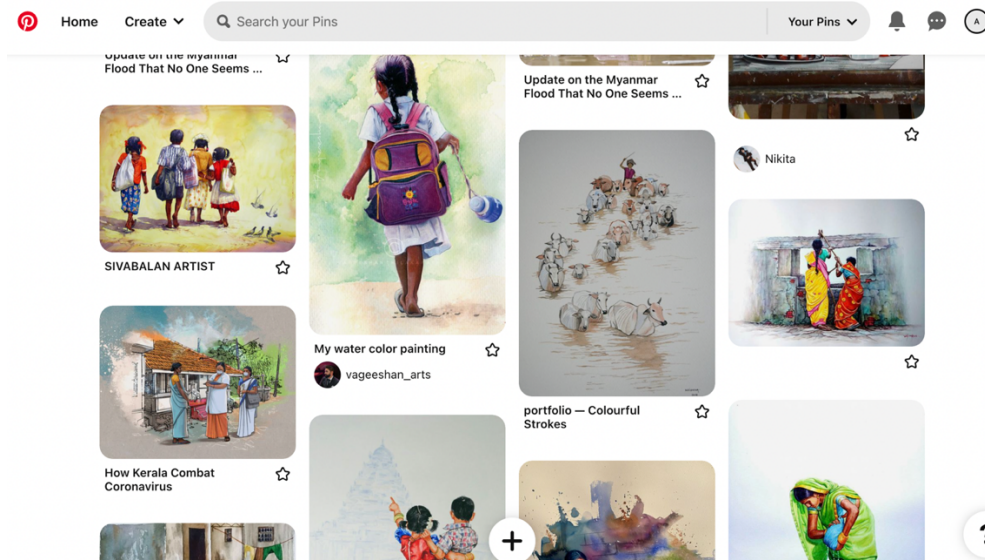
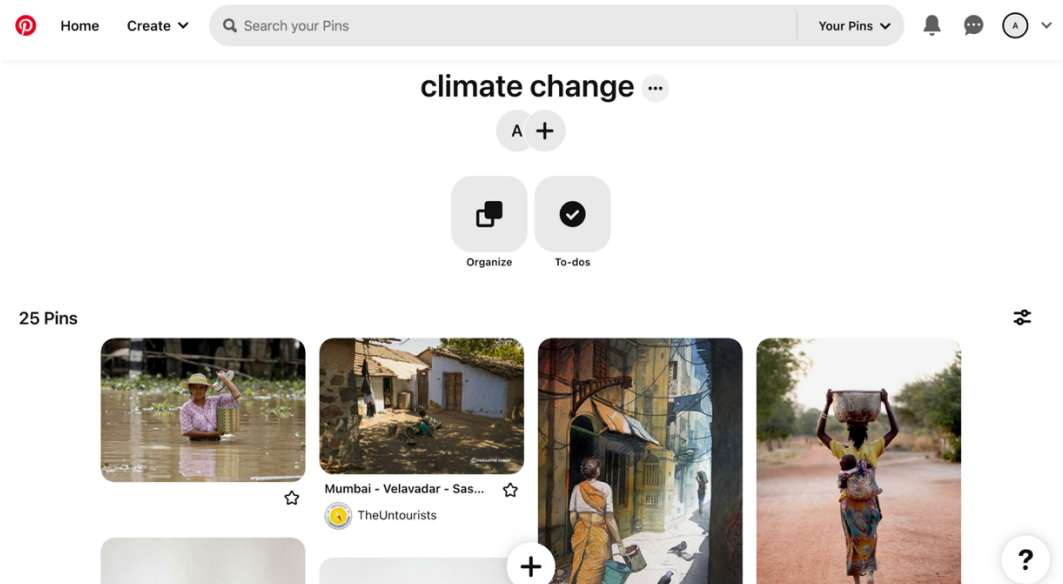
Response after product release: I was pleasantly surprised by the overwhelmingly positive feedback I received for my artwork and stories. Initially, I hadn't intended to include links to the websites I had referenced. However, my aunt suggested that adding them would be beneficial for anyone with doubts. Taking her advice into consideration, I decided to incorporate the links in the article's heading and provide supplementary reading material at the end.

Future Possibilities: Since the webpage already exists, the goal is to encourage people to write/illustrate more on climate vulnerabilities and submit to us for publication. The webpage is freely accessible, and there are no financial concerns regarding its sustainability. However, the main challenge lies in attracting traction to the webpage and increasing its popularity. In order to overcome this challenge, outreach efforts have been made, including reaching out to social media pages that have expressed willingness to share the webpage and help raise its visibility.

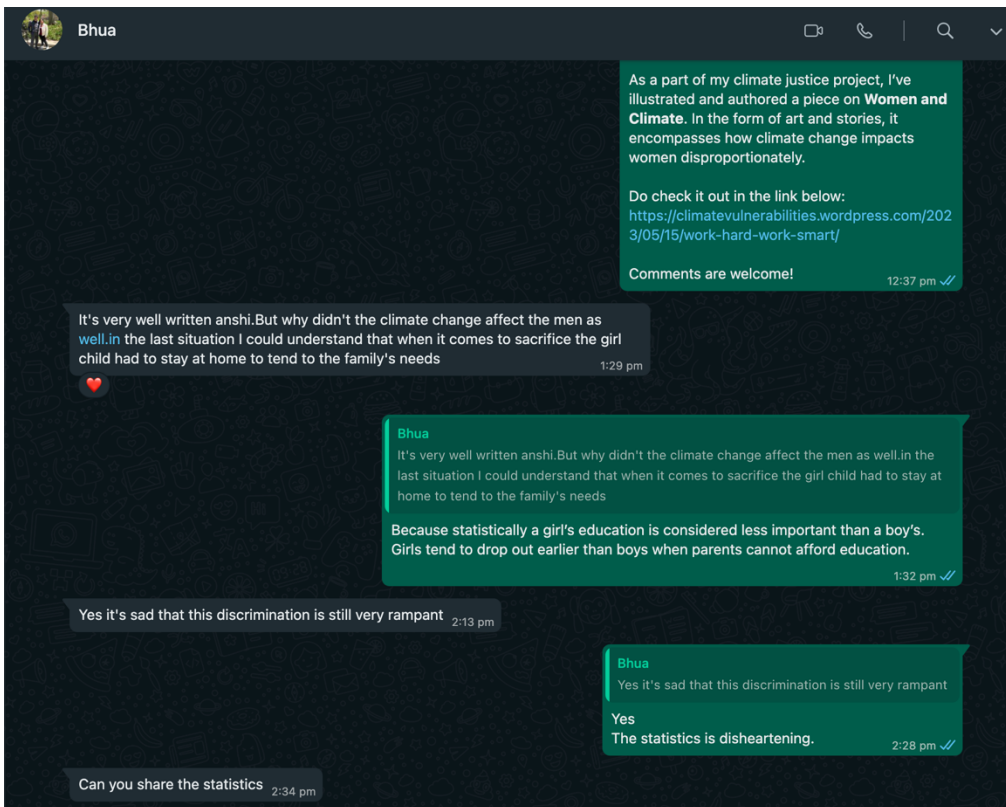
Broader Goal: It is crucial to acknowledge and address specific disparities to develop effective climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies. By empowering communities who face disproportionate impact and integrating their perspectives into climate policies and decision-making processes, we can strive towards building resilient communities and ensuring a sustainable future for all.



Mood Board



Audience Response and Traction




Highlights

All-time stats

Women & Climate

Published 15 May 2023

Views	Likes	Comments
86	2	0



Post likes 2

