

UNESCO Chair initiative on Gender, Vulnerability, and Well-being in Disaster Risk Reduction. An overview



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Disasters in Pakistan and its Drastic Impact



- Pakistan frequently faces natural disasters such as floods and earthquakes, which cause significant damage to infrastructure, health systems, and communities.
- Women, children, and especially pregnant and lactating women are among the most affected due to **limited access to healthcare and essential services**.
- Therefore, **disaster response** must include **gender-sensitive planning** to ensure access to healthcare, sanitation, and protection for vulnerable populations.

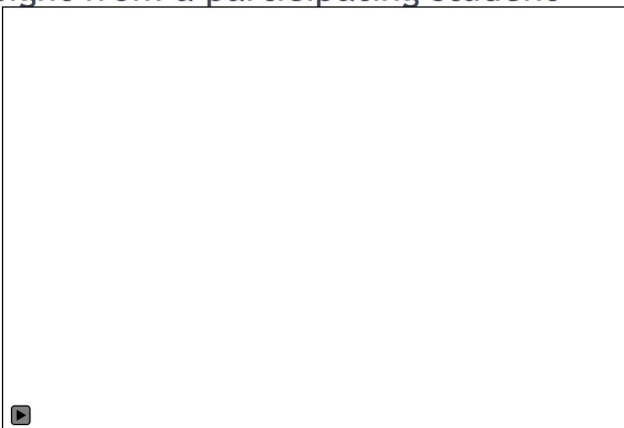
Impact of Participation on STMU

- For Shifa Tameer-e-Millat University, participation in this collaborative platform has been an extremely valuable experience. It has provided meaningful opportunities for both students and faculty to actively engage in global discussions on disaster preparedness, climate change, and public health.
- Over the past three years, student participation has steadily increased:
 - 9 students participated in 2023
 - 8 students participated in 2024
 - 11 students participated in 2025
- Following their participation, students initiated a research project titled “Impact of Climate Change on Health and Well-being among University Students: Investigating the Relationship between Climate Change and Health Outcomes among University Students.” This research was successfully published, demonstrating how academic collaboration can translate into tangible research outputs and knowledge dissemination.

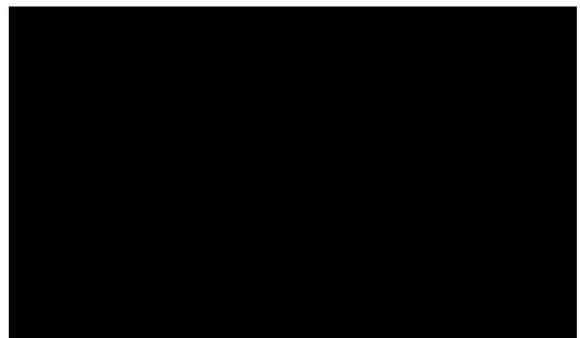
Impact of Participation on STMU

- through this initiative, students and faculty were able to:
 - Engage in international academic collaboration
 - Learn from global perspectives on disaster risk reduction and climate resilience
 - Share Pakistan’s experiences, vulnerabilities, and disaster management challenges
 - Promote interdisciplinary learning linking health, gender, climate change, and disaster resilience
- Overall, this collaboration has strengthened research capacity, encouraged student-led initiatives, and contributed to building a more informed and resilient academic community.

Insight from a participating student



Insight from another participating student



Personal Reflection

- Participation in this program has been a **valuable learning experience** for us.
- It highlighted that disaster management involves **preparedness, equity, and protection of vulnerable populations**, not just emergency response.
- Presentations from other institutions provided **new insights and practical strategies** for disaster preparedness.

Conclusion

- **In conclusion**, disasters are unavoidable, but their impact can be reduced through **preparedness, inclusive planning, and international cooperation**.
- We are grateful to **Kobe University and the UNESCO Chair initiative** for providing this valuable platform for learning and collaboration.

Special thanks

- We would like to sincerely thank **Dr. Badar-un-Nisa**, a former PhD student at **Kobe University**, for her dedicated involvement in the **UNESCO Chair Programme** over the past years and for providing us the opportunity to participate in this conference. We are also grateful to **Ronni Sensei** for her kind support in making this collaboration possible, which made it possible for our team from **Shifa Tameer-e-Millat University** to be part of this meaningful international collaboration.

