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Resilience to climate change in Pakistan

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Pakistan is one of the country's most affected and highly vulnerable due to climate change induced disasters. According to the global climate risk index (2017), Pakistan ranks 7th amongst the countries most adversely affected by climate change. The major climate change threats to Pakistan are increasing extreme weather events, causing the rapid recession of the glaciers and intense floods. The purpose of this paper is to address population based responses to a major climate induced natural hazards in Pakistan. The areas most affected by the 2010 floods, when studied 7 years later, offer an opportunity to examine some major responses which can fall both under adaption and resilience behavior. This study utilizes climate change environmental hazard data from the meteorological department, flood data from the national disaster management agency, to assess the relative risks of flooding being faced by people living in different geographies in Pakistan. The Pakistan Social and Living Standard Measurement (PSLM) survey 2014-15 and the census 2017 data is used to assess major changes that demonstrate resilience/vulnerability to the floods at the individual, household and community levels. Differences in responses ranging from livelihood patterns, migration or its proxies and investments in the next generation will be among the responses which will be examined as a reflection of long term adaptive behavior.

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