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The Department's academic staff possess an extensive list of publications, in the form of books, peer-reviewed articles, peer-reviewed journals, newspaper articles and other non-fiction texts. In addition to its theoretical output, the researchers collaborate with organisations and agencies at the global, regional and national levels.

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INTRODUCTION

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This inaugural policy brief on climate change and sustainable development in the Caribbean aims to create public awareness on climate change impacts and subsequent policy responses. The Brief also explores how these impacts are linked to a sustainable development model which balances socio-economic wellbeing and environmental protection. Climate change is the most profound environmental problem currently facing human civilisation. It is a defining development challenge, threatening peoples' lifestyles and their livelihood systems.

Most environmental problems are triggered by anthropogenic activities such as modernisation and carbon-intensive methods of economic growth. At the 2019 United Nations Climate Change Summit in Madrid, governments of major industrialised countries such as the United States, Canada, Australia, Russia and Japan resisted calls for bolder climate commitments to stem the human and environmental devastations caused by rising temperatures that result from greenhouse emissions. However, analysis based on survey evidence from the 2016 AmericasBarometer (LAPOP) data, hosted by Vanderbilt University, indicates that only three out of ten people in the Caribbean believe that protecting the environment should be given priority over economic growth, while seven out of ten are of the view that growing the economy should be prioritised over environmental protection. This trade-off between prioritising economic growth over environmental protection is a defining developmental challenge.

These statistics are especially important to note as climate change is a collective action problem. Consequently, the recognition of the costs and benefits of human action for current and future generations is critical. It is in that context that the ecological modernisation perspective emphasises the need for restructuring production and consumption processes to address the ecological crisis. Such an approach may facilitate environmentally friendly production and consumption, ultimately mitigating the deleterious effects of climate change on peoples' lives, lifestyles and livelihood systems. Doing so necessitates a multidisciplinary and intersectional approach. While climate change is a scientific

phenomenon, it has implications for sociology, social work, psychology, human resource management, education, economics and other disciplines and sectors of human life and civilisation.

Taking this into account, the articles in this policy brief reflect the multidisciplinary nature of climate change in the context of sustainable development. This brief will be divided into two parts, Part A will include articles from Dr. James Fletcher, Professor Hayward and Dr. Joseph and Ms. Ayodele Harper. Part B features articles from Ms Sapphire Vital, Dr Alana Griffith and Professor Winston Moore, Mr. Christopher Richards and Mr Lee Trotman and Dr. Ramón Pichs Madruga. The issues covered include the existential threat of climate change, environmental justice, climate change mitigation, sustainability education, the global challenges of climate change, psychosocial outlooks on disaster management, and tensions in the agenda on climate change.

The Brief begins with an excerpt from the 14th Annual Patrick A.M. Emmanuel Memorial Lecture delivered by Dr. James Fletcher at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus entitled “Business Unusual: The Caribbean’s Response to the Existential Threat of Climate Change”. Fletcher excellently articulates the threat that climate change poses to Small Island Developing States (SIDS). He notes that SIDS in the Caribbean are the victims of the biggest tragedy of the commons as they are the most susceptible to sea-level rise but contribute the least to greenhouse emissions. Further to this, Dr. Fletcher stated that climate change in the Caribbean would profoundly impact the health and economic wellbeing of its people. In Fletcher's view, policymakers need to change their development models, and the Caribbean public must change their consumption habits to resolve the issues caused by the change in climate.

He aptly noted that "sustainable development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

In understanding the consequences of climate change on Caribbean societies, Professor Hayward and Dr. Joseph present a case for an environmental justice approach through a Social Work lens in the article “Social Work Perspectives on Climate Change: The Case for an Environmental Justice Approach.” In their view, the adoption of an environmental justice approach is important to ensuring equity and justice in addressing socio-economic and socio-cultural outcomes of climate change. The contribution of Hayward and Joseph demonstrates the importance of expanding the dialogue on climate change beyond the spheres of science and government decision-making. While the physical and economic impacts of climate change are often explored, their article illustrates how the peculiar social settings of the Caribbean make them even more vulnerable to the deleterious effects of this phenomenon. Most importantly, this analysis centres social workers and communities in this discussion, showing that micro organisations also have a role to play in climate change responses.

One of the most immediate social impacts of natural disasters caused by climate change are the occurrence of looting, violence and psychosocial trauma in the aftermath of a disaster. For practical purposes, disaster response planners should anticipate the emergence of post-disaster looting and implement the relevant strategies. However, while post-disaster emergency responses are a significant part of the recovery efforts, looters are sometimes dismissed as 'troublemakers'. Consequently, looting and other so-called 'illicit'

activities in disaster aftermath may not receive the necessary political attention. Ms. Ayodele Harper's article “Hurricane Dorian and the Bahamas: Psychological Perspectives on the Reasons for Looting Post-Disaster” presents a critical psychological analysis on why people loot after natural disasters and in so doing explains why looters and looting are as well deserving of investigation and attention. Ms Harper's article is fruitful in dispelling the biases towards looters and recommending ways in which post-disaster relief can help prevent looting and provide survivors with their basic needs.

While Harewood and Joseph, and Harper explore social and psychosocial dimensions of the impacts of climate change, Ms. Sapphire Vital switches focus to resolving climate change at the macro level. In Vital's article, "Tapping into the Full Potential of Climate Change Mitigation." Vital argues that although the SIDS of the Caribbean are "the least contributors to anthropogenic emissions, they are among the most vulnerable to climate change impacts—corresponding to the economic cost of at least 15% of GDP, due to climate change." It is suggested that carefully drafted climate change mitigation action through Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), coupled with good governance, can propel resilient growth in Caribbean SIDS. Using the frameworks of climate change science and policy, Ms Vital provides a workable structure for Caribbean governments to employ climate change mitigation strategies.

Dr. Alana Griffith and Prof. Winston Moore, recognise the significance of macro interventions, and argue that the integration of sustainability into the curriculum of higher education institutions (HEIs) can help to bolster climate change responses. In their article “Integrating Sustainability into the Curriculum of Higher Educational Institutions” they argue that engaging HEIs in the mitigation and adaptation strategies of SIDS could be considered as a proactive approach to dealing with climatic issues. In so doing, Griffith and Moore introduce us to the concept of sustainability education, which the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) defines as "Education for Sustainable Development [that] allows every human being to acquire the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values necessary to shape a sustainable future” (UNESCO 2014). Sustainability education requires the incorporation of fundamental sustainability issues into teaching and other educational activities (UNESCO 2014). The authors then provide an effective way in which instructors at HEIs, and more specifically the University of the West Indies, can make their students conscientious of the role they can play in promoting sustainable development in their career and societies.

The article by Mr. Christopher Richards and Mr Lee Trotman "Tensions in the Agenda for Addressing Climate Change in Developing States" is an apt example of the benefits of incorporating sustainable development and climate change issues into the curriculum of HEIs. In the first "Student Corner" of the Policy Brief, Richards and Lee examine the tensions between economic development and environmental protection and how they complicate climate change-related decision making. In their view, economic development and environmental protection as executed in the region are not mutually reinforcing. They then conclude that Caribbean SIDS must refocus their agenda to reduce their vulnerability and enhance their preparedness against the impacts of climate change.

Finally, Dr. Ramón Pichs Madruga concludes this Policy Brief with his article entitled

"Responses to Climate Change as A Global Challenge: Lessons for The Caribbean During COVID-19 And Beyond." Dr. Madruga's intervention is extremely timely, as Caribbean governments, organisations and peoples are grappling with the effects of Covid-19 in the context of climate change, economic recession, health security, among other issues. He posits that the worsening environmental degradation is a manifestation of the contradictions of neoliberal globalisation in the present economic system. Dr Madruga analysis of climate change at the intersection of neoliberalism, capitalism, Caribbean underdevelopment and climate science underscores the pertinence of a cross-disciplinary discourse on climate change adaption and mitigation. This article transitions into a special edition policy brief on Covid-19 that will explore the challenges and opportunities, which the current pandemic presents for development, governance and social welfare.

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EXCERPT OF "BUSINESS UNUSUAL: THE CARIBBEAN'S RESPONSE TO THE EXISTENTIAL THREAT OF CLIMATE CHANGE"

This is a redacted version of Dr Fletcher's presentation at the 14th Annual Patrick A. M. Emmanuel Memorial Lecture delivered at The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus on November 14th, 2019 and hosted by the Department of Government, Sociology, Social Work and Psychology.

Dr. James Fletcher
Former Minister for Public Service, Information Broadcasting, Sustainable Development, Energy, Science and Technology
Government of Saint Lucia 2011-2016

I have entitled this presentation "Business Unusual: The Caribbean's Response to the Existential Threat of Climate Change," because, in my opinion, climate change presents the biggest threat to the long-term viability of our Caribbean. It impacts every sphere of economic and social endeavour. It has the potential to unravel all of the gains we have made in our region in the last five decades and to drastically alter the quality of life to which we have grown accustomed. Unfortunately, it is a problem not of our own making. However, we are not without blame for the severity of some of its impacts. Therefore, our response to what is clearly an existential threat to our countries cannot take a business as usual trajectory. We must dramatically change our modus operandi if we are to survive this climate crisis.

Our Greenhouse Problems

Let us start with an obvious statement - climate change poses a very grave threat to Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The global emissions of greenhouse gases have been increasing steadily, and in 2016, for the first time in several million years, the atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide exceeded 400 parts per million. Much of this increase has been driven by heavy industrialisation and the intensive use of fossil fuels to produce energy.

Scientists suggest that the last time our planet's atmosphere contained this much carbon dioxide was during the Pliocene epoch, three million years ago, when Antarctica was a plant-covered oasis, sea levels were 10 to 20 meters higher, global temperatures were on average 2 to 3 degrees Celsius warmer and, in the Arctic, summer temperatures were 14 degrees higher than they are today. What is ominous about this new 'normal' for atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration is that 350 parts per million had previously been established as the 'safe' planetary threshold. We have now blown past that safe level, with perhaps no hope of getting back to it.

While carbon dioxide from industry makes up 65 percent of global greenhouse gases, it is not the only culprit. Carbon dioxide emitted from forestry and land use accounts for 11 percent, while methane is responsible for 16 percent, nitrous oxide for six percent, and fluorinated gases for two percent. With respect to the economic sectors, the generation of electricity

and heat production is responsible for one quarter of all greenhouse gas emissions, followed closely by agriculture, forestry and other land use at 24 percent. Industry accounts for a little over one fifth (21%) of greenhouse gas emissions, transportation for 14 percent, buildings for six percent, and other energy for ten percent (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 2014).

Historically, the countries that have been responsible for the most carbon dioxide emissions are the United States, the members of the European Union, Russia and Japan. However, in recent times, because of the rapid growth in their respective economies, China and India have also become major carbon dioxide emitters. This poses a problem for climate-vulnerable countries such as ours, because in the theatre of climate change negotiations, we negotiate in a voting bloc known as **G77** plus China, which among many other countries, also contains India and China. It is sometimes difficult to put pressure on the developed countries that have, over the years, been responsible for most of the carbon dioxide that has been emitted into the atmosphere, when two of the prominent members of our negotiating group feature prominently among the greenhouse gas culprits.

"The Group of 77 (G77) is the largest intergovernmental organization of developing countries in the United Nations, which provides the means for the countries of the South to articulate and promote their collective economic interests and enhance their joint negotiating capacity on all major international economic issues within the United Nations system, and promote South-South cooperation for development" (G77 2020, 77).

The Impacts of Climate Change

Small Island Developing States in the Caribbean are the victims of the biggest tragedy of the commons. Collectively, we contribute less than 0.2 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions (USAID 2017), yet we are the countries most victimized by climate change.

Sea Level Rise

Unfortunately for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and low-lying countries, the temperatures in the Arctic have been increasing at a faster rate than the average global temperature. This has ominous implications. The ice melting that was seen in Greenland in the summer of 2019 took place at a rate that scientists had predicted would be our worst-case scenario in 2070. So, we are fifty years ahead of schedule with our rate of polar ice cap melting. As polar ice caps melt, sea levels will rise. As sea levels rise, the lives and livelihoods of people in SIDS become more imperilled. It has been estimated that by the end of this century, sea levels will rise between one and two metres globally.

Changes to the Water Cycle

However, there are many other serious impacts from climate change. There will be more frequent flooding, as hydrological cycles are changed. What were previously considered one-in-fifty and one-in-one-hundred-year rainfall events, will soon become one-in-ten and one-in-fifteen-year events. Flooding will be caused both by sharper bouts of precipitation and storm surges made worse by sea level rise. This year the city of Venice got a taste of what its new normal will be with respect to flooding of the city from high tides.

Marine Ecosystems Threatened

It is not just terrestrial systems that will be affected. Our ocean temperatures are increasing. This is causing corals to die. The death of corals has a negative impact on the marine life that depend on the coral reefs. It also negatively impacts our dive tourism

product. Therefore, food insecurity will increase, caused by harsher conditions on land to grow crops and a more hostile environment in the ocean to support marine life.

Impacts on Health

Climate change will have profound impacts on human health. There will be more severe heat waves as temperatures surge. The World Health Organization (2018) has estimated that between 2030 and 2050, climate change will cause roughly 250,000 additional deaths per year from malnutrition, diarrhoea and heat stress. WHO predicts that the direct costs to health will be US$2 – 4 billion per year by 2030. In a recent article by Maya Earls, published in Scientific American (November 2019), it was reported that if global greenhouse gas emissions continue at their current levels, India could see one million heat deaths per year by the end of the century and premature deaths from extreme heat in the next century could top present day levels of death from infectious diseases.

The World Health Organization (2018) has estimated that between 2030 and 2050, climate change will cause roughly 250,000 additional deaths per year from malnutrition, diarrhoea and heat stress.

Economic Impacts

The financial and economic cost of hurricanes is catastrophic for Caribbean countries. In 1988, Hurricane Gilbert caused **losses and damage** that was equivalent to 365 percent of the GDP of Jamaica. In 1998, Hurricane Georges resulted in destruction that was equal to 137 percent of the GDP of St Kitts and Nevis. In 2004, Hurricane Ivan caused losses and damage that amounted to over 200 percent of Grenada's GDP. Dominica was victimised twice in three years by extreme storms – Tropical Storm Erika in 2015, which caused destruction that amounted to 90 percent of the country's GDP, and Hurricane Maria in 2017 that caused losses and damage equal to 226 percent of Dominica's GDP. Also, in 2017, Hurricane Irma devastated the British Virgin Islands to the amount of 309 percent of that country's GDP. This year, Hurricane Dorian caused heart-wrenching death and destruction in the Bahamas.

"The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has defined loss and damage to include harms resulting from sudden-onset events (climate disasters, such as cyclones)" (Global Policy Watch 2019, 1).

Figure 1: Diagram showing examples of events which cause Loss and Damage

Source: (UNFCC 2018)

What Can Each of Us Do?

It is obvious that we need to dramatically change our development model and our habits if we want to survive and thrive in the face of this climate emergency. We must pursue a development model that strikes a balance among people, profits and our planet. Sustainable development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This is not our current pathway. In developing our countries in the Caribbean, we should ensure that we do not destroy their environmental and social DNA. Consequently, at the individual level, we should do the following:

1. Reduce on the use of Styrofoam and single-use plastics.
2. Plant more trees.
3. Consume less meat.
4. Do not waste food.
5. Do not buy more products than we need.
6. Start a mini compost bin.
7. Buy local in order to reduce the carbon footprint of our consumption.
8. Turn off the ignition in our car instead of idling.
9. Switch to more energy-efficient appliances and equipment.
10. If possible, buy an electric car.
11. Unplug unused electronics.
12. Invest in solar water heaters and solar photovoltaic systems for our homes.
13. Fix all leaking faucets.
14. Capture, store and use rainwater for non-potable needs.
15. Use a reusable water bottle instead of purchasing bottled water.
16. Reduce, reuse and recycle as much as possible.
17. Design buildings to reduce the need for artificial lighting and cooling.
18. Get involved in movements and causes that promote sustainability.
19. Spread the word. Play our part in educating and sensitizing others.
20. Make sustainable development and climate change issues that matter politically.

Conclusion

Albert Camus (1957) succinctly and accurately articulated how I have come to feel about this cause to which I have dedicated so much of my time and energy in the last few years when he said, "Each generation doubtless feels called upon to reform the world. Mine knows that it will not reform it, but its task is perhaps even greater. It consists in preventing the world from destroying itself."

This, ladies and gentlemen, is the enormous task ahead of us right now. We cannot go down in history as the generation that stood passively by while our civilization destroyed itself. Our climate is changing before our eyes. My question is "will we change?", "are we prepared to change?" More importantly, "will we change in a manner that reverses the negative changes.

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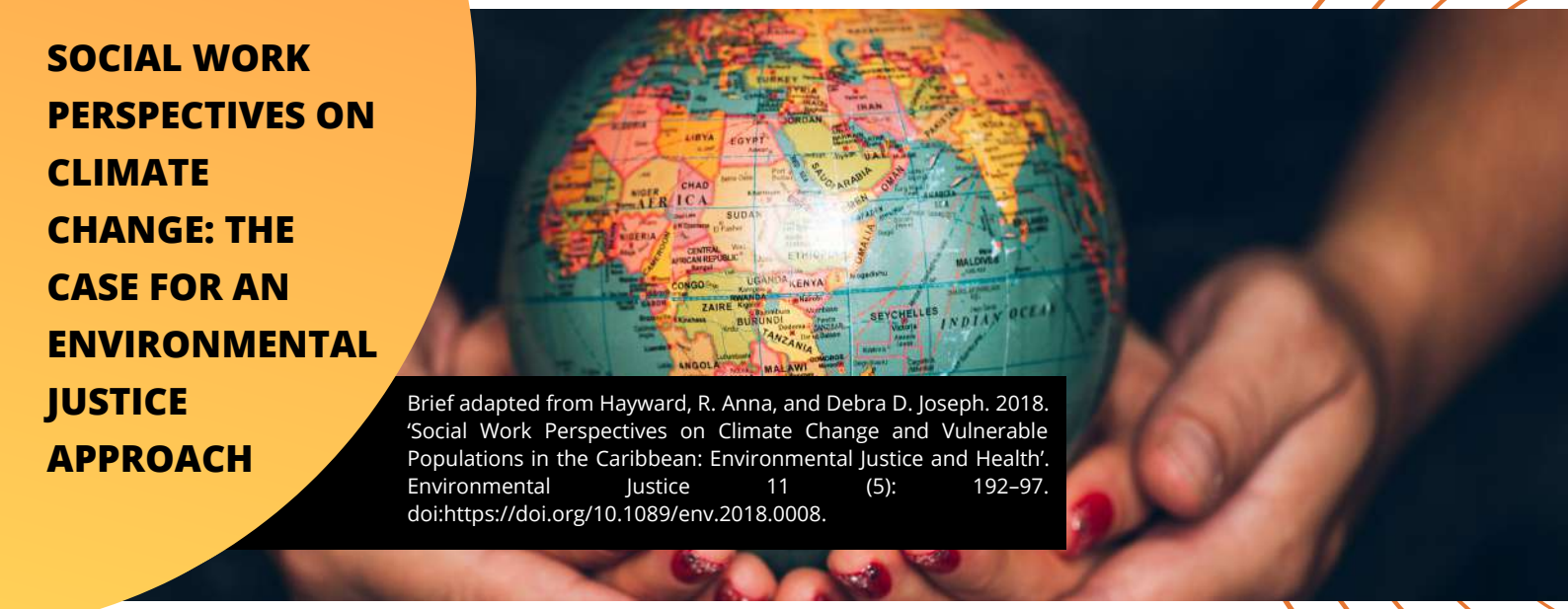
SOCIAL WORK PERSPECTIVES ON CLIMATE CHANGE: THE CASE FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE APPROACH



Brief adapted from Hayward, R. Anna, and Debra D. Joseph. 2018. 'Social Work Perspectives on Climate Change and Vulnerable Populations in the Caribbean: Environmental Justice and Health'. Environmental Justice 11 (5): 192–97. doi:https://doi.org/10.1089/env.2018.0008.

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What is the issue?

Climate change has resounding impacts for social wellbeing and economic survival, as they negatively influence communities, and foreign exchange earning industries such as agriculture and tourism. These changes impact farming, fishing, and have serious health and economic consequences for rural and coastal communities (Hayward and Joseph 2018, 192). Whereas the significance of agriculture generally has been reduced as a foreign exchange earner, it's contributions are still significant to some Caribbean states such as Haiti, Guyana, Dominica and Grenada where it contributes between "seven to seventeen percent of GDP" (FAO 2019, 6). Ironically, while tourism is impacted by climatic changes, Hayward and Joseph (2018, 192) posit that these issues are further compounded by the "commodification of natural resources for tourism purposes."

The impact of tourism on the islands are consequently Janus-faced. For one, policymakers and authorities must attempt to protect the tourism industry against the mentioned deleterious effects, as it is a significant source of income for Caribbean SIDS. See Table 1 for a summarisation of possible effects of climate change on the tourism industry. On the other hand, touristic activities, by visitors, entrepreneurs and developers, can worsen the effects of climatic changes, thereby making populations and communities even more vulnerable. In the Caribbean, touristic development has led to the destruction of mangroves, shoreline vegetation and wildlife habitats, deforestation and devastation of coastal areas (Phillips 2012, 13). These issues do not only impact the physical environment but the socio-cultural experiences of residents. In Jamaica, for example, Minister of Tourism Edmund Bartlett, speaks of "overtourism." He elucidates that overtourism is a "situation where the people of communities become overwhelmed by the impact of tourism and are being marginalised as a result" (quoted in Lewis 2018).

Table 1: Implications of Climate Change on Tourism

IMPACT	IMPLICATIONS FOR TOURISM
Warmer temperatures	Altered seasonality, heat stress for tourists, cooling costs, changes in plant-wildlife-insect populations and distribution range, health impacts such as infectious and vector-borne disease ranges
Increasing frequency and intensity of extreme storms	Risk for tourism facilities, increased insurance costs/loss of insurability, business interruption costs
Reduced precipitation and increased evaporation in some regions	Water shortages, competition over water between tourism and other sectors, desertification, increased wildfires threatening infrastructure and affecting demand
Soil changes (moisture levels, erosion, acidity)	Loss of archaeological assets and other natural resources, with impacts on destination attractions and agriculture
Sea surface temperature rise	Increased coral bleaching and marine resource and aesthetic degradation in dive and snorkel destinations

Source: Abridged from Simpson, Murray, Daniel Scott, and Ulric Trotz. 2011. 'Climate Change's Impact on the Caribbean's Ability to Sustain Tourism, Natural Assets, and Livelihoods' (Simpson, Scott, and Trotz 2011)

Overtourism is one example of the negative impacts of tourism on communities, which include "uncontrolled development, failure to recognise the local residents' perceptions and the exclusion of local people from the planning exercise." The intersection between economic and environmental concerns, places the governments of SIDS, in a precarious position "with regard to implementing adaptation solutions to coming climate changes" (Hayward and Joseph 2018, 192).

The Case of Jamaica

In Jamaica, since the 1990s, the country has experienced several environmental issues which include "deforestation, coastal ecosystems degradation, pollution, bauxite mining and the overexploitation of tourism" (Hayward and Joseph 2018, 194). Water security is another environmental issue which can have a domino effect on other socio-economic issues. Hayward and Joseph (2018, 194) note that while sections of Jamaica are rich with natural water sources, access to water is notably difficult for both rural and urban communities. For example, in 2009 a study reported that in the communities of Mile Gully and Warwick Castle in St. Mary, the scarcity of water impeded economic development of the surveyed women, as they could not produce the secondary food products since drinking water was "generally unavailable" (Vassell 2009, 10). A study of urban communities found that while in August Town there were standpipes, which allowed community members access to drinking water and water for other hygienic purposes, "unreliable and insufficient water

supply" compromised water security (Lester 2015, 80). Mining has also intensified competition for land. According to Hayward and Joseph (2018, 195), mining in addition to "changing weather patterns, drought and intensified hurricane activity" also aids in depleting water and food resources.

The Case of Barbados

Barbados, like Jamaica, is a water-scarce country, whose reliance on tourism and vulnerability to changes in meteorological conditions can worsen the situation (Hayward and Joseph 2018, 195). Caribbean SIDS such as Barbados, St. Kitts and Nevis, and Antigua and Barbuda are positioned in the world's top ten water-stressed countries (FAO 2016). A reduction in the water supply or accessibility can have serious implications for public health concerns as water is essential for basic hygiene practices that can decrease the risk of chemical and microbial contamination. Even the storage of rainwater can increase the likelihood of vector reproduction, which is a significant issue for Barbados, which has the "highest rate of dengue in the Americas" (WHO 2010). Furthermore, the tourism industry places a disproportionate burden on water resources; the per capita consumption of water associated with tourism activities accounts for three times more than that of domestic consumers (Cashman, Cumberbatch, and Moore 2012, 23).

The influx of seaweed to the shores of Barbados is another reason for concern. The large amounts of Sargassum seaweed that have arrived in Barbados, Guadeloupe, Grenada, Martinique, Puerto Rico, Saint Lucia, Saint Martin and Tobago have had a severe impact on fishing and tourism in these islands. According to Hayward and Joseph (2018, 196) "the 2014-2015 sargassum invasion brought serious socio-economic and environmental impacts to Barbados, including the forced closing of fishing areas, impaired ability to operate fishing boats, and resulting effects on the livelihoods in the fisherfolk area." Additionally, Sargassum is a public health concern. The toxic gases emitted during its decomposition, hydrogen, ammonia and sulphide, caused between January and August 2018, 3341 cases of severe exposure in Guadeloupe and more than 8061 cases in Martinique (Resiere et al. 2018). The French government consequently pledged €10 million to deal with the issues caused by Sargassum (Resiere et al. 2018). However, for SIDS, such a cost may just place added pressure on their already precarious financial situation.

Hayward and Joseph (2018) recommend an environmental justice approach to resolving the discussed issues of climate change and economic development. In this way, the needs of vulnerable groups, such as women, the working class and underdeveloped communities, are given due consideration. Social Workers educated in socio-cultural theories and trained to address sociological and psychosocial problems are adequately equipped in the implementation of such an approach.

Why is it important?

The employment of an environmental justice approach is important to ensuring that there is equity and justice when treating socio-economic and socio-cultural impacts produced by climatic changes and economic activity. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (2014) defines environmental justice as "the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, colour, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies." Environmental Social Work, an emerging sub-field, is

Figure 2: Sargassum Seaweed on a Beach in Barbados

Source: (CARICOM 2015)

strategically positioned to employ such an approach, as it is concerned with community practices, advocacy and centres people within the environmental perspective (Hayward and Joseph 2018, 193). Environmental justice differs from conservationism that has been described by some as elitist in orientation, as the focus is primarily the physical environment for the sake of "consumption and pleasure" (Hayward and Joseph 2018, 193).

For example, Jaffe (2006), examining specifically Jamaica and Curaçao, discusses how transnational environmental organisations, such as Conservation International, prioritise reserving biodiversity, due to the stereotyped idyllic image of greenery and landscapes associated with the Caribbean. On the other hand, low-income urban areas, where residents experience grave environmental issues such as drain blockages, vector-borne diseases and pollution, are rarely included in these approaches to environmentalism (Jaffe 2006). The aesthetics of urban dwelling do not show on the radar of the green conservationist movements. Instead, the issues of pollution and improper disposal of garbage, for example, are framed in the language of socio-economic issues. For this reason, Jaffe (2006) speaks of 'Brown environmentalism' which "prioritises local, more immediate problems [that] affects mainly the poor and their impact is primarily on human health" (Jaffe 2006, 117).

In extending the conversation on environmentalism, there is an opportunity to examine the infrastructural issues that make certain people vulnerable to climate change. For instance, Joseph (2017, 1124) argues that even the best-intended intervention in SIDS communities might be difficult, as there exist "old problems" such as "poverty, racism, sexism, multicultural conflict, human rights

violations, and recently environmental degradation, and global warming."

These factors are especially important, as minority communities are disproportionately affected during natural disasters. For example, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans and Hurricane Maria in Puerto-Rico, black and elderly residents were more likely to die, and survivors with disabilities were disproportionately impacted (Hayward and Joseph 2018, 193).

What should be done?

Social Workers engage with these vulnerable communities and peoples outside of climate change interventions. Their experience and training are, therefore, indispensable in approaching these infrastructural and systematic issues. Joseph (2017, 1124) argues that "Social Work is a profession that aims at helping individuals, families, groups and communities to enhance or restore their functioning and/or creating societal conditions favourable to their goals." Thus, the Social Work approach to climate change, through the theory and practice of environmental justice, is to locate people, families and communities at the epicentre of adaptation measures and other strategies aimed at intervening in climatic and and other environmental issues. Furthermore, according to Hayward and Joseph (2018, 193), an environmental justice approach can act as a mechanism to investigate the connection between "coastal development, postcolonial exploitation of natural resources and the vulnerability to climate change." The discussions in the previous sections demonstrate that approaching climate change in SIDS necessitates a combined analysis of all of these factors to come to equitable conclusions.

In guiding Social Workers in their practice, Joseph (2017, 1122), cites numbers one to three as guiding principles. To this is added, a recommendation by Hayward and Joseph (2018), namely principle number four.

1. The United Nation's Sustainable Developmental Goals (SDGs) adopted in 2015.

2. The Earth Charter (2000) that outlines principles for 'a time when humanity must choose its future'. It guides a nation's system to one that promotes sustainable development and provides a global map for change. It outlines four main principles, namely (1) respect and care for the community of life; (2) ecological integrity; (3) social and economic justice; and (4) democracy, non-violence and peace.

3. The United Nation Declaration on Human Rights (1948) and the principles outlined therein.

4. IASC Guidelines on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings. These guidelines are supposed "to enable humanitarian actors to plan, establish and coordinate a set of minimum multi-sectoral responses to protect and improve people's mental health and psychosocial wellbeing in the midst of an emergency" (Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) 2007).

These global declarations set important standards and procedures which can help guide the Caribbean in an environmental justice approach. However, the unique political and socio-economic situation in the Caribbean calls for customised recommendations. The most challenging issues facing an environmental justice approach to climate change are the historical problems of inequality that have not yet been resolved. Classism, racism, sexism, lack of access to education, poverty, ethnic conflict and political tribalism undermine the foundation upon which equitable and sustainable adaptation measures can be effectively implemented.

In the short term, Caribbean governments should consider creating a regional body of social

workers, mental health workers, psychologists and sociologists that deals with climate change and and sustainable development issues from an environmental justice standpoint. In this forum, specialists will employ their specific training to guide regional bodies such as CARICOM, and the OECS in the creation of adaptation measures within the region. In this way, social worker perspectives would transcend the local and the national, in order to have a far-reaching input in the developmental stages of strategising. Furthermore, a recognisable organisation, operating under the existing regional organisations, will give social workers the recognition and resources which may otherwise be lacking in their local or national contexts. Furthermore, this would hopefully make environmental justice a constant factor in shaping policies and strategies, rather than a one-off or selectively included approach.

Additionally, special training should be provided for social workers throughout the region. Joseph (2017, 1120) outlines that social work practice intervenes at the micro (individual and family), meso (groups) and macro levels (organisations and community). They, therefore, possess a comprehensive understanding of how groups and individuals' function in their societies, and the areas in which they need more assistance and resources. Training would aid in educating social workers on their importance in resolving environmental and climatic problems and equipping them with the tools to carry out their roles effectively. In this training, social workers can also be given an opportunity to express their experiences and observations with national and regional authorities. Due to their intimate relationship with families and communities, they may be able to share information that would be otherwise unknown or overlooked.

Lastly, Social workers should not be overlooked in the region's journey to adapting to climatic and environmental problems. The practice and discipline can assist in promoting sustainable agriculture, building alternative economic models and recognising mental health issues (Hayward and Joseph 2018, 196). There is a socio-economic dimension to meteorological phenomena that should not be ignored if SIDS are to build a sustainable future successfully.

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HURRICANE DORIAN AND THE BAHAMAS: PSYCHOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES ON THE REASONS FOR LOOTING POST-DISASTER

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What is the issue?

After the passage of Hurricane Dorian, many videos circulated highlighting the plight of survivors crying out in desperation, fear, and confusion for individual needs to be met. The essential needs at that time were safety and security, to be rescued and reunited with loved ones and to be taken to a place of safety and security (shelter), and then followed by the need for food, water, clothing (physiological). The needs did not necessarily follow the expected steps of 'Maslow's pyramid. The order of the needs was normal, considering the traumatic experience in which grief responses such as shock and confusion would be more evident.

However, as survivors settled and considered their situation, the fear and desperation set in prompting some of them to engage in behaviours contrary to their morals. This may have been more significant for illegal or undocumented migrants in the islands of Abaco and The Grand Bahama who may have experienced feelings of desperation and hopelessness. The question raised by many residents and persons from other countries was, "What would cause persons to loot for tangible things that could not be used after an island is deemed uninhabitable?" The purpose of this paper is to answer this question by presenting a critical psychological outlook on why individuals loot after natural disasters.

This analysis is grounded in Maslow's "hierarchy of needs" which suggest that basic needs for food, water, air, sleep, warmth and protection is vital for survival and forms the foundation for other physiological needs. If these needs are not met, other needs in the pyramid are set aside or assume secondary importance. Therefore, in then wake of a disaster, it is most likely that these needs, though basic, are most important for survival and will most definitely be affected. As a result, the urge to fulfil these needs can become a driving force to indulge in acts of looting as it presents a viable way to obtain such needs for survival. This can be corroborated by Constable (2008) who found that needs can control an individual's thoughts and actions and even lead to illness, pain and distress.

The term looting was coined in the early 19th

century due to acts of forceful possession of property by armies from defenceless owners (Quarantelli, 2007; Newburn, Cooper, Deacon and Diski, 2015). Regarding disasters, looting may be defined as "grand and petty larceny of personal property during and after disasters" (Barsky, Trainor and Torres, 2006). Furthermore, looting was further referred to as ransacking, plundering or pillaging and even described as robbery, taking advantage of, done only for self-gain and with criminal intent (Quarantelli, 2007; Constable 2008; Kyoo-Man, 2016).

Looting can also be discussed in relation to the motivation to acquire goods with brand labels. In the majority of cases, these luxurious commodities are often unaffordable to the looters. It may not be sensible observers, but for the survivors who are operating on the **Id impulse**, these are opportunities to break down the barriers of affluence and a perfect opportunity to fit in. Maslow's theory on love and belongingness in the hierarchy of needs may be used to expound on the need for acceptance and a sense of inclusion in particular groups, to promote the establishment of interpersonal relationships. It does not matter whether the methods used to acquire the goods were socially unacceptable but rather a survival strategy being used by others like themselves. Therefore, the act is not regarded as illegal but somewhat normal under the circumstances. These needs may be contributing factors that drive survivors, especially younger survivors to feel the need to loot luxury or brand items especially if everyone in their group is partaking in these actions just to fit in (McLeod, 2018).

'The Id is the unorganized part of the psyche that contains a human's instinctual drives. The Id is the only part of the psyche that is present at birth and it is the source of our bodily needs, wants, desires, and impulses; particularly our sexual and aggressive drives. The Id is an entirely unconscious aspect of the psyche and, according to Freud, is the "source of all psychic energy"; thus making it the primary component of personality. Freud claimed that the Id acts according to the pleasure principle and that the Id contains the libido, which is the primary source of instinctual force that is unresponsive to the demands of reality. The pleasure principle drives the Id to seek immediate gratification of all needs, wants, and desires" (Siegfried 2014, 1

The importance of looting for the younger generation just to be a part of the in-group was shared by a young female who was turned in for looting in Debenhams. She reported that it was fashionable to have these things, and without them "you're just going to look like an idiot" (Toppin et al., 2011). To affiliate with others to be socially accepted is an intrinsic form of motivation which plays an integral role in social phenomena such as social comparison and self-presentation. Additionally, the need for belonging to a particular group can lead to behavioural changes, beliefs and attitudes as people strive to conform to their group's norms and standards (Cherry, 2019).

Persons who engage in obtaining items to meet survival needs that are relevant to their situations are perceived differently. However, the implication for this form of reasoning suggests that persons who choose to loot after disasters do so because they need these items for survival which is understandable under dire conditions. For example, taking items such as hardware material or supplies to help with survival is perceived differently from items that have a tenuous link (e.g., plasma televisions, jewellery, alcohol, narcotics, and firearms from private homes and businesses) (Frailing, 2007). According to Frailing (2007) this is construed as looting when luxurious items that cannot be used are taken even if it was not by force. She believes that looting was increased

for post-Katrina in New Orleans as a result of a lack of social control and socioeconomic conditions. Her research indicates that poverty and deprivation are teachers of experiences for those persons whose life experiences are relatable. Therefore, it is not surprising that looting was very visible in New Orleans, which is perceived as a minimum-wage economy and one-third of its people lived in poverty (Frailing, 2007). Hurricane Katrina simply intensified and worsened the conditions of deprivation and crime that plagued New Orleans for many years.

For example, if looting did take place by the Haitians in The Bahamas, it could be as a result of what they had in common such as nationality, similar age and life circumstances. Perhaps the Haitians saw the need to loot as they recognised that their circumstance would require an atypical response to an abnormal situation. For example, they were undocumented and therefore could not identify as Bahamians; they were unrecognised and basically did not exist within the society. Being the "outsiders" undoubtedly influenced the need to find ways to provide for their basic needs knowing that if they decided to get help, later on, it could result in deportation. What did they have in common? They shared the commonality of poverty and deprivation in their midst, discrimination, resided in shanty towns and were blamed for the disaster based on their cultural belief. Additionally, most of them were not legally employed, and those who had a permit to work would need to get them renewed, which would be another expense for them. These factors formed somewhat of an acceptance for the behaviour of looting, due to the dire circumstances in the aftermath of a disaster. The blame was therefore diverted from Haitians looting to Haitians fighting for day to day survival, as a result of desperation.

Although the focus of this paper was to highlight the reasons for looting after natural disasters, there is a need to note that its prevalence is not as widespread as it is usually reported by the press. Researchers have found that during the immediate aftermath of disasters, community unity and resilience, strengthening of social ties, self-help, heightened initiatives, altruism and prosocial behaviour more often prevail (Auf der Heide, 2004). In a news article entitled 'How disasters bring out our kindness" the writer highlighted the natural tendency of humans to band together and to be kind to one another to survive (Szalavitz, 2012). This act of altruism is seen post-disaster in helping each other acquire basic needs against all the odds. It was reported that "Although there's a mentality that disasters provoke frenzied selfishness and brutal survival-of-the-fittest competition, the reality is that people coping with crises are actually quite altruistic" (Szalavitz, 2012). In this same article, Newark Mayor Corey Booker expressed the view that during hurricane Sandy "Police have reported zero looting or crimes of opportunity in Newark, and ceaseless reports of acts of kindness abound everywhere."

"Although there's a mentality that disasters provoke frenzied selfishness and brutal survival-of-the-fittest competition, the reality is that people coping with crises are actually quite altruistic" (Szalavitz, 2012).

What is it important?

When considering the impacts of natural disasters, on the socio-economic and psychological conditions of survivors, looting may be dismissed as 'hoodlum' behaviour by the public, media and even disaster-relief officials. As a result, the psychological needs of looters may also be rejected, as they are considered socially undesirable, especially in

the post-disaster environment. Furthermore, for vulnerable groups such as immigrants, as seen in the case of Haitians in the Bahamas, suspicions or even confirmed cases of looting behaviour for this group, may spark further outrage and mistrust based in preconceived prejudices. Therefore, an uninformed understanding of the sociological and psychological motives of looting behaviour may engender further marginalisation and ill-treatment for these groups. Not to mention, for the survivors who are not participating in the behaviour, the occurrence or even threat of looting, may only aid in heightening their feelings of insecurity, anxiety and frustration. Consequently, the wellbeing of those who participate in looting behaviour can easily be overlooked as undesirables and immoral delinquents by entities assisting in the aftermath of disasters.

The psychological analysis of looting behaviour is critical in dispelling these notions. The analysis given above shows that looting behaviour is part of the wider emotional, social and psychological factors affecting and shaping the minds and lives of survivors before, during and after a catastrophic disaster. Thus, mental health and psychological assistance should also be provided to those participating in looting. Furthermore, the social learning perspective and Maslow's theory on love and belongingness, demonstrates that there are other essential psychosocial factors which may encourage the occurrence of looting in precarious situations. Consequently, this analysis is critical for identifying the socio-economic conditions in society, that well before a natural disaster, can increase the risk of looting in particular nations and communities. Lastly, understanding the psychology behind looting behaviour and addressing the causes, can help in creating a safer environment for all survivors in the aftermath of disasters.

What should be done?

In response to disaster preparedness, response planners should anticipate the emergence of looting post-disaster and implement strategies that are directly related to the needs of survivors. Therefore, to reduce the feelings of desperation experienced by survivors after witnessing mass destruction, it might be necessary to let people know in advance where certain essential commodities are available to them and to reduce the need for damage to properties occurring.

Also, there should be a collaboration among first responders, mental health professionals, policymakers, and business owners to propose strategies to counteract the adverse effects of looting. For example, Frailing (2007) suggests that supermarket retailers or other food industries donate necessities such as food and water to the affected. This will not only be beneficial in meeting the immediate needs of such individuals but can also deter these individuals from pursuing looting since necessities are freely accessible. In addition, policymakers can ask for assistance from neighbouring islands to assist in providing basic needs such as food, water and shelter, which will also lessen the prevalence of looting.

While the arguments above are worth noting, the literature perused presents much evidence that widespread looting occurs in the aftermath of disasters from earlier times to the present. The reasons surrounding the act of looting may lie in sociology which points to low socio-economic status and inequalities, however, the psychological causes are worth considering even though "the subject of looting has received relatively little attention from scholars, or from legislatures" (Green, 2007). As discussed above, the literature highlights

the survival mode and explains how survival instincts work and also speaks to the extreme measures humans take to find and satisfy their basic needs. This is congruent with Maslow's Hierarchy of needs which proposes that basic or physiological needs such as food, clothing and water are the basis for other needs. Therefore, individuals are prompted to seek these needs and will do what is necessary to acquire them. Moreover, the idea of Le Bon psychology of crowds supports that individuals in a crowd will become united as their conscious personalities vanish, they function in solidarity. As we speak of losing the conscious personality, it is possible that the individuals in such an environment may be at ease allowing for the Id, according to Freud's Psychoanalytic Theory, to take control and the true self can emanate for that moment.

Another reason discussed is rooted in the individuals' motivation to fit in with their peers or groups by owning sophisticated brand items. So, they seize the opportunity to obtain these items. Many reviews on the aftermath of disasters also consider the acts of looting as altruistic deeds. However, the freedom existing in an environment of diminished social control fosters such acts and create an atmosphere which permits the affective side of the individual to flourish.

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