**Dynamics of Environmental Degradation in South Punjab, Pakistan**

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**ABSTRACT**

Poverty and the environment are closely interrelated. While people living in poverty are seldom the principal creators of environmental damage, they often bear the brunt of environmental damage and are often caught in a downward spiral, whereby the poor are forced to deplete resources to survive, and this degradation of the environment further impoverishes people. The poverty-environment nexus can be explained through two interlinked processes. In the first case, environmental degradation reinforces the incidence of poverty by reducing the availability of natural resources and making the poor vulnerable to natural disasters. In another case, poverty forces people to degrade the environment through over-exploitation, in the absence of other alternatives. This research, tried to identify environmental resource utilization by households and investigated the impact of various factors affecting environmental degradation ultimately poverty. This study was based on primary data and the sample size was 220 respondents. Logistic regression analysis was employed to analyze the data. According to findings, it was concluded that there was a strong relationship between degradation of environmental resources, poverty, and income inequality.

**Keywords:** Environmental degradation, environmental resource, natural disasters, logistic regression analysis