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States' Mutual Interest Over the Imperative of Rising Environmental Concerns; A Wise Measure to Gear Up Against the Eruption of Climate Change Terrorism

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ABSTRACT

Along with other non-traditional security issues, climate change has gathered unprecedented global attention and is often interlinked with human security issues in terms of health and availability of resources. Further, the 21st century, though hit by the evil of insurgencies and terrorism over religious issues, has now entered the orbit of environmental terrorism over the contesting interests of land, drinking water, clean air and non-renewable resources. Thus, by highlighting the contemporary ecological challenges, the research has carved out future ecological disasters triggering clashes among nations over competing reserves. This research paper has discussed the changing global political order amid rising climatic concerns by devising a three-step evolutionary model. According to this study, the Eastern and Western blocs must cooperate based on the foundations of Liberal Environmentalism to deal with global environmental risks that can otherwise challenge the paradigms of state sovereignty. Also, drought, food insecurity, and drastic climate change patterns will eat the entire globe, removing any demarcation between the West and East, leading to the survival of the fittest. The study has analyzed the aggravation of climate threats to environmental terrorism by emphasizing the causes of cross-border climate challenges and the demarcation of climate-changing aggressors and victims. Finally, the paper has suggested solutions based on cooperation and accountability in the international anarchic system.

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1.0 Introduction

World politics is constantly subjected to revolve around the contesting dynamics of interests over lands, assets, brains, ideologies, and surroundings. The 21st century, though hit by the evil of insurgencies and terrorism over religious issues, has now entered the orbit of environmental risks. The environment and the challenges related to it, in the present-day view, have become the paradigm of security, which poses threats to all living beings in their surroundings. Related to it, Climate Change is primarily one of the most significant risks that mention the changing aquatic and terrestrial orientations of the Earth. Along with other non-traditional security issues, environmental concerns and climatic variations gather unprecedented global attention these days and are often interlinked with human security issues in terms of health and social well-being.

However, unfortunately, the seriousness towards environmental issues and changing climate is still lagging just like Samuel P. Huntington's thesis on the clash of civilizations. Huntington's view on reasons for internal wars given at the end of the twentieth century was predicted but challenged and applied later. As it was hard to accept earlier how cultural and ethnic conflicts would not only burst but prevail and alter the interwar period to intra-state agitations (Huntington, 1993), today it is questionable to the same extent for the struggling states, especially how they can spend on environmental issues when they need to look after hundreds of others concerns eating their economy and destabilizing the political structure.

While discussing about the contribution of the recent literature for the climate mitigation policies, immense strategy frameworks have been devised for controlling GHG emissions and imbalanced migrations along with the capacity enlargements of low-carbon technologies(Hoppe et al., 2023).However, the matter of climate justice and accountability is still dangling. Moreover, the seriousness of the concerns related to rapidly changing climate are still caged in the biasness towards conventional military and political aims especially in the third-world countries (Dorokhina & Sakharov, 2023).

This study has attempted to imply the connection between the conventional security threats with the contemporary ecological challenges by underpinning the identification significance of the local, regional and global climate aggressors. Furthermore, this working paper aims to disseminate knowledge based on a four-point agenda. Firstly, it will discuss the changing global political order amid rising environmental concerns and will be supported by a three-step evolutionary model. Secondly, the research would point out contemporary ecological challenges directly impacting the competing resources of clean air, drinking water, and agricultural land that may increase global conflicts soon. Next, amid the discussion over the hazards of climate change, the paper will highlight the efforts of states based on the parameter of liberal environmentalism. Finally, the study would attempt to analyze the aggravation of climate threats to environmental terrorism along with devising possible solutions.

This study aims to bring attention towards the rising menace of climate change and environmental damages due to states' ignorant policies. By highlighting the contemporary ecological challenges, the research has carved out future ecological disasters triggering terrorism

among nations over the competing resources. Furthermore, following the historical global order patterns, the study has attempted to design an evolutionary model for the understanding of statesmen and policymakers. In addition to this, the research aims to devise cooperative solution aligning the study with the tenets of liberal environmentalism. This approach would signify collaborative measures to save the environment from terrorizing effects along with diminishing the economic divide between the global north and south.

2.0 Literature Review

Environmental insecurity in terms of the field of International Relations is usually taken as a concept of "environmental security complex," which indicates clearly that any ecological damage is due to the ignorance of various factors, and, resultantly, a wide range of sectors fall under the consequences of total damage. It ranges from human insecurity and health insecurity to local and global economic insecurity and national insecurity (Thakur, 2001). The concept of 'environment' means a human surrounding that provides it with the necessities of survival and is proportional to climate change. Further, the idea of sustainability classifies that if the environment is kept clean, it can do wonders not only for the present living beings but for the ages to come (Ferguson, 2010). The total effect of various natural emergencies undermines the earth environment's groundwork. In 2023, the world encountered the hottest year on record. Also, ozone-depleting substance discharges and carbon emissions arrived at new records in 2022 without any indications of easing back in 2023 (United Nations SDG Report, 2024). Further, owing to the rise in globalization, international trade, and focus towards industrialized advanced societies, the matter of contention is the suffering of developing countries hit by annual flooding, global warming, and water scarcity due to uncontrolled practices of carbon emissions by the developed world (Zahoor,2022). The primary concerns of worry related to these surroundings drop down on basically the two main arguments. Firstly, whether the environment around can be justified as a healthy pool to live in or not; secondly, it is about the survival of the fittest and the ideology of sustainable generations. According to one study, the world's regimes have further narrowed their focus away from just interstate wars, insurgencies, military interventions, territorial disputes, and ethnoreligious conflicts to the central issues of air, water, and marine pollution; climate change and global warming; Industrial Waste management; Renewable versus non-renewable resources and ozone depletion These primarily as per scholars along with their sub-categories would play the role of relative competitors deciding the new forms of threats, terrorism, and peace building (Conserve Energy Future, 2016).

Marked as history's most evident piece of writing on environmental challenges, Silent Spring by Carson in 1962 is considered a beginning point of environmental security. This study first drew attention to ecological risks in the view of pesticides and insecticides used in the agrarian industry. Carson brought under study the excessive use of DDT as a pest control chemical and how it was affecting the life cycle of birds by making their babies' shells brittle. Also, the use of DDT was proven equally dangerous for humans, bringing up the high alerts on climate change. Later, towards the end, the author provided the solution of biological control of pests rather than chemical control to preserve the life food-chains12 of living creatures (Carson, 2009). Though Rachel

Carson published her work almost five decades back, this powerful piece of writing triggered a mass movement around environmental preservation. She, through her work, unwound the trend of using artificial pesticides to prevent the chemical toxicities of the air, natural vegetation, and to animal and human populations. This work set a precedent before the global world for bringing attention to the future rampant climate change effects (Griswold, 2012). Furthermore, almost twenty-five years later, William McKibben, another scholar in 1989, trended on the legacy of Silent Spring and published his work by the name of The End of Nature. In his work, he alarmed the world by the rapid greenhouse effect and connected environmental dangers to it. By that time, experts and scientists had already done an optimum level of research on how carbon dioxide (CO2) is affecting the air because of fuel combustion, which is responsible for capturing the harmful rays within the earth's atmosphere.

Additionally, MacKibben (2006) identified the fact that this capture of harmful rays in the earth's environment would be responsible for the increase in the earth's temperature almost by nine degrees on a Fahrenheit scale, along with the rise in sea levels and a drop in agricultural quality. This was kind of the first wake-up call about global warming and the concern about melting glaciers. It proved as a forecast towards world disasters happening today in to form of cyclones, floods, and tornadoes across eastern and western coasts across the globe. From environmental change-prompted catastrophes to water defilement, these issues present basic threats to the prosperity of the climate and the general population. In any case, amid these difficulties, lie openings for improvement, joint effort, and manageable progression. By embracing extensive procedures that focus on safeguarding, inexhaustible imperativeness, and local area commitment, countries badly affected by climate change can make room for a greener and more flexible future. Policymakers, organizations, common society, and individuals should meet to address these squeezing normal worries (Khetran,2024). Moreover, natural dangers keep ruling the risks over all possible security concerns after the recent technological shifts. 66% of GRPS respondents rank outrageous climate as the top imperil, probably introducing a material emergency worldwide in 2024. Notwithstanding, GRPS respondents differ about the earnestness of ecological dangers, specifically biodiversity misfortune. The confidential area features these dangers as top worries over the more extended term, as opposed to respondents from common society or government who focus on these dangers throughout more limited periods (WEF Global Risk Report, 2024).

2.1 Environmental Security: A Concept

To study any ideology, there has always been a need to begin from its literal meaning to have a general understanding. Following that approach, several institutes have given the literal sense of the concept of environmental security. The foremost need is to comprehend the link between environmental and national security risks for a state or international security risks on the global stage. As per Yale University, environment, and security are studied together when people struggle to attain the primary means of survival, such as water, foodstuff, and shelter, yet the situations remain destabilized (Goodman, 2015). With an official report generated by the US State Department on environmental threats, the concept of environmental security was described as Environmental security is a component of local and state security. It includes the decrease and

deterrence of energy risks, together with pressures of available resources, environmental hazards, and other relevant strains that openly back political and economic insecurity. Besides, it gives an insight into energy, environmental, and interrelated national security fears that go anti-parallel to the foreign policy goals of any state, particularly the United States (US Department of State, 2001). Additionally, the concept of environmental security has also been supported by bookish literature by several authors. Scott & Thapa (2015) published their work on the comprehensive understanding of ecological security and risks relevant to it. For them, environmental security is a subgroup of security derived from multiple social sciences disciplines such as International Relations, Political Science, Geography, etc, where the ecological evolution of any kind, natural or artificial, can become the subject of battles and can deteriorate human lifestyle. Butts, Goodman, & Nugent (2012), in another place, linked the sustainability concept with preserving the environment. According to them, the real threat to the environment was identified in the post-Cold War time when the harsh military exercises by the two world major powers were becoming the source of abuse of natural resources. After the known case of ozone depletion, the global community stepped into the twenty-first century by raising concerns over the environment and its sustainability for future generations.
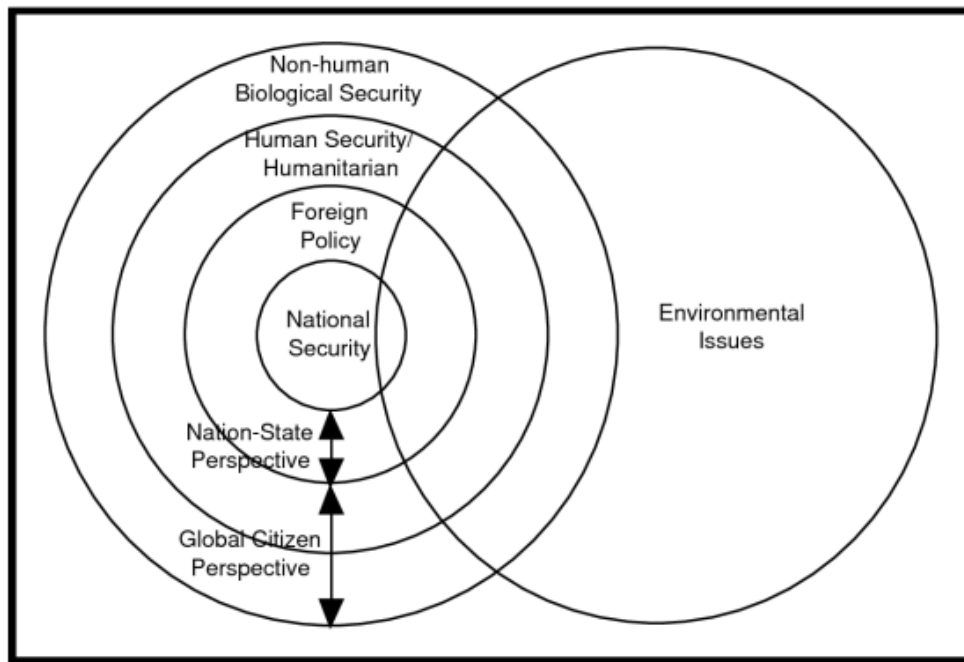
Furthermore, to materialize the concern, the environmental risks must align with the national security and foreign policies of a state to achieve the execution of action plans. As per authors like Buzan, Wæver & de Wilde, environmental security as a forthcoming concept would incline more toward political discussions. Also, to advocate the resolutions for ecological dangers, there is a need to adopt a multifaceted strategy inclusive of local, national, regional and international levels (Graeger, 1996). From the concepts of environmental security, the menace of insecurity originates when the ecological assets are at abuse. Environmental insecurity means deteriorating the biodiversity levels necessary for a human being's life and basic needs to survive. This phenomenon is directly linked to the fears of ecological hazards directly hitting the suitable development in the world (Gore, 2016). It is significant to understand that the role of a nation-state is inevitable in providing pertinent solutions to climate change. Also, accomplishing environmental security means achieving state security. Thus, the right approach to maintaining internal and external peace is by benefitting the people of society, creating a cumulative effect of fair sharing (Özcan,2023).

2.2 Theoretical Perspective

2.2.1 Environmental Security: A Non-Traditional Security Threat

Without any doubt, environmental security as a concept was first landed by Barry Buzan's contribution to the world of International Relations. The definite concept of Buzan describes the holistic notion of the security paradigm following a Copenhagen school of thought. According to him, military might, and political superiority should not be the only concerns for states to survive. Opposite to the traditional conceptualization of risks, he inferred the view of securitization by bringing societal, economic, and environmental concerns into the orbit of security (Buzan & Hansen, 2009). Linking the two intensifies the requirement of how the certainty of Buzan's idea will give the world a new picture in the coming years. Making a worthy contribution to the Pacific

Institute for Studies in Security, Development, and Environment, E.L. Chalecki shared some comprehensive views on environmental security, considering some of the significant cases of the USA. In the beginning, the author clearly depicted how the matter of environmental security has been ignored for ages. Moreover, the writer has drawn attention to the very fact that traditional security ventures and environmental security are not something that drift apart. These two views must be studied together by alleviating the gap between conventional military security tenets and resource struggle. Those who study the security concerns regarding state protection and conflict resolution must align these interests with the risks of earth damage like deforestation, loss of biodiversity, and climate change (Dalby,2017). Although Buzan's idea brought significant influence in the domain of security studies, his work lacked the proper mechanism management to handle the new security issues. Moreover, this literary contribution did not consider the divide between developed and developing nations, and so the related concerns were blurred during the very first level of understanding. Furthermore, the concept of non-traditional security threats attempted to line up the economic, social, and environmental issues with political matters without identifying the impact of autonomous bodies that can work to tackle these issues.

Source: Allenby, Environmental Dimensions of National Security, 1998

Hypothesis

"Environmental damages and climate change would lead towards terrorism of competing resources if not handled in time using the parameters of cooperation."

3.0 Methodology

This study adopts a descriptive approach, delving into the multifaceted dynamics surrounding the subject matter. It embraces an exploratory research design, leveraging a comprehensive blend of secondary data sources and researchers' new ideology perspectives. The investigative framework involves a meticulous examination of diverse literary resources,

encompassing books, articles, research papers, and journals that span both national and international domains. Moreover, this research work has devised a conceptual model for the analytical investigation and future policy measures. To gain a comprehensive understanding of the problem, the researcher also visited several relevant institutions and has conversed with environmental experts. Furthermore, the researcher also participated in seminars, dialogues, exhibitions and consultations that proved useful in gaining additional information for the thesis. This research work also follows a particular framework to comprehensively address four-points agenda including parameters of environmental terrorism and liberalism to solve the issue. Finally, the study has analyzed plausible measures for both the developed and developing world to deal with the rising threats of environmental terrorism.

4.0 Findings and Results

The debate is still prevalent that environment does not pertain to any boundary, and these above-described dynamics are transboundary variable phenomena that cannot be dealt with by a single player; a sole hegemon could overtly empower neither. This paper, in its inside stance, manages to address the key challenges that would otherwise be difficult to handle for both the developed and struggling states. Supporters of the realist school of thought would oppose the idea of long-term cooperation to earn a sustainable living scenario because this characteristic is a deliberate move to undermine states' sovereignty. The following are the four key perspectives that would describe the prime concept of this paper, along with the related risks of conflicts if not understood well.

1. Environmental issues and, thus, climate change is not limited to immediate spillover effects only. They have Distant Impacts that are neither easy to foresee nor able to be tackled readily.

2. Defining the problems of the environment, there is not always a specified aggressor and an identified victim. These issues hit as a 'knock out from nowhere' and can harm anyone in any part of the world at any time.

3. Environmental concerns are a constant competition between the scarce and all-time available resources across the globe. This would spontaneously become a struggle among providers, manufacturers, and consumers that would become the tool of subversion in states' foreign policies sooner or later

4. The international system is anarchic, and so when those actors (that must abide by the formulated laws) do not operate according to the desired response, there would ultimately be no check, balance, and punishment system for them which, would lead to the eruption of environmental terrorism with unrestricted sanctuaries
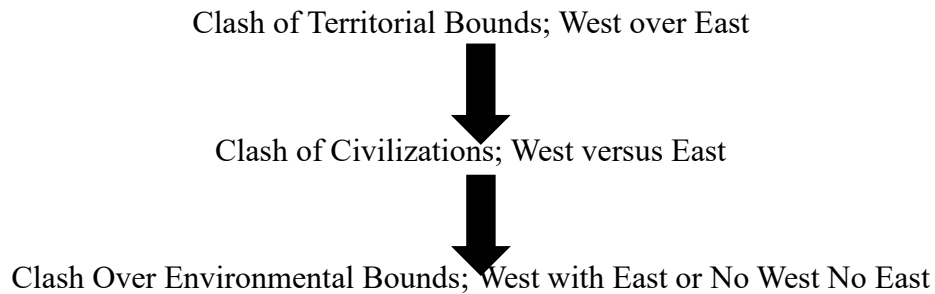
5.0 Discussion and Conclusion
5.1 Discussion

5.1.1 The Conceptual Model

Now, the situation overall is changing when it is getting evident day by day that what if there remains no economy and no politics and only environment? The answer lies in the newer and more definite concept of Barry Buzan (as cited in Stone, 2009), where he sees security as a holistic notion that needs all its faces to be considered equally important. According to him, military might,

and political superiority should not be the only concerns for states to survive. Opposite to the traditional conceptualization of risks, he extrapolated the view of securitization by bringing societal, economic, and environmental concerns into the circle. Linking the two intensifies the requirement of how the certainty of Buzan's idea will give the world a new picture in the coming years. From the so far analysis and keeping in view the ever-considered standard of east-west politics, the following prescribed model for the changing world order would be proved justified to attain a better picture.

Clash of Territorial Bounds; West over East

Clash of Civilizations; West versus East

Clash Over Environmental Bounds; West with East or No West No East

The model prescribed above explains the most predictable change in the world order owing to environmental threats and global warming risks. So far, countries have had their battles on territorial claims and ideological expansions. The two great wars and the Cold War period are evidence of how armies struggled over some inches of land and how states sponsored proxy wars. Not only this but also the stage for cooperation, including United Nations initiatives, has been about curbing the atrocities and ensuring global peace. Now, what the model says is, the current and most apprehensive claims from now onwards are going to be around the center of environmental issues. To tackle them, the eastern and western blocs must cooperate and bring their efforts on one page. If this is not going to be taken into consideration, the global environmental risks will even remove the boundary lines between states. If we do not put sustainability resource usage under check, drought, food insecurity, and drastic climate change patterns will eat the entire globe, removing any demarcation between West and East.

5.1.2 Liberal Environmentalism

The plausible solution to these upcoming challenges is visible right in the lens of Steven Bernstein coined the term "Liberal Environmentalism," which later became an open culture of regional and international organizations and an operable stance for all the states in them. Global environmental governance rests on a set of norms best characterized by the term mentioned above. It indeed catalyzes the process of institutionalizing the standards, which predicate environmental promotion with the maintenance of a liberal economic order. The claim is further supported by the environmental treaties, policies, and programs related to climate change, forest protection, and biosafety (Bernstein, 2002). The focus of the proposed concept is to restrict acceptance of the idea of liberal environmentalism. But it has accentuated the over-time establishment of explicit and implicit values, keeping institutions that have developed in response to global environmental problems that support kinds of values and goals, with important implications for the constraints

and opportunities to combat the world's most serious environmental problems. How are the international system and states responding to environmental issues? Following the standards of the early 20s Montreal and Kyoto Protocol on environment, the United Nations system came up with its agency titled as United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). Though it was established far before, today, every member state of the UN is a member of UNEP with a signified level of participation. The unprecedented turnout of top environmentalists, stakeholders, and economic experts changed the nature of the annual climate change summit of 2015 held in Paris and concluded with the launch of around 50 different environmental initiatives, including the control of recourse exploitation and sustainable development and so reflected how the concerns of states have taken a new form in this running decade. Over the period, the rising levels of investment chunks just over the environment and global warming issues have also accelerated by the welfare states, especially Sweden and Norway.

Also, global warming was the pivotal topic of discussion endorsed by every state among the other three top agendas of the 2014 UN annual meeting (UNEP, 2016). The efforts of the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation established back in 1993 are also at a front end with the aim to join the US, Canada, and Mexico on the importance of the conservation, protection, and enhancement of the environment in their territories and the essential role of cooperation in these areas in achieving sustainable development for the healthy being of present and future generations (North American Agreement on Environment Cooperation, 1993). Apart from being a member of many cooperative agencies on the environment, Japan, being a highly industrialized state, has started a within-border but cross-border effective imitative of Overseas Environmental Cooperation, an organization that envisions the direction of environmental issues and so incorporates movements in the political, economic, and social field under the progress of international mutual dependence in the 21st century. The central function of the OECC is to contribute to promoting the conservation of the global environment in terms of research study, personnel training, and supporting non-government activities under international cooperation with many countries. Its prime focus is on the establishment of as many bilateral links as it can within Asia, along with inviting Western stakeholders to target environmental conservation in Asia-Pacific (Yuan & Lee, 2023).

5.1.3 States Reluctant to Adopt Mutual Cooperation Over Environment; A Step Towards Climate Change Terrorism

With the clarification of the stances of those states that are working hard to stabilize the earth's temperature, we cannot ignore those resilient actors that are least interested in making this hot issue their current foreign policy agenda. Among these, the main actors are predicted to be the struggling states that would have to abide by the formulated regulations of the international system along with bringing many changes to their domestic systems, which is not affordable (Zahoor,2022). This resilience of today will give birth to the actual future environmental terrorists who will feel no regret in killing people from border to border for clean, fresh water and to fight inhabitants for an excellent spot to breathe. The unusual climate change and scarcity of rain can

soon lead a nuclear state to buy food to cut off famine against tactical weapons. It is very much possible that the vacuum considered to be created in the people of Maldives, who today have lost all hopes of keeping their sustainability on the world map due to drastic weather changes (Silke & Morrison, 2022), would transform into environmental fighters contesting with the causes for wiping out their homeland. The latest response from Modi's government to the Pak-India confrontation over LoC was a direct threat to stop the freshwater supply from violating the Indus Water Treaty (The American Interest, 2016). That means the aggressor state transformed the conflict and challenged it with even more significant trauma, triggering worsened environmental effects across borders. This could be a perfect example to highlight the resource exploitation between two contesting states. The need of this hour is to grant full significance to the inflicting environmental issues to eradicate all the underlying chances of this new form of terrorism. President Obama also mentioned in his address during the climate change summit of 2015 that this ongoing climatic instability could lead to climate terrorism which would not be easy to manage if escalated once (Liptak, 2015). The last resort to handle these evil lies in the formula of 'taking a ride on,' which means developing states would have to depend on the developed entities with the condition of compromise to stop the world from going into another ice age.

5.2 Conclusion

Global environmental concerns are the heart of all the ongoing issues today. Ranging from the initial threats of extinction of wildlife species, pollution, global warming, and sustainability questions, it has reached another level related to security issues. The unusual climate change and scarcity of rain can soon lead a nuclear state to buy food to cut off famine against tactical weapons. It is very much possible that the vacuum considered to be created in the people of Maldives, who today have lost all hopes of keeping their sustainability on the world map due to drastic weather changes would transform into environmental fighters contesting with the causes for wiping out their homeland. Environmental security owing to the very recent topic of climate change terrorism, the world scholars have drawn the focus toward liberal environmentalism. It has demanded the direct cooperation of states over environmental issues along with domestic efforts. Only these measures can save the world from going into another dangerous form of world order. The need of this hour is to grant full significance to the inflicting environmental issues to eradicate all the underlying chances of this new form of terrorism.

Maham Zahoor: Problem Identification and Theoretical Framework

Saqib Hussain: Data Analysis, Supervision and Drafting

Mustansar Abbas: Data Collection, Idea Refinement

Conflict of Interests/Disclosures

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