

'A'bad among 5 cities to see highest increase in heat deaths in 2080'

...says a study conducted by professors of IIMA and IITGN

Tanushree Bhatia @tweettanushree

In 2080, Ahmedabad will be one of the five cities of India to experience the highest increase in heat mortality. This has been found in a working paper on 'Predicted increases in heat related mortality under climate change in urban India' written by professors of the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIMA) and Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar (IITGn).

The paper suggests that there is an urgent need for Indian policy makers to anticipate, plan and respond to the challenges of climate change. The paper written by professor Vimal Mishra of IITGn, professors Hem Dholakia and Amit Garg of IIMA says that Delhi, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Mumbai and Kolkata would experience the highest absolute increase in heat-related mortality in 2080.

Talking about the same, professor Mishra said, "Extreme temperatures can affect the normal functioning of the

Data comes from various sources

The researchers collected data from the daily measurements of air pollution done by the Central Pollution Control Board. They collected the daily weather variables from the India Meteorological Department.

Also, the data regarding the total number of registered deaths for the period of 2005-2012, was collected from municipal corporations of Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Lucknow, Mumbai and Shimla.

human body leading to pathological problems."

He also said, "We looked at 57 cities of India having population of over 1 million and then compared it with the global climate model. The findings warn about a critical situation in future which demands the policy makers to make an immediate action plan."

A greater emphasis on public health and policy coordination apart from strengthening the health sector is needed to address the health challenges that climate poses.

Projected increase in deaths

City	Deaths
Delhi	15,200
Ahmedabad	17,600
Bangalore	14,900
Kolkata	19,400
Mumbai	15,300

Of these, Amdavad is the only urban area that has recently set up a heat-health warning system. The towns and smaller cities of today will burgeon into urban areas with million plus populations in future. Therefore, the health impacts may be higher than what has been estimated.