

Q,

No doubt Pakistan is water scarce country. What are main reasons for which Pakistan needs to build dams?

Ans -

### Introduction

"The war of twenty-first century will be fought over water."

(~Ismael Serageldin)

Pakistan has been facing a severe water deficit problem. The shortage of water has several negative impacts on Pakistan's economy. However, Pakistan is rich in natural resources and can generate and save enough water by implementing its policies. Therefore, for

all these purposes, Pakistan needs to construct dams.

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## How Pakistan is a water scarce country?

"Pakistan is a critical water insecure country."

(~The World Bank)

Pakistan has a short water life. This impacts on its economic, social and political terms. No proper strategy of government is being followed and as a result, 25 to 26 million of water is wasted every year.

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## Main problems of water

### shortage in Pakistan

### and its impacts

Following are main problems :-

a)

### Short water life

Pakistan has a very short water life of **33 days**. If, there is no rain fall after **33 days**, it would impact life in Pakistan, especially Karachi.

According to the State Bank, Karachi needs 11 million gallons water.

As per Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, 9 out of 11 million gallon water is received by Karachi, while 2 million is stolen by "Mafis". Thus, Pakistan has a critical water shortage.

b)

### Decline in agriculture

## and impact crop yield

Almost 80% of agriculture depend on river water. Pakistan's 19% of GDP is from agriculture. (Economic Survey). Due to water shortages, Pakistan imports 35% of crops in which 30% is wheat. (PBS). Thus, Pakistan's economy is badly affected.

### c) Unprecedented flood across country

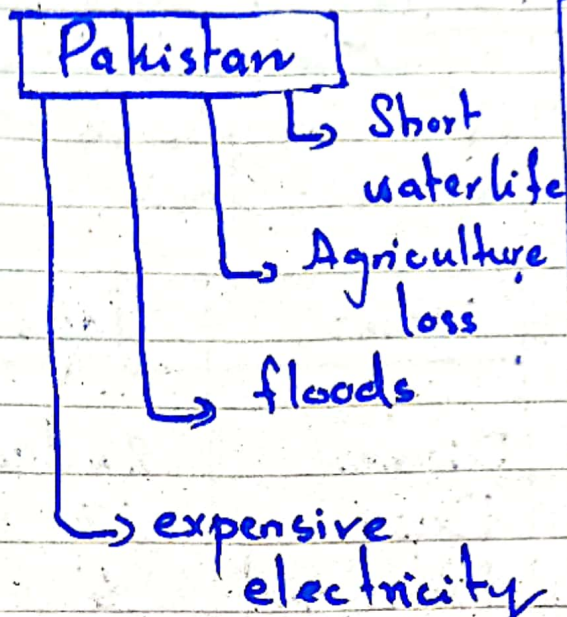
Pakistan has a very bad experience of floods. After 2010, flood in 2022 brought much destruction in Pakistan. Main reason because of lack of dams to store water.

Resultantly, 75 pc Karachi remained under water in 2020's rainfall. Moreover, Pakistan met Rs 600 billion loss. (Economic Survey.) Hence, lack of dams in Pakistan has affected the whole country.

d)

### Expensive electricity generation in Pakistan

Pakistan has no major dams to produce energy. Hence, Pakistan imports hydrocarbon. Pakistan's 60 pc energy is produced from HC, which contributes 25 pc in budget deficit. (PBS). Thus, there are many elements of having no dams in country.



- Negative implications of lack of dams,

4- Pakistan needs to  
build dams and  
its advantages

Following are main advantages of building dams in the country.

a) Increase in water life

" A country with water life of 100 days

is in safe zone.<sup>20</sup>  
(~ The World Bank)  
Water in life in Pakistan  
is a following:

Dams	days
Diamer	22 days
Dasu	18
Mohmand	5

Therefore, Pakistan  
needs to increase  
its water life.

b)

To save agriculture.

and improve crop

yield of Pakistan

Pakistan is an  
agriculture country.  
Following is a table  
representation of  
cultivation of lands:

Dams	land / acre
Diamer	1.3 million
Dasu	< 300 thousands
Mehmand	300 thousands

Pakistan will increase  
24pc of agriculture  
by this way.

(Irrigation Department)  
Hence, Pakistan needs to  
focus on dams.

## To escape from floods

Following is the  
list of dams capacity  
to store water and to  
avoid from the loss of  
floods:

Dam	Capacity to hold water
Diamer	10m/feet
Dasu	1.3m/feet



d) To generate cheaper electricity

Pakistan needs to generate energy from its local sources.

"Pakistan has a tremendous capacity to generate electricity."  
(~ The World Bank)

Pakistan will generate 60pc of energy by 2030 from its hydal source:

Source	energy in megawatt
Karrote	730
Suki kensre	883
Dasu	4300
Diamer	4500

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## Conclusion

"To save water before it gets too late..."

Pakistan has currently facing water deficit issue. However, government has not focused on to build dams that has very negative impacts. Besides, Pakistan needs to implement its policies to build more dams to save future of country.

As,

"There is no life without water."