

What policy options should

Pakistan exercise to effectively

address its vulnerability to the

phenomenon of Global Warming?

## Introduction:

Pakistan is ranked under top ten most vulnerable countries due to

climate change and one of the cause

of climate change is global warming.

Global warming is the warming of

Earth due to blanket of chlorofluorocarbons

covering it. Pakistan is bearing the brunt

of global warming's damage in face

of heatwaves, extreme droughts, torrential

rain, and floods etc. Being vulnerable

to climate change due to global

warming, Pakistan should adopt certain

strategies and revise its policy to

make herself less vulnerable

and more resilient to drastic weather

patterns.

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## Impact of Global Warming on

Pakistan:

Global warming is heating Pakistan with no exception. Resultantly public has faced worst climate disasters like **2022 floods**, recurrent heat waves etc. These altered patterns are causing drastic loss of human life, infrastructure, ~~life~~ livestock and economy. According to **World Bank** estimates, in 2022 floods, Pakistan faced a loss of **30 billion dollars**. **(20<sup>th</sup>)** Moreover, numerous people die of food and water insecurity in Thar region due to extreme drought. In addition to this, <sup>despite</sup> health alerts cases of dehydration and illness increases during heat waves. Due to rampant strikes of flood, hailstorms and thunderstorms, the infrastructure and ~~crop~~ has been destroyed and crop



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production has faced a major decline.  
This shows that Pakistan is exposed  
to the shocks of climate change led  
by global warming. Unfortunately, it  
cannot stop the phenomenon, neither  
can it change its location but  
it can adapt to it in order to reduce  
its vulnerability.

### Causes of global warming in Pakistan:

Though contribution of Pakistan in  
global emission is negligible but the  
process observes no border. Few of the  
causes of this phenomenon are  
dependence on fossil fuels that  
heavily contribute to carbon emissions.  
Prioritizing public transport over public  
also elevate the level of C-emissions.  
Another cause is rapid urbanization at  
the cost of deforestation when forests  
and trees act buffer to climate change.  
These are few sources of emissions that  
are speeding the process of global warming.

Causes is not asked

## → Policy options for Pakistan to address its vulnerability to

### Global warming:

This grimmy scenario has a silver lining to it as still there are certain options which Pakistan can explore to reduce its vulnerability.

### 1- Adopting a well-balanced energy mix:

According to Economic Survey of Pakistan (2021-2023), Pakistan's energy mix is highly tilted towards thermal and coal-based generation i.e. around 60%. The country has potential and is blessed with numerous renewable resources but has not been able to explore that potential. So by taking Norway as an example, Pakistan can further reduce its contribution to emissions by adopting green energy through solar, wind and hydro projects.



and reducing its dependence on coal projects to just 15%.

### Promoting energy demand reduction and conservation:

Major portion of emissions come from energy sector and due to over-population and extravagant use of energy, the emissions are warming up the globe. So, by promoting demand reduction in public and officials in guise of an authentic austerity drive will be a step in right direction. People should be sensitized about conservation of energy by consuming less electricity unit, prioritizing public transport over private etc. This will serve a two-fold benefit i.e for the government and public both.

### 2- Incentivizing plantation campaigns:

Pakistan can offset its carbon emissions by incentivising projects like Tree Tsunami

and Mangrove forest that will not only act as carbon sink but will help regulate and revive former weather cycle productive for agricultural sector.

Attract FDI not loans for fighting Global warming:

Pakistan has been hailed for initiative attempt regarding 'Loss and Damage Fund' at COP29, United Nations. But loans are loans and it incumbent to pay them back in stipulated time. Given by meagre economic situation of Pakistan and a donor fatigue at international level, all efforts should be directed to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in climate adaptation and resilience sector. It will not only be fruitful in longer term but also help Pakistan win back the confidence of investors.



and this step will show the authentic will of Pakistan to deal with its challenges mostly on its own, without relying on aids and loans.

### Robust weather alert and warning systems:

Pakistan should revitalize its space agency SPARCO and bring it ~~with~~ in ~~line~~ with NDMA and meteorological department to introduce a robust system of warning and alert. This will help the country to be prepared beforehand to deal with global warming's challenges with less human and economic loss.

### Resilient infrastructure:

2010 and 2022 showed the lack of motivation to work on resilient infrastructure. The calamity hit Pakistan, it takes years to rebuild the replica structures using same brick and cement. Global warming

and climate change are to stay with us longer than expected. These phenomena are not a one-time incident. Pakistan should learn from Japan and focus on building resilient infrastructure as ~~re-~~re-construction takes a toll on expenditure of a surviving economy.

## 7 Awareness campaigns:

Along with structural and policy changes, it is imperative the public be sensitized about impact of their actions on environment. Seminars and regional camps be conducted to spread awareness about the correlation present between human action and climate reaction. Moreover, 60% of the population comprises of youth, so, educational ~~instt~~ institutes and social media platforms be used for environment activism.



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## Conclusion:

According to World Bank, Pakistan's contribution to green-house gases is less than 1% but it bears most of the brunt of climate change. Global warming not only increases the temperature of Earth's surface but also alters with climate and weather patterns that are dangerous for an agriculture-based country like Pakistan. For a better future, Pakistan should revisit its policies and strategy to lessen its vulnerability to global warming. Climate resilience and adaptability can ensure a smooth run on economic front.

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Quote articles and facts