

Water Crisis and National Unity

Outlines:

1) Introduction

Thesis statement: There are more water issues in Pakistan which disturbs national integration. Uneven distribution of water within a country causes provincial disputes. However, through preventive measures and awareness among people of Pakistan, we can resolve these issues at some extent.

2) How water crisis are challenging national unity.

3) Water Crisis and national Unity.

4) Causes of water crisis and national Unity.

- a) Bad governing policies of a government.
- b) Lack of dams and proper canal system.
- c) No awareness among people.

d) Severe shortage of water in Baluchistan.

e) More development in Sindh and Punjab.

f) No advanced technology and experts.

g) Negative role of India.

5) Impacts of water crisis on national unity.

a) Lack of public confidence on government's policies.

b) Hatred among people of Pakistan.

c) Less development in KPK and Baluchistan.

d) Baluch Separatist Movement.

e) India can easily interfere in Pakistan's internal affairs.

f) No developments in backward areas.

g) Provincial governments conflicts.

6) Way forward to solve these problems

a) Government should come up with best policies

b) Construct more dams and canals.

c) Aware people to reduce water loss.

7) Conclusion

Although the proverbial sons of the farmer always have a quarrel with each other, one day farmer teaches them a lesson by giving the example of an unite and individual stick strength. He teaches them that if they will live unitedly, no one could harm them, but if they do not live unitedly, then anyone could harm them easily. Similarly, Pakistan has water issues which ultimately causes a conflict between Provinces, yet Pakistan has taken it too easy, and has not paid due attention to it. As a result, Pakistan is facing national disunity due to water crisis. National unity

Among the people of Pakistan, also influenced by water issues. Bad governing policies, lack of dams and canal systems results shortage of water in backward areas of a country. No awareness and shortage of technological instruments and experts results no proper supply and usage of water. More development in Sindh and Punjab, creates a feeling of deprivation in backward

areas people, which is negatively used by India against Pakistan's unity. Because of these causes, there is hatred among people, such as the Baluch Separatist movement is a result of inequality, which is further fueled by an India. Furthermore, the public have lost their confidence on government's policies as there is no development in KPK and Baluchistan. However, uneven distribution of water causes conflict between Provincial government. If government comes with best policies, construct more water reservoirs and aware the Pakistani to understand the importance of water and national unity, then we ^{can} overcome the crisis and disintegration. There are more water issues in Pakistan which disturbs national integration. Uneven distribution of water within a country causes provincial disputes. However, through preventive measures and awareness among people of Pakistan, we can resolve these issues at some extend. (294)

The water crisis is the hostage and uneven distribution of water in all provinces of Pakistan, which badly influences the oneness of a nation. National unity is a platform which unites every Pakistani regardless of his caste, religion,

area etc. But water problems are challenging the issues between the provinces. National unity is a core part of every nation's success, progress and prosperity, but unfortunately, the government has not paid attention to water problems. The problems of water crisis and disunity of the people is not limited to the specific part of Pakistan, but it has widely spreaded in all over Pakistan. (102)

Water crisis is a situation in which we have less amount of water than required amount whereas national unity is the union of a nation under some flag. (27)

Governing policies are the general regulatory steps which are taken by the government to govern any nation. Bad governing policies leads to improper distribution and supply of water between the provinces, which ultimately disturbs the unity of the Pakistani communities. The people have a great clashes with each other for having water. In 2005, the court introduced the Doctrine of Public Trust, which holds that ~~undergroundwater~~ is a national resource belonging to the entire society and government must protect it for the general public (Jumaina Saddiqui;

Faiga Mahmood, could water be a Flashpoint for conflict in Pakistan, 2021). In this way, bad governing policies are playing negative role, to increase water related problems and division of a nation (104)

Although, Pakistan has largest man-made canal system, but this system have many flaws, Pakistan's canal system is unable to distribute water in different backward areas and we have just three large dams in since independence. Pakistan has very small number of dams as compared to India and China. Furthermore, failure of canal system's working has paving a path of conflict among people. The IRSA said that the water shortage has now turned worse than earlier projected shortage of 22 percent (The International News, water shortage worse than expected: IRSA, May 2022). According to this data we can say that poor canal system and lack of dams plays a major role in water shortage and national disunity. (105).

Awareness among people plays a major role to unite the nation and to understand the importance of water. Areas, which are not facing water problems, people in these areas, wastes the water, this

non serious acts influenced the people of backward areas. These backward areas people have no water even to drink. Unawareness among people, leads to no dam construction in some areas because they are not understanding the importance of water storage. Benazir had tried to build Kalabagh dam but ^{Sindh} recalled that PT had rejected this project during Musharraf regime (The Point, Pakistan: Sindh Taragghi-Pasand party rejects dam project over Indus river, ~~1st~~ Feb 2022). In this way, awareness is a main part to ensure the water shortage storage and national progress. (109)

Water shortage in Baluchistan, further fuels the disunity. The people don't have water to fulfill their basic needs of water. The people become frustrated and ~~travels~~ travelled along distance from their house to water. The other means of having water are more expensive for them such as tank water system. The ponds water, causing many water-borne diseases. According to the Pakistan Council of ~~Research~~ Research in water Resources (PCRWR), the drop in the level of underground water from 300 to more than 1000 feet is detected, which causes all districts of the province deficient in water (Baluchistan voice.com have water crisis in Baluchistan, June 2022)

So, all of these situations have rendered the ⁽¹¹⁰⁾ true meaning of national unity unconscious.

After the independence of 1947, there are more development in Sindh and Punjab. In Agricultural, Industrial, food, dam and canal construction areas etc, there are more development in Sindh and Punjab as compare to Balochistan and KPK. Due to less development in Balochistan and KPK, people in these provinces has been suffering from feelings of deprivation, and they starts to hate the people of Punjab and Sindh, which influenced unity between them. Chief Minister of Balochistan claimed that our funds are being spent on the development of Punjab, and Balochistan was facing a financial crisis (Dawn, Balochistan funds being spent on development of Punjab: Bizenjo, 2018). In this way more development in Punjab and Sindh increase the division of a nation. (109).

No advancement in technology and experts' old ^{methods} to resolve the challenging issue of water are the major problems. Experts have no idea and experiences to solve the advanced world problems. Poor technologies are further influencing the water supply from one area to

another areas. If there is any damage in water supply chain, then we have no idea to tackle this problem. The water supply system has poor technological machinery and instruments, which are unable to supply water so, water ~~are~~ ^{can't} not supplied efficiently into the areas, where we need it, which separated us to become one nation. The country's irrigation is one of the most inefficient in the world with an overall efficiency of 39 percent, reflecting aging and poor maintenance of the irrigation system. (Nazam Maqbool, Water crisis in Pakistan: Manifesto, causes and the way forward, 2022). In this way, these factors play a negative role in disunity and water crisis (151)

From a day of independence to present day, India is playing a negative role to divide the Pakistani nation and it uses water as a tool to achieves its purpose. In Balochistan, India has always playing its cards against Pakistan. According to Pakistan Institute of Development Economic (PIDE), Pakistan ranks 14 out of 17 countries designated as "extremely high water-risk". This situation has geopolitical significance due to Pakistan's status as India's lower riparian country. Pakistan receives over 78% of India's water

inflow (The Diplomat, India's Pams and Pakistan water crisis, Oct 2022). However, India and Pakistan have clashes with each other since independence that's why India wants to harm Pakistan whenever it has a chance. (105)

Bad governing policies impacts the government's decisions importance in front of the people. Due to bad governing policies, public lose their confidence on different policies. New government always stops the running projects of previous government, which causes no development and overall instability in Pakistan. The people in backward areas protest against government due to water problems, which ultimately influencing the unity among the Pakistani Farmers in Sindh and Balochistan provinces have started blocking major highways to demand the release of their share of water from the Indus River, reported by International Forum for Right and Security (and CanineWS, In, growing water crisis disastrous for Pakistan's instability, says report, 2021). All of these situations lead to the loss of public confidence on government's decisions. (109)

giving more importance to Punjab as compared to other provinces, creates feelings of hate among people. The Pakistanis, other than living in Punjab, think that government gives more resources to Punjab, which leads to less development in other provinces. In Punjab, we have more development in many sectors such as agricultural, Industrial, education, economics etc, these actions leads to the feeling of deprivation into the people. living in backward areas such as Balochistan. Fawad Chaudhry stated that the PPP lawmakers accuse Punjab of stealing the water from Sindh to cover their theft which results in hatred among the provinces. (Dunya news.tv, PPP leaders involved in water theft: Fawad Chaudhry, 2022). In this way, there are the rising of people, who are deprived and have feeling of hatred for other people. (119).

Uneven distribution of water also imbalances the developmental procedure and developmental frequency into the provinces. Due to more development in Punjab and Sindh as compared to Balochistan and KPK, Pakistan has facing classed societies system. Development

Class has two provinces Punjab and Sindh. whereas, under or lower developmental class has Balochistan and KPK. There is more developments in Punjab and Sindh in various sectors such as agriculture, Industrial etc, which required more amount amount of water, Balochistan and Sindh have been ignoring in these regards since Independence. In Saindak Project, according to the agreement between federal government and Chinese company extracting resources, the Chinese company is getting 80% of the profit, the federal government is 18% and the Balochistan Government is getting only 2% of the total profit. (Pride.org. PK, The unrealised potential, 2022)

However, these factors are contributing in division of the Pakistani societies. (137)

Baloch separatist movement is one of the major sign of instability, non-equality, hatred, feeling of deprivation. Baloch community thinks that government of Pakistan is unable to fulfill their requirements and not giving them the proper natural resources, one of them

is water. In Balochistan, there is very less amount of water even people have no clean water to drink. This leads to induced the feeling of deprivation and ultimately, Baloch wants to make their own country and starts Baloch separatist movement to achieve their purpose.

The root causes of movement are that Balochistan lacks basic facilities like education, hospitals etc. The government of Pakistan has never fulfilled the requirement of Baloch in politics, military etc (Perveen Singh, Balochistan separatist movement due to historical, political factors, 2020). So this is the one of the impact of which disturbs national unity. (25)

Since independence, India has been involving in Pakistan's internal affairs. India was involved in insurgency in Balochistan such as in Kalbhushan Yadav case, which influenced national unity. Pakistan is a lower riparian of Indus in Indus river, so India controls the flow of water into the Pakistan. Due to Indian control the water flow, Pakistan has been suffering

from water crisis, sometimes in the form of flood, Droughts etc. India is sponsoring terrorism in Pakistan, particularly in Balochistan by using Afghanistan's soil and incite a separatist movement by both Baloch dissidents abroad. ^(The Nation, Indian Interference in Balochistan, In this way) In this way ^{Balochistan, In 2021)} India can easily interfere in Pakistan's issue and harms the national unity through insurgency, spreading terrorism, water control etc.

No developments in backward (ISS) areas are also contributing into a division of any nation in several parts. Due to lack of water resources there are no development projects in these areas. People of these areas are very poor. They do not have basic facilities for their lives. There is so much poverty in these areas which further decreases the rate of developments. By the end of 2030, around 436 million people are expected to stay poor. Rural areas need more attention where about 79% of the poor are residing (Sage Journals, Rural Development Through Non-state Actors in Highlands of Pakistan, 2021). In this way, poverty leads to no or

under development which ultimately leads to less water supply in these areas and also harm the unity into the Pakistan. (110).

Water is an essential need of life, to avail water, Provincial governments have conflicts with each other which disturbs national unity. To resolve this issue, provincial governments have signed an IRSA agreement for proper distribution of water. But, sometimes IRSA fails to resolve an issue between two or more provinces regarding water. This continues to challenge hydropower development in Pakistan. The regulatory authorities and institutions are not able to resolve these issues due to mistrust, corruption and inefficient water management practices. Council of Common Interest (CCI) also plays a positive role to resolve the intergovernmental issues. New policies for water distribution are not according to the mandate of CCI, IRSA or WAPDA that's why we are unable to resolve issues. As the policies are not the product of an agreement between the provincial and federal government, they don't provide a detailed formula for hydropower benefit sharing. Climate Diplomacy, Conflict over the Indus

water in Pakistan, 2022) In a nutshell, we can say that intergovernmental conflicts disturbs national unity. (157)

Government should make updated and practically applicable policies. If there is any need to make new law or an agreement for water distribution then make it. Government must have to make a regulatory and corruption free authorities and institutions to overcome the crisis situation. There is need to improve judicial power to improve public accountability and to enhance anti-corruption measures in water management system. Government should empower WAPDA, IRSA agreement and implement The Water Apportionment Accord (WAA) properly. All water related Acts shall be reviewed for updating, where appropriate, they shall be integrated through a small number of more and updated Acts in order to eliminate overlaps (foa.org, National water policy, 2022) However, the government can easily make best policies to control water crisis and national dignity. (26)

We need more dams and canals to store water and distribute water

all over the Pakistan. Before 21st century, in 1970s and 1980s we had made three large dams but after that we have not even construct a single large dam. Unfortunately, Pakistan has approximately 150 dams which are not enough for such a huge population. Additionally, there are about ten major dam sites in the country. Under the federal government-backed initiative 'Decade of Dam' the WAPDA is currently working on multiple dam projects. According to initial planning and framework of the initiative, these dams are expected to be completed by 2028. The dams under constructions are Diamer-Bhasha Dam, Mohmand Dam, Dasu Hydropower project etc. (Zameen.com, List of Under Construction Dams in Pakistan, 2021). In this way, we can make it possible for better water storage in Pakistan which will strengthen the provincial government. (137)

In Pakistan, people do not even know the purposive use of water. They waste water for development in Industrial, Agricultural etc we need water. Every living thing such as plants, animals and fungi needs water for their survival. According to some estimates, the

Pakistani people waste one third of fresh water. In some areas there is not fresh water even to drink. Water is a key to development that's why there is less development in Pakistan. We can see that there is less development in Baluchistan and KPK due to less water availability.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has placed Pakistan at "third" position in the list of countries facing acute water scarcity (Pakistan Today, Fresh-water shortage in Pakistan, 2022). In this way, we need to aware people through print and electronic media and some organisations. (128)

In a nutshell, we can overcome this situation, by getting out the suggested remedies Pakistan can again be set on the path to progress. Best governing policies, more dams and canals and awareness among people have potential to solve our problems. Rise and fall is a part of life and success of any nation, we should have potential to control these problems. After ^{From} the day of independence, Pakistan is working very hard to ~~strengthen~~ its existence.

Pakistan has potential to handle bad situations. We should work on an individual level as a nation for Pakistan's progress, prosperity and development. Technologies, ~~positive~~ use of media and check on Indian activities have potential to enhance the unity among different communities such as Baloch, Pathan, Sindhi and Punjabi in Pakistan. It is never too late to pledge for a new tomorrow where there is a will there is always a way, regardless of the obstacles and hindrance we can definitely achieve our goals. (161)

Total Words = 2578