

# Recent flood; A man made disaster or climate change action

## Outline

- 1- Introduction
- 2- How recent flood can be man made disaster or climate change action.
- 3- Why it is a man made disaster' (Thesis)
  - a- Institutional vacuum
  - b- Negligance of authorities
  - c- Lack of experts in NDMA
  - d- Colonial time municipal system
  - e- Absence of collaborative work
- 4- Recent flood is worst effect of climate change (Anti-thesis)
  - a- Well defined NDMA structure.
  - b- Non-riverine flooding is the cause
  - c- NDMA frequently consult experts
  - d- Independent working require lesser official procedure.
  - e- Cloud burst water was unmanageable

5- Global climate change is the reason of flood, but our negligence made it disaster.  
(synthesis)

a- DDMA is still not a functional

b- Ambiguities in laws

c- NDMA has untrained volunteers

d- Properly developed plan can

reduce water influx in cities

e- Isolated working has more

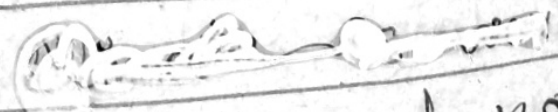
disadvantages than advantage

6- Conclusion.

Five men <sup>were</sup> stuck in middle of flooding river. Standing on a rock, tie themselves with ropes. Waiting for someone to rescue. Six continuous hours <sup>passed</sup> struggling with death and life gradually raising water streams.

At last all of them drowned helplessly. This is not an accident of seventeenth century but of 2022. That happened in Kohistan. Many more similar incidents were reported during flood of 2022. Natural calamities are happening since the beginning of human history.

People have learnt how to deal with nature and minimize loss. Unfortunately we are still holding the sky with hands as proverbial

Herculese.  We destroyed nature and now

as a result nature is destroying us in the form of climate action. Pakistan is not only country that is being hardly hit by climate change. In fact, we have ~~made~~ multiplied this phenomenon with our unpreparedness and made it super disaster of our history. Flood devastation is escalated because of vacuum in our institutional working, out dated municipal system and negligence in ~~the~~ disaster management ~~and~~ as well as in the <sup>urban</sup> development plans.

Some of its proponents argue that NOMA has one of the best frame works and disaster management efficiency. In their view large scale destructio happened due to unprecedented rain fall.

They reject the reality ~~that~~ by  
keeping climate change as  
sole responsible. These people  
try to mask ground reality  
by their limited resourceness.

But facts and observations  
revealed all about our  
unpreparedness.

Two distinct opinion have originated on recent flood of Pakistan. Some <sup>people</sup> have view that this massive destruction happened due to climate change while other believe that this lose could be avoided if our institutions, specially no disaster management authorities worked effectively.

They call it a man made disaster. Just because of the irresponsible behaviour of the authorities. Who have been informed many times by international organizations as well as research groups.

There are many flaws at the end of governing bodies that put ~~at~~ blame on them for escalating effects of flood. Institutional vacume is one of them.

Disasters are tackled on local level. Unfortunately, local government system in Pakistan is very weak. Powers are not developed at local level. Which restricted proper functioning of different institutions, at grass roots of country. Many places in Pakistan are deprived of local government election from last ten years. Only about 5% of Pakistan's public spending is undertaken at local level, as compared to 30% of India. ([www.blogs.worldbank.org](http://www.blogs.worldbank.org)). It is difficult for a centralized authority to manage a wide spread devastation and perform rescue operations timely.

Along with institutional incapacibilities, negligences of

of authorities are also responsible for it. As Pakistan is in top lists of countries severely effected by climate change. Dispite of this our unpreparedness clearly shown our irresponsibilities.

Pakistan ranked 8<sup>th</sup> in high exposure of flooding. (Joint study of World Bank and Asian Development Bank 2021.) Many more reports have been published globally to drag attention of concerning departments. If essential steps were taken Pakistan could avoid billion of dollar lose. This lethargic behaviour of certain departments are also the cause of this man made disaster.

NDMA composition also added up more catastrophic



ected into it. Its frame work majorly consists of ministers and political persons, who lack expertise. There is no research team and experts panel in frame work of national disaster management authority and commission. That develop better plans and policies for crisis handling and control. Structural faults of NDMA gave an another push to ~~his~~ sinking ship.

Besides, NDMA uneffective approaches, colonial time municipal system is another cause of urban flooding. Heavy rainfall was the reason of this flooding. Which became a serious situation. When drains of cities were unsufficient to remove water from streets.

"Streets and underpasses are flooding with water, there is no way to pump water out." (Sindh chief minister, Murad Ali Shah). Roads ~~be~~ were disconnected due to accumulated water. People were using boats in cities to rescue.

Karachi economic hub of Pakistan flooded every year in monsoon season. Just because of poor drainage system. Situations were more worse this year. 48 deaths were reported. (BBC news).

All big cities of Pakistan submerged under water because of stagnant water in roads even houses. No upgradation has been done in urban planning that increased the effects of flood.

With this outdated drainage system, ~~there is~~ absence of

collaborative efforts worked as rule to fire. All the departments are working in isolation either it is NDMA, development planning or environment management operators. They lack integrated planning for longer run. Different universities and research department ~~stays~~ can provide better collaborations, to improve basic lackings. Which is always neglected. Due to ignorance of this fact our disaster management was unable to cope with this environmental challenge.

However, many people believe that, this large scale destruction just happened due to climate change impact on Pakistan. They argue that our country has well defined

NDMA structure. That is capable of handling all types of disasters. It has interwoven frame work that is effectively working. It's hierarchical set up goes down to union council level. "NDMA has developed into a world class institution". (UN, reported in Express tribune, 2015). NDMA is serving to this country with full efficiency, in every disaster. Our disaster management system is fully prepared for rescue, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

Further more; ~~non-riverin~~ flooding is the main reason behind urban flooding. Thousands of cubic water fall in cities. Which broke many water carrier ducts. ~~and~~ "Approximately one third of Pakistan is

under water - (BBC news). This fact show how much water has been influx due to ~~the~~ 8th cycle of monsoon this year.

All authorities have worked in their full potential. For example in forecasting, rescuing, mitigating and relieving. Unprecedented water was beyond the capacity of any authority to control.

Moreover, consultations with experts and researchers were always done. During every disaster and crisis NDMA organize meetings with meteorologists. Model of disaster management system in Pakistan consists of all kind of trained people. Different inclusive programs have been started from

2010 when new legislation was done. Recently, collaborative work was performed with hydrological experts, for the evacuation of water from cities. Similarly, many other departments related to different environmental calamities were asked for their cooperations. Considering, ~~latest~~ advancements and recent knowledge is always been a priority of NDMA.

In addition to this, independent working require lesser official procedure. So many departments involved in any process complicate the functioning. It is also difficult to get approval and consensus of all the people. Disaster management is a need urgent steps at

the time of crisis. Involvement of other departments slow down the efficiency.

Rescue, relief and emergency managements are the ~~re~~ features of NDMA which become effected by sharing of responsibilities with other.

Interference of other authorities prolongs projects and ~~at~~ ~~time~~ the spot dealing of disaster management.

All of these justifications are just groundless. Although climate change is the reason of heavy rain fall but with our unpreparedness, we made it a disaster. ~~DD~~ Non-functional DDMA further strengthen this fact that there is a vacuum in our institutionalization. Without provision of facilities to lower level no such

disaster can be controlled. Devolution of powers to district and uc levels enhance the capacity of fighting with catastrophs. District disaster management is just present in the documentation. In reality, this department is in non-working conditions. This departmental spaced deprived people from getting their basic necessities which led to a biggest devastation of Pakistan's history.

Along with this there are so many ambiguities in laws regarding constructions and development. People find another ways in legal process for their illegal land owning. Encroachments on rivers and natural ways



of water has destroyed  
sanitation system, Because  
of these ~~the~~ country have  
to face ~~thousands~~<sup>in</sup> of  
dollars loss. Stay orders  
of sindh high courts on  
illegal constructions. ~~has~~  
been issued certain times.  
(Express tribune). Not only  
these but there are  
orders of supreme court  
for the removal of these  
encroachments. Mostly urban  
flooding happened due  
to blockage of water  
passage due to buildings  
and under passes. Pakistan  
have these uncertainty of  
laws which allows people  
to infringe government  
<sup>rules</sup> projects.

Further more, ~~A~~ authorities  
responsible for disaster

management have only ministers and ~~to~~ untrained, unresourced volunteers. This framework is enmeshed with all fundamentals rules and regulations for working but they lack expertise. Latest technology and quick emergency plans are not present. This just because of no knowledge and qualification is given to respective people. They lack specialization in their fields. We use ~~all~~ same methods and people to deal with all types of crisis. No one is so talented to meet all needs. There is a lacking of specialized techniques in NDMAT administration as well as in staffs.

Urban floodings could be avoided if we have properly developed water removal plans. If NDMA have any plan for the discharge of water from cities and roads. Cities have become rivers, people use boats to rescue operations. (Dawn News). There were no emergency planning for the control of rain water. Despite of the fact that it has been announced many times in warnings. Our government was helpless when ~~people~~ death numbers exceeded. Many of government officials said in their press conferences that they have no formula to dry out this stagnant water. This flood took the shape of

monstrous disaster because of the undeveloped drainage system

Along with these isolated working has more disadvantages as compared to its only one advantage of lesser official procedures. It prevent people from getting their basic need. It also made people deprived of many more advantages.

Collaboration ensures coverage of all aspects of any hazard. Either it is pre disaster, post disaster or during the disaster handling of risk. Every department is specialized for its working that provide a more comprehensive working compatibility.

Conclusively, one can not hide sun behind his

fingers. Giving all these  
grandlers arguments proponents  
of NDMA are trying to  
artile their flaws. Although  
it was a natural  
hazard but our lethargic  
and careless behaviour made  
it a tragedy. If we  
had payed attention  
to our weakness before  
the advent of this  
flood. We must chalked  
out strategies to manage  
mitigate and reduce loss.  
In one way or other all  
of the responsibilities are  
now on ~~the~~ authorities. These  
are us who created this  
disaster not the flood  
who just happened due  
to climate change.