

(Disaster Preparedness in Pakistan)

(Pakistan's preparedness To meet natural Disasters)

1- Introduction

Thesis Statement: Life on the planet is never void of dangers. Although these have increased manifold in the scientific era, but natural disasters continue to haunt. Pakistan is especially prone to become its victim due to the vicinity of an emerging mountain range and geographical location. Recent disasters have rendered our preparedness to natural disasters as insufficient.

2- Recent Disaster history

Pakistan has experienced a series of hazards in recent years. According to the Climate Risk Index 2021, Pakistan ranks eighth for countries most affected by extreme weather events between 2000 and 2019.

- Drought like conditions, 2018-2019 affected 5 million people with 2.1 million

people targeted by for humanitarian assistance

- A winter emergency affecting one million people across much of the western part of the country.
- The worst desert locust attack in 27 years was declared a national emergency by the government in 2020.
- COVID-19 Pandemic, Feb 2020 contributed to health and economic shocks.
- In September 2020, Sindh hit by flooding effected 2.4 million people.
- According to Federal Flood Commission, the country has witnessed 28 major floods in 75 years history.
- The recent flood of 2022 is remarked as deadliest flood in history of Pakistan.

3- Preparedness of Pakistan.

(a) Legislation in 2010 Natural Disaster and management authority (NDMA) and provincial disaster management

authorities (PDMA's) established.

(b) In addition, the government has well established national development and disaster risk reduction frameworks, including the Pakistan vision 2025, the national disaster management Plan (NDMP) 2012-2022, and National Flood Protection Plan (IV) (NFPPIV) 2015-2025

(c) NGO's & IGO's → UN led bodies, Edhi, Al Khidmat, International Federation of Red Crescent (IFRC)

4- Shortcomings in Pakistan's Preparedness to natural disasters.

(a) Lack of coordination between NDMA and PDMA's

18th amendment → Disaster management rendered as a provincial subject → Conflict of interest and division of tasks → lack of Capacity building.

(b) Lack of resources at departments
Absence of even basic equipment → lack of ladders high enough to reach centārus by CDAs, fire brigade, no boats for district level department in flood 2022

(c) Corruption in national organizations.
NDMA constantly being accused of large embezzlements in Covid aid
→ PKR 2.5M Spent per head.

(d) Absence of Proactive measures.
Despite early warning of heavy flood in 2022 → no mobilisation of resources in advance.

(e) Lack of proper funding.
Pak need enhance financing for disaster management.

(5) How Pakistan Enhance its Capacity.

(a) Enhance collaboration with NGOs IGOs.
Sharing data and expertise.

(b) Delegation and better coordination between NDMA and PDMA.

(c) More focus on indigenous and innovation led solutions.

(d) Create awareness among masses

(e) Bring technology to alleviate hazards.

(early warning system, Automatic weather stations)

(6) Conclusion.