

Floods in Pakistan:

GOOD ATTEMPT

Climate Catastrophe or Poor governance.

KEEP PRACTISING

Outline:

1) Introduction:

Thesis statement:

The on-going devastation due to floods in Pakistan is the result of poor governance.

Factors like old policies, lack of communication, no pre planning has exaggerated the situation at the worst level.

However, certain structural and non structural mitigation measures can help the government to cope with the situation smoothly.

2) Floods in Pakistan: An Overview

3) Thesis: How floods in Pakistan is the result of poor governance.

a) Loopholes in the NDMA and PDMA.

b) No pre planning.

- c, Lack of political will.
- d, Political instability.
- e, Economic crisis.
- f, Increase in corruption.
- g, No implementation on policies.
- h, Lack of ^{communication b/w} provincial and federal institutions at grass root level.

4, Anti thesis: Floods in Pakistan is the consequences of ~~Climate~~ Catastrophe

- a, Rise in global ~~warming~~ temperature.
- b, High consumption of fossil fuels.
- c, Rise in temperature and unprecedented weather patterns.
- d, Deforestation.

5, Synthesis: Government institutions play a huge role to deal with the Climate catastrophe.

- a, Disaster management systems fail to spread awareness about global warming.
- b, It's the ~~2nd~~ ^{2nd} time, Pakistan has faced floods

but still not starting working to bound their decisions.

c, The 2010 floods were a signal for Pakistan poor government to take precautionary measures.

6) d, Way Forward

a, structural mitigation measures

b, non structural mitigation measures

c, Building of small and large dams.

d, Make binding decisions.

7, Conclusion.

Essay

Floods are the worst disastrous form that come up with massive destruction and vulnerability of society in every country. The recent floods in Pakistan has washed away all the things including masses, livestock, lands, and crops leaving nothing but ruins and destruction. The losses incurred by the floods are the outcome of poor planning and governance. The data analysis of heavy floods in the past, those in 1995, 2003, 2007, 2010 and one of 2022, indicates that the frequency of floods multiply with increase in human activities. The government has done nothing to discourage this steady encroachment of riverine paths. Hence, poor governance and its old

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policies on the part of state machinery did contribute to the overall vulnerability of the local communities and areas.

However, critics argue that floods in Pakistan is the outcome of climate catastrophe. Climate changing pattern has been an annual phenomenon for thousands of years here in South Asia. From the GHG data, we have seen that Pakistan emits less than 1% of global green house gases. So, it is not due to ~~the~~ climate catastrophe.

One of the major factor that is responsible for this huge destruction is the mismanagement of institutions like National disaster management ^(NDMA) and provincial disaster manage

ment authorities. Both disaster management authorities were established are since the 2010 floods. They are based on principle of steady action and planning for natural disasters. But they did nothing to take preparatory and mitigation measures. Pakistan's Federal Minister Sherry Rehman (for Climate Change) warned on 19 June 2022 about the extraordinary rainfall to the institutions but all went in vain. There are some areas where both federal and provincial govts failed conspicuously to take action. For example, the institutions could have mapped the vulnerable localities in the light of the 2010 floods and urged people through SMS-based communication to evacuate vulnerability from flood prone areas.

Unfortunately, Pakistan's

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institutions remained busy with the routine exercise of submitting the local disaster plans to the government. The concerned departments did what they do every year, passing the buck to another department.

Another factor that has exacerbated the situation is lack of political will. Government and political parties remain active at the time of elections and start doing social work for the public and engage with the public just for the sake of voting. While in the situation of devastating floods that has affected 33 million people, more than 118 districts, 3.5 M acres of crops and 37% of internally displaced persons this politics was more interested in the blame game and imported

government interested in doing protests and all except ~~the~~ any action that could save the masses. So, the political instability has become arised and the politicians and government are involved in unending fiasco and fighting.

Political instability has become a reason for the ~~pre~~economic instability. This has increased the inflation upto 30% and Pakistan's GDP is reduced by over 2%. The destruction of 3.5 M acres of farmland having wheat, rice and other staple crops is set to create an unprecedented level of food shortage. The estimated loss worth \$ 30 Billion. Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif said that Rs 28 bn will be distributed among the

Flood victims. But the flood compensation package to further inequalities and vulnerabilities.

Another factor, that is the cause of economic crisis is the increase in corruption. The EU, World Bank, Asian Development Bank and other foreign fundings remained in the hand of elites and didn't provided to the real victims. The corrupt people and institutions has deprived the victims for their basic needs like Food, Shelter and clothing.

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On the contrary to many critics argue that the rise in global warming has pushed the unprecedented weather patterns that has caused devastating floods in Pakistan.

Recently, United Nations Secretary - General Antonio Guterres, visited Pakistan where he witnessed the 'unimaginable' destruction caused by the heavy flood that expert believe is one of the climate change-related disasters to which Pakistan is the 8th most vulnerable country despite the fact that it emits less than 1% of global greenhouse gases.

After global warming critics argue that, Deforestation has also been a major contributor to flood calamity. The riverine or Bela forests stabilize the natural levees by binding the soil

1 together. Deforestation increases the frequency and intensity of floods because erosion adds siltation and increases the level of river beds, which, in turn, decreases the water-holding capacity of rivers.

The government and disaster management agencies at both the national and provincial level have been severely criticized as Pakistan experiences one of the most devastating floods in recent years.

This year's floods, which have reportedly killed 1500 people and directly affected over 33M, are among the worst disasters to have hit the country.

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As there's a lack of political will to shift from a response focused approach, where political leaders benefit from being seen as saviours championing relief initiatives and handing out rations to the affected. Political will to empower local governments and local level implementation of DRR initiatives is also lacking.

The dependance on foreign aid during the disaster relief and reconstruction phase. While the urgency of humanitarian response takes precedence, little is set aside for long-term risk reduction and the integration of "build back better" in the recovery process. A donor driven agenda in the recovery and reconstruction phase can also distort priorities, leaving many urgent needs unmet.

This alone calls into a question the need for transparency in policy making and development plans of the provincial and federal government to allow the public to witness the results of what has been promised.

Currently Pakistan is in

The criminal negligence on the part of governments is the factor in the creation of this worst-ever humanitarian crisis. Had our administration taken a few proactive, prompt measures the situation would have been not so worse. The

absence of local government setup, the inability to delegate disaster management authorities at the district level, the haphazard growth of infrastructure in valleys upstream and in active flood plains downstream, the chronic political instability and lack of political will and other factors that can be held responsible for this calamity.

In a nutshell, The failures of governance above suggest that these issues will not receive the policy attention and resources that are required. Pakistan and the development community will need to think about the governance crisis in the country, brought into tragic relief by the floods, to have a hope against climate crisis that will keep coming.