

NATURAL DISASTERS IN PAKISTAN: ARE THEY ALWAYS 'NATURAL'

1- Introduction

Thesis Statement: Pakistan is among the top seven countries most vulnerable to climate change influenced disasters. Poor governance and lack of sustainable development is acting as threat multipliers. However, developing sustainable infrastructure and strong local government bodies can reduce damage caused by natural disasters.

2- History of natural disasters in Pakistan.

3- How natural disasters are 'natural' in Pakistan

- Earthquakes cannot be predicted
- Cloud bursts and unprecedented rains are natural
- Monsoon changed its centuries old patterns causing floods
- Reduced capacity of dams due to natural processes
- Glacial melt and flashfloods are not easy to predict

4- How natural disasters are not 'natural' in Pakistan

- Sustainable development is not a priority of interest groups
- Development of cities on river flow paths
- Lack of district management authorities
- Uncontrolled expansion of cities due to over population

e- Dams and water bodies are not created due to political factors.

5- Steps which can be taken to reduce the impacts of natural disasters

a- Investment in climate smart development

b- Functioning local government can help in disaster management

c- Protect waters' right of flow

d- Revisit and revise construction standards, specifications and materials

e- Standard operating procedure shall be developed to manage natural disasters

f- Balanced development can reduce vulnerability of specific regions

6- Conclusion