

# Essay

## "Economic Downturn, Technological Risks, Extreme Weather: Challenges for Governance In Pakistan"

### Outline:

aroosa all the best luck for finale exams

inshahAllah you will perform best

#### 1- Introduction

kindly try to be more relevant and data based in your discussion

Thesis statement: Amidst the staggering economic fragility, advancing technological outreach, and soaring temperatures, governance in Pakistan faces multifaceted challenges, encompassing skyrocketing inflation, inter-provincial discords, identity politics, dissemination of deepfakes, food insecurity and gender violence. It calls for immediate actions at individual, societal and governmental level.

#### 2- How has economic fragility fueled governance challenges in Pakistan?

(2a) Fostering inter-provincial discords owing to lack of resources

- Pakistan A Hard Country by Anshol Lieven

(2b) Amplifying vicious cycle of debt trap

- PBS Report 2023

(2c) Skyrocketing inflation and rising poverty in Pakistan

- Economic Survey of Pakistan 2024

(2d) Staggering cases of unemployment

- PIDE Report

### 3- How has technological risks dampened governance in Pakistan?

(3a) Increasing cybersecurity issues and privacy concerns of masses

- Cambridge Analytica Scandal 2018

(3b) Deepening challenges of identity politics and political polarization in Pakistan.

- Partisan gerrymandering in Pakistan

(3c) Spreading misinformation and rising mental health problems

- George Orwell's '1984' book

(3d) Increasing security issues

- Resurgence of terrorism in Baluchistan and KPK

#### 4- How has extreme weather bolstered governance challenges?

- (4a) Declining agricultural growth and entrenched food crisis
- Floods 2022 in Pakistan
- (4b) Reducing industrial manufacturing growth and decreasing GDP
- World Bank Report 2023
- (4c) Displacement crisis and conflicts
- Case study of Gilgit Baltistan
- (4d) Increasing gender-based violence in Pakistan
- World Bank Report 2023

#### 5- Ways to curtail governance challenges in Pakistan

- (5a) Diversify economic growth
- Case study of India's growth in IT
- (5b) Integrate digital literacy programme in education system
- Case study of Finland's extensive digital literacy programme
- (5c) Need to adapt mitigation policies of climate change

#### 6- Conclusion

## "Economic Downturn, Technological Risks, Extreme Weather: Challenges For Governance In Pakistan"

Since its inception, Pakistan has ducked from crisis to crisis. The ship of state has been sailing in troubled waters owing to turbulence in economy. With technological advancement and disastrous impacts of climate change, it has become more challenging for the government of Pakistan to steer the ship of state towards calmer shores. The reverberating impacts of these challenges throughout the society have exacerbated grievances of citizens. They have added fuel to the fire by fostering governance inefficiency in Pakistan. To handle such gigantic issues, government of Pakistan needs to be crafted a coherent policy. How the rising issues of economy, technology and climate change have accelerated

for the state of Pakistan

good technique to cover the three basic aspects of essay topic in your introduction

governance hurdles in Pakistan need to be explored thoroughly.

Amidst the staggering economic fragility, advancing technological outreach and soaring temperatures, governance in Pakistan faces multifaceted challenges, encompassing skyrocketing inflation, inter-provincial discords, identity politics, dissemination of deepfakes, food insecurity and gender violence. It calls for immediate actions at individual, societal and governmental level.

language is fine good

On the contemporary situation of Pakistan, Maleha Lodhi, a Pakistani diplomat, aptly said:

“The government is walking a tightrope. It ought to be awakened from its deep slumber to pull country out of crisis.”

Starting with the challenge of disintegration among the

provinces in Pakistan due to moribund economy, it presents hurdles in governing different provinces of Pakistan. Multiple economic issues such as balance of payment crisis, current account deficit and budget deficit lead to scarce resources to fulfill the needs of people in Pakistan.

Anatol Lieven in his book 'Pakistan a hard country' tells about the deeply entrenched grievances of the people of Baluchistan. ~~It can also be reflected by the contemporary Baluchistan crisis.~~ The people of Baluchistan face severe problems in every sector including health, education and women's rights. Therefore, it fuels governance problems in the province.

The overly dependence on the international institutions due to poor economic condition of Pakistan is another challenge.

To fill the vacuum of budget deficit, government has to take loans, particularly from International Monetary Fund. It continues the vicious cycle of unsustainable economy. For instance, the current debt on Pakistan is almost 67 trillion Rupees according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics report 2023. This mounting debt has further pushed the government to take stringent measures to fulfill the policies of IMF. The government of Pakistan has recently announced that it has to cut 1.5 lakh jobs to meet the structural adjustment programme (SAP) of the IMF. It underscores the aggravating challenges of governance owing to frailing economy of Pakistan.

While the debt is increasing, the government increases taxes on citizens, leading to significant rise in inflation and job poverty.

As owing to the poor tax collection in Pakistan, the government is compelled to boost up indirect taxation. Ultimately, it puts extra burden on the masses in Pakistan. Its striking example is the staggering inflation of 28% in July 2024 according to the Economic Survey of Pakistan 2024. The rising inflation has pushed almost 12.5 million more people into the trap of poverty as per the World Bank's 2024 report. It underscores the bleak situation of poor governance in Pakistan, leaving majority of people in the trap of poverty.

This challenge has further bolstered the issue of unemployment in Pakistan. The report given by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) highlights almost 67 per cent youth in Pakistan wants to



leave Pakistan in search of employment. It paints a grave situation of rising unemployment in Pakistan. When a country's brain drain leaves the country, it further pushes the economy towards a death knell. Therefore, government faces severe challenges owing to economic meltdown. Moreover, it declines gross domestic product, leading to unsustainable growth and development.

transition from one passage to another one is fine

The advancement in the sophisticated technology and the rise in its nefarious uses have compounded the governance challenges in Pakistan. It can be evident by the increasing issues of cybersecurity in Pakistan. The excessive unbridled use of social media has increased privacy concerns of people. The Cambridge Analytica Scandal

2018 is the case in point. In this scandal, the personal data of millions of people on Facebook has been exploited. It led to the scrutiny of the Facebook security issues. Such cases reflect the increasing serious privacy issues owing to the negative use of technology. Hence, it creates social chaos in Pakistan, deepening governance crisis in the country.

grammar and language is fine

The rise of identity politics and political polarisation is also the result of negative use of technology in Pakistan. As artificial intelligence has made echo chambers in the social media applications.

Thus, a person who consumes his desirable information about his favourite party on social media repeatedly watches the same information due

to these chambers. This power of technology has been exploited by different parties in Pakistan to skew public narratives. For instance, different provinces in Pakistan have different parties. Hence, it has exacerbated partisan gerrymandering in Pakistan, fueling political polarization.

just some paragraphs seems loose in arguments

Another technological risk is the dissemination of deepfakes which has increased governance challenges through rising mental health issues in Pakistan. George Orwell in his book '1984' explains how technological surveillance has contributed in deteriorating mental health problems. The uncontrolled and unregulated use of technology has made it easy to spread misinformation about anyone. Using technology,

The information can be circulated like a wildfire throughout the world. Hence, many people in Pakistan, particularly women have faced sexual harassment and blackmailing due to use of technology against them. It, in turn, effected their mental health, bringing stress, anxiety and depression.

The grave situation of security in Pakistan is another challenge government faces owing to the use of technology by non-state actors to meet their vested interests. For instance, the online recruitment of militants in Baluchistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Many terrorist networks, particularly Al-Qaeda, ISK-P, Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan and Baluchistan Liberation Army (BLA) are

using digital technology to recruit vulnerable people in these provinces. The resurgence of terrorism in Pakistan is its grave example. Such incidences highlight the serious security issues in Pakistan, challenging government.

To make matters worse, the disastrous impacts of climate change in Pakistan are one of the biggest hurdles in the way of efficient governance. For example, the catastrophic floods of 2022 have declined agricultural growth in Pakistan. These floods have destroyed crops such as wheat, cotton and sugarcane. Moreover, millions of people have been displaced due to destruction of their homes. It led to the worsening food crisis in Pakistan as

Pakistan has to import food. According to Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Analysis, almost 11.5 million people in Pakistan are food insecure in 2023, highlighting the worst impacts of extreme weather on Pakistan.

Moreover, extreme weather has undermined the industrial manufacturing in Pakistan. As soaring temperatures have caused water crisis and energy crisis in Pakistan. It led to increase product cost in industries. Moreover, the industrial growth has reduced due to lack of competitiveness in the global market. Hence, overall, it impacted the GDP of Pakistan. As the World Bank's the Country Climate and Development report says

that Pakistan will lose 6.5 to 9 per cent GDP by 2030 owing to climate change. The cascade of events and its impacts are intertwined leading to severe issue of governance in Pakistan.

In addition to this, displacement of millions of people in Pakistan due to extreme weather has fueled conflicts in various regions. For instance, due to formation of Attabad Lake, many people of Hunza have migrated to Gilgit Baltistan region.

Already in this region of Pakistan, conflicts between Shia and Sunni Muslims existed.

Due to displacement of Ismaili communities, sectarian conflicts have further aggravated.

Such issues led to declining social integration and harmony.

which is one of the biggest challenges for the government of Pakistan.

The intensified heatwaves in Pakistan have fostered gender-based violence in Pakistan. According to World Economic Forum report 2023, one degree celsius rise in temperature increases issues of domestic violence by 6 per cent. This fact showcases the direct impact of extreme weather on women. They suffer domestic violence. This is the reason that in Pakistan almost 36% women of age 15 to 49 years and 80 per cent of married women face domestic abuse and physical attacks as per the Pakistan's Demographic and Health Survey. Thus, rising temperature has increased governance issues by



widening gender gap in Pakistan.

Hence, the question arises. How these challenges of economy, technology and weather can be resolved to mitigate the governance problems in Pakistan?

First of all, for sustainable economic growth, Pakistan needs to diversify its economy.

It requires the exploration of industrial growth in Information technology sector, surgical instrument and vegetables.

Pakistan has potential to use these resources to broaden its economy. A case in point is the development of India in IT sector. India has

provided skills and training to its youth and exported IT. In this way, increasing remittances has developed its economy. Pakistan can also emulate such countries to develop its economy.

Secondly, digital literacy programmes should be integrated in the education system of Pakistan. It will provide education and awareness about the use of technology, particularly social media. Finland's extensive programme of digital literacy is the case in point. Finland has integrated this programme in its education system. In this way, from the very young age, the students in Finland learn the use of technology. They learn how to sift the right information from deep fakes. Therefore, digitally aware people do not become victims of nefarious purposes of people. Pakistan should also follow these steps to overcome the negative use of technology.

Thirdly, to curb the disastrous impacts of extreme weather, Pakistan needs to adopt mitigation techniques. As the international climate expert, Richard Klein has explained adaptation and mitigation policy. According to him, by integrating policies to address climate change into the sectoral planning and development policies, the issue of climate change can be resolved.

In this way, Pakistan can also align its climate mitigation policies into its developmental policies. It will make developmental projects climate proof. Moreover, through comprehensive long-term strategy, Pakistan can turn the tide of catastrophic impacts of extreme weather in its favour.

In a nutshell, the stumbling economic condition of Pakistan has posed greater threat to the governance by increasing provincial issues, inflation, poverty and unemployment. Moreover, technological problems have deepened the governance challenges as it further has polarized politics in Pakistan and increased militancy. The pressing issue of extreme weather has further declined GDP, reduced growth of industries and exacerbated gender-based violence. However, through comprehensive long term strategy, Pakistan can turn the trajectory from down-nosing to the shining approach. It will lead the country towards high sky of progression and development.

---