

Date: _____

Day: _____

Water Crisis in Pak: A shared responsibility of the Government and the People.

1. Introduction:

1.1 Hook

1.2 General Background

1.3 Thesis Statement

2. Water Crisis in Pak:

2.1 Dependence on Indus River System.

2.2 Falling per capita water availability

2.3 Over-reliance on ground water

2.4 Water scarcity in urban and rural areas.

2.5 Impacts on agriculture, health and industry.

3. Causes of Water Crisis:

3.1 Governmental Factors

3.2 Environmental and climate factors

3.3 Public and social behavior

4. Govt's responsibilities:

4.1 Developing and implementing a national water policy.

4.2 Construction of new Dams.

Salman Paper Product

- 4.3 Modernizing Irrigation techniques
- 4.4 Regulating groundwater extraction
- 4.5 Investing in wastewater treatment
- 4.6 Launching awareness and conservative campaigns.
- 4.7 Partnering with local and international organizations.

5 Public Responsibilities:

- 5.1 Household water conservation
- 5.2 Responsible agriculture practices
- 5.3 Community-based rainwater harvesting and storage
- 5.4 Civic activism for environmental protection.
- 5.5 Participating in and supporting awareness campaigns.

6 Collaborative efforts:

- 6.1 Government-public collaboration in water conservation projects.
- 6.2 NGO and private sector partnerships.

7 Recommendations:

- 7.1 Strengthen and implement national water policy at local levels.
- 7.2 Institutional reforms for efficient governance
- 7.3 Incentivize sustainable farming and urban planning
- 7.4 Increase investment in education and awareness.

8 Conclusion

Salman Paper Product

Date: _____

Day: _____

The Essay

W.H. Auden, a British-American poet, has once said, "Thousands have lived without love, not one without water."

Water is the cornerstone of life — essentially not only for human life but for every sectors of life including agriculture, industry, and even ecosystem. Water crisis has been successfully overcome by the developed countries, however, developing countries like Pakistan are still struggling. Water crisis is not a novel issue that has been facing by Pakistan but this issue has long history which is not letting it to be resolved easily. Pakistan, since its inception, has faced a lot of challenges regarding water; blocking the flow of water by India, the drieress of Indus water treaty, inefficient resources, mismanagement etc. The water crisis is multifaceted driven by climate change, inefficient water management, outdated irrigation techniques, and a growing population with unsustainable consumption habits. While governmental policies and infrastructural deficiencies are widely blamed, the public's disregard for water conservation has equal share in this crisis. Therefore, solving Pakistan's water crisis is not solely the responsibility of the government, it is a shared national duty.

Salman Paper Product

Date: _____

Day: _____

And by fulfilling the responsibilities by citizens and duties by government, Pakistan will not only overcome this hazardous water crisis but will also rise as a prosperous nation in the world.

Pakistan's economy is largely riverine, relying almost entirely on the Indus river and its tributaries. With agriculture consuming around 90% of the country's water, the pressure on this limited source is immense. Additionally, in the recent days of its birth, Pakistan had about 5,600 cubic meter per capita water availability. But now, after ignoring its importance and misusing its quantity, according to "UNDP Water Report", Pakistan may reach absolute water scarcity level with water availability of less than 500 cubic meter per capita by 2025-26. This situation is further exacerbated by a lack of adequate reservoirs — where Pakistan can only store 30 days worth of water, compared to the global average of 120 days.

Moreover, Pakistan relies heavily on ground water depletion particularly through tubewell. When all factors are at rest when the scarcity and water shortages arise. The water crisis has resulted in severe droughts in rural areas, and water shortages in urban areas like Karachi and Lahore where people buy water tankers for their daily usage instead of having any water availability.

Salman Paper Product

Date: _____

Day: _____

Furthermore, the water crisis along with all these measures has affected several sectors. Agriculture sector, major beneficiary of water and having complete reliance on water is becoming unsustainable. This sector is extremely important for Pakistan as it provides employment to around 37% of Pakistan's workforce and according to a report by "Finance Division of Government of Pakistan", it has contributed around 23% to the country's GDP in the year 2023-24. So, water crisis will not affect only this sector but a major part of country's GDP and workforce.

In addition to this, water crisis brings a danger of food insecurity with itself. It affects the food industries, agricultural products; leading to a less food availability which would definitely be more expensive and thus leading to further inflation and poverty. Moreover, the industries like textile, food, power generating industries heavily rely on water and creating a major cut in country's economy and overall stability. Thus, water crisis is a serious issue that needs to be addressed quickly and efficiently before it gets too late.

Water crisis is an ignored issue caused by various factors. The first factor behind this crisis is by the government where they have failed to construct any new dams to store water and developing and

Date: _____

Day: _____

implementing a national water policy. The flaws of the government are still unconsiderable by the authorities. The construction of dams is essentially in strengthening economy and overcoming water crisis. Government can overcome this flaw by collaborating with our partner China, where they have built world's largest dams namely "Three Gorges Dam" which can generate about 22,500 MW of electricity. Along with this, government has failed to create any strong national policy regarding water and in the absence of these policies, Government will have to face water crisis and protests like going on in Sindh against canal construction. Additionally, outdated irrigation systems, lack of investment in infrastructure has further exacerbated the crisis.

Moreover, along with the government's ignorance, nature has also played a significant role. Pakistan is the 5th climate-vulnerable country in the world; rapid glacial melting in northern mountain ranges has fed the Indus river but has threatened the long-term water availability. Changes in monsoon patterns, reduced snowfall, and increased ~~snowfall~~ frequency of floods further destabilize the water supply.

Additionally, at the societal level, citizens have rewarded themselves with a major share in water

Salman Paper Product

Date: _____

Day: _____

crisis. Taps are left running, leakages go unchecked, and washing vehicles with hoses is common in our society. According to a report by Indus River Systems Authority (IRSA), Pakistan dumps a significant amount of water into the sea, estimated at 21 billion dollars worth each year, mainly due to lack of storage capacity and poor water conservation practices.

Water crisis is a social issue that need to be analyzed and overcome by not only the government but also by the public. It requires the participation, conscience, and sacrifices by government and public.

The Government plays a crucial role in establishing frameworks for sustainable water use. The 'National Water Policy 2018' outlines the need for efficient management, conservation, and equitable distribution. But, having this policy is not enough, there is a dire need to strengthen and implement this policy with actionable plans, financial backing, and institutional accountability.

Moreover, constructing new dams for water storage is one of the main responsibilities of the government. Projects like Mahmud and Diamer-Bhasha Dams must be expedited. Additionally, government should also facilitate the irrigation sector with modern system and techniques. Modern Irrigation

Solve Your Problem Product

Date: _____

Day: _____

system will not only reduce the losses in agriculture sector but it will also show a great tradition from flood irrigation to water-saving techniques.

Furthermore, overcoming the ground water depletion is a challenge and responsibility of the government.

The Government ~~need~~ to establish and implement ground water regulation to avoid this abuse of water and to have a sustainable ground water extraction system. Along with this, as the IRSA report suggested that such a heavy loss has been faced by Pakistan by dumping such an amount of water into the sea, so it is a high time to consider

this issue and to develop policies regarding this loss.

The Govt ~~has~~ to invest in waste water treatment plants where the waste water can be stored, cleaned, and then used by public. This will not only reduce the risk of water crisis but will save the government from facing such a loss and Pakistan from being on the top of the list of the countries who waste huge amount of water.

Moreover, government along with opting all these steps as their responsibilities must ensure that their public is aware of all these situations. So, the government should initiate public awareness and water conservation campaign by using schools, universities, public offices, social media, and

Salman Paper Product

Date: _____

Day: _____

religious platforms. The awareness in public is very much crucial to avoid extensive and unnecessary water consumption. The Government must co-operate with international organizations and local departments such as UN-Water, World Water Council, Al-Fikidmat Foundation, and Rural Areas Water Association Pakistan to learn the water security procedures and to save the country from being a droughtful country. These responsibilities, actions, policies, and collaboration by the government will create a positive impact and will secure Pakistan from the risk of water scarcity.

Moreover, the government must take the reasonable steps and citizens must adopt responsible behaviors. The public have to work within their domain to challenge this crisis. Household water conservations such as fixing leaks, using buckets instead of hoses, and installing low-flow kitchen faucets can significantly reduce water wastage. Additionally, the farming community should also consider their responsibility by selecting appropriate crops for their regions and adopting efficient irrigation. By adopting these techniques, not only farmers will enhance their crops but will also reduce significant amount of water that has been wasted during these agricultural practices. Along with this, communities, particularly in water stressed regions, can establish collective rainwater

Salman Paper Product

Date: _____

Day: _____

harvesting system to avoid water wastages. Moreover, there is a need for a shift in societal mindset, from water as a free good to a valued, limited resource. The public should participate in environmental protection particularly water under the doctrine of civic activism as their national duty. The citizens should consider their responsibilities and should also participate in and support the awareness campaigns by the government. The responsibilities of citizens are not limited to any subject or it is not like to arise only if any thing has got worse, the public need to fulfill their duties in their daily life and in their basic needs. It will not only lower the burden on government but will accelerate the prosperity of Pakistan.

As the govt and public have got their separate responsibilities and duties, however there are some occasions where they both can work together for the betterment of the country and to challenge the hazardous and destructive water crisis. The public should participate in water storage at small level, the farmers should adopt drip or water sprinkler irrigation, they should form water user associations to manage local water distribution effectively and more importantly the public should support the governmental projects through civic engagements,

Salman Paper Product

Date: _____

Day: _____

land encroachment, illegal connections and many other ways.

Furthermore, NGOs and private-sector partnership have worked effectively not only in Pakistan but globally. In Punjab, the government's partnership with NGOs has led to successful promotion of drip irrigation in some districts. In that, solar-powered water filtration units managed by local communities have improved access to clean water. NGOs have also installed water ATMs and small scale filtration systems in underprivileged areas of Sindh and Balochistan. Along with this, urban rainwater harvesting models piloted in Islamabad have been replicated in schools and mosques, indicating that low-cost, community-led solutions are viable. These cases prove that when the government and citizens cooperate, and they try to fulfill their responsibilities, tangible improvements are possible.

These all responsibilities must be taken seriously to overcome this crisis, however along with these, there are some other steps that need to be taken in order to make effective system against water crisis. The govt must take the policies at the root level with regional action plans and measurable targets to ensure the efficiency and accuracy of the system. Along with this, Govt

Salman Paper Product

has to adopt institutional reforms which could mirror the streamline responsibilities and inter-agency co-ordination. The Government need to invest in urban planning to mandate rainwater harvesting and to have a structured map of every source of water distribution. More importantly, agriculture sector is the jugular vein of Pakistan's economy so this sector needs to be prioritized by incentivizing water-efficient crops and by providing farmers with modern irrigation system. In last, the government should invest in educating public regarding the importance of water, how water crisis occurs and how this crisis can be resolved.

The government and public have to be on same page to ensure efficient society and system.

To conclude, water crisis in Pakistan is real, urgent, and escalating. Its roots lies in both systemic mismanagement by the government and unsustainable practices by the public. It affects every sector of life; health, agriculture, industry, and social stability. Solving it requires a paradigm shift in how water is valued and managed.

Government initiatives will only succeed if supported by conscientious and informed public. Conversely, even the most responsible citizens can not overcome the crisis without institutional support. Both of them have

Date: _____

Day: _____

To realize that water is the ~~only~~ most important source of living and surviving, as Leonardo da Vinci has said, water is the driving force of all nature. Together, the government and the people can ensure that Pakistan does not run dry.