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Environmental Degradation in Pakistan: Reasons and Suggested Measures for Sustainable Environmental Rehabilitation

Environmental Degradation in Pakistan and Remedial Measures for Sustainable Rehabilitation

Introduction :-

Pakistan is experiencing an unprecedented rise in environmental degradation. Due to environmental degradation, Pakistan is facing several issues which are plummeting air quality, water scarcity, Excessive flooding and other environmental-induced problems.

Pakistan is under Damocles's sword of environmental degradation due to unsustainable urbanization, excessive deforestation, fragmented media discourse and low Public Awareness. It holds the potential to exacerbates the political instability, carrying far-reaching implications

for Pakistan's democracy. Certain measures can be taken to ^{transform} ~~prevent~~ the cause such as Reforestation, introducing carbon credit systems and adoption of Renewable energy sources.

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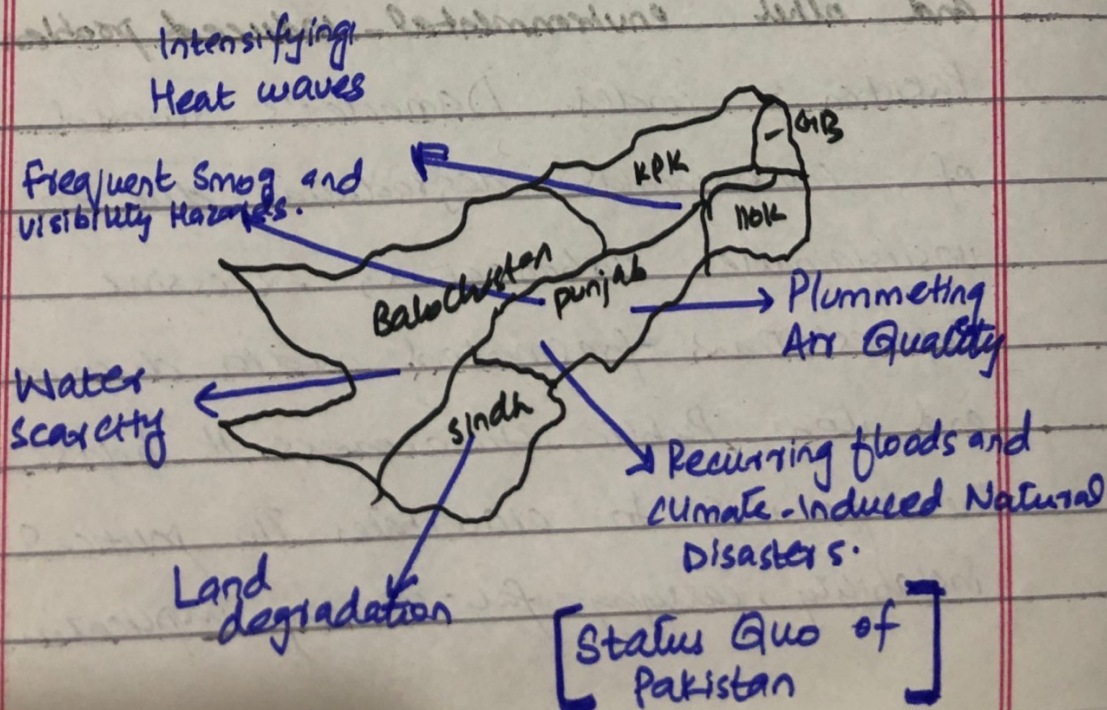
Pakistan has potential to shift 100% on renewable energy.

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2. Status Quo of Environmental Degradation in Pakistan

Pakistan stands at the brink of severe environmental degradation.



3. Root Causes of Environmental Degradation

a. Environmentally Unsound Infrastructure Expansion:

Unsustainable Urbanization is one of the major root cause. It is exploiting the green spaces of cities, which results in plummeting air quality. Due to increase in air pollution, **Rise of Particulate Material (PM 2.5)** is observed in air of Lahore. It has far-reaching implications on the health of people.

b. Fragmented Media Disarray and Low Public Awareness:

Media is considered as a 4th pillar in any country. In Pakistan, media is focusing on their viewership and it lacks any social responsibility. Pakistani media is **propagating propaganda's**. Moreover, the literacy rate of Pakistan is **61%**, according to Dawn report.

3- Excessive Flooding and Poor Disaster Preparedness

The government neglects the warning, leading to poor disaster management systems. Pakistan is affected drastically due to lack of management.

Flood 2022	33 million People Affected
Flood 2010	20 Million People Displaced

(Source - Dawn Report)

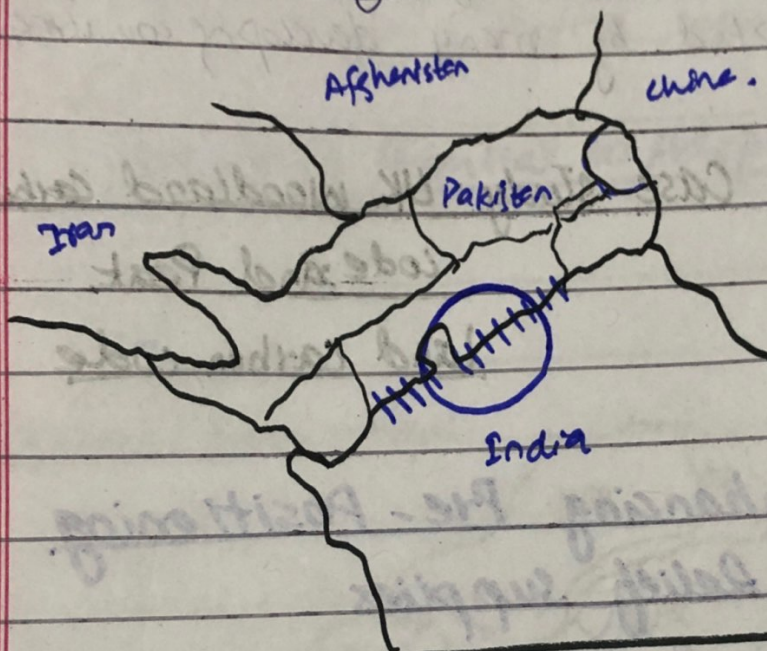
Such massive displacements results in unsustainable urbanization.

4- Lack of Political will

Political parties are showcasing seriousness regarding environmental issues. 40% of Land is degraded due to droughts. In the past 10 years, Excessive rise in droughts are observed which is increased upto 29%. Moreover, National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) predicted an increase in floods, but government is taking no serious steps.

5- Lack of Coordination with Neighbouring countries.

It is a transborder issue, so lack of coordination with neighbouring countries are fueling the situation further.



Fuelling of Environmental degradation due to unsustainable activities across the borders.

One of the major environment-driven problem faced by Lahore is due to India.

4- Suggested Measures for Sustainable Environmental Rehabilitation

a- Introducing Carbon Credit Systems and Green Initiatives

Pakistan should install carbon credit system. It is considered as the one of the most effective method, which is adopted by many developing countries, and

Case Study: UK Woodland Carbon Code and Peak Land Carbon Code

b- Enhancing Pre-Positioning of Relief Supplies

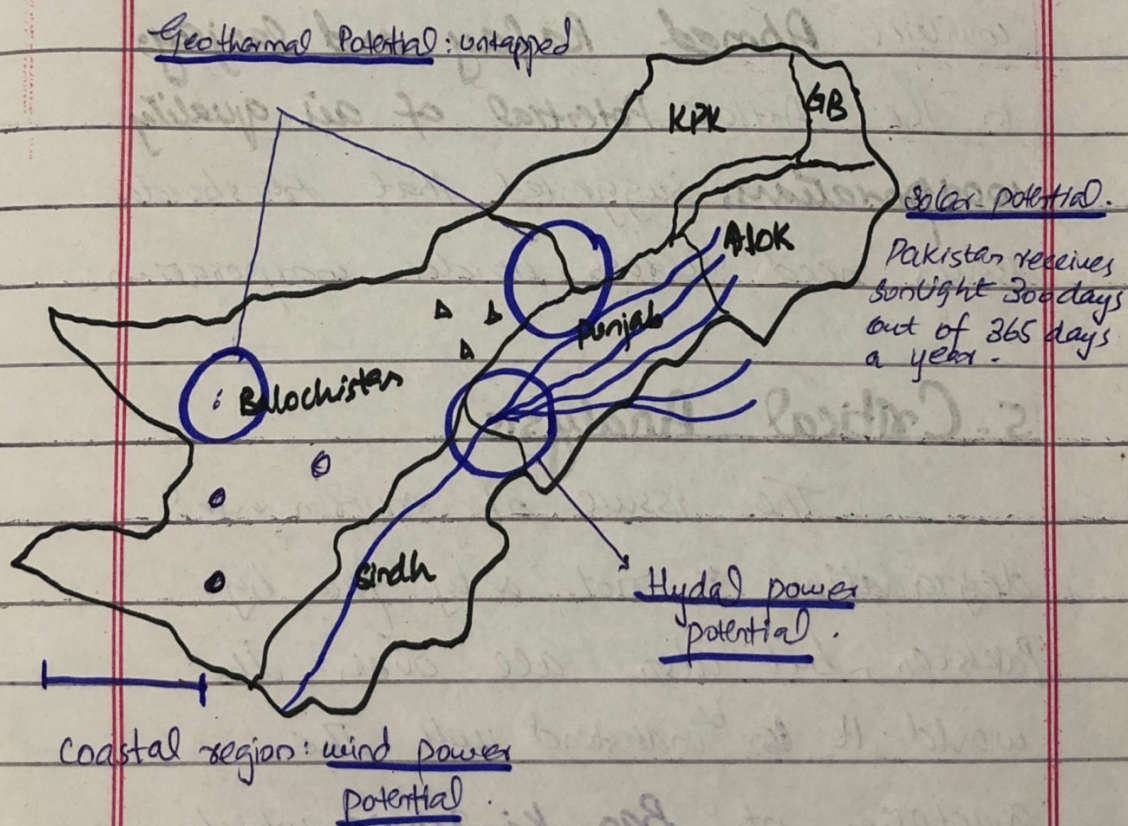
By enhancing the pre-positioning of relief supply, it can protect the place and population, and as a result, it reduces the mass displacement and other environmental related issues. Developed Nations have installed such systems.

Relief Supplies by WHO, UNICEF and WB

C- Adoption of Renewable and Clean Energy Sources:

Pakistan holds the potential to fully shift on renewable energy resources. Pakistan has large wind-power potential and other hydal-shifting potential.

Pakistan's Potential to Adopt RER



d. Promoting Environmental Education and Public Awareness

By Initiating awareness campaigns,

Pakistan can utilize its population to take environmental friendly concepts. According to the Global Digital Insights, 111 millions of the total population is Internet users.

e- Enhance Regional Cooperation

As it is a transborder issue, which can be solved by enhancing cooperation with neighbouring countries. Ahmed Rafay and Sanjay, in the Article: Potential of air quality cooperations, suggested that transborder issues need across border cooperation.

5. Critical Analysis

The issue of environmental degradation is not only face by Pakistan, but also all over the world. It can be understood with the quotation of 'Ban-ki-moon' which stated that

“The climate crisis is a global challenge that requires a

global solution. It is time for all nations to come together and work together towards a common goal."

Pakistan can adopt the effective initiatives adopted by developing countries, Mobile education system by Australia, Photovoltaic motorway doofting in Australia and solar pavement in Netherlands.

However, this issue can only be solved by across border coordination and regional cooperation.

Conclusion

Pakistan is facing catastrophic impacts due to environmental degradation. These are observed due to issues at national and international levels. Hence, in order to combat this persistent issue government need to enhance its credibility.

"The environment is where we all meet; where we all have a mutual interest; it is the one thing all of us share."

Lady Bird Johnson