

Water Crises in Pakistan:

A Shared Responsibility of the Government & the People.

Brainstorm:



Outline:

1. Introduction:

- 1.1. Hook (Quote)
- 1.2. Background
- 1.3. Thesis ^{statement} (shared failure of the government & the people)

2. Water Crises:

- 2.1. Definition.
- 2.2. Decline in per capita.
- 2.3. Dependency on IRS.

3. Government duty:

- 3.1. Planning and policy failures.
- 3.2. Mismanagement
- 3.3. Inter-Provincial disputes.
- 3.4. Diplomacy problems (IWT)

4. People's responsibility:

- 4.1. Agriculture water misusing
- 4.2. Domestic misuse.
- 4.3. Lack of awareness.
- 4.4. Poor infrastructure

5. Sindh's story.

5.1. Fertility to barren.

5.2. Decline in mangroves.

5.3. Decrease in livestock.

5.4. Protests & resistance.

6. Role of Climate Change:

6.1. Melting of glaciers.

6.2. Irregular monsoons.

6.3. Prolonged droughts.

6.4. Decline in rainfall (33% contribution).

7. Shared Solutions:

★ Government:

7.1. Construction of dams (Diamer-Bhasha)

7.2. Modernize the irrigation.

7.3. Enforcement of water policies.

7.4. Diplomacy with India & Afghanistan.

★ People:

7.5. Reduce wastage in agriculture.

7.6. Domestic conservation.

7.7. Community engagement in governance.

7.8. Promotion of rainwater harvesting.

8. Conclusion:

The Essay

"When the well is dry, we know the worth of water," Benjamin Franklin. Pakistan, once ~~an~~ an abundant country of water is now facing an alarming water crises due multiple reasons as growth in population, poor water management, climate change, poor infrastructure, old systems, national and international water disputes. Presently, Pakistan is one of the top 10 water-stressed countries globally (due to PCWR and Global Climate Risk Index). Water crises in Pakistan is a complex issue that cannot be attributed to a single entity. ~~B/A~~ Rather everyone shares the blame for. The government and people

both needs to take responsibility. The government should make good plans to manage water, while citizens should ~~not~~ use water wisely and do not waste it. If both the government and people work together, so the problem can be solved. But if donot then the situation will become worse. We need to act now to ~~save~~ the water for our future. It's a team effort to make sure Pakistan has enough water everyone.

Pakistan is facing a serious water crisis. The amount of water per person has dropped drastically from 5260 cubic meters in 1951 to less than 1000 cubic meters today. This means that Pakistan does not

have enough water to meet its needs. The country's water supply relies heavily on the Indus River System, which is very important for farming and drinking water. However, the growing population and inefficient water usage and lack of proper management have put a lot of pressure on this important resource. Pakistan is now considered as a "water-scarce" country. This scarcity affects not only households but also industries and agriculture, which are crucial for the country's economy. If we do not take action, the situation will become worse. We need to use water wisely, build better infrastructure, and manage water resources effectively. Water conservation is key to solving this problem and every drop counts.

Pakistan water management is deeply overwhelmed by policy and planning failures. The country lacks sufficient water storage. It is able to store water for 30 days' worth of river water compared to India's 220 days. Delayed projects like the Kalabagh Dam and Diamer Basha Dam have worsened the situation. Water institutions are inefficient, and therefore poor coordination between them. Groundwater is being over-extracted without regulation, causing aquifer depletion. Inter-provincial disputes, such as over new canal constructions, hinder national water strategies.

Diplomatically Pakistan has failed to effectively respond to India's control over western rivers, violating the Indus Water Treaty. India's exploitation of loopholes due to Pakistan's

inefficient water use has further complicated the issue. These failures have left Pakistan struggling to manage its water resources, affecting agriculture, industry, and households. To address this, Pakistan needs to improve its water management, build inadequate storage, and enhance inter-provincial cooperation to secure its water future.

Over 90% of Pakistan's fresh water is used in agriculture. Most of it is wasted due to flood irrigation. The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) reports that 50-60% of this water is lost. Crops such as sugarcane, rice, and cotton are ^{using} extremely ^{level of} water and are grown in regions facing water shortages. Such practices show a lack of awareness

and coordination at the former level. At the household level, there is significant water wastage through running taps, inefficient fixtures, and lack of repair culture. Rainwater harvesting, a basic and effective method of water conservation, is almost non-existent in urban planning or private homes. Furthermore, unauthorized water pumping from underground sources is widespread. Citizens are often unaware of the scale of water crisis. Civil society and religious leaders have not adequately engaged in promoting conservation. Educational institutions rarely emphasize sustainable water use. Without grassroots supports, even the best policies are bound to fail.

Sindh is facing a severe water crisis, exemplifying

the larger national problem. Once known for its lush farmland and mangrove forests, the province is now struggling with water scarcity. Over 20% of its canal land has turned barren, and livestock numbers are declining due to food shortages. The province has also lost 40% of its mangrove cover. Coastal communities like Thatta and Badin are suffering from rising salinity and sea intrusion due to inadequate freshwater inflows.

The ~~freshwater~~^{water} crisis in Pakistan is exacerbated by climate change. Glacial Lake Outburst floods (GLOs) have become a recurring threat in the north, causing destruction and displacement. Erratic rainfall and droughts

disrupts agricultural cycles, further straining water resources. While India attributes reduced river flows to decreased rainfall, the world bank ~~notes~~ notes that glaciers melt, which accounts for 67% of river flow, is actually increasing due to rising temperatures. This presents a paradox: despite higher melt, river flows are decreasing, highlighting Pakistan's inadequate water capture and storage capabilities. This situation needs an urgent effective water management ~~strategic~~ strategies to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

The government must take immediate action to address Pakistan's water crisis. Prioritizing dam construction projects will increase water

storage and regulate river flow. Irrigation reforms, such as shifting to drip and sprinkle ~~sys~~ systems, will reduce water wastage. Enforcing the National Water Policy and coordinating federal and provincial authorities will ensure effective water management. Diplomatic engagement with India and Afghanistan is also crucial to secure Pakistan's water interests. By taking these steps, the government can mitigate the crisis, ensuring a sustainable water future for agriculture, industry, and households. Effective governance is key to success.

The public plays a vital role in addressing Pakistan's water ~~scarcity~~ crisis, through behavioral change and collective action. Public campaigns can promote water-saving habits

like fixing leaks and using different efficient appliances. &

"Donot waste water, even if you were at a running stream" Prophet Muhammad (SAW).

Farmers can adopt climate-resilient crops, reducing water consumption. Community initiatives like local water management councils can empower communities.

Education and media can promote awareness. Every small action counts, and adopting water-saving & can help Pakistan move towards water security and a more sustainable future. Collective efforts matter.

In conclusion, Pakistan's water crisis is a pressing issue that demands immediate attention and collective action.

The crisis is a result of shared negligence by both the

government and the people, but it also presents an opportunity for shared triumph. The government must take the lead in provide infrastructure, regulation, and diplomacy to manage water resources effectively. Simultaneously, citizens must adopt water-saving habits, conserve this precious resource, and promote awareness about its importance. By working together, Pakistan can overcome the water crisis and ensure a thriving future. The time to act is now, and ~~only~~ unity is the key to success. In the face of this crisis, Pakistanis must put aside their differences and work towards a common goal which is a water secure future generations. Only through collective effort can Pakistan overcome this challenge and emerge stronger.
