

# Despite being vital, water scarcity is the most neglected issue in Pakistan

## 1. Introduction

### Thesis Statement:

Water-scarcity is ~~the most neglected issue~~ has become an emerging challenge in Pakistan despite being ~~of minor~~ importance.

Poor water governance, lack of political consensus, unsustainable ~~exploitation~~, and abandoned water diplomacy makes up for this negligence

## 2. Bird's-eye View of Water Scarcity in Pakistan

i) Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resource (PCRWR)

per capita water below  $1000 \text{ m}^3$  - water stressed country.

ii) World Wildlife Fund (Formerly World Wildlife Fund)

WWF - per capita water availability  $930 \text{ m}^3$  making it water-scarce country.

WWF - Pakistan 15th most water-scarce country.

## 3. How Water-Scarcity - Despite Being Vital - is the most Neglect issue in Pakistan

### a. Outdated policies leading to poor governance

1. Colonial era policies - Canal and Drainage Act, 1873

### b. Lack of political Consensus on interprovincial water management

1. Cholistan canal project - Provincial dispute in May 2025.

2. Kalabagh Dam construction

3 Abandoned water diplomacy with resource sharing neighbours

1 Abeyance of Indus water Treaty with India  
2) Shakti Dam construction on Kabul River  
in Afghanistan.

4 Unsustainable exploitation of water resources domestically.

1) Flood irrigation demands 96% of total water  
(WWF report, 2024)

5 Resistance to innovative water conservation strategies

1) Reliance on dams only for water conservation

2) Lack of awareness in mass regarding water management

1) No proper education in schools

2) No community education regarding water education

3) Limited use of modern technology for water management

1) No satellite data integration in policies

2) No Remote sensing, GIS provision

3) Lack of legal actions to deter water crimes

2) No penalty for water theft exercised.

1. Impacts of neglected water scarcity despite being vital;

1) Domestic water needs uncatered

1) PIDE 2025 report: 43% urban dwellers  
lack access to safe water

2 Economic back-break due to failing water demands of industries and agriculture

UNESCO  $\Rightarrow$  Agriculture demands 70% fresh water

ii Industries take away 20% of fresh water supply.

3 Disrupt social fabric due to interprovincial water animosity.

i Tensions in Sindh and Punjab in Pakistan.

ii Strained regional relations due to lack of water diplomacy.

i India - Pakistan "water war"

ii Pakistan - Afghanistan strains over lack of water diplomacy.

5 Ways to Trek ~~Pakistan~~ on Journey from Water-Scarcity to Water-Sufficiency

i Upgraded and just water governance

- Accountability and transparency in water management

- Carrot and stick approach in ensuring water policy adaptation.

2. Innovative water conservative strategies for sustainable use

- Rain Water Harvesting Mechanisms

- Drip and Sprinkle irrigation methods.

3. Awareness of masses on importance of water

- Educating children in early education of the importance of water

well organized and quite  
relevant good

4 Active water diplomacy in the region for  
efficient water management transnational  
Armenia - Turkey water management dispute

diplomatic deadlock since 1993 can be  
an example to South Asia.

try to improve word choice  
please

### Conclusion:

Hook sentence, "The Water Princess"  
by Georgia Bedell (2016).