

Q: The issue of water scarcity has become a major challenge for Pakistan, especially with the growing demands of agriculture, industry, and domestic use. Analyze the root causes of Pakistan's water crisis and evaluate the effectiveness of the current government policies in addressing water management, including the role of Indus Water Treaty.

1. Introduction:

Pakistan is facing water crisis at present. ~~This~~ This crisis is getting severe day-by-day. It is posing a great threat to every sector in the country; economy, agriculture, ^{and} industry. It is due to various causes which include the drastic impacts of climate change and insufficient reservoirs and dams in the country. The current government policies seem to be inadequate and ineffective in managing the crises prevalent in the country regarding water security.

2. The Present Situation of Water Scarcity in Pakistan:

Pakistan, like many developing countries in South Asia, is facing acute water insecurity. The country's agricultural, domestic and industrial sectors are heavily reliant on tons of water to meet their daily needs. But the water reserves are depleting at a faster rate, leaving every sector in a state of worry.

According to NDWP, 35% of Pakistani population is deficient to get access to safe drinking water.

This percentage is increasing day-by-day. It is not only the case in domestic sector, but other sectors are also getting influenced due to insufficient water in the country.

3. Causes of Water Crisis in Pakistan:

Date _____ Day _____

These are various causes of water scarcity in Pakistan :

1) Drastic Impacts of Climate Change:

The country is facing drastic impacts of climate change. Climate change gives rise to various disasters in the country such as draughts, floods, wildfires and many others. The severe heat and cold waves lead to melting of glaciers which also causes water scarcity. The draughts and floods also lead to more consumption of water, which in turn exacerbates the crisis.

2) Insufficient Reservoirs and dams:

The insufficient number of reservoirs and dams in the country promote water crisis. Fewer number of dams are unable to store large amount of water poured during excessive

rainfalls and floods. This hinders the ability to store more water for irrigation or agricultural use.

3) Excessive and uncontrolled usage:

The excessive and uncontrolled use of water by the public and institutions leads to the depletion of the already present ^{water} reserves.

The agriculture sector consumes 90% of water in Pakistan. This is how, excessive usage ^{en} threatens its availability.

4) Economic burden leading to lower funding for water projects:

The government is unable to fund the water-related projects and schemes due to the already ailing economy, which is also one of the factors behinds ~~is~~ water crisis prevalent in the country.

4- Current Government policies regarding Water Crisis in Pakistan:

The governmental policies are subjected to wider criticism with regard to water crisis. These include:

1) Politicization on Kalabagh Dam:

Kalabagh dam has become a political flashpoint. The provincial and federal government are in a conflict over its construction. With Punjab claiming it as a regulator of floods and provider of electric power, the other three provinces hold their claims and objections regarding its construction. This is how, the governmental policies prove insufficient in tackling water deficiency.

2) Fragile Relations with India leading to a deadlock on Indus - Water Treaty

- The fragile nature of relations between Pakistan and India also exacerbate the crisis. This is because the headworks of major Pakistani rivers are located in Indian Territory, making Pakistan vulnerable to India's water policies. Being an upper riparian state, India continues to build dams on the rivers, restricting excess water supply to Pakistan, and also violating the Indus water treaty, via this act.

3) Poor disaster Management:

The governmental policies also prove inefficient in disaster management. The disaster preparedness and management is also weak and inadequate to manage these climate imactions, which are even projected earlier by the international couces.

4) Pakistan - Afghanistan water

Issue:

The water crisis handled by the government is also proves to be a failure as Pakistan is unable to convince Afghan leadership to hold talks and ^{re} dissolve the issue of water supply from Afghanistan.

5. Conclusion:

Water scarcity is a detrimental threat faced by Pakistan at present. ~~It is~~ The water reserves of the country are depleting. Moreover, climate inaction, lack of funding and unethical usage ~~proves~~ also exacerbates the crisis. Governmental policies also prove insufficient ~~as~~ to materialize the efforts needed to secure water for next generations.

