

Disaster Management and Our Preparedness

Outline

A. Introduction

Thesis statement: Pakistan is one of the most vulnerable countries, heavily exposed to natural disasters. Disaster management in Pakistan lacks some national level institutes, such as national disaster management authority (NDMA). However, Pakistan is not prepared completely for havoc disasters due to various reasons: institutional failure, lack of inclusivity and cooperation, widespread corruption, lack of human resource training, funding constraints, and weak infrastructure.

Pakistan has not taken any steps

B. Disaster management plans in Pakistan

c. Why Pakistan is still not prepared for future disasters?

a. Lack of institutional capacity

b. Funding constraints and widespread corruption

c. Absence of political will to implement policies effectively.

d. ~~lack~~ Lack of training programs to handle manage disaster.

e. Weak infrastructure

D. Way forward.

E. Conclusion

ESSAY

What if tomorrow

What if flood hits our city tomorrow?
What will we do? Do we know where to go?
Where to live? And how to survive? These questions
reflect our preparedness for disaster. Disasters are
the climate shocks that produce unexpected
devastation and human losses. Pakistan is among
top ten countries in the world which are highly
exposed to the risk of frequent disasters. Common
disasters in Pakistan are floods, earthquake,
landslides, droughts, and heavy snowfall. These
disasters have produced heavy economic and
human losses in past. Despite failures to reduce
damages, Pakistan is still not prepared to face
another disaster. Some national level institutions
are working in Pakistan, such as National disaster
management authority (NDMA) and Pakistan
meteorological department (PMD). However, Pakistan
is not fully prepared to face disasters due
to myriad of reasons. There is institutional failure
with less capacity to manage huge disasters.
Along with this, Pakistan faces funding constraints
and widespread corruption that further widens those
constraints. Formed policies are not
implemented effectively due to lack of political
will. Institutions lack training programs so,
it leads to absence of efficient human resource.
Besides this, Pakistan has feeble infrastructure.

that can't withstand heavy disasters. However, these issues can be resolved with some effective measures. Pakistan's government should take steps to ~~mitigate~~ resolve above position and help the country in preparedness for disasters.

Pakistan has faced major disasters in past. There are institutions that have improved disaster management capability of Pakistan as compared to past. In 1958, West Pakistan National calamity act was passed. Through this act the aftermath of calamities and emergency response was managed. In 2005, northern Pakistan faced intense earthquake that led to 80000 casualties. After this earthquake, National disaster management act was passed in 2005. However, formalized institutions was formed after 2010 flood that impacted 12 million people. National disaster management authority (NDMA) is a national level institute with provincial and district level management units. It works for disaster relief, rescue and rehabilitation. Another working unit is Pakistan meteorological unit (PMD) that gives ^{alerts} warning in the country regarding early warning systems and forecasting. Despite these efforts, Pakistan is not fully prepared for future climate shocks.

Firstly, national institutions in Pakistan lack in-built capacity to deal with heavy disasters. These institutions lack

effective leadership to work in a cooperative manner. Disaster relief institutes work separately and lack of cooperation leads to funds ~~mis~~ exploitation and lesser results. In 2018, a Pakistani professor, Farukh A. Khan warned about institutional failure. He said that Pakistan suffers from institutional failure. Failed institutions are unable to correct problems of the society, which eventually leads to economic failure! Integrated planning among disaster management, environmental management, and development planning are absent. Lack of cohesive and inclusive approach between institutions reduces their capacity to manage disasters.

Secondly, funding constraints, lack of accountability, and widespread corruption obliterated Pakistan's preparedness for disaster management. Pakistan is on the brink of default two year back. Today, ~~Pak~~ it is ^{still} on the path of macro-economic growth but it lacks adequate funds to allocate for disaster preparedness. Besides this, lack of accountability led to widespread corruption in Pakistan. ~~These~~ Former president of Pakistan, Soe Biden, said that corruption is like a cancer; cancer that eats away a citizen's faith in democracy and instinct for innovation and creativity. Hence, corruption in these institutes of disaster relief further constraints the available resources. Hence, lack of adequate funds and corruption are hindrance in the preparedness for disaster management.

Thirdly, Pakistan faces lack of political will to implement policies effectively. The government has prepared five-year disaster plan and 10 year disaster and development plans. But there are gaps between formulation and effective implementation of these policies. Floods of 2022 was a prominent example where areas of higher political and economic importance were saved and major water flow was diverted to remote areas of KPK and Balochistan. With political will and effective leadership, the disaster management institutions will be able to handle such crisis instead of reacting after the fact. Hence, absence of political will has hindered the preparedness for disaster management.

Fourthly, there are lack of training programs in disaster management institutes. Due to lack of efficient human resources, the workforce is insufficient to serve the public. Most of the time, government has to call army to manage disaster flood areas to provide ration and relief operations to the public. Besides this, after 18th amendment the powers of disaster management were decentered to the provinces. When floods struck in 2022, provinces had no capability to manage and they called to the center for help. This highlights that local authorities are less likely to have the skills which are required for rescue operations. One incident that emboldens

this fact happened in Minagar. In 2022 floods, five men stuck on a rock surrounding by flood water. They held themselves tightly with ropes and waited for help for almost 3-4 hours fighting for life. The disaster management authority was unable to rescue and four of them drowned in flood water while only one of them was saved. The lack of rescue and relief and lack of preparedness for disaster management.

Avoid writing confused statements

Finally, feeble infrastructure is another significant factor that makes Pakistan even more vulnerable to natural disasters. According to World Bank report, Pakistan is ranked 18 out of 191 countries which are prone to disaster risk due to poor infrastructure. After the flood in 2022, less than half a million people became homeless and displaced from their villages. The water sanitation, and education health infrastructure are very old and weak. Public suffers from homelessness, diseases, and other socio-economic crisis due to poor infrastructure. Hence, another cause of failure for disaster preparedness is feeble infrastructure.

Good data

The problems which are described above are manageable if the government takes some effective measures. The disaster management institutions should work with cooperation and inclusivity. They should make policies for a long term.

benefits. Adequate funding and accountability on spending can reduce corruption.

Besides this, training programs should be initiated to make government employees aware of reactive approach instead of proactive approach after the disaster. It will reduce not only human lives but also economic losses on the state. Public development plans should be started for infrastructure development. Earthquake resistant building, rainwater harvesting, green infrastructure, and climate-friendly building for heat waves are some of the examples for infrastructure building. With these measures, Pakistan will be prepared for disasters in the future.

In conclusion, Pakistan despite being one of the most climate-vulnerable countries has remained unprepared for the disaster management. The reasons behind this failure are lack of institutional capacity and absence of training programs in disaster management institutes. Funding constraints and corruption further hinders the pathway. Another reason for unpreparedness is poor infrastructure of Pakistan. The major disasters in flood and earthquakes are due to absence of institutions that will effectively manage the situation. However, the competent workforce and empowered institutions that work for long-term policies can prepare Pakistan for impending disasters in future.