

Mock Past Papers (1996-2000) Paper-I

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Ravages of flood and their control in Pakistan

! OUTLINE:

1 Introduction

Recurring floods have caused huge devastation to Pakistan's economy, agriculture and infrastructure, which can be controlled through timely and effective

2 Ravages of flood in Pakistan

3 How floods have caused destruction in Pakistan?

3.1 A huge setback to agriculture due to recurring floods

(Case in point: 80% of Punjab's crops were drowned in flood in recent floods)

3.2 Flood causes setback to already constrained economy

(money spent on reconstruction is money not spent on development)

3.3 Floods give rise to inflation and unemployment because Pakistan is an agrarian economy (Agriculture employs 40.1% of the workforce)

3.4 Huge destruction of infrastructure due to floods (more than 1200km motorways and roads were damaged due to 2022 floods)

3.5 Loss of human lives and live stock (more than 1700 people lost their lives in 2022 floods)

3.6 ^{most} Women are affected due to floods (World Bank report: In any disaster women are more affected by its ramifications)

3.7 Floods further push people into poverty due to loss of home, jobs and livestock.

4. How to minimize and control the destruction caused by floods in Pakistan?

4.1 Empowerment of local governments because they can effectively respond to floods

(Power is not transferred from PDMA to local governments)

4.2 Pakistan needs to shift towards climate sustainability and green economy

4.3 Forests can prevent floods by preventing run-off
(Pakistan needs to invest more in carbon sinks)

4.4 Construction of dams and small reservoirs for storage of water
(Pakistan has built only two dams in last 50 years, compared to 300 dams built by China in last 30 years)

4.5 Clearance of river banks and river beds

4.6 construction of planned cities with
better drainage system and
more green areas
(more green areas will provide
land for absorption of water)

5 Conclusion

The recurring floods of 2010, 2022 and recently²⁰²³ have caused destruction to Pakistan economically, agriculturally and humanly. According to World Bank Report 2023 "2022 floods caused 306 dollars loss to Pakistan economy while more than 1700 people lost their lives. Agriculture sector is the most affected sector due to floods which in return give a setback to already fragile economy of Pakistan. These factors collectively gives birth to inflation and unemployment which results in poverty. In addition to agriculture, the devastating floods brings havoc to the standing infrastructure. Another harsh ramification of floods is poverty i.e people are further pushed into poverty due to loss of jobs and houses. Furthermore people lose their lives in floods which is irreplaceable loss. Lastly, women are the most affected due to floods. However the destruction caused by floods can be minimized and control through timely response, effective policies and their implementation along with better management. Starting from empowerment of local governments by devolution of power from PDMA to local governments. Furthermore Pakistan needs a shift towards climate sustainability

and green economy. Along that, Pakistan needs to invest more in carbon sinks as they prevent and slow down runoff. Pakistan also needs more water storage capacity along that state needs to start a drive against the construction of societies on river banks. Lastly Pakistan needs better planned cities with effective drainage systems and more green belts. As these recurring floods have caused destruction to different sectors of Pakistan but better planning and effective policies can minimize and control the destruction.

Pakistan is the most prone country to climate change and also the least prepared nation for climate change according to World Weather Attribution reports. In the last two decades, Pakistan has been hit by three most devastating floods in 2010, 2022 and 2023. In 2023

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Q1, 2 and 3 were affected by flood while 75% of Pakistan was submerged in water. Pakistan being an agrarian economy gets more affected due to these floods. Whenever Pakistan's economy starts moving towards stabilization, floods halt its path. The Q4 of FY 2023-24 showed a growth of

2.7% growth and Pakistan's government has projected 3.6% growth for FY 2022, but according to World Bank this growth would be restricted due to recent floods.

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The most affected sector of Pakistan's due to floods is agriculture. The recurring floods gives a setback to agriculture. Some crops are sensitive to water while those are insensitive gets destroyed by hailstorms. In 2022 floods, the orchards of grapes, apples, peach were completely destroyed in Balochistan, while in recent 2025 floods 80% crops of Punjab were submerged in water and thousand of acres of KPK's crops were destroyed by the huge rocks carried by the floods. Similarly crops of cotton and maize were destroyed in Sindh due to recent floods. As agriculture is the lifeline of Pakistan's economy, the destruction to the agriculture by floods is enormous for the people and state of Pakistan. Agriculture sector is ravaged by the floods in Pakistan.

The recurring floods gives a setback to already constrained and fragile economy of Pakistan. As Pakistan has an

agrarian economy, harm to the agriculture
resultantly harms the economy of
Pakistan. The World Bank report of
2023 highlighted that money spent
on reconstruction is money not spent
on development. The 2022 floods
caused 306 dollars loss to
Pakistan's economy. While, the estimated
loss of 2025 floods is between 6-10
billion dollars (Ishrat Hussain). These floods
gives economic shocks to Pakistan's
economy and restrict its growth.
As Pakistan's economy is already constrained
by fiscal deficit, circular debt and
trade deficit and on top of these
floods, the economy further gets
constrained. The funds or money allocated
for development projects are transferred
to reconstruction projects. Economy gets
adversely affected due to floods.

As economy and agriculture are
adversely impacted due to floods, they
give birth to inflation and unemployment.
Agriculture sector of Pakistan employs
40% of workforce and 25% of the
GDP is contributed by agriculture (Economic
Survey of Pakistan). When agriculture gets
affected, both workforce and GDP is
affected as people lose their jobs
i.e. packaging, delivery of crops etc. As

crops gets destroyed, they lose their jobs which results in unemployment. Similarly, as crops get destroyed, there comes imbalance in supply-demand chain. To overcome the imbalance, Pakistan imports food at more prices which results in inflation. So floods also become a reason for inflation and unemployment.

Floods cause destruction to infrastructure because floods carry with them huge rocks which further causes land-sliding. Illegal encroachment and societies on riverbanks gets carried away with the devastating force of floods. According to NDMA report 2023 1200km roads and motorways were destroyed by 2022 floods connecting Balochistan to Sindh and KPK. Balochistan completely lost land connection to other provinces in 2022 floods. Furthermore, dozens of small dams were destroyed due to 2022 floods because of their poor construction and use of low quality material. However in 2025 floods 60 health facilities were destroyed and more than 1000 houses were destroyed in 12 districts of KPK. The destruction of infrastructure

by floods is devastating.

Another heart wrenching impact of floods is loss of life. People including women and children loss their lives in floods. The videos circulating on social media, showing people stuck in water or cars stuck in flood water is one very depressing. In DHA, Islamabad a father and his daughter lost their lives stuck in car, carried away by flash floods into river. According to NDMA report more than 17000 people lost their lives in 2022 floods. Furthermore livestock also gets affected by floods. As the first priority is human life and constraints of resources, the live stock gets neglected. In 2022 flood millions of live-stock was lost. Floods causes irreparable damage to human life and livestock.

Women are the most affected and the most prone to floods or any other disaster. There are no proper problem of sanitation and hygiene problems in the camps. In the rural areas, women are restricted to the camps by the patriarchal society while men can move around

Furthermore the unavailability of sanitary pads for the women causes health problems and infections. According to World Bank Report, In third world countries women are the most affected due to floods because they have to arrange water and cook meal for the family. Similarly, in Pakistan's rural areas, the women's duty to arrange drinking water and meal for the family and take care of children even living in camp. So women have to face burden caused by floods in a misogynist society.

The floods destruction can be controlled by empowering local governments. The empowering of local governments is very much needed in countries like with huge population and vast area. The PDMA can't effectively respond to far areas, districts of its provinces as compared to local government. After the 18th amendment, power to the local governments is only transferred on paper. PDMA is not ready to transfer power to local governments. However, local governments employed by the local can better respond to the disaster as they know their shortcomings and strength.

very well. The can respond to the calamity more effectively, more timely with few resources. Devolution of power to the local governments is need of the time for Pakistan.

Pakistan needs to shift towards green economy and climate sustainability. As these floods are the products of climate change, Pakistan needs to invest more green economy and work towards climate sustainability. With green economy and climate sustainability, the ramifications of floods can be averted. In 2025-26 budget, Pakistan has allocated more 700 billion rupees for climate initiative more than 600 billion rupees allocate for mitigation, while 83 billion rupees for adaptation. However the budget is very far from the actual figures needed for green economy. Pakistan needs 102 billion dollars by 2030 to adapt green economy. More climate sustainability and climate initiative are need of the time in the face of recurrent calamities.

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Pakistan needs more carbon sinks to prevent the run-off floods or slow down their run-off. Forests as carbon sinks play major role in preventing floods as the soil absorbs the excess water. Furthermore the trees stands strongly and firmly to slow down the run-off of flood water. Unfortunately have had been nurtured in the belly of forests since decades by cutting down trees. According to a report, every day 10-15 trucks loaded of timber enters Punjab from KP. Pakistani government needs to start anti-drive against timber mafia and invest more in carbon sinks by starting a drive of afforestation. Pakistan needs more forests and soil areas to prevent floods.

The construction of illegal societies and encroachment on river banks further intensifies the damage caused by the floods as they block the pathway of water. As the riverbeds were dried for decades, the lower class people constructed their homes on these riverbeds known as katcha Abadi. As per the remarks of Defence minister, Khawaja Asif Mulkhan get

submerged in water due to blockage of river pathways. The state needs to start a drive against these encroachment on river banks and demolish the infrastructure on these riverbeds to clear the path for river.

Lastly, Pakistan's Project and development departments along with higher authorities need to plan cities with better drainage systems, better construction of roads and inclusion of greater green belts. Due to poor planning of Karachi, each year it gets adversely affected due to flash floods and each year dozens of people lose their lives. Every city needs better drainage systems, green belts to absorb water. Major cities of Pakistan like Karachi, Lahore and Quetta are concrete jungles with no green areas. As a result each year they face flash floods due to monsoon rainfalls. To overcome flash floods, Pakistan needs better planned cities like Islamabad.

Concluding the discussion on a small note that climate threat or climate disaster is real which

give birth to different calamities one of them is recurring floods around the globe including Pakistan. The recurring floods of 2010, 2022 and 2025 adversely impacted Pakistan. Humans, economy, agriculture, infrastructure, livestock all collectively were devastated due to these floods. However to every problem there is a solution. Pakistan being a resilient nation can overcome such calamities and their aftermaths with better planning, green economy, timely response and effective policies with their effective implementation. Change can be seen as in recent floods Pakistani government didn't ask for any aid or help to overcome the destruction caused by floods. With more shift towards green economy and investment in climate initiatives Pakistan can overcome the recurring floods. Punjab government is doing amazing work regarding climate initiatives and adaptations. Other provinces can follow the footsteps of Punjab.