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DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN

PAKISTAN : CHALLENGES AND

WAY FORWARD.

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Pakistan is one of those countries that has been facing serious severe implications in the realm of disaster management. After the industrial revolution in the late 17th and start of 18th century, human interference in the natural setting of environment increased. Owing to that, the process of urbanisation, and deforestation further increased. It was the incident of the Great London Smog in 1872, that caused thousands of deaths and city was covered with smog. At that time, people started questioning on the past preparedness of the state on the disaster management. Same was the case with Pakistan, there was rapid development in the late 1980s and early 2000s. When Earthquake occurred in the northern areas, hundreds of deaths were reported. 2010 floods almost covered half of the Pakistan causing

millions of loss. Yet, government did not learn any lesson from past catastrophic. 2022 and 2021 floods currently creates question mark on the government institutions towards their preparedness to tackle disasters.

The challenges flawlessness by the state to grapple any disaster is neither a new problem nor an old one but its intensity in the recent time is aggravated.

Therefore, this essay will underscore what is the disaster manage. mechanism in Pakistan. Moving on, it will highlight challenges of disaster management and lastly, it will shed some light on way forward and pragmatic controlling measures of disaster management in Pakistan.

Disaster management in Pakistan means, a country's ability to control any kind of disasters. Pakistan is a country that has faced multiple disaster including floods, earth quakes, droughts, avalanche^{and}, cloud burst and hailstorm. Unfortunately, there was no any state's preparedness to eat mitigate the disaster risks so that less loss of lives could have occurred. There are multiple reason ~~detre~~ why state institutions are faced to control the disaster management.

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Some of them are political unwillingness, and government's inability to forecast unforeseen challenges.

To begin with, frequent changes in government is one of the most cogent and convincing factors of political challenges of disaster management in Pakistan. Only a few caretaker governments have completed their tenure from the inception of set Pakistan in 1947. The musical chair game between Nawaz Sharif and Benazir Bhutto, where within eight (8) years four government changed in 1990s. Moreover, passing no vote of confidence against Imran Khan also led to half completion of his tenure. After each successive government, new government nullified all policies and procedures. Owing to that disaster management in Pakistan was never implemented in true spirit.

With that being said, rivalry among political parties is another reason for ineffective disaster management in Pakistan. When government and political party comes in the power it tries to pressurized the opposition by filing fabricated cases against each other. For example from

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2018 to 2021, Imran Khan's party imposed cases against PPP's and PML-N's leaders and workers. In one of those cases, PML-N's leader Nawaz Sharif was convicted as incompetent leader due to corruption allegation. However, after, Imran Khan ousted, a series of cases were filed against him, due to which he is still behind the bars. Such rivalry among political parties to ~~eliminate~~ eliminate one another from political arena is the reason due to which Pakistan faces challenges in disaster management.

Economic challenges also play a significant role in disaster management. Unclear and vague economic policies widen the trust gap among people, investors and government. When a country's economy is weak, investors are reluctant to invest in the country. When there is no investment, there would be no tax revenue collection by the state. Thus at the end, government would not have enough amount that can be spent on disaster ~~management~~ management. In 2023, interest rate was around (22%) twentytwo percent. It was highest rate in the South Asia. It is because of investors did not take loan.

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from banks and the cycle of investment got
break, leading to no tax and no spending
on disaster management initiatives.

Pakistan being a economically weak
country is also responsible towards paying
less focus on disaster management. Pakistan's
exports, remittance and foreign direct
investment remains lowest in the South Asia.
Carry on the top is International Monetary
Fund (IMF) loan that is increasing
rapidly every passing year. When half of
country's revenue is spent on interest payment
of loans. Then how a country could
spend on disaster management. In comparison
to that, India and Bangladesh are economically
strong countries, they do not have such
interest loan repayment liability due to which
they have spent million in disaster
management. Such as India has constructed
dams called Ichhamangal to stop floods.
So are the reason why ~~there~~ Pakistan is
encountering challenges in disaster management.

Technological challenges of disaster
management in Pakistan is to some extent
is also responsible due to which a country
has not paid any heed towards ^{disaster} test

management. Pakistan is the technological backward country. Technological is essential of the current time to acom any upcomng disaster properly. For stnce, if Pakistan had used technology to predict the sevity of cloudburst, then the losses would had been minimised in the Swat River cloudburst, where ^{hundreds} of people lost their lives and millions of inventory lost occurred. With the help of technology, those people could ^{be} evacuated.

In addition to this, there is inaccessibility of Advanced technology to predict and mitigate disaster management. Pakistan does not have cutting-edge technology that could forecast cloudburst, floods, hailstorm, and droughts and famine. If Pakistan had advanced AI-models, then the risk of hailstorm that occurred last year could be reduced. In comparison to this, Bangladesh has advanced technology and that country navigate their people accordingly, this may loss is minimised.

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Previous paragraphs shed light on the challenges, now proceeding paragraphs would highlight the perpective way outs for

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disaster management in Pakistan.

firstly, Pakistan needs to have stable government that can manage disaster effectively. A stable government will ensure that policies are effectively and timely implemented. Political way forward of disaster management in Pakistan can be ~~not~~ stable government. It was China, ~~that~~ was below Pakistan in 1970s. ~~that~~ Chinese delegation visit Pakistan to evaluate Pakistani plan as ~~at that~~ ~~time~~ Pakistan was performing exceptionally well. Now, Pakistan needs to visit China to discuss stable policies with China as currently China is contributing ~~big~~ more in the global market share. ~~big~~ ~~21~~ government is stable, so the policies will be stable, then surely Pakistan will manage disasters effectively.

furthermore, political parties must prioritize public interest over personal interest. If ~~is~~ ~~the~~ government institution use government assets like helicopter to rescue the people, then it would be much better to manage the disaster. Just like, if helicopter would have used to rescue the people in Swat where people lost their lives standing on the flood water would have saved by helicopter.

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Political parties need to put their interest at a side and use Benazir's Incendae Support Program (BISP) to provide funds to the flood-affected people of 2025.

Economic way forward of disaster management in Pakistan can be solved through implementing and stabilizing economic policies. ~~state~~ stabilize interest rates, reduce dependence on IMF loans and other foreign aids, introduce ~~Identify~~ ^{plz write correct form of verb} ways to widen the tax base, including agriculture and real estate in so that economy can perform well and a higher tax is collected that could be spent on disaster management.

In addition to this, government needs to protect the people residing in the vulnerable areas and regions. It is because of their livestock, that cost millions, is also with them, ~~the~~ agricultural fertile land can be protected to ensure there is no disturbance in food supp ~~ply~~ chain. Thailand has created multiple canal system to divert flood water and protected villages and their fertile land. Same should be done by Pakistan.

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Third way out of disaster management in Pakistan is technological. Pakistan's government needs to focus on technological education and skills. Advanced technological courses, AI models and Algorithm must be introduced in the syllabus. Learning of ~~any~~ soft skills must be compulsory in the educational institutions. When youth is educated, they can create models them selves to predict and track down usage & mitigate disaster management.

A part from this, Pakistan needs to collaborate with international bodies like United Nations and countries like United Kingdom (UK). Pakistan can sign Memorandum of Association (MoU) to guide and provide help to Pakistan at the times of disasters. Also just like Pakistan-Saudi Arabia Defence Pact. Moreover, guidelines must and date must be shared with friendly countries to guide Pakistan at the times of floods, glacier melting, famine and cyclones.

Lastly, legal way forwards of disaster management in Pakistan are various but Pakistan need to implement effective

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Laws high tides, penalties and punishments
which be exaggerated against the mildess.

law such as Environmental and Protection department along with National Disaster group need to work together to reduce environment loss. By removing people who are living in the valley of rivers and canals. Hotels that are built in riverside must be abolished. If unnecessary are not done so then, with strict regulation must be taken towards them.

To cap it all, Pakistan is a country that has been affected badly from every natural disaster. It is high need of time to take strict and ~~such~~ action, to mitigate such disasters. If ~~proactive~~ ~~prognostic~~ approaches and controlling measures are not taken on time, then such disaster will continue to prevail and go Pakistan's economy will further deteriorate, more lives will be lost and there is possibility of losing hundred of millions of ~~lives~~. Country is already grappled with countless problems but not disaster management must be addressed at first. It is because, forty percent (40%)

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of population in Peshawar region
lives under poverty line. If stringent actions
are not taken, then this ~~the~~ ~~the~~ number will
increase ~~that~~ ~~the~~ will ultimately make
nation progress slow. Pakistan needs to
have faith for the better prosperity of
a country. There is a silver lining in
every cloud.