

Mock Exams (October 2025)
Name: Jadia Malik
Batch: 84.

TOPIC:

"Disaster Management in Pakistan: Challenges and Way forward"

Brainstorming

Challenges

- 1- Ineffective institutions
- 2- Feeble Infrastructure
- 3- Absence of training
- 4- Bad Governance
- 5- Lack of technology and machinery.

Way forward.

1. Strengthening institutional capacity
2. Investing in Early warning systems
3. Policy reforms
4. Grassroot awareness.

Outline

1- Introduction.

1.1 Attention Grabber.

1.2 Building Sentences.

1.3 Thesis Statement.

"Pakistan faces a plethora of natural disasters and man-made disasters that threaten lives of civilians. Unfortunately, Pakistan is not fully prepared to counter it, and faces challenges like institutional failures, feeble infrastructure, lack of training and absence of technology. However, it can be significantly improved by improving governance, investing in early warning systems, strengthening institutional capacity, and legal and policy reforms."

2- Disaster Management in Pakistan.

2.1 Disaster Management function (1958 - 2005)

2.2 NDMRT (2010) and 18th Amendment.

2.3 Current framework and mechanism. — NDRP and NIDRRP

Huzaiifa Paper Mart

(National Disaster Response Plan and National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy).

3- Challenges faced by Pakistan.

- 3.1 Ineffective Institutions
- 3.2 Feeble Infrastructure
- 3.3 Absence of Training
- 3.4 Lack of Technology and machinery.

4- Way forward.

- 4.1 Strengthening institutional Capacity.
- 4.2 Improving Governance
- club together { 4.3 Investing in Early Warning Systems.
- 4.4 Legal and Policy Reforms.

5- Conclusion.

- 5.1 Thesis restated
- 5.2 Concluding thought.

The Essay:-

"We cannot stop disasters, but we can arm ourselves with knowledge: so many lives would not have to be lost if there was enough disaster preparedness"

— **Petra Nemcova**. Pakistan straddles both Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates and is one of the most disaster prone countries. A disaster is sudden adverse and unfortunate event that exceeds tolerable magnitude within and beyond certain time limits.

Disasters are large scale geological and meteorologic event that have potential to cause loss of lives and properties. The types of disasters include floods, tornadoes, earthquakes, wild fires, hurricanes and droughts. Pakistan faces a plethora of natural and man-made disasters year after year that threaten lives of citizens. Unfortunately, Pakistan is not fully prepared to counter it, and faces challenges

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like institutional failures, feeble infrastructure, lack of training and absence of technology. However, it can be significantly improved by improving governance, investing in early warning systems, strengthening institutional capacity, and legal and policy reforms by bringing.

In many ways, Pakistan's capacity to deal with disasters has significantly improved. Pakistan has taken the following steps in the past: The Inter Pakistan National Calamities Act and Civil Defense Act were passed in 1958. Since 1958, till 2005 earthquake, the disaster management function was not located at one place; Emergency Relief Cell in Federal Cabinet Secretariat led coordination efforts but districts independently sourced disaster relief equipment. The 2005 earthquake worked as catalyst to the creation of Emergency Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority. However, it was only in 2010 when the country was struck by 2010 floods.

the government took action and passed National Disaster Management Act.

In the same year 18th Amendment also established district-level government. However, the question arises; why these steps failed, what challenges did Pakistan face? and how can we prepare today?

Firstly, Pakistan's institutional failure is the biggest failure in disaster management. A Pakistani Professor named

Farakh A. Khan issued a dire warning about the state of Pakistan's institutional failure, "Pakistan suffers from institutional failure. Failed institutions are unable to correct the problems of society, which eventually leads to economic failure".

Today the state of institutional failure in Pakistan remains same.

As, starkly reflected in ^{recent} **Swat incident**, where an innocent family lost lives despite of seeking help from local administration. Another incident of **five men**, who

waited for three hours on a big rock in the middle of gushing waves ~~near~~ in Dubai stream, lower Kohistan. Four out of five drown away despite of hundreds of calls to local administration for rescue. These are evidences of ineffective institutions in Pakistan.

Secondly, the infrastructure of Pakistan is not according to International standards threatening lives of citizens. This is why everyone in Pakistan suffers from electricity shortages and water and sanitation provision. Infrastructure has important effect on lives of every Pakistani. As evident in 2022 deluge, where 33 million people displaced and one-third population was submerged in water. So, Pakistan's vulnerability to natural disaster is a reality and must be managed accordingly. According to World Bank and Asian Bank reports, Pakistan faces highest disaster risk levels, ranked 18 out of 191 countries, due to poor infrastructure.

The world has seen **floods** in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, houses and building collapsed in late June monsoon rainfalls and **GLOFs**, glacial lake outbursts of floods in Northern Areas, displacing millions and flash floods and **cloudbursts** in Punjab, damaging the infrastructure. Hence the cause of failure to prevent disasters is a feeble infrastructure.

Thirdly, lack of training and awareness is basic reason of failure to prevent disasters. Human Resources are fundamental to strategic and coherent approaches in organizational management. To be a valued asset, human resource management ~~assign~~ assign skilled people to work collectively towards a goal. Disaster management training is meant to build the competencies of disaster relief workers in improving preparedness and response time at all levels before and after disasters. The National

Development Management is designed for post-disaster function, not pre-disaster management skills, which is a big warning about in our preparedness. Training must be provided to the relief workers on improving the pre-disaster management skills to prevent the damage.

A disaster can happen at any time. It could be a small fire or a huge earthquake. It destroys one's house and everything one's love. A timely response by using effective advanced technology could help prevent such loss. Technology can go where humans can not. Technology is an important tool in minimizing the damage. A evident from miraculous example of China, where people evacuated area in 61 seconds warning before seismic waves in Sichuan Province in 2019. Early Warning systems, over the years, is advanced technology

becoming more accessible to agencies and rescue teams for fast-track locations and conduct rescue operations worldwide. Pakistan's Meteorological Department is from this advancement and runs on a original methods. Without meeting international standards and advanced technology how can Pakistan prevent disaster's devastating effects?

Though we can not stop the inevitable disaster but we can prevent the devastating effects of it. **Federal Flood Commission** reported **30 major floods** since Pakistan's inception in 1947. Moreover, Pakistan is facing climate change knocking on its door. So, it is a high time to manage it accordingly. As floods are not new to us, yet our preparedness is. So, by strengthening institutional capacity we can curb the devastating effects of disasters. For example, by shifting the design of National Disaster Management Authority from

post-disaster management to pre-disaster management. Why to wait when the evil could be nip in bud? Hence, by strengthening NADRA and other such institution Pakistan can improve its disaster management.

In addition to this, Pakistan can also improve its disaster management by improving its Governance. **As Manzoor Raza said, "Hazards are natural, disasters are not".** We

see much corruption in the authorities. As starkly evident from 2005 earthquake in Northern Areas, the billions of dollars were mishandled by the reconstruction authority meant for rebuilding schools.

Likewise, In 2010 **Natural Disaster Response Authority** mishandled funds. By eradicating this evil by improving our accountability. Pakistan can indeed improve its governance and help prevent disaster. **As Joe Biden said, "Corruption is a cancer, cancer that eats**

away citizens' faith in democracy and diminishes the instinct for innovation and creativity".

Furthermore, investing in Early Warning System and bringing reforms in law and policy, Pakistan can significantly improve its disaster management. Timely warning systems can effectively help in evacuating areas are building before seismic waves approaches and takes lives of hundreds of people.

Advanced technology used worldwide for ^{improved} response-time in disaster. By investing in such technology, for instance **robots** and **drones**, Pakistan can manage more effectively.

Moreover, by bringing legal and policy reforms, that is, climate adaptive policies and aligning legal framework with international standard of **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030)**. Pakistan can effectively manage response and preparedness to disasters.

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To conclude, Like other Asian countries, Pakistan faces huge amount of natural and man-made disasters including inundations, tornadoes, floods and droughts. Unfortunately, Pakistan is not fully prepared to counter it, but there is ~~hope~~ always a silver lining in every cloud and by improving governance, strengthening infrastructure, investing in funds and advanced technology Pakistan can become efficient in disaster management.

Hope is the thing with feathers—
That perches in the soul—
And sings the tune without words—
And never stops, at all.

—Emily Dickinson.
