

# The Growing Threat of Urban flooding in Pakistan: Causes, Consequences, and Solutions.

## Outline

- Thesis Statement
- Introduction
- The Growing Threat of Urban flooding in Pakistan
- Causes
- Consequences
- Solutions
- Conclusion.

## Arguments:

- 1) weak governance
- 2) lack of accountability
- 3) Unplanned urbanization
- 4) Irregular river flows
- 5) Corruption in urban development projects
- 6) Insufficient use of technology.
- 7) Inadequate infrastructure design
- 8) Uncoordinated institutional roles
- 9) Climate change
- 10) Poorly maintained drainage systems
- 11) Lack of early warnings
- 12) Deforestation



14<sup>th</sup> June

## Thesis Statement:

It is evident that causes such as weak governance, lack of accountability, and unplanned urbanization, along with other factors, are the growing threats to urban flooding in Pakistan, leading to severe consequences that can be addressed through pragmatic solutions.

## Introduction:

Floods are acts of God, but flood losses are largely acts of man. These wise lines are uttered by <sup>Gilbert F. White,</sup> the ~~wise~~ father of floodplain management. Natural events caused by excessive rainfall, river overflow, or storm surges that inundate land and settlements are called as floods. As the quotation emphasizes that while floods may be natural, the scale of their negligence devastation is often determined by human



15<sup>th</sup> June

negligence and poor management. In the context of Pakistan, there are many factors that are causing ~~the~~ <sup>a</sup> threat to urban flooding in Pakistan. ~~Factors~~ The existing weak governance, lack of accountability, inadequate infrastructure designs and uncoordinated institutional roles are the major causes to urban flooding. In similar way, causes like lack of early warnings, poorly maintained drainage systems, and deforestation are also ~~the~~ <sup>causes</sup> resulting in urban flooding. Therefore, it is evident that causes like weak governance, insufficient use of technology and unplanned urbanization are the existing threats to urban flooding in Pakistan.

### The Growing threat of urban flooding in Pakistan: Causes

#### a) Current weak governance:

One of the major <sup>cause of the</sup> growing threat of urban flooding in Pakistan is the existing weak governance.



(4)

16<sup>th</sup> June 25

weak governance contributes significantly to urban flooding in Pakistan because of the poorly maintained and clogged draining systems which cannot ~~no~~ handle even moderate rainfall and increases the intensity of flooding. According to the recent research report, 2025, city Karachi <sup>has</sup> been pointed out causing flooding because of the choked drains which shows that ~~proves~~ the failures in governance.

### Lack of accountability:

The second main cause of urban flooding in Pakistan is the lack of accountability by the multiple agencies. Government entities like municipal, provincial and federal are performing no roles and preventing measures like drain maintenance, enforcing by laws and land use regulations resulting in the threat to growing urban flooding. Asian Development Bank Pakistan National Urban Assessment ~~report~~ 2024



Status about Lahore losing green cover heavily in 2010-2017; aging and overburdened drainage system, which proves that the lack of accountability of the government entities increasing urban flooding in Pakistan.

### The disorganized/unplanned urbanization

The disorganized and unplanned urbanization has also been the foremost cause of urban flooding in Pakistan. Due to increase in the population in the cities area, government is unable to organize the infrastructure. Natural drainage systems are removed in order to construct new buildings. The World Bank/Government PDNA quantifies enormous damage from heavy rains and floods that increased losses in cities in 2022 floods. Hence it is proved that unplanned urbanization is also a threat to urban flooding in Pakistan.



(6)

## Consequences:

Urban flooding <sup>the</sup> resulting in loss of lives:

One of the major consequence of urban flooding is the loss of lives. It often leads to drowning, collapse of weak housing, and displacement of vulnerable communities living in informal settlements.

During the Kanaali urban floods of August 2010, at least 47 people lost their lives due to flooding.

## Economic Damage to Infrastructure:

Urban flooding primarily leads to the economic damage to infrastructure. The flow of the water during the floods destroy the weak buildings resulting in the huge economical and property loss. The floods of 2020, Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) estimated US \$30 billion in damages to infrastructure.



## Solutions:

### Restoration of Natural Drains:

There are multiple solutions to the consequences of urban flooding like restoring of natural drains. Removing encroachments and rehabilitating natural stormwater can decrease the risk of floods. After 2020 floods, authorities stressed the urgent need to clear nalas to open blocked drainage.

### Investment in urban infrastructure:

One of the <sup>other</sup> solutions to solve the issue of urban flooding is to invest in urban infrastructure.

Sewerage systems can be upgraded to bear the flow of flood water.

The Pakistan floods 2022 PDNA explicitly recommends strengthening of urban infrastructure to avoid the damage and loss in the pandemic period.



## Conclusion:

No doubt that causes like Inadequate Infrastructure, Poor governance and lack of accountability are threats to urban flooding in Pakistan which has multiple consequences but can be cracked by implementing some pragmatic solutions. Factors like uncoordinated institutional roles, the climate change, and insufficient use of technology also plays a major role in causing urban flooding. In addition, causes such as corruption in urban development projects, poorly maintained drainage systems, and lack of early warnings somehow leads to urban flooding. No doubt that it results in the severe consequences including damage to the infrastructure, economical loss, and loss of lives. Moreover it also disastrously effects



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Day: \_\_\_\_\_

the health and environmental degradation. However, mitigation is possible, and these consequences can be reduced through targeted solutions like developing infrastructure, improving drainage systems, and implementing smart urban planning.

---

---