

## Natural Disasters and our Preparedness

### Outline.

#### I- Introduction

##### Thesis Statement

Over the past two to three decades, Pakistan has been facing catastrophic natural disasters and it is the crying need of the hour to address the lack of technological advancements, absence of early warning systems and insufficient specialized departments for enhancing preparedness and mitigating the impact of natural disasters.

#### II- Explaining the term "Natural Disasters"

#### III. How Natural Disasters have affected Pakistan?

- Floods of 2010, 2022 and 2025.
- 2005 Kashmir Earthquake.
- Droughts and Heatwaves.
- 2001 and 2025 significant events of cloud burst.
- Glacial lake outburst floods.
- Landsliding occurred in 2010 in Attabad, Hunza.

#### IV. Challenges in Pakistan's Preparedness to Natural Disasters:

- (a) Unsustainable Governance System in Pakistan.
- (b) Lack of Scientific Technological advancement in Pakistan.
- (c) Infrastructural development without any scientific and technical approvals.
- (d) Deforestation and Ecological challenges.
- (f) Absence of early warning systems.
- (g) Lack of local awareness.

#### V. Pakistan's path to effective Disaster Risk Management:

- (a) Policy and Institutional arrangements for Disaster Management.
- (b) Improving Early Warning Systems.
- (c) Engage International community through Climate agreements, Kyoto and Paris agreement.
- (d) Reforestation and Afforestation to mitigate ecological challenges.
- (e) Collaboration with local community to spread awareness.
- (f) Disaster-resistant construction and planning.

#### VI. Conclusion.

## The Essay

In the heart of Pakistan's Swaati Valley, a family's picnic turned into a nightmare as flash flood swept away nine loved ones. The rushing water once a source of joy and life, became a deadly force, leaving behind only memories and tears. This tragedy highlights the bitter taste of natural disasters, where extreme weather events shatter lives and communities. Pakistan is 5<sup>th</sup> most vulnerable country in terms of natural disasters. Due to floods of 2010, 2022 and 2025, Pakistan has faced worst floods in history, with millions of casualties, infrastructures damage, livestock losses and agricultural deterioration. The 2005 Kashmir earthquake had a magnitude of 7.6 on the Richter scale, caused widespread destruction and loss of life. Droughts and heat waves also posed major risks to food security and health. Recent Glacier's melting and cloud burst greatly effected communities and infrastructure.

Therefore, it is the crying need of the hour to overcome the challenges in Pakistan's preparedness to natural disasters, that include unsustainable governance system, lack of scientific technological advancement, deforestation and lack of local awareness, whereas absence of early warning systems remains biggest challenge. The only way to mitigate the challenges is to make policies and institutional arrangements for disaster management. Also by improving early warning systems, engage international community, collaboration with local population, disaster management by constructing disaster resistant infrastructure and through ~~reforestation~~. In a nut shell, Over the past two to three decades, Pakistan has been facing catastrophic natural disasters, that need to tackle with proper preparedness in order to mitigate the serious effects of natural disasters.

Natural disasters are devastating events caused by natural processes of the Earth. They can cause significant harm to people, damage to property and impact the environment. Various natural processes like earthquakes, floods, cyclones are the part of Earth's natural system, but at the same time are dangerous as well. Understanding natural disasters are crucial for finding ways to reduce its harmful effects and protect our country from such disasters. By unveiling the concept of natural disasters, we can explore its causes, consequences and possible solutions. This knowledge empowers us to make informed choices and take action to tackle this challenge.

To begin with, Pakistan has faced numerous floods over the past two to three decades but 2010, 2022 and 2025's floods are considering the worst events. 20 million people were displaced with 1985 fatalities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, Sindh and Azad Kashmir. In addition, there were 1760 casualties nationwide, Over two

million infrastructure destroyed,  
7,142 cattle perished due to  
collapsing sheds. And 7,200 km<sup>2</sup>  
of crops affected in the worst  
2022 flood. Furthermore, the  
2025 flood caused over 1000  
deaths, widespread infrastructure  
damage especially homes, roads  
and bridges in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa,  
Bunair, Swat and Azad Kashmir.