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# Recycling in Pakistan: Challenges and Way Forward

## Outline

- 1) Introduction
- 2) Challenges to Recycling of Waste in Pakistan:

2.1) Non-existence of specific government policy and legislation on recycling

[National Environmental Policy and Acts of Pakistan do not cover legislation]

[Pakistan Environmental Protection Act 1997 do not focus on recycling]

2.2) Paucity of funds for installing recycling units in Pakistan

[National climate change fund do

not allocate resources  
for recycling projects]

2.3) Lack of public-  
private partnerships  
for recycling in  
Pakistan

[Compared to Pakistan,  
there are public-  
private partnerships  
for recycling projects  
in European Union].

2.4) Less facilities and  
technologies available  
for recycling in  
Pakistan

[In Japan, recycling  
facilities are available  
for every building].

2.5, Lack of international  
collaboration to  
transfer recycling  
technologies

[Ineffectiveness of  
the Clean Development  
Mechanism (CDM) of  
Kyoto Protocol for  
transfer of recycling technologies]

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2.6, Less public awareness regarding the benefits of recycling through media

[Media allocate more time to disseminate sensational news rather than spreading awareness about sustainable environment).

3- Way Forward to enhance recycling in Pakistan:

3.1, Promulgation of legislation enforcing recycling culture in Pakistan

[→ Amendment to Pakistan Environmental Protection Act to integrate recycling]  
[→ Strict laws in UK regarding recycling]

3.2, Allocation of funds

to install recycling units across Pakistan

[China allocate major portion of Environmental budget to recycling]

3.3, Public-Private partnerships should be enhanced for recycling of waste and water

[Case study: Germany recycle both of its waste through public-private partnership]

3.4, Availability of recycling facilities in residential and commercial areas

[Case study: Singapore has provided recycling facilities to public]

3.5, Increase international cooperation for the transfer of recycling technologies and funds

[Demand for clean recycling technologies through COM Program & Tokyo Protocol]

3.6) Use of Social media to spread awareness about the need and benefits of recycling

↳ Social media influencers should use their platforms for spreading awareness about recycling.

#### 4- Benefits of Recycling for Pakistan:

- (i) Reduction of solid waste generation
- (ii) Use of less energy and resources in recycling old products to form new products.
- (iii) Reduction in green house gas emissions
- (iv) Conservation of water resources through recycling

#### 5- Conclusion

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## ESSAY

In the backdrop of climate change and resource depletion, recycling is an environmental sustainable option. Most countries have adopted this strategy to reduce waste and emissions. However, Pakistan faces challenges to undergo recycling of waste products. These include policy and monetary gaps. Similarly, there is a lack of public private partnership and international collaboration to transfer recycling technologies from developed countries. Moreover, there is less public awareness regarding the benefits of recycling culture. These challenges can be easily curtailed through corrective measures. To begin with, promulgation of legislation and allocation

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of funds are highly important steps to improve recycling in Pakistan. Moreover, the availability of recycling facilities and spreading public awareness through social media can enhance recycling of wastes awareness regarding the benefits of recycling. Recycling is highly beneficial for reduction of solid waste and conservation of natural resources. Thus, Pakistan is confronted with several challenges to inculcate recycling culture. Therefore, these challenges can be eradicated by corrective measures and awareness about its benefits.

To begin with, the non-existence of specific governmental policy and legislation on recycling is a challenge faced by Pakistan. Governmental has

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not introduced new recycling policy nor amended the previous environmental legislations to accommodate recycling in them. To illustrate, The National Environmental Policy of 2005 do not have any provisions regarding the adoption of recycling for environmental sustainable future. Similarly, the Pakistan Environmental Protection Act (PEPA) of 1997 do not have any section dealing with recycling of wastes. Thus Pakistan face legal and policy challenges in inculcating recycling of wastes.

In addition, there is paucity of funds for installing recycling units in Pakistan. The Climate Ministry of Pakistan do not promote recycling projects.

and allocate resources for it. For example, the National Climate Change Fund do not have share for recycling projects in Pakistan. Thus, lack of sufficient funds for recycling is a big challenge in the way of adopting recycling culture.

Similarly, the lack of public-private partnership is another challenge to recycling in Pakistan. All over the world, the government and private sector collaborate to reap the benefits of recycling. For instance, Unlike Pakistan, the European Union countries use public-private partnership recycling initiative to strengthen recycling of waste. Thus, <sup>less</sup> public-private partnership is a challenge to recycling.

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Furthermore, there are less facilities and technologies available for recycling in Pakistan. The government and housing societies do not prioritize the installation of these facilities. For example, there is provision of recycling facilities in every residential and commercial building in Japan. Moreover, people are provided with incentives by following recycling rules. They recycle the used plastic bottles and in return get money. Thus recycling in Pakistan is curbed by the unavailability of recycling technologies and facilities.

Moreover, there is a lack of international collaboration to transfer recycling technologies from developed countries.

States use climate conferences for green washing rather than taking consequential measures for reducing climate change. To illustrate, the Clean Development Mechanism of Kyoto Protocol remained ineffective for the transfer of clean technology ~~like~~ that of recycling to developing countries like Pakistan. Thus, less global cooperation for the transfer of clean technologies is a major challenge for recycling in Pakistan.

Lastly, there is less public awareness regarding the benefits of recycling through media. There is less discussion about the solutions of climate and pollution problems in Pakistan. According to the study,

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"Media allocate more time to disseminate sensational news rather than spreading awareness about environmental sustainability options." Thus, less discussion on media regarding recycling is a challenge faced by Pakistan.

In the preceding paragraphs, the challenges to Pakistan in the way of recycling has been discussed. In the following paragraphs, way forward to these challenges will be discussed.

Firstly, Pakistan should promulgate laws for strict enforcement of recycling in Pakistan. The laws will embolden agencies to enforce recycling across Pakistan. For example, the government should amend Pakistan Environmental

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Protection Act 1997 and inculcate clause regarding recycling of wastes. Similarly, In the United Kingdom, there are strict laws regarding recycling. Thus, relevant legislation is need to eradicate challenges to recycling in Pakistan.

Additionally, allocation of resources to install recycling units across Pakistan is a step in the right direction. The government should deliberate some portion of climate fund for recycling. To illustrate, China allocate 10% of its environmental budget to recycling projects. Hence, provision of funds for recycling is highly important to curtail challenges in the way of recycling.

Furthermore, public-

private partnership should be enhanced for recycling of waste and water. This collaboration strengthens recycling projects for attaining business interests.

For instance, Germany recycles 60% of its waste through public-private partnership. Pakistan should follow in the footsteps of Germany.

Thus, public private partnership is highly crucial for recycling in Pakistan.

Moreover, government should ensure the availability of recycling facilities in residential and commercial areas.

As a result, people would recycle their waste rather than disposing them in landfills. To illustrate, Singapore government has provided recycling

facilities everywhere to keep the environment clean from waste accumulation. Thus, provision of recycling facilities enhance recycling in a country.

Similarly, the government should enhance international cooperation for the transfer of recycling technologies and funds. It is because, Pakistan is a developing country which cannot finance the mega-recycling projects. For example, Pakistan should demand for clean recycling technologies through Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) programme of the Kyoto Protocol.

Thus, international collaboration is highly beneficial for Pakistan to enforce recycling.

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need of the <sup>positive</sup> use of social media for spreading awareness regarding the benefits of recycling. This will bring positive change in social behaviour regarding the urgency of adopting recycling. In this regard, social media influencers should use their platforms to spread awareness regarding recycling. Thus social media awareness is required for inculcating recycling in Pakistan.

By adopting recycling, Pakistan will reap several benefits. Firstly, recycling helps to reduce solid waste. It will solve the ~~problem of solid waste in Pakistan.~~ Secondly, recycling requires less energy and resources as compared to making new products from the scratch. Lastly, it will reduce greenhouse gases.

emission and the conservation of natural resources like water.

Hence, there are several advantages of the adoption of recycling for Pakistan.

In a nutshell, recycling is indispensable for Pakistan to solve environmental problems.

However, there are several legal, monetary and social challenges regarding recycling of wastes in Pakistan. These challenges can be curbed through effective legislation and international collaboration.

As a result, Pakistan will be able to harness its environmental benefits.

Thus, the ball is in the court of government to seriously consider recycling to deal with environmental catastrophes.