

# Essay:

Date 20  
MTWTFSS

## "Climate change and Governance Failure: An Existential Threat to Pakistan"

### Outline

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Hook
- 1.2 Background
- 1.3 Thesis Statement

#### 2. Climate change As an Existential Threat to Pakistan

- 2.1 Frequent weather changes and heat waves
- 2.2 Informal rainfall and wind directions
- 2.3 Disasters and chronic floods
- 2.4 Pakistan's profile among Top Vulnerables
- 2.5 Declining Agriculture threat to human surviving
- 2.6 Droughts, land degradation, and soil erosion accounts female risk

#### 3. Governance Failure a Threat to Pakistan's Existence

- 3.1 Political instability: Core issue of Governance failure
- 3.2 Ineffective Institutions and Inter-departmental coordination



- 3.3 Energy Crisis and debt Trap
- 3.4 lack of Policy Implementation and enforcement
- 3.5 Chronic Under-investment in Human Capital development
- 3.6 Corruption, Red Tapisism and elite capture.

4. Climate change and Governance failure: A merged overlapping Threat

well organized

- 4.1 Governance failure in Mitigation climate risk
- 4.2 Under-Investment in Climate Resillience Infrastructure.
- 4.3 In-sufficient policy-making and enforcement in climate affection

5. Climate change as a Global Concern

- 5.1 Debate's over "who Pays and who contribute's"
- 5.2 Despite less emission; Pakistan among top vulnerable's.

## 6. Mitigations and Way forwards in Term of Governance and climate change

6.1 Inter-provincial ~~prov~~ coordination along with ~~federal~~ assessment:

6.2 Invest in ~~climate~~ resilient Infrastructure

6.3 Re-forestation and afforestation

6.4 Increased ~~Green~~ Cover and carbon Sinks

6.5 Global and regional ~~cooperation~~ for ~~Green~~ Structure

## 7. Conclusion

# Climate change and Governance Failure: An Existential Threat to Pakistan

## 1. Introduction

Climate change has the most chronic impact on modern world not only, it is changing weather patterns but also it devastates nations into serious fiscal crisis. According to the Former Pakistan's UN representative, Maleeha Lodhi, "Climate change has become Pakistan's most formidable adversary one that cannot be defeated by guns, but by vision, governance and international cooperations. The remarkable highlights indicate Pakistan for ensuring climate sustainability not only by climate mitigation but, with strong governance because governance is also not a traditional threat as same as climate impact. Historically, Pakistan witnessed multiple times governance instabilities; Civil-military imbalances, socio-economic stresses and administrative inefficiencies. However, climate change and also governance stability is urgent requirements for Pakistan stability and

existential threats.

Climate change is a transition of world adventures to chronic vulnerabilities. These vulnerable impacts stand climate change as most threat to human existence. Climate change in Pakistan is seen as devastated multiple floods in years, frequent weather changes, and fiscal devaluation. Frequent weather changes is most impactful disease in Pakistan, because it carries not only weather pattern, but the life of near 60% of Agriculture in Pakistan. According to Pakistan's Bureau of Statistics (PBS), Agriculture contributes nearly 60% of share in GDP in (1965-75), but now it is declined at the figure of 20-21% in (2024-2025). These facts shows that how serious weather patterns effect Pakistan's economic growth. From Agrarian support to fiscal dependence, it is a result of weather changes and climate contribution.

Not only weather changes, heat waves are also on top in Pakistan's climate fabric.

According to Pakistan's Meteorological Department (PMD), 2023 and 2024, both years have record breaking average of temperature,  $37.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  average and top  $53^{\circ}\text{C}$ , mostly in Rural areas of Sindh, Pakistan. Record breaking temperature reflects life threat not only for human existence but also for natural ecology: Birds, animals and aquatic creatures. Heat waves in Pakistan contributes to decline of agriculture, increasing number of extinction of wildlife and diseases. The major disease impacted by heat waves is vector-borne disease, because high temperature is suitable and breed place for vectors. These vectors breed in warm environment in huge number, carries pathogens into human surroundings and devastating crop field shows significant chronic impact on Pakistan's environment.

Additionally, erratic rainfall is also a product of climate change. Rainfall pattern is mostly linked with evaporation and heat cycle. The change of climate change results more water boiling points and more boiling results more evaporation, and more evaporation brings more heavier clouds

clouds filling. Rainfall with average and moderate frequency is beneficial for crops and environment, but erratic and informal rainfall results significant loss and damage. According to Pakistan Meteorological department, Pakistan is facing erratic rainfall patterns and cloud bursts (More than 100 millimetre rainfall in less than one hour). Cloud bursts erode agriculture fertility, land erosion, urban floods, infrastructure loss and fiscal instability.

Significantly, the most vulnerable impact of climate change face by Pakistan is urgent and disastrous floods. According to World Bank, "Pakistan losses more than 30 billion US dollar worth in only 2022 floods." These catastrophic floods displaced multiple factors including life loss, live stock loss, millions of displacements, infrastructure loss and agriculture decline. Pakistan stands at most impactful geo-location with highest mountain ranges, coastal coasts, and wide plateaus, despite these factors

It is globally determined as most impactful regions because climate change accelerates glacier melting and frequent melting results glacial outburst which turns the flow of water into catastrophic floods. As noted by UNEP, "Pakistan's glacier melting accelerates nearly double, increasing the risk of water scarcity by 2035. These floods results into famine conditions by devastating crop fields, and increasing governance pressure from socio-economic instability.

### Floods of 2022: Profiling

- Lives ~ 1500
- Damages ~ 30 billion US
- Live-Stock ~ 1.2 Million
- Displacements ~ 10 Million  
(specially Sindh)

Reference: World Bank and Pakistan report (Post Flood) by NDMA

Agriculture of Pakistan  
is a life-line of nearly 60% of  
informal employment and 21% of  
National GDP is on the verge of  
climate threat. According to Pakis-  
tan Economic Survey, 2024-25, "The  
Declining Share of Agriculture is set  
to decline every year nearly 5.6%,  
5.25% in 2022, and 0.56% positive  
in 2025. Where the Pakistan's econ-  
omy is agrarian based. It is inputs  
and for fiscal stability to improve  
agro-standards day by day by  
small farming but despite, Pakistan  
is falling with chronic downfall in  
Agro-sector only by climate chan-  
ge. Pakistan upholds obsolete  
mechanism of climate resilient  
agriculture, which increases the  
risk into double of impact. Because  
world has now moved on hybrid  
cropping, water resistant yields and  
pin-drop practising, and Pakistan  
still progressing on out-dated  
practices due to lack of government  
policies and mechanical support.

Finalizing climate  
impacts on droughts carried out  
through the climate factor as a  
result of permanent and tempera-

land erosion. frequent and mass flood restraints the natural fertility of land and steads it on the layer of salinity, drought, infertility and soil degradation. Soil erosion and infertility are long term results carried out by floods which restricts agriculture outputs and increase socio-economic stresses. However, it could be treated with substantive mechanism but with strong governance and policy implementation. Not only it contributes in agriculture downfall but also it is important for natural wildlife. In human existence, bio-diversity plays significant loss in ecological balance without it, the ecological imbalance threatens wild life by increasing extinction risk of bio-diversity. As noted by IPES (International Organization on Protecting Bio-diversity and Eco-system), "that, over more than 2 million species are at risk of extinction." Bio-diversity maintains ecological balance, and ecological balance maintains human output.

Not only climate change alone is alone a threat to human existence in Pakistan, but also Governance failure is also contributes same as the climate change. Because climate impacts mechanically and governance impact politically. Governance failure in the state of political instability is core factor in existential threat to Pakistan because it leads to moral and social decline of Pakistan by increasing socio-economic tensions, poverty, unemployment, policy hurdles, administrative inefficiency, elite capture and out-dated mechanism, erodes the public trust on governance bodies.

Political instability is core factor in existential <sup>threat to Pakistan</sup> is due because to, it leads to human ecology into informal behaviours like crimes, murders and suicides.

These factors of institutionalities require strong mechanism of stability, despite strengthening the governance structure, Pakistan is under-developing in capacity development of institutions.

As famously stated by Fred Riggs, "Developing states are example of Prismatic Society, where law exists on paper, but practically is lacks enforcements." The same factor as highlighted by Fred Riggs, Pakistan is also in development of strong enforcement mechanism. The real problem Pakistan is facing in administrative approach is lack of intra-provincial coordination after 18th Amendment. The Amendment provide absolute autonomy in major subjects of Concurrent list which remains on high tension of coordination between center and provinces as evident in the case of climate mitigation efforts.

Pakistan's structure of governance is embodied with short-term relief policies which turn's it into long term fiscal instabilities, the same problem of governance inefficiency is energy crisis of Pakistan and debt trap. According to Economic Survey of Pakistan report, 2025, Energy contributes nearly 18.7 Million US dollars or 12.7 trillion in losses as a result of circular debt

which turns government to grant bailouts and temporary relief by extending long term insubstitutes."

Not only energy crisis, Pakistan's debt trap is also productive threat to Pakistan's stability.

Pakistan is under the trap of 7-8 billion US dollar debt of only IMF (International Monetary Fund) which impacts on forceful dependent policy fragmentation. These traps undermines public beliefs due to strong enforced dependency layed by debt servicing.

These traps and crisis undermines Pakistan's free policy implementation and regulations.

Despite recovering from these traps and investing in long-term infrastructure, Pakistan is investing on visible growth; Roads, highways and metros for political gain of short term by sacrificing long-term policy continuity. Debt servicing hinders the institutional developments due to lack of financial support and fund allocation

for reforms. Ineffective and out-dated institutional mechanisms restrain the enforcement of informal activities and revenue generation. According to Pakistan's Bureau of Statistics, 2025, "a growth in revenue collection is seen but not as much to balance out flow and inflow — still Pakistan is in deficit of 2.6% GDP in 2025, and collection hollows at (13.63 trillion PKR) with expenditure of (16.67) still accounts of deficit more than 3 trillion PKR. Weak enforcement and administrative mechanisms are increasing the risk day by day to more fiscal stress.

Fiscal challenges fueled the security challenges of Pakistan by increasing insurgencies, terrorism, immoral activities. These results practically restrict local investment and effects on international investments (FDI). Recent insurgency tensions in Balochistan as reported in local printed media (DAWN), multiple attacks on foreign officials, specially at the site of Rebo-Dik, Balochistan undermines investor confidence

in Pakistan. Fiscal challenges, elite captures and rent-seeking behavior also undermines investors to invest in Pakistan either it is locals or Internationals. Favoring personal political gains and policies implementation erodes public trust and these contributions results governance failure and existential threat to the economy of Pakistan.

Human-Development a backbone of states anatomy, also under-invested in Pakistan resulting governance failure again. Pakistan Economic Survey underlines literacy hours at 60.6%. least in global comparison, while the foundational education is also least developed; more than 26.2 million children are out of school, 44.1% of children does not get basic knowledge and 75% learning poverty rate. These chronic under-investment shows devastating marginalization of human-development in Pakistan. Why it is considered to be the failure of governance, because the history of education and health sectors are evident itself; less than 1% of expending on these major factors.

Governance failure is not only at the level of policy implementation but it is also fueled by administrative immoralities: Corruption in public sectors, rent seeking behaviors, nepotism, and elite capturing. Despite having to the public administrators are willing to consent of political lords. These inefficiencies and manipulation in public sectors erodes public trust and governance morality at standard level. As World Bank famously stated "Corruption is the cancer of development" and in developing nations specially in Pakistan leads to systematic failure and increases dependencies on external factors by undermining local entities at political and domestic levels.

However, climate change and governance failure are both mitigated existential threat because without governance support and willingness, it is not possible to mitigate chronic impacts of climate change. Despite these challenges, Government of Pakistan potentially not awaked for mitigation of

climate change chronic impacts still the policies and enforcements lacks behind the correct standards. Nevertheless, climate change impact is inevitable, but it could be reduced in harm by proper mitigation environment. The Government of Pakistan is still ineffective in actions against illegal deforestation, illegal encroachment on basin sites and sedimentation (process which leads to increase water capacity).

Despite these challenges, Pakistan still lags in climate resilient investment due to fiscal constraints. However, Pakistan stands diplomatically actioned for climate justice. Therefore it is necessary to build local resilient as well as with international support. According to WHO, "Annually 7 million plus death counts only due to bad air quality in Pakistan". Lahore stands at top bad air quality in the world. However, these climate challenges need strong mechanism to reduce its strong impact, because government is only successful when it attracts its partners in the positive benefits of its

Citizens. "The Moral worth of a state is measured by how it treats its vulnerable", famously stated by Mahatma Gandhi; This quote reflects the government structure is to make sure the resilient not only for census but also for vulnerable like rural areas of Sindh.

Climate change is not merely a national concern because it is impacted through multiple factors; global emissions, trans boundary waste crisis, poor policy mechanisms on Green environment, and resource managements. The Global disputes are oscillated between "who pays and who contributes", nations like Pakistan diplomatically stands for climate justice because it is evident, according to WHO, "Pakistan contributes less than 0.9% of global emissions and stands at top most vulnerable position, requiring global environment justices. Countries with high emissions like USA, China, UK, EU) needs to cooperate through global justice environment.

throughout policies and international agreement like Carbon trading, green investment, and financial assistance to vulnerable nations.

However, Global cooperation is essential for countries like Pakistan because according to Greenpeace climate watch index, Pakistan is top most vulnerable state in the world with huge climate impacts: heatwaves, frequent floods, coastal trusts, wild fires and declining agriculture support. Despite global cooperation, it is also concerns in national development progress. Pakistan needs to invest in climate resilient through public-private partnerships, intra provincial coordinations along with federal assessment, transitioning to climate friendly environment and agriculture.

Primarily, it is major core assessment of climate change through reforestation. Forest cover first of all works as carbon sinker, secondly, it reduces the velocity of water flow in

erratic floods through special plants: Mangroves, willow and bamboo, because these plants are very dense in stroke and reduce the actual flow caused by soil erosion and flat land structure. Thirdly, it filters the air quality of surroundings to ensure healthy life. However, reforestation as well as afforestation are both important for climate mitigation and sustainable development.

~~along with forest cover,~~  
it is also ~~essential~~ to invest in green infrastructure; ~~Resilient agriculture~~ like hybrid seed cultivation in china, water resistant crop yields and smart farming practices - Rain water harvesting, drip irrigation and technological use. These factors ~~helps~~ in resilience of flood affected ~~harms~~ and protects them in future. On the other hand, it is also ~~mandatory~~ to transition toward renewable energy; from burning fossil fuels to effective use of natural resources water, bio-organisms, solar and wind properties for electricity generation. Therefore strong governance for these mechanisms is strongly needed as soon as possible.

According to A.V Alexandar in the Book, *Natural Disasters*, "A natural disaster is an extreme event that overwhelms local capacity and requires external assistance." Geographically Pakistan is at most vulnerable region of climate affection, therefore, at global level; Pakistan requires special assistance for climate resilience as noted by World Bank, "Pakistan requires 300 billion dollars for climate mitigation". However it is not possible for Pakistan to combat it alone financially. Therefore, regional organizations like SAARC UN (International) needs to assist Pakistan financially, mechanically or technically for mitigation from life threat of Pakistan's environment.

## Conclusion

Climate change and governance failure are both existential threat to Pakistan, as both threat socio-economic spectrum of Pakistan, by increasing volatility of poverty, inflation, famine risk, insurgency, immoral behavior and fiscal imbalances

However, Reforming governance is essential for mitigation the existential threat through strengthening institutional capacity. Ensuring transparency in public sectors, Invest in climate resilient infrastructure as well as human capital development, Engaging public, locals and experts to ensure collective efforts in resilience against chronic threat. therefore, practical presentation makes a sustainable environment for Pakistan in term of curbing governance inefficiency and climate vulnerabilities. "The real development is to transform the lives of people's not just economy." - Joseph Stiglitz