

QUESTION #03

What Policies should Pakistan implement to enhance domestic water management, Promote conservation & ensure access to clean water for its growing population?

INTRODUCTION:

According to a Report of Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), in 2023 Pakistan is expected to move from being a water-stressed country to water-scarce country. The threatening shortage of water resources according to (FAO) is putting exhausting pressure on Pakistan's government and people to work collectively for the management of this rising issue, because after diverse challenges of water crisis especially urbanization and population explosion, only Pakistan's government and people are left accountable. The skyrocketing rise of water crisis is not possible by conservation strategies at domestic level and to curb extensive growth of population and urban migration.

II. Why ~~there~~ arises need to develop policies for water management?

Since the inception of Pakistan, the country is battling with ~~low~~ water scarcity fear. In 1990s; Pakistan's per capita availability of water was around 2500m^3 which has declined to 1000m^3 against population of 2.8 billion. Therefore, it is significantly important to sensitize common people to conserve water that is only possible because of Provincial and federal governments' cooperation and harmony. As Anatol Lieven quoted in his book, Pakistan is a hard country:

“For Pakistan, to save water repairing of irrigation system is required but even more important is improving efficiency of water use at domestic level.”

Hence, Government and policy makers ~~could~~ ^{must} do struggle on three different level of management, such as improving efficiency of domestic water use, the other is conservation by constructing dams and the last is by providing clean water to drink.

III. What policies should Pakistan implement to enhance Domestic water management:

Through highlighting brutality of India on international level and talking about climate change nothing can be achieved. This is the peak time of action call. For that Pakistan's legislation must implement policies like sensitize its general public, enhance data collection and data sharing, and enhance understanding of root issue to common people to curtail domestic overuse of water.

1. Improve efficiency of water use at domestic levels:

Since the population explosion is criticized for water scarcity, therefore, it is pertinent to train domestic people to efficiently use water.

Excessive use of water must be forbidden. Every household and city must be provided and catered with water resources according to their needs. For example, if it is an agricultural land, then water

Supply must be ensured according to the requirement and per capita uses.

2. Create domestic vision for water usage:

Lack of education and knowledge is such a strain to educate masses.

The problem is people are not aware of the depth of water scarcity issues. Provinces and federation are in constant wars of water demands. Sindh is blaming Punjab for excessive use and Punjab is criticizing Sindh. KPK and Balochistan are also censuring both provinces i.e., Sindh & Punjab for usage of their share of water. No one is pondering on the fact that water scarcity is ringing alarm, they must join hands to broaden their vision and should increase inter-provincial harmony and collaboration to save water.

3. Enable transboundary negotiations for better domestic management:

Surging domestic conflicts and disputes over water demand negotiations and dialogues. People should forget

about disputes over water usage, instead Pakistan should provide its people open and friendly platforms of collective negotiation efforts to battle with the excessive use of water.

4. Urban Planning and town planning should be on the basis of water resources available in the city or area:

One of the biggest problem of uneven distribution of water is ~~to~~ and urbanization is uneven development projects in cities and rural areas.

For example, the capital Islamabad is the biggest example where water is quite low to its level, people face issue at domestic issues, and still it is getting overburdened with population for their education and sustenance means.

Government should introduce such policies and towns should be planned, keeping in mind the natural resources of area.

At Islamabad's water resources cannot afford population pressure, town management must not allow over the limit population ^{immigrations} increase in the city.

5. Equally developed cities and rural areas:

Following the town planning, the other problem is all of our cities and towns are not developed on equal footings. People have to move to big cities and towns for better educational and work opportunities. Such a drift of population and urbanization can be managed. If government start implementing policies to develop suburb areas as well. Development projects, such as educational institutes, hospitals, transport services, shopping malls, roads, infrastructure and public places must be developed and build in every suburb and country side.

7. Equal work opportunities must be available in every city:

Through the beginning of formerly mentioned development project, a large chunk of people will move to suburban areas as government will be providing the job opportunities to the masses. Because for these projects government must be in need of intellectuals, engineers, doctors, labors, and business entrepreneurs.

in those areas. This way government can push population from overly^{and} densely populated areas to less populated areas. This shift would lessen water scarcity pressure in cities.

8. Masses must be trained enough to store water while doing wadomestic chores.

One of the terrific problems is our people are not wary of water uses. They are unaware of facts that water is declining. Being Muslims, they have a belief system as "Allah will manage, Everything is done by Allah for a reason". Now is the time when we should train our masses about uses of water. Educational institutes could be conducive for this purpose. Children and youth must be trained enough to understand issue. As 42% of Pakistan's population is around 14. So, Pakistan has millions of mind who can be trained efficiently.

9. Media must propagate water scarcity issue and coping strategies.

The role of media in sensitizing

People can never be denied. In every household of Pakistan, people watch TV and dramas. So, government could utilize an active platform of media by propagating informations and by advertising instructions to improve efficiency of water us at domestic level.

10. Enhance Data collection and data sharing with public

Pakistan has always been a proponent of handling matters at global and national level, keeping aside domestic level. Today is the time when Pakistan must overt data and statistics with public through media, internet, social media and education institutes. So that every individual must take responsibility to play its role vigilantly and diligently. An individual-centred approach to handle issue is required.

11. Enhance understanding of nexus of (Food + energy + water).

Another positive effort to sensitize our

general public is to educate people about the nexus of food, energy and water. People should know that how water scarcity is affecting agricultural output and energy crisis, we have come to a stage when Pakistan has to order wheat from Russia and other countries after being an agricultural state. People should be aware of the fact that saving load shedding is not all government's fault, the pressure they themselves are putting on water resources is consequently disturbing other fields.

12. Pakistan should take initiative for hygienic condition and cleanliness.

A lot of ^{fresh} water resources are getting contaminated everyday because of excessive garbage and oil spillage. Government should implement policies to make shores of water lakes, canals and rivers clean. So, that no water go waste and people should also take responsibilities not to burdened open places and banks of water resources with garbage and liters. Policy makers should implement policies on industrial use of water and the way they are polluting water lakes with

their industrial wastes. Heavy fines and penalties must be imposed on households and industries that contaminate water resources. Meanwhile, fine collection must be ensured and corruption free to keep up balance and discipline in the running of this strategy.

13. Water dams (Kalaibagh) must be built managing disputes of provinces.

This is undeniable to accept that a collaborative and integrative approach could be used if governments keep their personal grudges aside. Nationalism and nation cause must be the first priority of people. As a nation, they can handle water crisis not till 2025 but for always but unity must be ensured by interprovincial collaboration. The construction of Kalaibagh could save Pakistan from increasing threat of floods and water scarcity.

CONCLUSION:

Whatever Pakistan does to avoid water issues, it cannot free itself from

extraordinarily judging hydro politics
and India's illegal dams construction.
Therefore, control on national level is
a must thing. Water management at
domestic level through collaborative
efforts and negotiations is possible. "We
are a nation, we exist together, therefore,
we should move on to secure its national
cause". Mohsin Rizvi