

TOPIC:

WATER CRISIS: CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES

OUTLINE

1. Introduction

- Thesis statement: Pakistan has been facing acute water crisis for some time now. There are numerous reasons behind it that have been affecting the country adversely. Through pragmatic approach, however, this issue can be solved for good.

2. Understanding water crisis in Pakistan

3. Causes behind water crisis in Pakistan:

(i) Poor hydro infrastructure in the country.

- Case in point: Out-dated canal system
10% water storage capability

(ii) Little investment in water-sector of the country

- Case in point: Only 3.7% of GDP spent
Rarely new dams or headworks

(iii) Agricultural practices consume most water build

- Case in point: Four crops account 80% of water
Poor irrigation methods

(iv) Vague policies for water security

- Case in point: 1% water is treated
No tax on depleting resource.

- (v) Lack of political will and awareness with respect to water security.
- Case in point: Despite national policy, no implementation. Unethical use even by domestic households.
- (vi) Violation of Indus-Water Treaty by India
- Case in point: 78% water comes from India Bagliar and Kishanganga Dam.

4. Consequences of water crisis on Pakistan:

- (i) Water logging and salinisation in fertile lands.
- Case in point: 1m ha of land is affected per year. Diminishes agricultural output.
- (ii) Scarcity in water supply in the cities.
- Case in point: 36% has access to non-contaminated water. Water mafia emerged in Karachi.
- (iii) Different environmental effects occur in the country.
- Case in point: Sea intrusion at Indus Delta. Flash flood are common.
- (iv) Affecting health and sanitation standards.
- Case in point: 60,000 deaths per year. Contaminated water is unavoidable.
- (v) Arousing conflicts among provinces over water distribution.
- Case in point: Sindh blames Punjab. Unmade Kalabagh Dam.
- (vi) Unwanted draughts and floods amid India's dominance over western tributaries of Indus.
- Case in point: 4% of economy is affected. Volume in Indus basin decreased.

5. Ways through which water crisis in Pakistan can be solved:

(i) Formulating good water-policies followed by its implementation

• Case in point: Equitable distribution of water
Regulate IRSA.

(ii) Transforming agriculture sector in the country

• Case in point: Drip irrigation method
Replace water-intensive crops

(iii) Engaging international community to counter the violation of ~~IRSA~~ IWR by India

• Case in point: Diplomatic approach
Engage WB and ICJ on it.

6. Conclusion

• THE ESSAY :

Prophet Muhammad (SAW) rightly said, "Do not waste water, even if you are at the running stream". This explains the significance of water, an irreplaceable mundane resource. Water has always been a significant element for humans. All the civilizations - Mesopotamians, Indus valley - had formed around rivers, namely Nile, Tigris and Indus. The reason behind it is that water gives life hence, prosperity. Even

Scientists search for water on extra-terrestrial planets to find the evidence of life.

Unfortunately, Earth is the only planet so far that had been blessed with this rare resource; yet humans decided to exploit it by all means. Unaware of its importance, many developing countries are driving themselves towards water scarcity like Afghanistan and Saudi Arabia. Pakistan is also among these countries despite having polar ice caps at its head unlike any other water-scarce nation.

There are various reasons that how a lower-riparian country with modest supply of fresh water ~~has~~ ^{is slowly} becoming water-scarce country.

Poor hydel infrastructure, dearth in investments, old agricultural practices, vague water policies, absence of political will and violation of Indus-water treaty by India are the major reasons for the surging water crisis in Pakistan. Gradually, it has resulted in water logging and sanitation problem. Along with it, the consequences can be seen in the urban areas where water trucks have become common. Besides, environmental phenomena, deteriorating health standards, rising conflicts among provinces over water and shrinking Indus basin are also its impacts. However, through formulating good policies, transforming agriculture and engaging in cooperation in IWT, water crisis can be solved. Every ill has its remedy, Pakistan needs to implement its own through management. Hence, it is evident

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now that Pakistan has been facing acute water-crisis for some time now. There are numerous reasons behind it that have been affecting the country adversely. Through pragmatic approach, however, this issue can be solved for good.

To begin with it is important to understand the context of water crisis in Pakistan. The country is home to ^{the} highest number of glaciers in the world, excluding Arctic zone. The father of all rivers, Indus, also lies here. Despite this, the country stands with barren and desert-like countries in water scarcity list. With 1000 meter cube of water per capita for an year, the country lies in water stress region. Along with it, only 55 billion cubic meter of water has been utilized out of 143 BCM, according to World Bank. Moreover, 28 million acre foot of water is lost per year in the form of drain into Arabian sea. These states paints a gloomy picture of Pakistan with respect to the management of its hydrel resources, adding more fuel in the fire of country's problems. Hence, water crisis is an issue that is unavoidable for Pakistan.