

Mock 1 2025

NAME = UMM-E-RUBAB

LMS ID = 37275

ESSAY:

"Water Crisis In PAKISTAN: A shared Responsibility of the Government and the People"

1 INTRODUCTION:

- Token: "Water is not only for life--- water is life."
- Global water scarcity ranking
- Thesis statement: The water crisis in Pakistan is a multifaceted issue that requires shared responsibility from both the government and the people for sustainable solutions.

2 Main Body:

2.1 Causes of water Crisis in Pakistan:

- Rapid population growth and urbanization
- Climate change and decreasing Rainfall
- Mismanagement of water resources
- Outdated irrigation methods and agricultural practices
- Lack of dams and water storage facilities

2.2 Government's Role and shortcomings:

- Inadequate infrastructure investment
- Failure to build new dams and reservoirs
- Weak enforcement of water management laws
- Lack of long-term water policies
- Inefficiencies in the Indus water treaty management

2.3 People's Contribution to the crisis:

- Water wastage in household
- Over use in agriculture (eg flood irrigation)
- Pollution of rivers and canals
- Lack of awareness at community level

2.4 Shared Responsibility:

- What the Government should do?
 - Develop National water Policy and enforce it
 - Invest in water-saving technologies and infrastructure
 - Construct more dams and reservoirs
 - Promote efficient irrigation methods
 - Launch nationwide awareness campaigns
- What citizens should do?
 - Adopt water conservation habits at home and work
 - Avoid polluting water bodies

- Embrace sustainable farming methods
- Participate in awareness and community conservation programs
- Support government initiatives on water conservation

3 CONCLUSION

ESSAYS

"Water is not only for life --- Water is life"

This quote by the United Nations Secretary General reflects the critical importance of water as a need that connects all aspects of human life.

People's well-being and their economic development are profoundly linked to the availability and usability of water.

Water is the essence of life. Yet, for a country like Pakistan, water once considered an abundant natural resource is becoming a scarce commodity.

Ranked among the most water-stressed countries in the world, Pakistan faces a crisis that threatens its agriculture, economy and survival. Pakistan is on the brink of becoming a water scarce nation with per capita water availability dropping from

5260 cubic meters in 1951 to below 1000 cubic meters. While this crisis is often attributed to government mismanagement, the truth is more nuanced. Both the government and the people share responsibility in creating - and now resolving - this looming disaster.

Several complex and interrelated factors contribute to Pakistan's growing water crisis. Firstly, the rapid population growth has drastically increased the demand of water. From about 30 million in 1947, Pakistan's population has crossed 240 million, putting immense pressure on water resources. Coupled with urbanization and industrial expansion, water needs have multiplied. Climate change also plays a pivotal role shifting weather patterns & declining rainfall and increased frequency of droughts are reducing natural water availability. Glaciers in the Himalayas, a major source of the Indus River, are melting at unpredictable rates, affecting seasonal flows.

Mismanagement is another core issue. Pakistan loses almost 60% of its water due to inefficient irrigation

systems ~~and~~, outdated canal networks and seepage. There is also a severe lack of water storage capacity. The country can store water only for 30 days, compared to India's 170 days and the global standard of 1000 days.

The Government of Pakistan bears significant responsibility for this crisis. Successive regimes have failed to invest in long term water infrastructure. The Kalabagh dam, a proposed project for decades, has remained shelved due to political disputes. Other projects like Diamer Basha Dam face delays in funding and execution. Water policies are often outdated or inconsistently enforced. The Indus waters Treaty with India, while historically important, is poorly managed domestically. Pakistan also lacks a comprehensive National water policy with clear implementation strategies. Moreover, institutional inefficiency and interprovincial conflicts have paralyzed coordinated responses to the water issue. Provincial irrigation departments often operate in solo, in little collaboration. Interprovincial water disputes continue to prevail on the division of water as per entitlement.

as per entitlements and sharing of shortages. Punjab and Sindh have been facing such disputes since pre-partition.

Sindh and Balochistan have also been facing similar disputes (Kishor and Rat Feeder Canals), as Balochistan is a lower riparian of Sindh and is unable to utilize its due share of water owing to inadequate infrastructure.

The question to be addressed is then is regarding the utilization of the share of Balochistan. Provinces are not entitled to market their utilization share of water as per the Accord, which is a limitation and may be rectified in future.

While it is easy to blame the state, the public also plays a significant role in exacerbating the crisis. Water wastage in daily life is rampant. In urban areas, residents frequently use hose pipes to wash cars and leave taps running while brushing teeth or washing dishes. In rural areas, farmers overuse water for irrigation, often using flood irrigation methods which waste huge quantities of water. This is partly due to lack of awareness and partly due to perception that water is a free

and infinite resource. Moreover, pollution by household and industries has made rivers and canals toxic, reducing the supply of clean water. Plastic waste, untreated sewage, and chemical runoff destroy ecosystems and render water unfit for use.

To address the crisis effectively, the government must take bold and strategic actions. First and foremost, Pakistan needs a comprehensive water policy that covers distribution, conservation, pricing and pollution control. The National Water Policy Draft of 2015 was circulated on the Directions of the Prime Minister of Pakistan in 2015 and identified 23 action areas, each segmented further into individual targets. It provides full support in areas of water resources development using perennial and flood waters, water harvesting, water management and groundwater recharge. Further investment in infrastructure - dams, reservoirs, water treatment plants, and efficient irrigation systems, is vital. The construction of projects like the Mohmand and Diamer-Bhaska Dams should be prioritized and depoliticized.

The government should also promote modern irrigation techniques such as drip and sprinkler irrigation, especially in agriculture which consumes over 90% of Pakistan's water. Public education campaigns are crucial. Media, schools, and community programs must promote the message that water conservation is everyone's responsibility. Finally, introducing a water pricing mechanism would discourage wastage and create funds for infrastructure development.

Additionally, citizens must recognize their role in conserving water. Simple daily actions can make a difference: Fixing leaky taps, using buckets instead of hose pipes, and turning off taps when not in use. Farmers, who are the largest consumers of water, should be educated and incentivized to use water efficient techniques. Involving local communities in water conservation projects, such as rainwater harvesting and community wells, can lead to sustainable outcomes. Moreover, people must stop polluting water bodies. Community lead cleanup drives, proper disposal of waste, and

Pressure on industries to treat waste water are necessary steps. Above all there must be a shift in public mindset: from viewing water as an unlimited gift to seeing it as a finite, shared resource that demands careful stewardship.

Other countries have set examples for their ~~ex~~ excellent water management practices. Singapore is a standout example known for its innovative water recycling and desalination technologies. Australia after facing a major drought in the early 2000s, introduced water recycling, metering and pricing and turning a crisis into a success story. Pakistan has also seen some positive initiatives. In Sindh, some farmer organizations have adopted water users associations for better distribution and conservation. Punjab's Irrigation Management Transfer (IMT) project encouraged community involvement in irrigation, showing that shared responsibility yields results.

The water crisis in Pakistan is not just an environmental issue; it is a national emergency. Both the government and the people have played a role in creating

This crisis, and both must be equally involved in solving it. Government must invest in infrastructure and enforce effective policies, while citizens must adopt sustainable habits and actively participate in conservation. Time is running out. If collective action is not taken today, the cost tomorrow will be devastating - economically, socially, and environmentally. The future of Pakistan's water security lies in a shared commitment, where every drop is valued and every action counts.
