

CLIMATE CHANGE IS A GOVERNANCE CRISIS MORE THAN AN ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE

A. Introduction

Thesis Statement: Climate change is a governance crisis more than an environmental issue due to which climate change disasters are inevitable. From inefficient policy making to lack of global cooperation, governance has failed to take societal, economical, and global measures to fight against climate change.

B. How Is Climate Change a Governance Crisis?

(Societal level)

1. Lack of concrete policies towards climate (Pakistan's hollow climate policy)
2. Poor contribution in infrastructure development (Rural areas in Sindh prone to climate disaster).

3. Construction on river fronts and blaming floods
(Building schemes in Lahore built on Ravi)

4. Inefficient efforts in disaster management
(Lack of funding of National Disaster Management Authority)

(Economic level)

5. Lack of ~~governmental~~ subsidies for industries
to switch to renewables.
(Industries using cheap coal)

6. No real investments in sustainable energy

(Government taking solar panels instead of investing in renewable energy)

7. Lack of policies for taxing carbon emissions

8. Development projects that ignore climate impacts

(Investments in mining of minerals and fossil fuels)

(Global level)

9. Electing climate skeptics as leaders
("Greatest con job ever", "green scam" - Donald)

10. Lack of accountability on an international level.

(China and India remain #1 polluters of the world)

11. Governments indulging in dialogue and no action

(COP summits targets of phasing out ~~CO2~~ ~~CO2~~ of carbon but no proper framework) ~~now the plan~~

12. Inefficiency of Climate financing and cooperation

(Failure to allocate "loss and damage" fund of COP29)

C. How can Governments Take Steps to Fight Against Climate Change?

1. Framing a realistic climate policy with time bound targets

2. Improving rural infrastructure to protect from floods

3. Provision of incentives for industries to switch to renewables

4. Attracting foreign direct investments in renewable energy sector

5. Tapping into international aids to help climate affected individuals

D. Conclusion

A farmer sees his crops destroyed by flashing floods of monsoon, a mother taking his son to hospital due to a sun stroke after school — this is not just climate change but lack of policies, carbon emissions and government's inability to provide a proper infrastructure to public. While the governance invests in mining projects and fossil fuels, deteriorating the environment and threatening the climate, an individual citizen suffers. While the governments wear their suits and talk about climate change in global summits and refuse real accountability, their efforts to improve climate change impacts laughs at them. It is no doubt that climate change is an environmental issue but governance has had a fair share in triggering ~~of the~~ climate change disasters. If government had provided the farmer with infrastructure and warning of floods and taxed those industries who deteriorate the ozone, such atrocities would not be normalized. Hence, climate change is more of a governance crisis due to which climate change disasters are inevitable. From inefficient ~~policy~~ policy making to lack of global cooperation, governance has failed to take societal, economical and global measures to fight against climate change.

Climate change is a governance crisis rather than an environmental issue in the following ways :

Governance has failed in proper framework of concrete policies for climate measures that are efficient on an individual level. Climate framework and its policies must be implemented so that it can prove to get real results. Pakistan inefficient climate policy is an example of a hollow and unrealistic framework with ~~low~~ targets like sixty percent switch to renewables and a thirty percent switch to electric vehicles, such targets are impractical and does not address the root cause of problems. Such ineffective policies do not observe that how will Pakistan practically switch to renewables when most of its industries operate on cheap coal and its streets are filled with cost efficient bikes and rickshaws, for the policy to be successful by 2030. Therefore, governments hollow policies and lack of real measurable result have contributed to worsening of climate change impacts.

Government's inefficiencies are also highlighted through poor infrastructure and buildings, highly prone to climate disasters. Its lack of contribution in

developing strong infrastructure and drainage systems have made an individual citizen blame the environment rather than hold the government accountable. Rural areas in Sindh are a sheer example of government's lack of interest in building and improving the infrastructure. Whenever the monsoon season arrives or scorching heat takes over, people living in rural areas experience the deprivation of a proper infrastructure first hand. Therefore, governance ineffectiveness in construction of infrastructures play a great role in experiencing climate change severities.

In addition to, governments also allow illegal construction sites on river fronts and later when the river roars back, everybody seems to blame the water and climate change. During the 2025 monsoon, Lahore suffered from heavy flooding in Ravi river due to which people living in the vicinity of the river front faced huge losses. This is what happens when governments build illegal homes and bound the river then label it as climate change. Such projects and actions are entirely due to government's ignorance as it fails to understand that whenever the weather will worsen, the river will come back to its rightfully owned land, not