

Date: 20-10-2025

Day: Monday

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Disaster Management in Pakistan: Challenges & Way Forward

Outline

1- Introduction

2- Pakistan is facing disaster in every decade due to bad governance, recurring and devastating phenomena, lack of resource and Indian factor, but it can be resolved by opting good strategies, improving infrastructure and management process.

3- Challenges

I- Natural

- (i) Recurring and devastating Phenomena.
- (ii) Unpredictable Weather pattern.

II- Man-Made problem

- (i) Indian factor
- (ii) Lack of resources and flow of information
- (iii) Human Psychological factor
- (iv) Provisional disputes
- (v) Poor policy making and implementation.

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4- Way Forward

- i- Improving infrastructure
- ii- Responsibilities at grassroots level
- iii- Advancement of Institutes (PMD, NMDA, DDMA)
- iv) Training of personnel
- v) Fair allocation of resources

5- Conclusion

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Despite of having four seasons, enriched by natural resources, vast plains, lush greens and magnificent valleys, Pakistan faces disaster in every decade. Pakistan failed to manage recurring and devastating disasters due to lack of interaction/exchange of information among numerous institute of Pakistan (NDMA, PMD), provisional disputes, Indian factor, and human psychological factors, these challenges can be resolved by improving infrastructure, fair distribution of resources, engaging the national institutes, distributing responsibilities at district level.

The disaster would be managed better in this way.

Disaster usually refers to the nature.

Disaster is a phenomena that lead to destruction at a large scale. It can include the floods, torrential rain, earthquakes, hailing and thunder storm.

Disaster although is a natural event but it could be happen due to the negligence of the humans. The human induced activities are changing the natural pattern. One of the most significant reason is global warming. Global warming lead to climate change, which causes the

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change in weather pattern. The glaciers melting, change/rise in temperature, etc. the main driver. To control on the global warming we should opt the mitigating strategies.

Pakistan contribute only 1% of the fossil fuel combustion but it face 30% of the effect of global warming. Pakistan is facing numerous challenges to manage the disaster effectively. Following are the reasons.

Disaster are the recurring and devastating phenomena in the history of Pakistan. Pakistan faces a major flood in its history just in 5 years. The 2022 flood was the largest flood in history of indus and 2025 flood was largest in the history of Punjab after 1988. In 2022, it nearly all provinces were affected, but in 2025, it affects nearly $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of the Punjab. The reason of the recurring of phenomena that we do not learn any lesson from the past.

The second most import challenge to Pakistan is bad governance and lack of implementation of policies at national, district and grassroot level. The government did not take the preventive

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measure before the alarming situation. The human psychological factor is also an hurdle to manage the disaster effectively. The people in Pakistan are mostly emotion driven. They feel attachment to their land and their homes. They feel resistant when government announced to evacuate. They stuck at their homes and it would difficult for government to rescue the people from unknown places.

Thirdly, the unpredictable weather (pre monsoon) is also an hurdle in disaster management policies. Monsoon comes 15 days earlier from the previous year. It affect not only disaster management policies but also the agriculture pattern in Pakistan. Usually the monsoon season start in mid of August, but this year it start in June-July. It led to the unusual rainfall. These torrential rainfall subject to the flood. The Buner face the highest rain in its history. The 90mm rain was recorded in Peshawar. These led to hurdle in the disaster management.

Fourthly, the provisioned disputes among the provinces on resource allocation are the most significant one.

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ISRA approved the 6 canal in all four federating unit but Sindh opposed it that it would led to water shortage in ~~Pakista~~ Sindh.

Because the Punjab is upper riparian and Sindh is low. The agriculture cultivation season start 15-20 days earlier in Sindh than Punjab. If the canals build, the Punjab will store maximum of water and Sindh would definitely affect. By table talk and by fair allocation of resource it can be resolved easily.

The Indian factor is a challenge to Pakistan. Pakistan face disaster mostly because of India. Smog is one of them. The burning of wheat crop in Punjab, India led to the worst smog in Lahore, Punjab and Lahore indicate at no. 4 among the most populated city. Same as, in the case of 2025 flood, due to unilateral suspension of Indus Water Treaty" India released water without informing Pakistan. The Chenab, Satluj and Ravi were filled at brim and causes destruction in Pakistan. By improving diplomatic channels, bilateral revival of IWT, and table talk, the Indian factor can be mitigate.

The disaster management is not only the function of National Disaster Management Authority and Pakistan Meteorological Department, although it is a hierarchical process. In Pakistan the flow of information among institute is very low. The department donot interact with each other. By info And this led to poor policy formulation and definitely it led to the improper implementation of the policy. $\Rightarrow$ The hurdle in disaster management is the fund. Pakistan donot have sufficient fund to improve its infrastructure. Like dams and canals, Seminars, awareness campaign etc. They donot have sufficient amount of boats, medical aids, food supply etc.

These forementioned challenges plays a crucial role in disaster management. The challenge can be mitigate or overcome by adopting the relevant policies, improving infrastructure, to distribute / allocate responsibilities at the district level, training of personnel and fair distribution of resources. The way forward / solution are given as

Firstly, improving the satellite and communication system by interacting the geological and

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metreological department of Pakistan: It will predict you the weather condition, rainfall pattern and a image of the region. The image technology is used in Punjab in 2005 flood to monitor the flood affected area.

Secondly to prevent the disaster either by the naturally (Torrential rainfall) or man made induced (Indian factor), Pakistan should improve its infrastructure.

Such as by building dams and canals. Pakistan has potential to save and distribute water in future. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has more than 400 sites for dams and Balochistan has more than 70 sites. By building dams, the severe effects of flood can be minimized.

Thirdly, allocation of responsibilities at grassroot level such as District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMA). They will interact with NDMA and PND and will make preventive policies, displaying charts and beware the people by sending them SMS and announcement in loudspeakers. The district authorities can manage the disaster well as compared to the provisional authorities.

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Training of personnel is an important strategy to manage the disaster effectively. The training of institute like 1122, Pak army and Pak Navy play an important role to control the circumstances.

They rescue the people, provide them first aid, shelter and food and safely reached them at camp or the safe place.

The last but not the least, the most important solution is the fair distribution of resources among the province, not only the base of population but on the base of need and area.

This way, each province can make the proper policies and implement them well.

Conclusion

Disaster comes/arises from nature as Allah Said in Quran "We will test you by the loss of wealth and lives", but it is necessary to take the preventive measures. (The challenges arise from the man made activities and naturally induced are less in numbers.) The Challenges to disaster management are human factor as well as natural factors, bad governance to the unpredictable weather.

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pattern. The challenges can be mitigate by opting good policies, training of personnel, by improving the infrastructure and improving the management structure of Pakistan. Although it seems to difficult but allocating good budget can solve the problem and Pakistan will face loss as low can expect.