

MOCK TEST - I

Name = Ayesha Younas

Batch # 84

Subject = English Essay.

Disaster Management in Pakistan; Challenges and Way Forward

Outline

1. Introduction :

1.1 Hook

1.2 Background

1.3 Thesis statement: Despite being naturally disaster prone, Pakistan's recurring catastrophes are worsened by poor governance, lack of preparedness and environmental mismanagement. Effective disaster management demands institutional reform, technological innovation, community resilience and sustainable planning to build a truly disaster-resilient Pakistan.

2. Disaster Management: Concept and Importance.

2.1 Meaning and Scope.

2.1.1. Encompasses mitigation, recovery, preparedness process.

2.1.2. Minimizes loss of livelihood and infrastructure.

2.1.3. Includes both natural and man-made disasters.

2.1.4. Focuses on long term resilience rather than short-term relief.

2.2 Importance for a Developing country.

2.2.1. Pakistan among top 10 disaster prone nations.

2.2.2. Disasters put millions into poverty.

2.2.3. Economic losses exceeds, derailing development.

2.2.4. Important for climate adaptation and sustainability.

2.3. Pakistan's Hazard Profile.

2.3.1. Exposed to such disasters.

2.3.2. Majority lives in disaster prone regions.

2.3.3. Increasing urban risks due to poor planning.

3. Major Disasters in Pakistan: A Historical Overview

3.1. 2005 Kashmir Earthquake.

3.2. 2010 Super Floods.

3.3. 2022 Climate Induced Floods.

3.4. 2025 Monsoon - Flash Floods.

4. Major Challenges in Pakistan's Disaster Management.

4.1. Weak institutional coordination

4.1.1. Overlapping roles among NDMA, PDMA and DDMA.

4.1.2. Lack of cooperative commands during emergencies.

4.1.3. Political and bureaucratic hurdles.

4.1.4. Fragmented disaster response policies.

4.2. Poor preparedness and Early Warning

4.2.1. Inadequate forecasting and communicating technology.

4.2.2. Lack of public awareness.

4.2.3. 2022 Floods as a failure of warning dissemination.

4.3. Financial and Resource constraints

4.3.1 Disaster management receiving little percentage of GDP.

4.3.2 Heavy reliance on donor agencies.

4.3.3 Funds often misused and delayed

4.4. Environmental and Socioeconomic vulnerabilities

4.4.1 Deforestation, river encroachments and poor land use.

4.4.2 Loss of wetlands and urban flooding

4.4.3 Poverty forces to live in hazard prone zones.

4.4.4 Lack of insurance and social political systems.

5. The Way Forward : Building a Resilient Pakistan.

5.1. Strengthening institutional Framework.

5.1.1. Revise the NDMA Act (2010).

5.1.2 Define clear roles for NDMA, PDMA and ODMA.

5.1.3. Establish National Disaster Response Force.

5.1.4. Ensure annual audits and transparency in relief operations.

S.2. Investment in Preparedness and Warning Systems.

S.2.1 Expand meteorological and GIS-based monitoring networks.

S.2.2 ^{vel} Develop advanced mobile based warning systems.

S.2.3 Build pendulum systems in buildings.

S.3. Promoting sustainable urban and Environmental Planning.

S.3.1 Enforce building codes in seismic and flood prone areas.

S.3.2 Restore wetlands and forests as natural disasters.

S.3.3 Integrate green infrastructure in urban planning.

S.4. Enhancing Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CDBRR).

S.4.1 Empower govt. for awareness programs.

S.4.2 Include disaster education in school curricula.

S.4.3 Form community-based early response committees.

S.5. Ensuring Financial Resilience and Policy continuity.

S.5.1. Allocating specific budget for DRR. (Disaster Risk Reduction).

S.5.2. create a national emergency relief fund.

S.5.3. Take account of funds being used effectively.

S.5.4. Link disaster policy with SDGs and Vision 2025 for continuity.

6. Conclusion.

ESSAY:

"Disasters don't click people - poor governance, unpreparedness and mismanagement do". Nature's fury is beyond human control, yet its impacts often reflect human failure. From the catastrophic 2005 earthquake to the devastating 2022 and 2025 floods, Pakistan has repeatedly faced disasters that expose cracks in governance, planning and

preparedness. However, what turns these natural hazards into full-blown humanitarian crises is not nature alone - it is the absence of foresight, institutional coordination and sustainable planning. Despite decades of experience, Pakistan's disaster management remains reactive rather than preventive. Relief efforts often follow destruction, while risk reduction and early preparedness receives minimal attention. With climate change intensifying global patterns, Pakistan stands on the frontline of vulnerability.

While Pakistan's geography makes it naturally disaster prone, its repeated catastrophes stem primarily from poor governance, lack of preparedness and environmental degradation.

Strengthening disaster management demands institutional reform, community resilience, technological innovation, and a sustainable policy implementation to build a disaster-resilient Pakistan.

Disaster management, in essence is a continuous process that involves mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. It is not a short-term reaction but a long term system of resilience building that requires foresight, coordination and sustainability.

In countries like Pakistan where 40 percent of the population lives below the poverty line, disasters have a multiplier effect. They destroy infrastructure, uproot communities, deepen poverty and push millions further into deprivation. Therefore, disaster management is here not merely about saving lives in emergencies but about protecting development gains, reducing vulnerability and ensuring long-term sustainability. Pakistan being at the crossroads of diverse geological and climate zones. Its northern areas are seismically active, southern plains facing floods and arid zones enduring recurrent droughts. The nation's complex

topography coupled with unregulated urbanization, deforestation and poor land management has made it a hotspot for multiple hazards. The 2023 Global Climate Index ranked Pakistan among the top ten most vulnerable countries to climate-related disasters. However, despite this alarming risk profile, Pakistan's approach remains largely reactive - emphasizing relief after devastation rather than prevention before it.

Pakistan's history is punctuated with devastating disasters that offer painful yet instructive lessons. The 2005 Kashmir Earthquake remains one of the tragic in history, killing more than 73,000 people and leaving millions homeless. The destruction of schools, hospitals and communication networks exposed vulnerability of Pakistan's infrastructure and absence of disaster resilient planning. It was the aftermath

of this tragedy that NDMA was established, signaling the beginning of a more institutional approach towards disaster management. But creating institutions without strengthening them in practice yields limited results. The 2010 super floods marked another dark chapter.

Triggered by unprecedented monsoon rains, the floods affected nearly $\frac{1}{5}$ th of country's landmass and displaced 20 million people. There was huge economic loss experienced and the rehabilitation process dragged on for years. While nature unleashed torrential rains, human negligence magnified the tragedy - poorly maintained embankments, encroachments along riverbanks and lack of early warning systems turned a natural event into a colossal humanitarian crisis. After that, 2022 floods submerged one-third of the country. Over 33 million people were affected and damages were

estimated around 30 million dollars.

Most recently, the 2025 monsoon floods reinforced Pakistan's standing as one of the world's climate-vulnerable nations. Between June and September 2025, torrential rains and glacial melt triggered devastating floods across KPK, Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan and Azad Kashmir. More than a thousand people lost their lives and thousands of homes, roads and even bridges were washed away. The floods were aggravated by poor drainage systems, encroachment on waterways and inadequate preparedness. Once again, communities with low-lying districts were left stranded without timely evacuation or relief. Pakistan's disaster management system remains trapped in a cycle of response rather than prevention. The institutional framework for disaster management in Pakistan is structured

under the NDMA Act, 2010. The NDMA, is responsible for policy formulation and national-level coordination while PDMA handles implementation at provincial level. The NDMA though empowered by law often operates with limited autonomy and funding. Its coordination with PDMA and PDMA's suffer from bureaucratic hurdles, overlapping mandates, lack of clarity in responsibilities. Provinces especially Balochistan and Sindh lack trained manpower and technical infrastructure to deal with emergencies, leaving district authorities unprepared when disaster strikes.

Pakistan's challenges in disaster management stem from systemic and structural issues rather than isolated inefficiencies. The foremost challenge is weak institutional coordination. The absence of unified command system during emergencies leads to duplication & delays in response.

Relief goods often fail to reach those most in need. Coordination breakdown was recently seen in 2025 floods where overlapping jurisdictions led to confusion in rescue operations and delayed mobilization of resources. Secondly, Pakistan's early warning system remains outdated with limited meteorological coverage in remote and mountainous regions. Information dissemination is slow and ineffective; warnings rarely reach the most vulnerable communities in time.

Moreover, regular emergency drills, training programs, and community education - the hallmarks of disaster preparedness, are largely absent from Pakistan's policy framework. Financial constraints further weaken the system. DM receives less than 0.05% of GDP in annual budget allocations. This less funding increases dependence on donors. However,

relief funds often mismanaged or delayed due to the red tape and corruption, eroding public trust. After 2010 floods, audit reports revealed misallocation of billions in aid, a pattern followed some by 2022 and likewise 2025 floods. Environmental mismanagement adds another layer of vulnerability. Rapid deforestation, unregulated construction and encroachments on waterways have disrupted ecological balance and intensified disasters. Socioeconomic vulnerabilities such as poor and marginalized are disproportionately affected as they often reside in high risk zones due to lack of affordable housing. This disaster management in Pakistan is deeply intertwined with broader issues of governance, development and social justice.

To move forward, Pakistan must embrace a paradigm shift from reactive relief measures to proactive

risk reduction and resilience-building.

First, the institutional framework should be strengthened. The NDMA Act 2010 need revision to clarify roles, ensure financial economy and enhance accountability.

Coordination among NDMA, PDMA and DDMA's must be streamlined

through a centralized command system.

The creation of dedicated National

Disaster Response Force modeled

after India's NDRF, can provide

trained manpower capable of

handling emergencies with efficiency.

Investment in preparedness and

early warning systems is vital.

Pakistan must modernized its

meteorological infrastructure using

satellite technology, GIS mapping

and drones for real time

surveillance. Early warning systems

should be community-oriented,

using mobile alerts. Bangladesh

Cyclone preparedness program which

reduced fatalities drastically over

the years through community-based alerts and shelters can serve as a model for Pakistan's flood prone areas. By establishing the damping technique (using pendulum) in buildings to limit disaster destruction just like in Japan and Taiwan.

Pakistan must adopt sustainable land use policies that prohibit construction on floodplains, seismic fault zones. Building codes must be strictly enforced. Urban planning should integrate green infrastructure, proper drainage, restoration of wetlands serve as natural defenses against floods and cyclones. The 2025 flood demonstrated that nature's barriers, once destroyed cannot be replaced by concrete. Equally important is enhancing community-based disaster risk reduction. Disaster management cannot be effective unless communities themselves become the first line of defense. Local

councils, NGOs and Youth organisations should be trained. Incorporation of disaster knowledge in school curriculum would enhance awareness and responsibility from an early age. The success of Nepal's community-based led earthquake resilience programs shows how empowering people at grassroots can dramatically reduce losses. Lastly, financial resilience is another indispensable component. Pakistan must allocate a fixed amount for disaster-reduction programs rather than relying on emergency funds post-disaster. Establishing a National Emergency Relief Fund can protect both individuals as well as businesses against economic shocks. There should be a complete lookup on the funds whether they are being utilised effectively or not. If not, strict action should be taken regarding it. Linking disaster management

with national development frameworks such as Vision 2025 and SDGs will ensure continuity and political commitment beyond govt. tenures.

In conclusion, disasters in Pakistan are not just a manifestation of nature's unpredictability but a reflection of human neglect and systemic fragility. Each calamity has carried the same lesson; nature may strike but human failure multiplies its impact. The time has come for Pakistan to learn that prevention is far cheaper and far more humane than cure. By reforming institutions, investing in preparedness, empowering communities and restoring environment, Pakistan can transform its vulnerability into resilience. The goal should not be merely to survive the next disaster but to be ready for it. Only then can Pakistan truly move from being a victim of disasters to a model of resilience in the developing world.