

Disaster Management in Pakistan: Challenges and Way forward.

1 Introduction:

Thesis Statement:

Disaster management inefficiency is one of the core issue of Pakistan management system. There are several challenges faced by the disaster management authority in the form of governmental inefficiencies, lack of investment and weak management structure. However, it can be improved by introducing different structural reforms and enhancing accountability.

2) Disaster Management System of Pakistan.

3) Causes of disasters in Pakistan.

- a) Global warming as a major cause of catastrophe.
- b) World utilization of fossil fuels.
- c) Inefficiencies of disaster management authorities.
- d) Improper dams sites and inefficient

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policy plans.

4) Challenges that hinder disaster management system.

- a) Governmental inefficiencies as a measure challenge.
- b) Weak economic bases also acts as an obstacle and challenge.
- c) Political polarisation and riots suppresses disaster management growth.
- d) Lack of investment in disaster management system; serves as a key challenge.
- e) Poverty also determines the fate of nation towards disaster management.
- f) Lack of cooperation between masses and the authorities.
- g) Weak state elite and Technological bases also serves as a challenge.

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5) Ways that lead toward efficient and effective disaster management

- a) Stability of government:
a major way forward.
- b) Investment and allocation of the fund to the management authority.
- c) Reduction of poverty and attracting foreign investment.
- d) Restructuring management system and introducing reforms.
- e) Enhancing accountability among the management authority.
- f) Proper implementation of constitution; Article 14D.
- g) Promoting innovative ways and enhancing technological bases.

6) Case study of India in comparison with Pakistan management authority.

7) Conclusion.

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Once there was a village on the edge of which a river flows. After heavy ^{rainy} flooding, the river was overflowed. Then the management authority of the ^{village} country started alarms and sirens but unfortunately the water swept away the whole village. The same is the situation of Pakistan ~~in~~ during environmental calamities. The management authorities of Pakistan remain silent before the calamities and did not take proper steps. But when the calamities stick the country, then they start ^{sirens} ~~sirens~~ and ^{alarms} ~~alarms~~. This weak structure of Pakistan management authority is due to several challenges faced by the management system in Pakistan. It includes governmental inefficiencies, weak economic bases and political riots. Along with these, lack of investment in the management sector also acts as a major challenge. Poverty is one of the major challenge due to which

majority countries are unable to resolve their management issues. Along with poverty, lack of cooperation among masses, weak technological bases and constitutional inefficiencies hinders the progress of disaster management authority. Although, these inefficiencies can be improved by introducing a stable form of government, reducing poverty and enhancing foreign direct investment. One of the best way to overcome management challenges is to bring reforms and checks and balances. However, disaster management inefficiency is one of the core issue of Pakistan management system faced by several challenges in the form of governmental inefficiencies and weak structure. But, introducing different constitutional and structural reforms can lead to very effective and efficient disaster management system.

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Disaster management system of Pakistan is the system introduced by Pakistani government in order to control and mitigate different disasters. The disaster management system is working in its different forms in different provinces of Pakistan. Among them the national disaster management authority ^(NDMA) is well known. Their task is to inform the public regarding different environmental calamities on time, but unfortunately the management authorities had shown a weak progress. The evident example of the inefficiencies of DMA of Pakistan is the 2022 floods that had resulted in the destruction of more than 3 billion people country wide. **(PIDE 2024 report)**. Although the recent floods also present the grim picture of our Management system. However, by

introducing proper structural and constitutional reform these authorities have the capability of can be improved.

These are several causes that had lead to different catastrophs and disasters in ^{natural} Pakistan. The major cause for disasters is the global warming. Due to global warming the temperature of the world had risen by 1.5°C . According to world meteorological report of 2024; the ²¹ july was recorded as the hottest day in the history of the world. This rises in temperature is responsible for various disasters and catastrophs in Pakistan. From 1990 - 2022, Pakistan had hit by more than 30 environmental calamities. (According to the PIDE, 2024). Hence, global warming is one of the

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major cause of disasters in Pakistan.

Not just global warming but the utilization of fossil fuels by the entire world also results in environmental destruction. Most of the advanced countries are utilising fossil fuels but their consequences are faced by the developing countries. According to the global energy outlook report of 2025, the China utilizes 11 million tons of coal while Pakistan contribution to the world utilization of fossil fuels is only 0.5%. Thus, global utilization of fossil fuel is also one of the major cause of climate disasters in Pakistan.

Along with fossil fuels utilization, the inefficiencies of the management authorities also leads toward catastrophes.

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The 2022 floods represents the grim picture of Pakistan management authorities. The 2022 flood resulted in the destruction of the million of lives and loss of billion of infrastructure. These all damages were the result of the DMA inefficiencies. (IPRI, 2025)
Hence, it can be depicted that management authority of Pakistan also had a hand in the destruction of the country.

Not just the management authorities are responsible for different disasters in the country but the state has played its role in country destruction. The country lost the race of the technology and is far behind the world in the technological bases.

In the global competitive Index Pakistan ranks 138th, which clearly depicts that Pakistan had lost the race.

For satellites and space technology, Pakistan is dependent on the Chinese and American system.

From 1990, Pakistan had not even conducted any successful mission of satellites in the space. Hence, it clearly depicts that weak technological bases are also responsible for the country destruction.

All these environmental calamities are due to inefficiencies of the Disaster management authorities in Pakistan. These inefficiencies are due to several challenges. The most important challenge is the government inefficiency. The government of Pakistan is ineffective and inefficient. It is unable to implement new policies and maintain checks and balances on the management authorities. **The governmental inefficiencies are clearly visible from**

the calamities that struck Pakistan since 1990 and had resulted in the loss of more than 4 Trillion dollar.

(Climate risk report, 2025). Hence from the above facts and figure it can be clearly depicted that governmental inefficiencies also serves as a major challenges to the disaster management in Pakistan.

Along with the disaster management governmental inefficiencies, the weak economic bases of the country is also responsible for the improper disaster management of the country. Due to weak economic bases the country is unable to take its own steps and introduce its own policies. Pakistan is one of the clear picture of economic inefficiencies and weak economic bases due to which the country is unable

to take its own measure and initiatives. Since its inception, Pakistan has received more than 24 loans from IMF. Due to which the country implement foreign policies and rules and is unable to adopt its own plans and policies. Hence, from the above data we can clearly says that weak economic bases had also serves as a major challenge in improving disaster management in Pakistan.

Along with weak economic bases, political riots also suppresses the disaster management growth. Since, 2022, Pakistan is a continuous battle ground for political riots and clashes. Due to these riots several policies had been held in abeyance and several were discarded. According to The world bank report of 2022, the country had been hit by the

worse environmental calamities and suffered a loss of more than 3 million life. All these losses were due to the lack of proper policies implementation and political instability of the country. Hence, political instability also serves as a major challenge towards disaster management in Pakistan.

Due to political instability, the country is unable to invest in the disaster management authority. Its most of the budget is spend on suppressing the political riots.

According to Shehbaz Rana, Pakistan investment plunged to 50 year low, July 2024, the Pakistan foreign investment in the management authorities plunged to 50 years low in the history due to political instability and public riots. When the investment decreases, so the

authorities become inefficient and ineffective to take immediate steps and initiatives. Hence, political low investment in management authority is also one of the challenge in improving management authorities. Lack of

Not just, investment negatively affect the management system of Pakistan but it also results in poverty. Due to poverty, the state focus more on the food security issues rather than investing in management system. **According to the world bank report of 2024,** more than 40 million population of Pakistan lies below the poverty line and the government of Pakistan is suffering to provide them with basic necessities of life. Thus, it can be clearly stated that poverty also serves

as a challenge for the disaster management in Pakistan.

Poverty leads toward lack of cooperation among masses and the authorities. The masses did not trust their officials and follow their policies which further hinders the progress of disaster management. According to the article published in dawn newspaper, three countries; three uprising, September, 2025; the three countries Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka saw severe form of people uprising and distrust among the public and the masses. These uprising severely affected the management system of the countries and shattered their management progress. Thus, it can also be stated that lack of cooperation among masses and public also hinders the progress of disaster management.

authorities.

Not just cooperation but weak technological bases is another major challenge to the disaster management system in Pakistan. Due to weak technological bases the country is unable to predict the environmental disasters and calamities. The 2022 floods were due to extreme ~~stroke~~ heat wave in Pakistan but the NDMA was unable to predict it timely and it resulted in the destruction of million of lives. (Economic survey of Pakistan 2024-2025). Hence weak technological bases also serve as a challenge towards disaster management authority.

All these challenges can be overcome by ~~imdr~~ introducing new strategies and techniques. Among them the most important

way forward is to establish efficient and effective government.

When stable government is established for a fixed tenure, the government introduce different policies and initiate them.

According to the world bank report 2024,

Pakistan showed its weakest

performance during 2022-2025.

According to economic survey

of Pakistan 2022-2023, Pakistan

GDP growth was plunged to the decade low due to political instability and instable government. Hence, introducing stable government is one of the best way forward to mitigate challenges that had hinder disaster management process.

Along with stable government, introducing foreign investment and allocation in the management authorities can help mitigate

different challenges. Pakistan attracted the most foreign investment during 1960-1990 and had shown a significant progress in the management system. During the time, Pakistan was one of the fastest growing economy and were able to mitigate most of the environmental calamities despite of the wars with India. Hence, attracting foreign investments and allocations in management sector can also improve disaster management in Pakistan.

When investment is made in different sectors so poverty is reduced. Economically rich countries are able to mitigate the environmental calamities more properly and efficiently than developing countries. India though the second largest

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consumer of fuels in the world still is able to manage disaster because of attracting foreign investment in different sectors.

(The time to amend constitution, September, 2025 Dawn news paper). Hence, it clearly shows that reducing poverty and attracting foreign investment can also help mitigate different challenges in the way of disaster management.

Not just poverty reduction is the way forward, but the major way forward is the restructuring of the management system and introducing reforms. The outdated system should be transformed with new system.

Though Pakistan is still following the old policies and structures of the British act and government of India act of 1985 with little reforms. Hence, proper reforms

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in the structure of the management system can help mitigate different challenges in the way of disaster management.

Along with restructuring the institution, enhancing accountability is also essential way forward for enhancing and improving disaster management authority.

Due to lack of transparency and accountability the government officials are unable to perform their tasks performely. According to the Transparency report of 2024, Pakistan had shown a very worse performance and were rank ranked below 140th. Hence, introducing accountability and transparency can help mitigate different challenges and ~~enhance~~ enhance disaster management system.

Not just enhancing accountability

and transparency but proper implementation of constitutional articles are important. The 140A of the Pakistan constitution declare for the establishment of the local government and acquiring the authority to keep checks on the public for establishing buildings and commercial sites at environmentally risk sites. Though it is never properly implemented in Pakistan. Hence, proper implementation of constitution can help to mitigate challenges faced by the disaster management authorities and system.

Along with proper implementation of constitution, promoting new ideas and ways are important for disaster management in Pakistan. Improved technological bases can help mitigate different

environmental calamities. Advanced countries like Singapore, Denmark and Finland had adopted new technologies and hence is able to mitigate environmental calamities. According to global energy outlook report, 2025, China and India is the largest consumer of fossil fuels but due to improved technological bases and renewable energy utilization they are able to mitigate environmental calamities. Hence, adopting improved technological bases and innovation innovative ways can help to improve disaster management system in Pakistan.

The case study of India in mitigating environmental calamities and disaster management is crystal clear. The India has introduced

very efficient and effective local government system that keeps checks and ~~data~~ balances. Although in Pakistan the local government is very weak and inefficient. Though no proper local government elections are even held after 2018. Though the Pakistan contribution in the renewable energy is very low while the India is among the largest contributor towards the renewable energy sources. Hence, if Pakistan adopt these strategies and techniques it can improve its disaster management system.

In nutshell, we can say that disaster management inefficiency is one of the core issue of Pakistan faced by several challenges and impediments. Among the various challenges some prominent are governmental inefficiencies, weak economic

bases, political polarisation, lack of investment and poverty. The lack of cooperation, weak technological bases and constitutional inefficiencies are some of the prominent challenges that hinder the progress of country in disaster management. Although by adopting new strategies, improving governmental structures, reducing poverty and introducing reforms the disaster management system of Pakistan can be improved.

Along with these proper implementation of constitution and promoting innovative ways ~~are~~ also ~~one of~~ the major way forwards to be noted. Hence, a very famous proverb can ~~clearly~~ be used in this scenario that "Necessity is the mother of invention". According to Ishvari Parshad "Resources are not limited but the wish to use them."