

RWP-05-15

"DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN PAKISTAN: CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD"

Outline:

1- INTRODUCTION

- Background
- Thesis Statement

2- CHALLENGES

2.1) Controlling Climate Change

- a) Institutional Weaknesses
- b) Economical Constraints

2.2) Centralized Management Approach

- a) NDMA is a federal institution
- b) Provinces rely on center for management

2.3) Differential Vulnerability Conditions

a) Women and Children
face more risk.

b) Less Female rescue workers
than male workers

2.4) Absence of Integration Framework

a) NDMA and NDRMA
work separately

b) Deployment of Army, Rescue
1122 and other institutions
required an integrated
framework.

2.5) Strained Relations with India

a) India stores flood water
and then open valves to
surprise Pakistan

b) India didn't used Indus
Water Treaty channel to
inform Pakistan during 2025
floods.

3. Way Forward

3.1) Decentralization by Empowering Local Governments

a) Local Governments can provide a timely and effective response to any calamity.

b) Flood Resilient Infrastructure and Early Warning Systems must be developed under local governments.

3.2) Cross Sectoral Approaches

a) Development of Integration Framework

b) Sectors like water management, agriculture must operate under one roof in case of disaster.

3.3) Engaging India to discuss shared problems

a) Development of a common

platform to help disaster management in both countries

b) Azerbaijan and Armenia share water data despite conflicts.

3.4) Investing in RnD and modern technology

a) RnD can provide cheap solutions as per Pakistan requirement

b) Satellite technology must be used to monitor rivers, glaciers etc. live.

3.5) Ensuring Accountability

a) Flood grants must reach the lower end

For a country like Pakistan, disaster management is not more a second option. Pakistan, unfortunately, is most the affected country by the most known as Climate Change. Torrential rains, cloud bursts, unpredictable weather conditions and floods are becoming a new normal here. One of the top options against these calamities is an active and well managed disaster management department. By developing disaster management sector, Pakistan can lead the way for the whole world. However, at this point of time, Pakistan's disaster managing is facing a lot of challenges. The key challenges are centralized management approach, differential vulnerability conditions, weak resilience against climate change, strained relations with India and absence of integration framework. However,

engaging with India, opting cross sectoral approaches, decentralizing management, investing in R&D and ensuring accountability can help Pakistan to develop an ideal disaster management force.

The most important factor challenging Pakistan's disaster management efforts is increasing devastation of climate change. Climate change is the mother of most disasters faced by Pakistan in recent years.

Being a developing country, Pakistan relies on external aid to counter climate change. However, external aid, like (from IMF) 1.4bn dollars from IMF, was just a drop of water in desert so far. Moreover, Pakistan's institutions lacking seriousness over this issue further deteriorate the situation. For example, in water management, Pakistan's water council just had a single meeting since its inception.

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in 2018. Similarly, Pakistan (Environmental) Environmental Protection Council has convened just twice in four decades. Therefore, we can say that Pakistan has to first control climate change in order to build an exemplary disaster management.