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LMS ID: 38986-Isb OB-077

Part - II

Question No 1:

Is the climate change or Pakistan's environmental-hazardous-development model that take Pakistan to the top of V20 (Vulnerable 20)? Argue in favour or against and recommend a strategy to mitigate environmental risks and enhance resilience.

1) Introduction:

"Pakistan's environmental-hazardous-development model" is not an official title but a critical description of country's prevailing approach to economic growth and development. It refers to patterns for meeting short term economic gains and immediate population needs. These are prioritized at the severe and unsustainable expense of natural environment and long term ecological security. It can be stated in the words of

Robert Swan as:

"The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it"

Due to such attitude Pakistan is in the list of top 20 vulnerable countries. This is mainly due to weak environmental governance, political divide, unsustainable use of resources. Moreover, unplanned urbanization, leads to deforestation, more industrial areas that further pollute the atmosphere and heavy reliance on imported fossil fuels for electricity generation. The climate change can be reversed, by wisely taking suitable measures like strengthening environmental governance role. Local govt should be empowered and allotment of due funds along with reducing dependency on fossil fuels. Also, by urbanization policy, urbanization can be controlled which will reduce deforestation and resultingly environmental pollution.

2) How Environmental-Hazardous-Development Model takes Pakistan to the top of V20 (vulnerable 20)?

i) Due to weak environmental governance:

Environmental governance control the human-environment interaction through a mechanism that ensures ecological upgradation. But sadly in Pakistan this institution's performance and implementation is not according to

the changing circumstances. Due to diverse environmental challenges Pakistan is 5th most vulnerable country to climate change in the world. According to Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Pakistan ranked among top ten most affected countries in the world. The ranking in global climate risk index is consistently increasing in Pakistan.

ii) Lack of Consensus among political parties to take resilient steps:

Political unwillingness is the hindrance towards sustainable environment. Political parties not show consensus on the matters for the welfare of society.

For example controversial construction of kalabagh Dam is the case. If the dam is constructed Pakistan can be saved from the havoc of 2010, 2022 and 2025 floods. As kalabagh Dam has storage capacity of 278 MAF (IPRI, 2024).

So, lack of political will is contributing Pakistan towards the ^{climate} vulnerable countries list.

iii) Unsustainable Use of Resources:

Failure to achieve political consensus results the unsustainable use of resources. For the immediate economic and social benefits the long terms consequences are ignored.

a) Deforestation and loss of Mangroves Forests:

This is evident from the fact Pakistan is among those countries of the world in which have highest rates of deforestation. It results in poor air quality, soil erosion and loss of biodiversity. In Pakistan the mangroves forests are distributed along the coastline of Sindh and Balochistan. According to Sindh Forest Department Mangroves of Indus Delta are economically very important. As they provide breeding zones for commercially important marine fishes (shrimps, lobsters etc) and from their export Pakistan earns US\$ 100 million annually. But these important spots are lost due to consistent loss of forests.

b) Water intensive and inefficient agriculture:

Pakistan's wide spread use of flood irrigation instead of modern drip or sprinkler system leads to massive water wastage, water logging and soil salinity which degrades fertile land. This shows unsustainable use of water resources and makes Pakistan a vulnerable country.

iv) Heavy reliance on imported fossil fuels:

Most of the electricity produced is from fossil fuels. These are imported despite having vast coal reserves discovered since 1991. According to Geological Survey of Pakistan and

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United State Agency for International Development (USAID) Pakistan's Thar Desert has 16th largest coal reserve in the world. From the export of this coal, we can build more dams and produce clean and safe electricity without damaging the environment.

- v) Rapid And Unplanned Urbanization leads to more environmental pollution:

With increase in population, people migrate to cities for better life standards. This uncontrolled migrations results rapid Urbanization. Cities are expanding rapidly. This leads to the industrialization, which release harmful toxins to air, soil and water. Thus diversifying the impacts of pollution.

The entire population of Pakistan is breathing toxic air with fine particulate matter and harmful pollutants. (Air Quality Report 2024).

- 3) Strategies for mitigating environmental risks and enhancing resilience:

Following measures should be taken for strengthening ^{natural} environment

- i) Strengthening Green Governance By Linking it with Models of Developed Countries

Pakistan should strengthen its climate/Environmental/Green Governance by adopting suitable measures that were taken by countries adversely affected by environmental crisis.

For example Japan obtained domestic and economic prosperity at the cost of environmental damage after WW II. (World War II). But Japan controlled environmental pollution in very short time by strengthening environmental governance. This is done through strict environmental governance laws, policies, cultural education and energy conservation.

- ii) **Bringing Consensus between Federal and provincial govt and empowering Local Govt:**

Policies implementation is a crucial step and cannot be achieved until mutual consensus should be developed. There is need of harmony between Federal Government and provincial governments and also among the provinces.

- iii) **Due allocation of funds for mitigating adverse impacts of climate change:**

There is need of more funds to address the aftermath of havoc of climate change like the

disastrous 2022 floods that results 30 billion dollars loss (World Bank Report 2022)

But notable initiatives have been taken by Govt of Pak like the issuance of Green Sukuk, of Rs 30 billion for progressive shift towards green finance and sustainable development. (Economic Survey of Pakistan FY 2024-25).

- iv) Reducing dependency on imported fossil fuels by digging out indigenous coal reserves:

The Thor coal reserves should be dig out which are among the world's largest coal reserves in order to reduce dependency on imported coal for producing electricity. (Geological Survey of Pakistan).

- v) Promoting reforestation initiatives and participation of local govt:

Pakistan is amongst the countries rapidly heading towards deforestation. In order to compensate it, reforestation should be encouraged like initiatives "Billion Tree Tsunami Programme" supported by United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP). Such projects will reduce the adverse impacts of floods, heat waves, urban heat island effects. Moreover, participation of local govt should be ensured.

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4) Conclusion:

In the light of previous discussion it is evident that Pakistan-^{Environmental} Hazardous-Development model is ~~an~~ unsustainable approach that is adversely impacting the environment. It is responsible for the country's current environmental problems reason of its inclusion in V20. But the suggested measures like strengthening Green Governance, Consensus among federal and provincial govt, minimizing coal usage for electricity production etc can mitigate environmental risks and enhance the resilience