

Date: _____

ESSAY: DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN PAKISTAN: CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

OUTLINE

A- Introduction

- 1- Background knowledge
- 2- General statement
- 3- Thesis statement

B- Challenges in the Way of Disaster Management in Pakistan

1- Bad governance led to inefficient disaster management

- Delayed rescue system
- Example: A family drowned in
Sawat river

2- Massive urbanization: a challenge for effective disaster management

- 1.4 million people are moving into
urban areas every week - Dawn

3- Property mania: housing societies dominating at the expense of communities

- Relentless conversion of farmlands
into concrete housing societies

4- Politicizing relief system and point scoring at the time of disaster hinders its management

- clash over approach to aid distribution
- Branded ration boxes

Signature _____

5- Gaps in relief system depicting poor disaster management

- Relief camps lack clean water, food and medical aid
- Lack of proper facilities for women

6- Out-dated agricultural system which is prone to disaster increase the challenge for disaster management

- Massive agricultural damages
- Food insecurity

7- Overlooking mental health after disaster

- Survivor's guilt, depression, insomnia
- 2 million displaced population due to floods of 2025 (DAWN)

8- Lack of effective planning for disaster management

- No sponge cities to absorb, retain and reuse water
- Absence of national building code

C- Way forward for Better Disaster Management

1- Effective governance would enhance disaster management

- prompt rescue system

2- Efficiency and transparency in relief system

- Community based monitoring
- Example of Bangladesh

- 3- Proper planning in cities would reduce the risk of damage
 - Establishing sponge cities
 - National building code
- 4- Holistic approach towards mental health of victims of disaster
 - Medical camps for mental health assessment
- 5- Modernizing agricultural system to ensure food security
 - Need agricultural reforms
 - Resilient agricultural system
- 6- Providing basic facilities in relief camps via increasing fund allocation
 - clean water, food and medical aid and proper facilities for women

D- Case study

- Copenhagen's cloudburst management plan of 2012

E- Conclusion

Date: _____

The process of industrialization began in the 18th century and it spread to all over the world. Since then, world is moving towards the era of modernization. This era on one hand brought a boost in technology, innovation and never ending modernization. On the other hand it brought massive devastation in the form of frequent disaster in the world. These natural disasters are becoming more and more intense day to day with devastating consequences. Current waves of massive floods, Earthquakes, tsunamis and heat waves all over the world depicts that natural disasters are becoming more frequent. Unfortunately, Pakistan is one of most vulnerable country to these catastrophic disasters. The dramatic impacts of these disasters in different parts of country is creating a situation which is a real threat to already dwindling socio-economic condition of Pakistan. In the face of massive catastrophic threat, Pakistan needs a comprehensive disaster management Plan. However, the country is facing multiple challenges in the way of disaster management which includes bad governance, lack of effective planning for disaster management, massive urbanization, politicizing and point scoring relief system which hinder efficient disaster management.

Signature _____

Date: _____

The practical measure which would be helpful in better disaster management are efficient governance, transparency and accountability in relief system. proper planning in cities in order to reduce damage risk and a holistic approach towards mental health of victims. Unless Comprehensive and long-term resilient plan is followed, Pakistan would never be able to cope up with the increasing disasters which are becoming more frequent each year. This essay would bring to light challenges which hinder efficient disaster management and practical measures to counter these challenges.

To begin with the challenges in the way of Disaster management, first and the foremost challenge is the bad governance which led to inefficient disaster management. Governance determines how effectively societies prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters. In Pakistan, the 2022 and 2025 floods exposed governance failures. Delayed rescue system had been witnessed all over the country. In many areas people had been waited for government help during floods for so long but inefficiency led to the death of many people. For instance, in the recent incident on the Swat River in

Signature _____

Date: _____

Khyber pakhtunkhwa, 18 people were swept away by flash-flood waters. These people were waiting for around three hours in the middle of the riverbed hoping for government help. However, inefficient governance system led to the death of all those tourist. Hence, it can be stated that bad governance is responsible for inefficient disaster management.

Along with bad governance, massive urbanization is also a prominent challenge for effective disaster management. Rapid urbanization often outpaces infrastructure, governance, land-use planning and services. For instance, nearly 1.4 million people are moving into urban areas every week — ~~Dam~~ Unplanned urbanization will increase the number of people vulnerable to disaster, which also pose a great challenge for the management of disasters. Therefore, massive urbanization is a major challenge for effective disaster management because it increase exposure, creates new vulnerabilities, and stresses system and institutions. Without proactive planning, investment and governance, urbanization can significantly hamper disaster risk reduction and response.

Furthermore, establishing housing societies at the expense of communities, farmlands and forest also act as a

Signature _____

Date: _____

factor leading to inefficient disaster management. Conversion of lands into gated housing societies on one hand contribute very little to economy. Only 1% of tax and 0.1% of GDP is contributed by real-estate projects. On the other hand these projects are posing greater threat to the environment. These housing societies reduce drainage for water via converting the lands into concrete gated societies, leaving little land for water drainage hence increasing the risk of disaster. Hence, rising trend of housing societies also serves as a challenge for disaster management.

Moreover, politicizing relief system and point scoring at the time of disaster also hinders the management. Politicians are more inclined towards point scoring instead of focusing on disaster management. Disaster management needs unity, not point scoring. Victims care little whether a ration card bears any logo or not. They will remember who helped first, fairly and transparently. Recent clash between the politicians over the approach to aid distribution depicts that politicizing flood reliefs would undermine federation's stability and increase divisions. Moreover, branding of ration boxes is considering

Signature _____

Date: _____

as a way of popularity which ultimately hinders the effectiveness of disaster management. Hence, using disasters and relief system as a tool of popularity would threaten the real essence of aid and relief.

In addition, ~~the~~ gaps in relief system depicts a challenge in disaster management. There are no proper facilities provided in the relief camps. Due to massive floods, a huge population has been displaced and leaving in relief camps which lack basic facilities. ~~For instance~~, According to people living in relief camps, there is lack of clean water, food and medical aid ~~and~~. Furthermore, no proper facilities for women and children. All these issues are posing threat to hygiene of people living in relief camps. Therefore, lack of facilities and basic needs in relief camps is a challenge for better disaster management.

Furthermore, ignoring mental health of victims of disaster also serves as a prominent challenge in disaster management. Survivor's of disaster are bearing a huge guilt which leads them to depression insomnia and stress. When people lose their everything in disasters their mental

Signature _____

Date: _____

well-being is compromised and their efficiency is reduced to the minimum. In Pakistan, every year millions of people lose their homes due to natural disasters. For instance, 2 million displaced population due to floods of 2025 in Pakistan led them to leave live in relief camps. Overlooking their mental health would further deteriorate their conditions. Therefore, overlooking mental health is also a challenge in disaster management.

Additionally, lack of effective planning for disaster management is also a challenge which needs to be addressed. Effective planning means building cities in a way that are less vulnerable to damage. Lack of such planning leads to huge and massive damage. For instance, there are no sponge cities concept in urban cities. Sponge cities are usually built on a model of absorb, retain and reuse water. Lack of such cities and infrastructure led to minimum drainage which further increases the risk of floods. Furthermore, there are no national building codes - implementation. National building codes are there, but lack of implementation makes the building vulnerable to disaster damage. Therefore, lack of proper planning and resilient infrastructure is a prominent challenge in disaster management.

Signature _____