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Mock Exams

English Essay

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English Essay

9. Disaster Management in Pakistan:
Challenges and Way Forward.

Outline:-

1. Introduction

1.1. Hook

1.2. Brief overview of Pakistan's
vulnerability to disasters due to
geography, climate change, socio-
economic conditions

1.3. Importance of Effective Disaster Management

1.4. **Thesis Statement:** Pakistan's
disaster management remains ineffective
due to institutional gaps, weak coordination,
limited awareness, and poor policy implementation—

requiring urgent reforms focused on preparedness, capacity-building and community-based resilience.

2. Institutional and Policy Framework

2.1. National Level: National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)

2.2. Provincial and District level: PDMA, DDMA

2.3. Coordination Mechanism

2.4. Institutional architecture exists but its effectiveness depends on implementation and local capacities.

3. Recent Case Studies Illustrating Current Reality.

3.1 2025 Monsoon-Flood Crisis

3.2 Cloudburst and Flash Floods in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

4. Key Challenges:

4.1 Resource Constraints & Financing

4.1.1 Disaster preparedness, mitigation infrastructure

often under-funded.

4.1.2 Example: huge damage to roads/bridges in 2025 floods (239 bridges, ~1,981 km roads) - massive repair cost.

4.1.3 Need for predictable financing mechanisms (national / subnational budgets, contingency funds, climate financing).

4.2 Weak infrastructure & Physical Resilience

4.2.1 Infrastructure vulnerable (roads, bridges, houses) especially in rural/mountainous and flood-prone areas.

4.2.2 Case: Cloudburst in KP hitting remote districts shows vulnerabilities of infrastructure and access.

4.2.3 Also urban flood risk: hilly terrain, poor drainage, informal settlements.

4.3 Early warning, forecasting & Communication Gaps

4.3.1 Despite alert issued (e.g., NDMA alert June 29 for heavy rains & GLOFS) many deaths still

occurred — suggest gap between alert issue and community action response.

4.3.2 Cloud burst are highly localized and hard to predict; local communities may lack awareness or capacity to act quickly.

4.3.3 Need for community-based early warning systems, better meteorological forecasting, communication in local languages.

4.4 Coordination and Implementation Challenges

4.4.1 Multiple actors (federal, provincial, district, military, NGOs) but sometimes coordination gaps.

4.4.2 Implementation of policies at district level may be weak, uneven across provinces.

4.4.3 Example remote districts in ICP may have less capacity than more urban districts.

4.5 Climate Change and Increasing Hazard Intensity

4.5.1 More frequent / intense rainfall, glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), cloudburst.

4.5.2 Pakistan among most vulnerable nations: risk landscapes evolving.

4.6 Vulnerability of Communities & Livelihoods

5 Way Forward / Strategic Recommendations

5.1 Strengthening Institutional and Legal Frameworks

5.1.1 Review and update disaster management legal / policy frameworks to reflect new hazard realities.

5.1.2 Enhance the role of local governments (DDMA's) and ensure district level capacities

5.1.3 Strengthen data collection, hazard mapping risk registers across provinces.

5.2 Enhancing Financing and Investment Resilience

5.2.1 Established a dedicated Disaster Risk Financing Mechanism.

5.2.2 Leverage climate finance for adaptation / resilience infrastructure

5.2.3 Encourage public - private Partnerships for resilient infrastructure, insurance mechanisms for flood risk

5.3 Upgrading Infrastructure and building Resilience

Invest in flood - resilient infrastructure

Prioritize vulnerability

5.4 Improving Early warning systems, forecasting and Community Awareness

5.5 Enhancing Coordination & Multi Hazard planning

6. Conclusion

'Essay'

Why does Pakistan, despite repeated warnings and established disaster management bodies, continues to suffer devastating losses from natural disasters?

This question highlights a persistent challenge for the Pakistan. Pakistan's unique geography and climate expose it to a range of hazards— from floods and earthquakes to landslides and droughts. This situation is further aggravated by the impacts of climate change, increasing the frequency and severity of events like glacial outburst floods (GLOFs) and cloudbursts. Despite having dedicated institutions such as the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Provincial disaster bodies, the devastating 2025 monsoon floods and the sudden cloudburst in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa revealed serious gaps in preparedness, early

warning systems, coordination, and resource mobilization. Effective disaster management requires more than just emergency response; it demands comprehensive preparedness, mitigation, and resilience-building strategies. Yet Pakistan's efforts remain largely reactive and fragmented. Pakistan's disaster management remains ineffective due to institutional gaps, weak coordination, limited awareness, and poor policy implementation - requiring urgent reforms focused on preparedness, capacity building, and community-based resilience.

Pakistan has taken significant steps to ~~see~~ institutionalize disaster management. The **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)**, established under the National Disaster Management Act of 2010, is the apex body responsible for formulating disaster management policies, coordinating federal and

provincial responses, and issuing early warnings. NDMA works closely with the military, international organizations, and NGOs to improve the country's disaster preparedness and response capabilities. At the provincial level, Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMA's) play a crucial role in implementing policies locally. At the grassroots, District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMA's) are tasked with operationalizing disaster risk reduction strategies, coordinating emergency services, and managing evacuation and relief efforts. Pakistan has also developed strategic documents such as the National Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) strategy and provincial DRR plans that emphasize hazard mapping, risk assessment and resilience building. While this architecture is in place, challenges persist in implementation, resource allocation, and capacity, particularly in remote

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and vulnerable areas.

In 2025, Pakistan faced severe two major disasters revealing deep vulnerabilities in its disaster management system. The monsoon floods killed over 1000 people, damaged thousands of homes and crippled infrastructure despite early NDMA warnings. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was the hardest-hit province. Shortly after, a sudden cloudburst triggered flash floods and landslides in mountainous KP districts, killing over 200 people. While PDMA responded quickly, both disasters revealed serious gaps in early warning, infrastructure, resilience, and local response capacity, especially in vulnerable and remote communities.

Disaster preparedness and mitigation efforts are often ~~underfunded~~ underfunded. The massive damage during the 2025 floods - including the destruction of 239 bridges and nearly 2000 km of roads - illustrates the scale of

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investment required to rebuild and strengthen infrastructure. Budgetary limitations at federal and provincial levels, along with unpredictable disaster financing, undermine timely recovery and risk reduction measures. There is an urgent need to establish dedicated disaster risk financing mechanisms and leverage international climate funds such as the Green Climate Fund for resilience investments.

Area!

The second challenge is weak infrastructure and physical resilience. Much of Pakistan's critical infrastructure remains vulnerable, particularly in rural, mountainous, and flood-prone areas. The destruction caused by KP cloudburst demonstrated how poorly adapted infrastructure compounds disaster impacts. Urban areas also face risks from poor drainage, unplanned settlements and encroachment

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on floodplains. Without resilient infrastructure such as flood proof bridges, roads, and housing, disaster impacts will continue to devastate communities.