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Mock Exam

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Name: Noor Fatima

Subject: English Essay

Topic:

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

I- Introduction

The inefficient disaster management in Pakistan is caused by institutional mismanagement, political stagnation, economic underfunding and social divide. Therefore, the solution lies in the institutional capacity building, political cooperation, economic balance and social uplifting.

II- Challenges for Efficient Disaster Management in Pakistan

1- Institutional Stagnation hinders Disaster Management

a- Lack of coordination between governance stakeholders.

Case Study: Lack of synchronization among

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Weather forecasting, NDMA and PDMA's ^(call for unity 16/1) _(Dawn)

b- Insufficient capacity-building hinders institutional efficiency.

Case Study: Only 85 forecasting stations for the area of 800,000 km (NDMA)

c- Lack of Technological upgradation of institutes

Case Study: Pakistan days in remote sensing system for efficient pre and post disaster recovery (PIDR policy brief).

2- Political Stagnation is a key challenge for Disaster Management

a- Politicization of disasters hinders the response and recovery efficiency

Case Study: PPP and PML(N) conflict over flood ^{fund} distribution via RISP (Dawn)

b- Lack of center and province coordination during disaster risks its management

Case Study: Climate: a devalued subject post 18th amendment. (JPSSR)

c- Lack of local Government System prevents efficient disaster management

Case Study: lack of aid for Ali Pur,

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Jalapur Pirwala and MS motorway rural area due to inefficiency of local administration (No local lifeline for flood victims by Munirae Jaganjir)

3- Economic Underfunding is a key to inefficient Disaster Management.

a- Low Budgetary Allocation hinders institutional performance for risk management

Case Study: Despite being three times more than center's ^{proportion} provinces allocate low budget for climate (Express Tribune)

b- Low funds are an obstacle for non-state actors to contribute in disaster management

Case Study: Underfunding of NGOs and civil society for risk management

c- Lack of regional and global economic cooperation undermines disaster management

Case Study: Paralysis of STARC and international loss and damage funds inadequacy (PIDE)

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4- Social Divide Undermines Disaster Management Efficiency

a- Urban-Rural Divide is a gap in disaster management

Case Study: UNOHCR Risk Assessment

Report states that 64% population affected by floods 2025 is constrained in 5 rural districts of Punjab.

b- Lack of Education widens the social divide and hinders disaster management

Case Study: living in the embankments of river Indus and Ravi indicates the lack of Disaster and risk-based literacy. (The Spine Times)

III Way Forward for Efficient Disaster Management in Pakistan

5- Institutional Reforms for efficient Disaster Management

a- Synchronization of institutes for better recovery and response.

Case Study: Alignment of Meteorology Department with NDMA and PDMA's.

b- Capacity-building of institutes

Case Study: Building of efficient infrastructures across country for early response and recovery of disaster (The Nation); Japan's Tsunami wall building

c- Enhance Technological Leverage in Disaster Management.

Case Study: AI modeling for risk calculation and response efficiency. (Institute of Policy Studies)

6- Political Coordination Strengthens Disaster Management

a- Unified policies during disasters are need of hour.

Case Study: In 2005 Earthquake, despite 80,000 killings, a unified political policy was

adopted (United against Disasters by Dawn)

- b- Center-Province cooperation is vital for disaster management.

Case Study: Floods in China resulted in cooperation and formation of sponge cities

- c- Reinduction of local government ^(The Diplomat)

system is key to disaster management

Case Study: Strong LG system offers help at grass-root level.

7- Economic Balance is necessary for Efficient Disaster Management

- a- Enhancement of Disaster-based budgetary allocation at center and provinces.

Case Study: Monetary funds are fundamental need of 4R framework for disaster recovery (Dawn)

- b- Economic Strengthening of non-state actors can offer significant contribution during Disaster

Case Study: Raising of climate-based trusts and NGOs

- c- Ensurance of Regional and Global cooperation can Improve Risk Management

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Case Study: Revival of Climate Support under SAARC and international loss and damage fund.

8- Social Uplifting is a long-term solution for Inefficient Disaster Management

a- Bridging urban-rural divide fills the gap in risk management.

Case Study: "Build-Back-Better" initiative should should perform equitable resource distribution.

b- Spreading of awareness regarding risk and disaster management

Case Study: Seminars, social media campaigns and literacy at primary level regarding Disaster Management.

IV Conclusion

The Essay

The exploration of the civilizations like Athens and Mohenjodaro reveals their indigenous systems built for disaster management. Efficient drainage system with wide roads and elevated houses indicate their efficiency for risk preparedness. However, the developing countries like Pakistan face serious challenges in the management of disasters in 21st century. In this regard, Pakistan is a unique case with less than 1% greenhouse gases emission but ^{lies} among top 10 countries most vulnerable to climate change as per UNFCCC. Besides climate change, the geography of Pakistan indicates its presence above tectonic plates, which make it vulnerable to earthquakes. The point to mention is that Pakistan is prone to natural disasters; however, it faces critical challenges in Disaster management.

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Disaster management is the role of governmental bodies in ensuring preparedness before disaster, response during disaster and recovery after disasters. However, Pakistan fails to perform efficient disaster management due to institutional, political, economic and social challenges. Therefore, the need of hour is to facilitate institutional capacity building, political cooperation, economic balance and social uplifting for effective disaster management in Pakistan.

To begin with, institutional stagnation is the main obstacle for effective disaster management in Pakistan. At first, Disaster-management institutes are facing status quo due to the lack of coordination between the stakeholders. For instance, despite the early flood warnings by weather forecasting department, NDMA and PDMA failed to ensure the disaster preparedness. The Swat River incident in

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August 2025 was a case study for the lack of disaster preparedness. Absence of safety boats, rescue helicopters or even the ropes at disaster-vulnerable area led to the death of whole family in Swat River. Therefore, the lack of synchronization of disaster management institutes results in devastating losses. Besides coordination, institutional inefficiency is further exacerbated by the lack of capacity building in Pakistan. As per NDMA, there are only 85 forecasting and risk management stations for the area of more than 800,000 km in Pakistan. Therefore, the lack of infrastructure hinders the timely response of disasters especially in far flung areas. Moreover, technological backwardness enhances the inefficiency of institutes to deal with risks. As per the policy brief of PIDF on climate-driven disasters, Pakistan lags in the remote sensing system for efficient response and recovery in disasters. This gap

leads to the reliance on traditional approach for risk evaluation such as man-power based committees to assess the human and agrigarian losses during disasters. This method is not only time-taking but also incapable of assessing the plight of remote areas. Therefore, institutional status quo is a key challenge in the path of efficient disaster management in Pakistan.

Besides institutional lagging, Political stagnation is another hinderance for disaster management in Pakistan. Firstly, politicization of disasters neither allow efficient response nor recovery. It is evident from Dawn report about the conflict of ruling coalition parties i.e., PPP and PML(N) over the flood 2025 fund distribution pathway. While PPP supports Benazir Income Support Program for fund delivery, PML(N) wants to carve a new methodology for funding. Amid this

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conflict, the plight of flood victims is ignored. The disaster management requires the efficient delivery of funds irrespective of the pathway. Besides politicization, the disaster management is also negatively impacted by the lack of coordination between centers and provinces of Pakistan. As per 2024 study of Journal of political and social sciences review, climate and disaster management has become a devalued subject under the 18th amendment. While the presence of disaster management authorities at both national and provincial levels, none is ready to take the complete responsibility or at least coordinate for disaster management. Council of Common Interest has also been inefficient with regards to solving climate related conflicts of provinces. Moreover, the lack of local government system has added more to the plight of disaster

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management in Pakistan. In the article "No local lifeline for flood victims", Munizae Jahangir, a climate analyst, explains the plight of Mipur, Talalpur, Pirwala and rural areas surrounding M5 motorway amid floods 2025. Local administration is inefficient due to the insufficient capacity building to rescue them from floods as per the report. It indicates the need of strong local government system to take the disaster management at grass root level. Therefore, ^{which is impossible without political will} political mismanagement is a misery for disaster management in Pakistan.

Beyond the political crisis, economic underfunding is another key challenge for disaster management in Pakistan. In this regard, low budgetary allocation is the main cause of underperformance in risk management sector. According to the report of Express Tribune, the government's ^{and disaster} allocation for climate makes

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less than 1% of PSDP allocations in budget 2025-26. Alongside, the neglect of provinces is also considerable. They have performed 3 times greater allocation than center for PSDP; however, the climate funding is neglected there as well. So, the lack of budget allocation is directly proportional to the slow capacity building of Disaster-based institutes. Resultantly, the preparedness, response and recovery of disasters is at stake in Pakistan. Along with governmental funding, ~~the~~^{non} state actors also face the obstacle of low funds which undermine their contribution for disaster management. For instance, NGOs like Al-Khidmat Trust have contributed significantly during floods of 2022 and 2025. However, underfunding has been critical issue. It has caused 2000 people to live in the space of 2000 people per shelter house in Southern Punjab as per Dawn report.

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Beyond the domestic landscape, lack of regional and global cooperation has further enhanced the economic challenges for disaster management. On one side, Paralysis of SAARC has limited the regional climate based cooperation. On the other hand, the President of USA, Mr. Donald Trump called 'Climate Change the biggest con game' at the 80th session of UNGA, according to CNN. Resultantly, the international loss and damage fund has failed to help developing countries like Pakistan to cope with disasters. Therefore, the disaster management in Pakistan becomes difficult without global and regional cooperation in various domains. Resultantly, economic stagnation is another challenge for disaster management in Pakistan.

Beyond economic underfunding, social divide is another cause of inefficient disaster management in Pakistan. At first, urban-rural divide is a huge gap in this regard. As per UNOCT's Risk Assessment Report⁽²⁰²⁵⁾, 64% of flood-victim population is contained in 5 rural districts of Southern Punjab. This report highlights the absence of disaster management in rural areas. These areas already cope with the issues of poverty and sanitation. Therefore, this divide in disaster response further exacerbates their plight. Alongside, lack of disaster-based education and awareness hinders the disaster management in Pakistan. Ravi Housing Scheme is a real-time case study in this regard. As per The Spine Times report, the unawareness of people led them to live in the embankments of river Ravi in Lahore. Resultantly, the floods

of 2025 caused the loss of lives and money at large-scale. Therefore, educational backlog hinders disaster management, as people came close to the disaster willingly. So, social divide is another misery for disaster management in Pakistan.

As the Disaster management challenges in Pakistan are highlighted in the above discussion. The solutions for efficient disaster management are underpinned as follows

Institutional reforms are the major solution for disaster management challenge in Pakistan. At first, synchronization of institutes is essential for efficient response and recovery. In this regard, a central party or CCI should play role to align

Met-orology Department with NDMA and PDMA. It will ensure timely preparedness as per forecasting. Alongside, capacity building of institutes is necessary for disaster management. For Instance, The Nation reports the wall-building of Japan along the coast line of sea to avoid Tsunamis. Similarly, Pakistan needs to build efficient infrastructure across country for early response and recovery of disaster. Moreover, technology can be used as a leverage in Disaster Management. A ²⁰²³ study of Institute of Policy Studies suggests the AI modeling for the prediction and evaluation of risk and recovery. It will decrease the dependence on the traditional human approach and increase the efficiency. Therefore, institutional reforms are necessary for efficient disaster management in Pakistan.

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Besides institutional reforms, political coordination is the key to strengthen disaster management in Pakistan. At first, unified policies are need of hour in disaster management. In an editorial "United against Disasters", Dawn highlights the unified political policies in 2005 earthquake despite 80,000 deaths. In 2025, disaster management once again requires unity over political gains for the welfare of country. Alongside, the center - province cooperation is also vital for disaster management. According to The Diplomat report, despite being a wide country, China has adopted a unified strategy for country. The building of sponge cities to preserve freshwater and avoid floods has proven successful due to the cooperation of center and provinces. Such unified cooperation

is also required in Pakistan. Strengthening of Council of Common Interests can play critical role in efficient disaster management. Moreover, the reinduction of local government system is necessary for disaster management. USA is a case study in this regard. Every state has its own local government system whose efficiency was evident is Los Angeles Wild fire 2025, as per BBC. Therefore, Pakistan should also devise the revival of LG system to take disaster recovery at grass root level. Hence, political cooperation is the pathway for efficient disaster management in Pakistan.

Besides political synchronization, economic balance is another necessity for efficient disaster management in Pakistan. At first, the disaster-based funding should

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enhanced at federal and provincial level. As per Dawn Report, Monetary funds are necessary for HR frameworks pledged by government of Pakistan for recovery of flood victims 2025. Without budget, rehabilitation and rehabilitation of disaster affectants is not possible. Alongside, economic strengthening of non-state actors can offer significant contribution during disaster. In this regard, climate based trusts and NGOs should be developed with funding solely for disaster management especially in rural areas. It would not only decrease the burden on government at institutes, but also enhance the timely-aid for far-flung areas. Besides the domestic initiatives, regional and global cooperation can also play key role in the improvement of risk management. For instance, revival of climate support fund under SAARC and international loss

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and damage fund can improve disaster risk management in Pakistan. Therefore, economic initiatives are necessary to revive disaster management in Pakistan.

Beyond economic funding, social uplifting is also a long-term solution for inefficient disaster management. In this regard, bridging urban-rural divide by the initiative like 'Build-Back-Better' is necessary. Equitable resource distribution and disaster response efficiency is necessary for risk management in Pakistan. Alongside, spreading of awareness regarding disaster management is also necessary to alleviate social obstacles in the path of disaster management. Seminars, Webinars, Social Media campaigns and literary books at primary level can increase the

awareness about risk management and response in masses. Resultantly, the vulnerability of people to disasters would decrease significantly. Therefore, social uplifting is necessary to ensure efficient disaster management in Pakistan.

To conclude with, disaster management in Pakistan faces significant hindrance due to institutional, economic, political and social degradation. In this regard, capacity-building, coordination, adequate funding and social uplifting can alleviate these challenges and pave the way for efficient disaster management in Pakistan. Despite being a developing country, Pakistan needs to address the challenges for efficient disaster management to save the masses from the plight of natural disasters.