

DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN PAKISTAN : CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARDS

OUTLINES :

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Hook

1.2 General statements

1.3 Thesis statement, "Economic

issues, intensified disasters and lack of early preparedness, bad law and order situation, lack of people's representation at governmental offices and technological advancement issues pose grave challenges in disaster management. Early preparedness and planning, economic stability, maintaining law and order, promoting democratic values

and technological advancement can help mitigate this issue".

2. CHALLENGES

2.1 Intensified disasters whether:

2.1.1 Environmental

2.1.2 Terrorism.

2.1.3 Separatist groups like BLA,

2.2 Economic Issues leading to:

2.2.1 Lack of finances.

2.2.2 Lack of early preparedness.

2.3 ^{Bad} Law and order situation. leading to:

2.3.1 Rules made but not followed.

2.3.2 No rit of the

government.

2.3.3 Increased crime rate and violence.

2.4 Lack of people true representation at higher offices.

2.4.1 Rigged elections.

2.4.2 Lack of people cooperation.

2.4.3 Protests and rebel groups rise.

2.5 Lack of technological advancement.

2.5.1 Researched based study and finding the solutions not promoted.

2.5.2 No budget allocations for technological advancement.

3. WAY FORWARDS :

3.1 Early Preparedness and Planning.

3.1.1 Risk Assessments.

3.1.2 Defining standard operating procedures.

3.1.3 Providing personal protecting equipments to the peoples.

3.2 Economic Stability.

3.2.1 Promoting industrialization and tax free zones.

3.2.2 Implementing long term policies.

3.2.3 Providing economic security to the investment parties.

3.3. People to be made the stakeholders of country.

3.3.1 strengthening democracy.

3.3.2 Powers to be transferred to the people representatives.

3.4 Technological Advancement.

3.4.1 Promoting research based development.

3.4.2 Budget allocation for technological advancement.

3.4.3 Hiring the experts for policy making.

4. CONCLUSION :

4.1 Concluding statements

THE ESSAY

Allah does not change the condition of those who do not struggle to change their own condition. For centuries, world has witnessed many disasters and challenges. Those who learned, and struggled, got the way out and development. Those who did not pay heed, they stucked and felt the increasing heat of ruin. The world is very old, and different countries have left different experiences of struggle against disasters to learn from.

Pakistan since its inception, has been a new entity in this race. Pakistan in contemporary era is going through many disasters side by side. Intensified disasters and lack of preparedness, economic issues, bad law and order situation, lack of people true representation at governmental offices and lack of technological advancement poses grave challenges in disaster management by Pakistan. Early preparedness and planning, economic stability and development, maintaining law and order, promoting democratic values and technological advancement can help to mitigate these issues.

To start with, the disasters faced by Pakistan are quiet

intensified, making it difficult for the authorities to handle.

Firstly, the intensity of environmental disasters faced by Pakistan can be judged by a UN report which says that Pakistan contributes less than 1% of the world's total carbon emission yet it is among top five most environmentally vulnerable countries. The devastating flood of 2022 drowned one third of the country's population and recently in 2025, the country was again overshadowed by the cloudbursts which turned villages and valleys, leaving behind ruin and despair. Secondly, the country from the long time has been through the violence of terrorism. Whether it was pre 9/11 or post 9/11, Pakistan

has suffered the most out of the Afghan wars. Even up to this day, country is feeling the heat of terrorism when security forces are being target and killed. Thirdly, adding to this all are the separatist groups inside the country. Balochistan has been made unstable by Balochistan liberation army whose core demand is a separate country. Together these all disasters converge to make situation further worse and grave for the authorities to counter.

Furthermore, the economic issues of Pakistan divert the attention of government to economic development, creating a safe bubble for disasters to grow and entrench. Pakistan has been through economic

crisis from a long period of time. IMF debts show how vulnerable and weak its economy has been. Under these IMF bail out packages, Pakistan cannot act independently in making policies and planning the distribution of funds. IMF maintains a check and balance over every flow of the money. It becomes very difficult for country to provide finances for disaster management and development when on one hand country is suffering from economic crisis and on other hand IMF regulatory policies further cuts the sphere of influence in spending funds. These issues also result in the lack of early preparedness by the authorities when the attention

of government is more at the economic development. Hence, the economic issues of Pakistan are conversely resulting in giving a free hand to the disasters growth.

Moreover, the bad law and order situation inside the Pakistan is another challenge in the way of disaster management. Rule of law is very important to run the system of a state. Bad law and order situation leads to the violence. Pakistan is been through same situation. Rules and regulations have been defined but not implemented. An environment of might is right is dominant inside the country. Due to such an environment, the sit of the

government has weakened and its personal status is on a rise in the country. Crime rate has also risen due to the prevailing situation. In such an environment, it has become very difficult for government to regulate its policies against the ~~man~~ disasters inside the country.

In addition to this, lack of people's representation at the higher offices is another problem due to which disasters born and develop. Rigged and manipulated elections are the primary source of injecting the non-elected members at higher governmental offices. These non-elected members do not serve the

people cause at the higher offices hence the living standard of people fallen with the time. Rigged Elections of 2024 tell the same story when ^{no} amnesty international declared those elections the rigged one. country has been under the worse economic crisis presently. Terrorism is again on a rise and people are becoming non-cooperative, which is evident in the current operation of military forces of Pakistan against TTP, where people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are mostly against the operation according to independent media sources. Taking advantage of such a situation, rebel groups also rise in the society and protests become the normal routine. Under such an environment, it becomes difficult

For governments to look into every issue and affair. On the other hand, public office holders doesn't act decisively for the public interest because they are no true public representatives and they are not answerable to public. Hence, whole country suffers when democratic values and norms are derailed.

Lastly, lack of technological advancement has resulted in inefficient dealing with the crisis situation. Whether it is a natural disaster or a man made disaster, technology can make a lot of difference. Nuclear armed countries are the lived example of such countries who have developed in nuclear technology and now it has become a deterrence tool for them against

any military disasters. Pakistan can also follow the same footsteps in other areas as well. Country lacks the research based study and analysis. Whether it is the food disaster of the country, the devastating floods, or the glacial melts, research, and then development based on that research can fill the gap by a large amount. Moreover, there is no sufficient budget allocation for technological advancement inside the country, which limits to the use of conventional ways of survival against the disasters. That's why our actions are mostly inefficient and ineffective in countering the crisis situation depicting how important technology is in modern era.

collectively, these current scenarios of intensified disasters, economic issues, bad law and order, lack of democratic values and lack of technological advancement converge together, and challenge the status quo. But there is always a way out to the success. Pakistan can adopt to these challenges by working on the way towards in order to improve its disaster management abilities.

The first and foremost thing to work upon is the early preparedness and planning at the organizational levels. Despite of waiting for the tragedy to happen and act afterwards, the ~~was~~ true wisdom lies in acting before it happens. Institutes with the relevant think tank should

be inaugurated at national level too dealing with major threats and ~~can~~ potential crisis.

Risk assessments should be done by these institutes before the disaster, so as to regulate the early preparedness done at governmental level. Media awareness and training should be provided at the ground root level and standard operating procedure should be defined in order to minimize the damage that could be done by a certain disaster. These standard operating procedure should also be taught at school level so as to create an environment of awareness among the society. In addition to this, personal protective equipments should also be provided to the disaster management workers and the people to protect themselves in

the worst conditions. These actions would boost the early preparedness of authorities, ultimately resulting in minimized damage from the disaster.

Furthermore, economic stability is a very important pillar of disaster management. Without economic stability, finances shortens, plans fail and turmoil's boost. For Pakistan, to improve its economy, industrialization can play a dominant role in earning finances. Pakistan in this area, can learn the importance of industries from American tariff war, whose one purpose is to promote the industrialization inside the America. Pakistan can promote the tax free zones inside the country to attract foreign

investors. Providing subsidies to industries can play a pivotal role in industrialization. Secondly, implementing the long term policies by government give investors the confidence to invest inside the country. Change of government should not result in discontinuation of the policies of previous governments, which results in the state of disbelief by the investor over the country. So the investors should be provided with proper defined economic security in Pakistan. These measures would result in the development and economic growth of the country and ultimately the governments would have a free hand in spending and planning over the disasters.

In addition to these all, in order to bring the economic development and early preparedness, people's representation in public offices is very necessary. Those having true will to work for the people ~~will~~ would strive more for efficient disasters management. Strengthening democracy is the key in this regard. Pakistan not only needs to morally lift the democratic norms inside the country but it also needs to strengthen the law and its implementation.

Electronic voting machines on one hand can minimize the riggings in the elections and stronger judiciary on other hand can help in transferring power according to the constitution of Pakistan. to the

elected public representatives. Power given to public representatives under the judicial check and balance can pay the way towards development and progress. Ultimately, in return, it would lead the country to plan and manage the disasters in a more better way.

Lastly, technological advancement ~~can~~ also have a lot of potential in effective disaster management. Its importance is also evident from the Chernobyl nuclear incident in which USSR at that time was able to contain the disaster so as to minimize its spread. It was the technological advancement of USSR that helped them in countering the disaster successfully, which would have otherwise engulfed

the states. Pakistan can also advance in technology by promoting the research based analysis and development. Proper scientific research of the experts help in not only preventing the disasters but also in minimizing the chances of failure and damage. Government of Pakistan should allocate the budget for research and development. Experts of the respective fields should be hired by the government and they should play part in the policy making. These all measures converge to advance the technological and professional dealing and hence improving the management capabilities of authorities.

To conclude, disasters management has always been a

challenge for Pakistan. Whether it was man made or natural disaster, Pakistan have developed enough experience and now it is the time to exercise and utilize that experience for the betterment of our society.

No country in the world ~~had~~ exists that had zero challenges from the beginning. They have struggled to make perfect conditions for them.

In short, where there is a will, there is a way and there is always a room to work at.

Those who strive hard bears the fruits of prosperity and development.
