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Disaster Management in Pakistan: Challenges and Way Forward

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conclusion

Essay

"We cannot stop natural disasters, but we can arm ourselves with knowledge. So many lives would not have to be lost if there was enough disaster preparedness". Pakistan is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world. A disaster is a sudden, unfortunate extreme event, either natural or man made, that exceeds the tolerable limits sometimes. Disasters have the potential to cause loss of lives and property. The types of disasters like Tornados, floods, hurricanes, wildfires, earthquakes and droughts. Like other Asian countries Pakistan is facing challenges in disaster management like inefficient institutions.

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Preparedness, Global Warming
a man-made cause of disasters.
Limited resources and inefficient
preparedness of immediate response.
Similarly bad governance could
fuel to the fire. Disasters can
not be controlled fully but
by adopting strategies their
harm could be decreased
like by increasing budget,
by developing risk reduction
strategies. Also, by climate
change and reduction in global
warming, by adopting sustainable
projects and also by
spreading awareness with
the help of community to
mitigate the spreading on
thing which cause Global
Warming. Pakistan disaster
management framework faces
significant challenges in
addressing the increasing

frequency and severity of natural disasters, necessitating the paradigm shift towards proactive risk reduction and enhanced institutional capacity.

To ensure sustainable development and protect human life, Pakistan must prioritize community-led resilience initiatives, strengthen disaster management institution, and integrate risk reduction and development in planning.

Pakistan's institutions are inefficient. In 2018, a Pakistani professor named Farukh A. Khan issued a warning about the Pakistan's public institutions. He said "Pakistan suffers from institutional failure. Failed institutions are unable to correct the

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problems faced by the society, which eventually leads to the economic failure. According to data based on World Bank world wide governance Pakistan's score in 2023 was **-0.58** which was very lowest as compared to the entire world. As the five men scrambled on to a big rock in the middle of the suddenly gushing torrents in Lower Kohistan. The five men waited for over three hours but they were not rescued even by multiple calls by the various people. Also, the same kind of risk happened on **22 June 2025** in Swat river, a flash flood swept

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away the people including women and children but they were not rescued. 13 lives in this swept were lost. If there would be effective institutions, there would be no loss of lives.

As of 2023, while Pakistan heavily relies on glacial melt for its freshwater supply, there are significant gaps in monitoring and data collection regarding the state. These limitations are the hindrances in policy making and management system. Pakistan is a country which is surrounded by one of the largest countries of the world i.e. China and India. The climate change is caused by the

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The emission of Carbon.
World largest carbon emitter
China is our neighbour
which emit **30%** of
the world carbon in
the environment. Similarly
India is also spreading
its carbon in environment.
This directly hit Pakistan's
environment. Chairman **NDMA**
(National Disaster Management
Authority) gave report to
public Account Committee
(PAC) on 26th August
2025 that there are
7500 glaciers in Pakistan.
If the temperature rises
2°C annually then
in next **52** years
65% of the glaciers
will melt down. This
melting creates imbalance
in the Pakistan prospects,
economy and management. man-

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made disasters are
directly linked with the
global warming and Pakistan
is one of these
hitting countries.

A disaster can
happen at any time, it
could be small fire or
it could be a huge
earthquake. It can destroy
one's home and everything
which one loves. ~~No one~~

one knows when the
disaster is going to
strike, but there are
things we can do to
minimize the damage. Technology
is an important tool
to minimize the disaster
management. The leading
cause of the people over
the world is the
natural disasters or
the man made disasters.

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In September 2025, land sliding in Sudan is example of huge disaster which crushed the whole village under the soil and mountains but lack of availability of resources add fuel to the fire. A rough estimate in floods of 2022 in Pakistan loss 131.7 billion. Also, in 2025 floods estimate is being taking place by the government. Rivers flow from north to south is unpredicted because of India. India violates Indus Water Treaty resultantly the floods affects Pakistan's whole infrastructure. Lack of construction of dams and canals which dissipate the water intensity from

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India, Pakistan is missing the facilities and preparedness. Disaster management institution 1122 is trying to put its effort to mitigate the loss of disaster but development in disaster management is needed.

There is no denying the fact that such abnormal changes in weather pattern are the main cause of disasters. Climate change is not a new thing. This is knocking at our door for preparedness of disasters. For example floods in 2022 and 2025. These floods are not one time occurrence in Pakistan. According to

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Federal Flood Commission
of Pakistan, Country has
faced **29** floods since
its independence in 1947.

Due to the recent floods
of **2015** almost **70%** of
our Country was underwater.

In **2022** floods more
than **33** million people and
15% of population affected.

The full extent of the
damage is still unknown.

Officials have overlooked
an uncomfortable truth.

The destructive effects of

The flooding are exacerbated

by years of poor ecological

governance. Their devastating

consequences could have been

mitigated if the Pakistani

government had taken action

in the past few years.

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The National Disaster Management Authority has prepared contingency plans for various hazards, including floods, heatwaves and winter-related emergencies. For fiscal year 2024-2025, the climate budget estimate rose by 67% from the previous years. After 18th amendment the subjects given to the provinces disaster management was one of them. The province had not capacity to manage the disasters. At province level PDMA should be strengthened with the collaboration of NDMA and rescue 1122. Budget spending

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on disaster management should also increase to mitigate the losses by disasters.

Disaster risk reduction system like developed countries, for instance, in **Japan**, a country with high seismic activity, the government has invested in advanced earthquake early warning system. These systems utilize seismic sensors to detect the disaster at initial level and alerts the public for immediate reaction. It helps people to take proactive actions such as crouching, covering, and holding to reduce casualties and damages. Pakistan should also have to develop such mechanism to

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mitigate the losses by
disasters. Similarly in Taiwan
a building Taipei-101,
a damper of 660 ton
is suspended for decreasing
the intensity of
earthquake. Also, construction
on pillars which
covers the less area
and saves the lives
and property of the
people. Early warning
system in developed
countries are the
immediate remedies to
reduce the damage of
property and lives.

Climate change
is the man-made problem
which cause disaster. Pakistan
is most affected country
of the world. early
monsoon and unexpected
seasons which directly

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links the disasters. Pakistan should have to invest more on green energy like solarization and hydro power projects. An initiative by "Urban Pakistan" is one of the biggest vision to reduce the carbon emission. A country **Netherland** has invested in green infrastructure and spatial planning measures, such as creating flood plains and wetlands, to enhance natural resilience and reduce the impact of climate change on communities and ecosystems. By investing in green infrastructure such as flood plains, wetlands and flood barriers. For Pakistan, adopting similar approaches to land use

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Planning and climate resilient infrastructure is critical. Pakistan's cities and rural areas, especially in flood-prone zones, must prioritize the construction of climate change infrastructure such as flood barriers, drainage system, forestation, and sustainable urban planning to mitigate the impact of climate change.

One concrete example of sustainable agriculture projects in drought-prone areas is the implementation of drip irrigation system. The canal system in Pakistan is totally outdated, 60% of water is lost due to seepage. The implementation of drip irrigation system in drought-prone areas exemplifies the

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Integration of sustainable agriculture practices to combat the effects of climate change in Pakistan's drought-prone regions, such as parts of Sindh and Baluchistan, promoting such irrigation techniques could significantly enhance the agriculture productivity. Further, more, these practices could foster long-term sustainability in agriculture and reduce dependency on erratic rainfall. Community based initiatives and awareness in disasters is one the main way forwards. For instance, in **Japan**, following the devastating earthquake and tsunami in **2011**, hospitals and clinics have developed dedicated disaster medical assistance teams (**DMATs**).

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These teams are equipped with specialized training and resources to provide immediate medical care.

Similarly in coastal areas prone to cyclones and sea level rise, local organizations and government agencies in countries like Bangladesh

have implemented training workshops and awareness campaign to educate residents about evacuation procedures, early warning systems and disaster

resilience techniques. People nearer to the coastal areas and mountainous

areas are must be restricted to get training.

For first aid in disaster and even in

syllabus these instructions should be taught in schools.

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In a nutshell, disaster management in Pakistan basically revolves around floods. With basic focus on rescue and relief. After each disaster episode, the government incurs constant expenditures directed at rescue, relief and rehabilitation. But, there are no long term institutional arrangements to address the disaster issues. But, there are possible ways to address the challenges and Pakistanis have the capacity to mitigate the losses by well coordinatedness under the supervision of patriotic leaders which lead the nation to success. As Ralph Waldo says:
"Not gold, but only man can make
A people great and strong;
Men who, for truth and honor's sake,
Stand fast and suffer long."