

Topic: Disaster Management in Pakistan: Challenges and Way Forward

Outline:

A: Introduction

- 1: Climate change and disasters in Pakistan
- 2: Disaster management in Pakistan
- 3: Thesis statement

B: Challenges for Disaster Management in Pakistan

- 1: Big size of provinces
- 2: Resource scarcity
 - a: Poor allocation of financial resources for disaster management
- 3: Poor infrastructure
 - a: Weak drainage system
 - b: Unplanned urbanization
- 4: Lack of expertise
 - a: Generalists instead of professionals
- 5: Firefighting disaster management system
 - a: Lack of effective disaster management policy
- 6: Displacement due to climate induced disasters
 - a: Accommodation of displaced citizens
 - b: Providing aids for displaced citizens

C: Way Forward for Disaster Management in Pakistan

1: New provinces in Pakistan

a: Smaller size of provinces

2: Strengthening of district-level management

3: Developing skilled labor for disaster management

a: Training programs

4: Improved infrastructure

a: Planned urbanization

5: Resource allocation for disaster management

6: Reinforcement of existing disaster management

policy

a: NDMA 2010

D: Conclusion

"We are the first generation to feel the impact of climate change and the last generation that can do something about it," says Barack Obama. The impact of climate change is huge. It is not only translated in extreme weathers, but also in increased frequency of disasters. Pakistan is one of the most vulnerable country to climate change. Multiple factors contribute to the cause; although, her contribution in greenhouse gas emission is

less than 1%. As Pakistan is a third world country with poor governance, management of these disasters is not efficient. Moreover, the huge size of provinces makes the process more intense. Unequitable distribution of resources among and within provinces led to small share for disaster management. Furthermore, poor infrastructure and unplanned urbanization adds on to the challenge. In case of disaster, management is done by locals or unskilled workforce. With no implementation of disaster management policy. The firefighting disaster management system makes it difficult to manage and accommodate the displaced citizens and victims of these disasters. Yet, by taking steps towards improvement, disasters in Pakistan can be managed. By dividing the existing provinces into smaller units, disaster management can be made efficient. This also requires strengthening of district - level management and ^{proper} resources allocated for disaster management. The system needs skilled labor and reinforcement of disaster management policy for enhanced management. Lastly, planned urbanization and infrastructural development is also important. In short, Pakistan,

a climate change vulnerable country, faces challenges in managing disasters, but with good governance and planning, the risk associated with ^{these} disasters can be mitigated.

Firstly, huge size of existing units is a challenge while managing disasters. As local government within provinces is weak, central government of provinces is responsible for management. In 2026 floods, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab were affected the most, based on casualties and other loss. Managing the disaster was intensified due to large population in these areas. ~~Due~~ This made the coordination within the provinces difficult. In 2022 floods, Balochistan and Sindh were severely affected. Due to the huge size of provinces, it was difficult for relief teams to reach ~~that~~ ^{affected} areas because of its rural nature. In short, managing big provinces in disaster is a challenge for Pakistan.

Secondly, the challenge in disaster management is aggravated by poor resource allocation. Resources are not allocated in accordance with the urgency for ^{improved} disaster management. Most of these resources are used for further

development in urban areas, neglecting the rural areas and disaster management system. As a result, at time of disaster, funds are raised locally for managing the disaster and victims, depicting the inefficient resource allocation. So, poor allocation of resources is another challenge in managing disasters.

Thirdly, poor infrastructure increases in the challenge of disaster management. In 2025 floods, the disaster was intensified because of poor infrastructure and unplanned urbanization. Urbanization on river bed was the major contributor of escalated affect of floods. Weak drainage system in developed areas added on to the cause. Ultimately, disaster management is challenged by poor infrastructure.

Fourthly, disaster management tackle difficulty due to lack of expertise. In case of disasters, the managing workforce is unskilled instead of qualified professionals. As a result, the solutions provided are not sustainable and efficient. This leads to further more issues in long-term. A study highlighted that PDMA in

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa relies heavily on generalist for disaster risk mitigation instead of professionals with formal education or qualification. This has created a vacuum and expertise gap. In conclusion, lack of professionals is another challenge in disaster management.

Fifthly, the disaster management system of Pakistan is on firefighting mode. Although, there is a policy on national, provincial and local level for disaster management, yet it is not implemented in an effective way. This led to unplanned system for disaster management. This nature of policy implementation worsens the challenge of managing disasters. To sum up, the reactive nature of disaster management system is a challenge for Pakistan.

Lastly, managing the displaced and victims of climate induced disasters is a challenge in disaster management. Due to absence of proactive management policy for disasters, accommodation of displaced citizens is made difficult. In floods of 2022 and 2025, many approximately 10 million citizens were displaced collectively in these years. Without any economic

and financial aid, accommodation of the victims was difficult. It was a challenge for Pakistan to deal with huge number of citizens displaced. There were ~~a~~ funding gaps ^{and} health and sanitation risks which were left unaddressed and unresolved. In short, displaced citizens due to disasters is ~~another~~ challenge for Pakistan.