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Topic: Disaster Management in Pakistan Challenges and Way Forward

Thesis Statement:

Pakistan — an under-developed ^{and} highly vulnerable country to climate related disasters — is facing multiple economic, social, ^{and} security challenges that need to be addressed by implementing multifaceted approach.

Outline:

- i) Introduction:
- 2) Challenges to disaster Management in Pakistan
 - i) Inadequate ^{allocation of} economic resources to Disaster Management Institutions.
 - ii) Technological lag in prediction of disasters.
 - iii) Lack of trained disaster management Professionals.
 - iv) Owing to lack of proper funds, improper infrastructure to effectively combat disaster-related destruction.
 - v) Lack of awareness among masses to deal with emergency situations.
 - vi) Political instability diverting focus of government machinery from disaster

management.

vii) Improper enforcement of disaster related policies leading to increased disaster related damages.

3) Recommendations to overcome challenges to disaster management in Pakistan.

i) Constructing disaster-resistant infrastructure to reduce disaster-related destruction.

ii) Empowering disaster management institutions by increasing budget.

iii) Capacity building of Disaster management institutions by increasing ^{induction} employment and providing training to disaster management institutions.

iv) Developing long term policies related to climate change.

v) Empowering law enforcement authorities to reduce contributing factors of disasters.

vi) Increasing awareness among masses to deal with disasters.

"33 Million people effected, 30\$ Billion economic losses, 1300 km road damaged" reported the Anchor. She thought, "What's the need of wars when the world has to deal with even more destructive event - Disasters?" Disasters - be it natural or man-made - are the most

dangerous threat to existence of human. Though predictable with latest and advanced technology, disasters often take human with surprise. And the countries like Pakistan — underdeveloped, lacks technology and resources — are ^{at} even ^{higher} risk of damages. Disasters existed since the inception of universe but frequency ^{and intensity} of human-related disasters have continuously increased over the last century. Pakistan due to its location on the Earth, stands among the top ten vulnerable countries to climate-related disasters. In addition to floods, droughts ^{and} famine, Pakistan is also prone to earthquakes, avalanches, cyclones and tsunamis. Owing to weak economy, Pakistan faces serious challenges to deal with disasters. Its inability to balance resources ^{allocation} among conventional security threats, human development and disaster management is one of the major challenge to effective disaster management. Lack of economic resources leading to inadequate technology, incapacitated institutions, improper infrastructure — all collectively pose serious threat to Pakistan. These multifaceted challenges also needs a multidimensional holistic approach to pull country out of this threat.

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Owing to weak economic conditions of Pakistan, allocation of inadequate economic resources to disaster management institutions disables the institutions to deal with emergency disaster situations. Due to lack of economic resources, Institutions fail to reach far flung areas in disasters. For Instance, Disaster management institutions reached northern areas of Pakistan ~~after~~ weeks after 2005 earthquake. that ~~increased~~ human losses. Weak economic conditions is one of the major challenge faced by disaster management in Pakistan. Inadequate resource allocation is root cause of other challenges to disaster management including lag in technology.

Lack of advanced disaster prediction technology is also another challenge to Disaster management. Information in time provide an opportunity to institutions and masses to evacuate disaster prone areas. This could effectively reduce economic and human life losses.

Moreover, advanced technology can also help preparing institutions for upcoming disasters. For Instance, Lack of modern technology has amplified the destruction in cloudburst 2025 in Buner, Pakistan. So Pakistan lagging behind in climate related technology is also a serious

Challenge to effective disaster management.

Lack of trained disaster management professionals is also a major challenge to disaster management department in Pakistan. Unprofessional and untrained professionals could not effectively contribute at times of disasters. For Instance, Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority remains ineffective in dealing floods 2025 due to lack of adequate number of highly skilled professionals. Insufficient number of disaster management employees for this highly populated country could not effectively manage the disastrous situation. Therefore, less ratio of disaster management professionals to population also pose a challenge to disaster management.

In addition to inadequate funding and trained human resource, Pakistan also lack in proper infrastructure to reduce destruction caused by disastrous events. Proper infrastructure in the form of water storage structure including dams, water storage tanks and strong buildings with strong foundation can effectively reduce the damages caused by floods, droughts and earthquakes. For Instance, Pakistan lacked proper policy to keep checks on poorly constructed buildings that couldn't even bear slight earthquake jolts. 489 Bridges damaged in 2022 floods also indicate the poor quality of infrastructure. Poor infrastructure can not withstand

disaster and it also increases the damages caused by disasters. Therefore, improper infrastructure also contribute to poor disaster management.

Another challenge to disaster management is unaware masses. Unawareness of masses regarding severity of disasters also make it difficult for authorities to deal with disasters. For instance, Multiple videos on social media showed that unawareness of masses regarding severity of disasters make it highly challenging for disaster management institutions to effectively work in these conditions. ^{In} 2025 floods, It was shown by multiple social media users that how people were unwilling to evacuate their houses after flood warnings. In addition to other challenges, unawareness of masses reinforces the challenges to disaster management institutions.

Unstable political conditions in Pakistan along with internal and external security threats divert the attention of government machinery and resources from disaster management. This results in lack of preparedness of disaster management authorities and lack of policies. This causes uncertainty and chaos. This result in no coordination between Non-governmental Organizations and government institutions.

significantly decreasing the effectiveness of disaster management institutions. For instance, almost no coordination between NGOs like Al-Khidmat foundation and government institutions reduce effectiveness of disaster management in floods 2022.

Improper implementation of climate-related policies also increases the vulnerability of masses to disasters. Lack of inability of government to enforce policies effectively has resulted in illegal constructions in river banks ^{intensifying} ~~reinforcing~~ the floods. Inability to keep proper checks on constructions has also led to construction of sub-standard buildings, bridges, roads that couldn't bear ^{even} slightest of disasters. This increases disaster intensity and pose challenge to management of disasters.

Multiple challenges are being faced by disaster management institutions which could be addressed by increasing budget allocation inducting highly skilled professionals, thereby empowering disaster management institutions.

Constructing disaster-preventive and disaster-resistant infrastructure could help to manage disasters effectively. Large and short water storage dams, water storage parks can reduce the intensity of floods and droughts. Water absorbing roads with underneath water storage tanks and drought resistant structures

Can improve disaster management by effectively reducing the intensity of disasters. For instance, Japan's earthquake resistant buildings and walls on coast can reduce the damages related to Earthquake and Tsunami. Pakistan, by improving and altering infrastructures, can also effectively reduce burden on disaster management authorities. Thereby, improving disaster management in Pakistan.

Increasing share of disaster management authorities in Budget could empower disaster management institutions. Thereby, equipping disaster management authorities with latest technology to effectively combat disasters management. It allows disaster management authorities to invest in ~~effective~~ advanced technology and to utilize resources effectively in time of need. This step can increase effectiveness of such institutions.

Employing and training disaster management professionals in institutions can increase the effectiveness of disaster management authorities. This is a capacity building step of institution. Greater and skilled human resource can deal with disasters in more appropriate way. Trained professionals can work effectively in such draining conditions. More number of employees also reduce overall burden on institutions and can efficiently deal with disasters.

Therefore, Capacity building of disaster management institutions can allow such institutions to prepare in advance and effectively deal with disasters.

Developing and implementing long term policies to deal with disasters can effectively manage disasters. Pakistan is facing disasters related to climate ^{more} commonly. There is a high need to develop the policies to deal with Climate Change and disaster management.

Short term solutions like smog gun, helping masses post-disasters is more like symptomatic treatment rather than combating actual causative agent. In case of Pakistan, It needs to build dams, sponge cities. to deal with floods. The policies related to disaster and climate change should ^{not} become victim to political instability and political polarization. Government needs to integrate NGOs and government institutions to deal with disasters.

Empowering law enforcement agencies could also help reduce the severity of disasters. law enforcement agencies can keep check on illegal encroachments, substandard bridges, roads and buildings construction. They can also contribute by reducing the causes of climate-related disasters including old vehicles emissions, burning of crops residues, illegal deforestation, illegal smuggling of trees.

Empowering law enforcement agencies can also deter the employees of institutions resulting in improved accountability. This could also contribute to disaster management by overcoming structural and institutional flaws.

Increasing awareness among masses by digital campaigns and religious institutions can help reduce the burden of disaster management authorities. Certain training programs for masses by disaster management institutions can also empower the masses to deal with disastrous situation effectively. This is one of the best solution to deal with disasters in countries like Pakistan facing issues of connectivity, inadequate economic resources. Therefore, empowering masses by awareness and training can significantly improve disaster management in Pakistan.

For Instance, Rescue 1122 has organized multiple training programs in educational institutions to equip students to deal with emergency situations.

In a nutshell, Pakistan has been facing multiple challenges in disaster management. These challenges are economic, political, social, governance issues. To address these challenges, Pakistan needs

to integrate its government institutions to NGOs, increase budget allocation to disaster management authorities, train and equip disaster management professionals, develop long term ground-based disaster management policies, strong enforcement agencies for proper implementation and Aware masses regarding disasters and their severity.

All these solutions could significantly improve disaster management in Pakistan, only if policies are based on consensus of all stakeholders and implemented effectively by law enforcement authorities.