

Day: _____

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Name **Rafia 39071 077**

August Mock

Pak. Affair

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Flood and Ill preparedness

Introduction:-

In recent years, Pakistan has faced a growing number of climate related disasters, with floods becoming the most devastating and **recurring threat**. From 2010, it occurs almost every year including "2022's devastating flood that damaged many and displaced about million people. The 2025 monsoon season has once again demonstrated the country's vulnerability as widespread flooding affected millions and damaged infrastructure and caused hundreds of fatalities. Despite past experiences, the response to latest crises exposed the critical shortcomings in Pakistan's disaster management/preparedness.

Weak coordination, delayed responses lack of early warnings and fragile infrastructure highlight the ill preparedness of Government at all levels. There is urgent need to strengthen the disaster management framework and shift from a **reactive** to a **proactive** approach.

2) Ill Preparedness of Government at all level:-

i) Lack of ~~W~~Early warning system:-

The most critical failure of during the recent floods the absence of effective early-warning systems especially in vulnerable regions. In Swat, flash floods swept away entire communities and no functional **telemetry system** was in place to monitor the rising level of water. As a result, resident were caught off guard and unable to evacuate in time. Despite forecast from meteorological department the warning did not reach the local

population in meaningful form, indicating a severe communication breakdown between federal and local authorities.

ii) Delayed and Uncoordinated Response:-

The response from government agencies at all levels was marked by delay and confusion. In many areas, rescue operations were either slow or completely absent during critical early hours. A **Helicopter** was dispatched by the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) was crashed during relief efforts further highlighting the lack of preparation and training. A visible **disconnect** between federal institution and provincial bodies which led to overlapping responsibility and inefficient allocation of resources.

iii) Poor infrastructure and Urban Planning:-

The floods also revealed long standing issues in illegal infrastructure and construction in flood ~~zone~~ prone zones, urban development and the

Failure to de silt drainage systems contributed to the devastation.

Cities like **Lahore** and **Karachi** experienced urban flooding due to choked storm drains and inadequate sewage system. Absence of resilient planning continue to expose rural and urban population especially during monsoon.

iv) Lack of Public Awareness and Local

Capacity:-

In many flood affected regions,

the local population was unaware of evacuation routes or emergency protocols. Relief camps were either non functional or overcrowded, and there was a shortage of clean water, ~~medicine~~ medicine and food. These gap point toward a lack of disasters education at the **grassroot level** and a failure to equip local government with tools necessary to act independently during emergencies.

3) Importance of Disaster Management for Pakistan:-

Pakistan ranked among the world's 10 most vulnerable countries despite contributing less than one percent of global greenhouse emissions. The country now faces a grim reality where floods are no longer rare incidents but are becoming the "new normal."

According to ecologist **Rafiqul Haq**, "Floods are no longer rare disaster in Pakistan. They are becoming routine shocks that people brace for every monsoon. Calling them the new normal is not an exaggeration."

This disaster are transforming into frequent routine shocks across country due to country's geographic location in climate change vulnerable region, glacial melt, rapid urbanization and governance gaps. This evolving threat landscape underscore the critical importance of robust, proactive, disaster management systems to safeguard

lives, livelihood and national stability.

i) Mitigating Climate-induced Risk:-

The frequency and intensity of floods in Pakistan, accelerated by climate change have magnified making adaptation strategies essential. To combat this recurring shocks disaster management must encompass resilient infrastructure, floodplain restoration and an early warning frame work

ii) Addressing multi-dimensional vulnerabilities:-

Floods expose vulnerabilities that span from mountainous region to urban centers. In the north glacial lake outburst floods compound the danger, while cities experienced "worst ever" urban flooding. For instance Sialkot recorded an alarming 405mm of rain in a single night. Flood management account for all dimensions rural is urban, mountain is plain health, infrastructure, and livelihood.

Enhancing Early Warning and Coordination

~~Proactive disaster~~ response demands accurate forecasting

timely alerts, and inter agency coordination. NDMA's red alert before fresh monsoon spells allowed administrative units to prepare for potential flash floods and urban deluges. Effectively integrating meteorological forecast with civil and emergency agencies ensures timely action and saves lives.

Sociopolitical and Governance Dimensions

Beyond physical infrastructure, success of disaster management hinges on political will, regulatory will's enforcement and community engagement.

According to Dawn newspaper about 60% of flood devastation due to unimproved urbanization, deforestation & weak governance.

To conclude, Flood are no longer anomalies but expected annual threat Pakistan's destiny depends on its

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Preparedness. The importance of disaster management lies in from reactive to proactive approach.