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Pakistan Affairs

Question # 02

Climate Change; Socioeconomic and political implications and Pakistan's institutional response

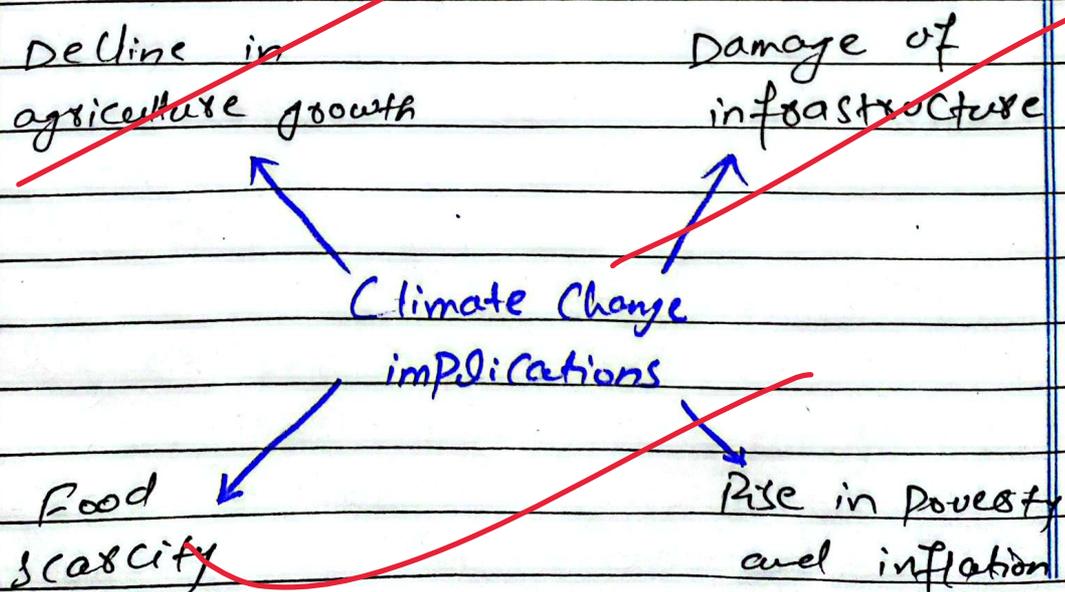
Answer:

Introduction:

There is no second thought that Pakistan has been facing worst challenges owing to climate change and it has become a non-traditional security threat to Pakistan's stability and long term sustainability. Back to back disasters has captured the country's growth and progress while lefted behind many socio-economic and political challenges. The country's geography has played major role in this context: being a lower riparian and geographically being in the mud of two of the most environment polluter countries, India and China. Climate change has presented major challenges like damage of infrastructure, decline in agriculture, increase in poverty

and inflation, food scarcity. On the political side it also becomes big challenge for political representative that how to implement consistent policies, scarcity of fund and need for rehabilitation of infrastructure, and eventually starts of blame game for political agenda. Despite of adoption of policies, Pakistan's institutional response mostly based on mitigation. Pakistan's institutions need to be more effective and resilient based on long term planning for sustainable economic development and disaster management.

Socio-Economic Implications of Climate Change on Pakistan



(i) Damage of Infrastructure

Among the implications of Climate Change, loss and damage of infrastructure is inevitable.

Every disaster has left the country with huge losses. In 2025, Pakistan has faced losses of almost 8 billion dollars. In 2022 floods, the country had faced losses of almost 30 billion dollars. Roads, highways, buildings, schools, hospitals, and most importantly residential homes has wiped out.

(ii) Decline in Agriculture growth: a backbone of Pakistan

A sector which was considered as backbone of Pakistan, is now on the mercy of Climate Change. Agriculture plays role of 24% in the country's GDP and employs almost 37% of total population. Because of recurring disasters and floods in recent years, Pakistan is compelled to import the food from other states. In 2023, Pakistan had imported wheat of almost 9 billion dollars and in 2025, the country has imported food of almost 3.4 billion dollars, illustrating the implications of Climate.

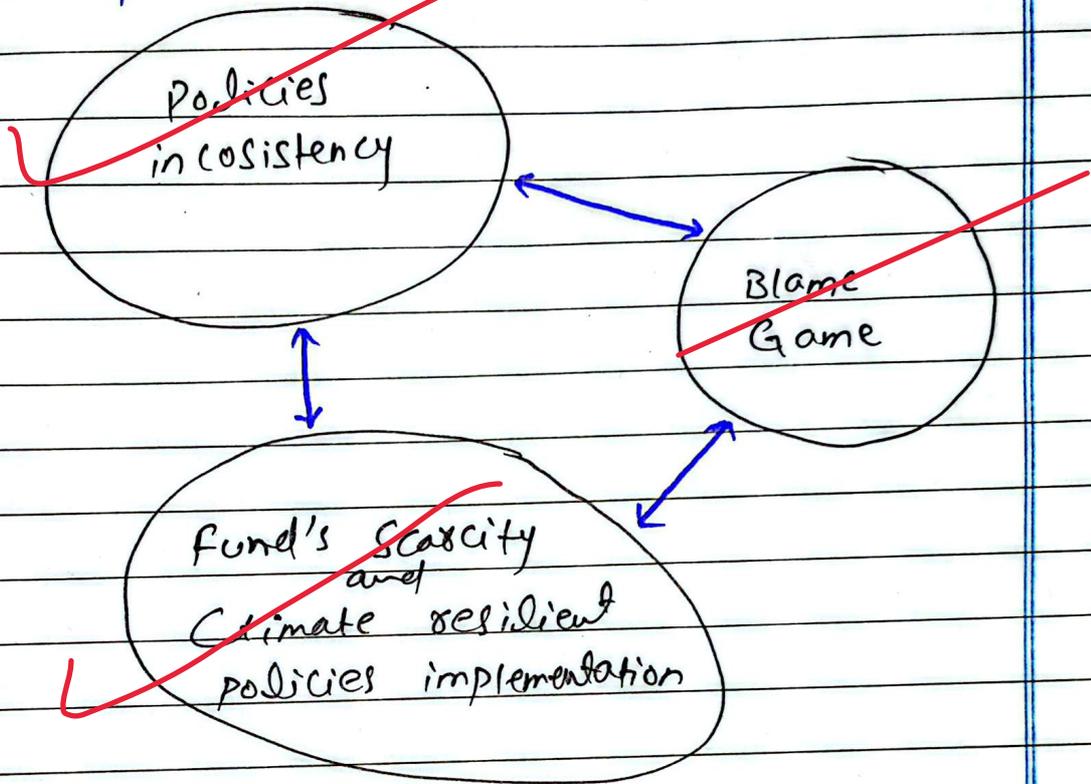
(iii) Food Scarcity

Because of decline in ~~inf~~ agriculture production, climate change has created food shortage across the country. In the first quarter of 2015, Pakistan has imported the food of almost 3-4 billion dollars. whereas, the food and commodities within the country, are scarce and their prices are touching the skies. This poses one of the greatest threat to Pakistan's domestic need.

(iv) Rise in inflation: a non traditional security threat to Pakistan

Climate change ^{has} not only impacted the infrastructure, agriculture or any other sector but it has ^{also} long lasting impacts on a common man's life. When prices and cost of living becomes out of reach, it forced a person to illegal pathways. It eventually becomes threat to law and order and peace of the country. Cost and damages ~~attracts~~ government funds, while socio-economic developments and relief for ordinary citizen becomes very hard to achieve.

Political implications of Climate change on Pakistan



- (i) Policies inconsistency owing to unpredictability of Climate change

Climate Change and environmental change have become so unpredictable that it is become very hard to adopt one policy for climate resilience. Specially in Pakistan, government is struggling to focus on one factor because of unpredictable events in every upcoming year. Being one of the most climate effected country in the world, the country is vulnerable to it.

(ii) Start of blame game among political parties

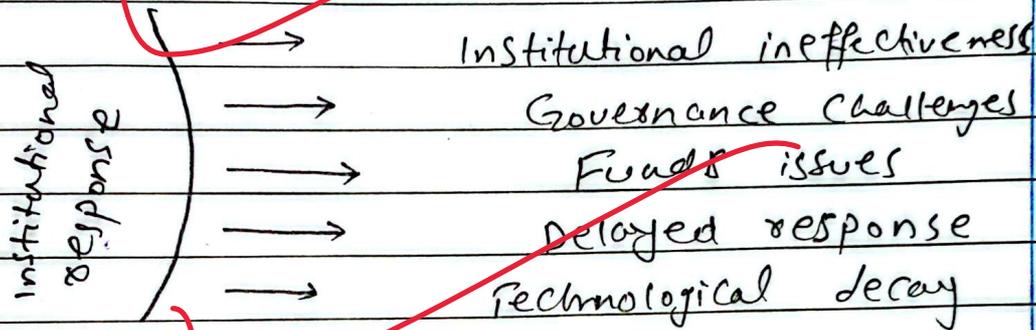
It has been noticed that policies ineffectiveness and misgovernance in adaptation plans to Climate Change, political parties blame opponent party for all the mishaps. This problem is very common in Pakistani political circles.

(iii) Fund's scarcity and their need for climate resilient policy implementation

In Pakistan, another political implication of climate change is policies in implementation because of economic problems. Government is struggling with funds and unable to focus on developmental projects. Climate resilient infrastructure and effective policies adaptation are need of the time, unless government focus on these issues, climate implications would become even more harsh.

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Critical Evaluation of Pakistan's Institutional response to Climate induced challenges



Despite increase in Climate Change vulnerability, Pakistan's institutional response is not up to the mark. Institutions like NDMA, PDMA and legislative institutions lacks in policies adaptation, policies implementation, effective response to disasters, ~~governance~~ governance, and technological advancement. Countries, which effectively managed the climatic change have created timely and effective policies and implemented them with good governance. Institutions of Pakistan also lacks behind because of their restricted role in policy making and suggestion and then absence of required capital for climate mitigation and adaptation.

Conclusion s

To sum up, Climate change is becoming one of the most inevitable threats to Pakistan, with its long lasting impacts on socio economic and political domains. Institutions of Pakistan, however, trying to manage this rapid change in climate and its impacts. Despite all the efforts, institutions are remained behind in policies implementation, good governance, and technological advancement, owing to financial and political barriers. The menace of disasters because of rapid change in climate is becoming more challenging with every coming year. It is the high time for strategic elite and legislative body of Pakistan to decide that how can they minimize the implications of climate change.

Question # 04

Internal political instability:
analyze the structural causes and
impacts on national security and
foreign policy

Answer :

Introduction

Since the inception of Pakistan, the country has been struggling with political instability. This is 23rd prime minister of Pakistan and none of them have completed its tenure in office. This political instability has contained Pakistan's economic and diplomatic performance. There are many reasons which resulted in political instability, a few of structural cause are; immaturity of politicians, prioritizing personal privileges rather than national interest, external interference in political process by elite and extra judicial verdicts, elite capture and tussle of interests between power holders. These factors have resulted negatively to the country's sustainable development, and national security and foreign policy.

Key structural cause of political instability in Pakistan

- ① → Immaturity of politicians
- ② → Personal interest protection rather than national interest
- ③ → External interference in political process
- ④ → Elite capture and conflict of interest

(i) Immaturity of politicians : absence of core values of democratic system

Pakistan's political system is struggling because it lacks in very principles. Politicians have not even studied the fundamentals of politics by analyzing the successful democracies, most of them don't even have degree in political science. Apart from that, Pakistan is based on dynastic politics and leaders are not chosen by democratic process. Because of these issues, every politician

followed traditional and precedential norms and political process that has eventually resulted in political instability.

(ii) Prioritizing personal interest rather than national interest

Countries that achieved smooth and transitional democratic process, have been sticked to their Constitution. unless in Pakistan, where politicians prioritize their personal gains and interests. Sometime they crossed the limits of constitutional jurisdiction that eventually result in political chaos and instability.

(iii) External interference in political process

Political instability in Pakistan has surely been affected by external factors. Elite and extra-judicial verdicts have many times ~~resulted in~~ ended with fall of governments. In 1950s and 1990s decades Pakistan remained most affected by political instability owing to external interference.

(iv) Elite capture and conflict of interest
 Pakistan's political system is captured by elite. It has become a model where common man don't even able to fulfill election campaign. Elite spends billions in political campaigns and comes in power. They want to serve their own interests and sometime their interests mismatch do not comply with other peers. This approach leads to vote of no confidence and change of government.

Impacts of political instability on Pakistan's national security and foreign policy

Internal instability paves the way for external interference

Social mistrust and role of non-state actors

Shorter or unstable foreign policy results in mistrust with among global powers and investors

Political instability in Pakistan has created devastating impacts on national security and resulted negatively to foreign policy determinants. Internal instability caused by political chaos opens the path for external interventions and proxies in the country. Because of diversion of focus towards political tussle, external forces easily work on their objectives. Political instability also causes social mistrust in the masses and non-state actors brain-wash the illiterate and excited people to fulfill their own evil objectives. The regions like Balochistan, KPK are most affected by misgovernance and poor law and order because of presence of non-state actors. Moving forward, it also results in short term foreign policy and unstable relations with global powers. This results in mistrust among regional powers as continuous change in foreign policy affects negatively. This also creates mistrust among investors because they hesitate to invest due to uncertainty of policies.

Conclusion:

There is no doubt that internal political instability has constrained Pakistan's economic and diplomatic performance. But the current stable relations between civil and military establishment brings hope about political stability in the country. In the recent political trajectory of Pakistan, Pakistan had done many mistakes because of serving personal interests, immaturity of political elite, and external interference. The current stabilization of economy, trust among investors, and Pakistan's growing role in global diplomatic and strategic circles brings hope that Pakistan is on the right path.

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Add references of research based data