

Water Crisis in Pakistan, It's causes and solution.

Pakistan could run out of the water by 2025 because we reach an alarming scarcity. Pakistan is ranked third in the list of water shortages facing countries under the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Many other officials, such as the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Pakistan Water Resources Research Council (PCRWR), are also warning against the water crisis. "Nobody in Pakistan will be immune to this scarcity, whether from the north with its more than 5,000 glaciers or from the south with its' hyper deserts," said Neil Buhne, UN humanitarian coordinator for Pakistan.¹

In a country where politicians struggle with one another in a desire for power without vision, such a crisis is inevitable. These leaders also oppose the building of new water storage facilities. The fact that the word " dam " was highly controversial and that its use often stimulates heated discussions among the constituent provinces rightly underlines Pakistan's predicament.²

Now we're on the way to the causes part. According to experts, the increasing population and urbanizations are the main causes of the water crisis in Pakistan. Also, we have no proper management of Water. Wasting water is also one of the most important problems in Pakistan and no action has been taken by the government and individuals to prevent this disaster with the worsening of the water crisis. Water maladministration occurs at many levels.³ Most of our farmland is irrigated by a canal system and this canal water is underpriced according to the IMF and recovers only one-quarter of the annual operating and maintenance costs.

¹ "Water crisis: Why is Pakistan running dry? | Asia| An in-depth look at" 7 Jun. 2018, <https://www.dw.com/en/water-crisis-why-is-pakistan-running-dry/a-44110280>. Accessed 11 Nov. 2018.

² "Thirsty Days Ahead: Pakistan's Looming Water Crisis - Daily Times." 11 Nov. 2018, <https://dailytimes.com.pk/320610/thirsty-days-ahead-pakistans-looming-water-crisis/>. Accessed 11 Nov. 2018.

³ "Water scarcity 'is Pakistan's worst nightmare' | Asia| An in-depth" 2 Jul. 2015, <https://www.dw.com/en/water-scarcity-is-pakistans-worst-nightmare/a-18557432>. Accessed 11 Nov. 2018.

Also, some mention climate change also causes water crisis. According to DW: “First, the contribution of snow and glacier melt will eventually decrease if glaciers continue to decline. Secondly, climate change also affects the monsoon patterns (although current projections do not show systematic changes). Thirdly, the higher temperatures across the country will increase the demand for water and evaporate. All three factors contribute to an increase in drought frequency.”⁴ People do not generally pay for water, so they are using it limitlessly. Farmers, therefore, use water for irrigation and urban areas consume more than they need. Water infrastructure is also poorly formed and leads to leaky canals and dams.

Millions of lives are affected by the water crisis. Many people in a country like us can't turn to bottled water or pure water. Farmers also suffer from a lack of irrigation water. The fact that the authorities simply do not seem interested in dealing with this crisis aggravates everything.

Water scarcity triggers security conflicts throughout the country. Experts say that the economic effects of the water crisis are enormous and people fight for resources. Increases in food prices and lack of water are inflaming regional conflicts and migrating populations to areas where water is readily available. Water scarcity results in food shortages while rising commodity prices hamper trade with developing economies and lead to civil unrest in the long run.⁵

Now, at the end of the conversation, we are the remedy or solution to the water crisis. DAWN publishes this article “Immediate solution to water crisis” on March 17, 2003. Shockingly we’re not facing it from few years. They’s mention about Pakistan’s Water Budget, Categories of Losses, Over Irrigation.⁶

Some of the articles on the internet mention that Dams don’t help in a water crisis. But a Dam-Equivalents or DEs may work. Taking their work in consideration, DEs

⁴ "How climate change is aggravating Pakistan's water crisis | Asia | An" 9 Nov. 2017, <https://www.dw.com/en/how-climate-change-is-aggravating-pakistans-water-crisis/a-41315151>. Accessed 11 Nov. 2018.

⁵ "The economic implications of global water scarcity | Global Risk Insights." 8 Dec. 2016, <https://globalriskinsights.com/2016/12/economic-cost-global-water-scarcity/>. Accessed 11 Nov. 2018.

⁶ "Immediate solution to water crisis - Newspaper - DAWN.COM." 17 Mar. 2003, <http://www.dawn.com/news/88035>. Accessed 11 Nov. 2018.

can help transform our outdated canal irrigation practices – which account for 95 percent of the country 's total water consumption– into modern systems, not only competing with California's smartness and productivity standards, but also raising the bar for the rest of the world in terms of sustainability, eco-friendliness and low-carbon green growth. DEs can help to build urban water security in a way that not only provides sufficient clean water for drinking, health, hygiene and other uses to every urban resident, industry and public utility, but also provides sufficient water for horticulture that may be required for the greening and landscaping of public and private areas throughout the city's landscapes. ⁷

Reduce water consumption at the point source at the household level, e.g. by turning the tap off when you brush your teeth, using limited amounts of water for flushing, washing and other related purposes. ⁸

Domestic recycling would also help to solve the problem. Instead of taking a bath with a shower, replace it with a simple water bucket. Use simple rainwater barrels for gardening purposes. Rainwater barrels are water storage boats above ground. They capture rain from the roof of a building using the gutter and the drainage system. In addition, a rain garden could be built in order to reuse water that would otherwise flow into the sewage system. The installation of a gray water system would help to divert water from your toilet drain.

So, we covered causes all the way through the solution to the water crisis. In my opinion, the situation we're currently dealing with Dams may be the best solution to it.

⁷ "Dam Equivalents: The Solution to Pakistan's water crisis - Daily The" 20 Aug. 2018, <https://thebusiness.com.pk/2018/08/20/dam-equivalents-the-solution-to-pakistans-water-crisis/>. Accessed 11 Nov. 2018.

⁸ "How to best deal with water shortage | The Express Tribune." 26 Jul. 2018, <https://tribune.com.pk/story/1766418/6-best-deal-water-shortage/>. Accessed 11 Nov. 2018.