

Climate Crisis and Positive Peace: Reassessing Environmental Security and Social Resilience in Pakistan

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Abstract

Climate change is fast developing as a direct challenge to the bedrock of sustainable peace in Pakistan. In addition to degrading the environment, it is shaking the structural aspects that favor justice, equity and community resilience. Repetitive climate caused disasters like floods, droughts, and glacial meltdown are paving the way to social inequality, causing displacement, loss of trust in institutions and the escalation of conflict locally. This paper looks at how environmental insecurity undermines such necessary components of positive peace as social cohesion, access to resources, and stable governance. The research establishes the mismatch between the climate adaptation measures and actions on peace building through examination of cases of national responses, field level responses as well as the vulnerability of the different regions in regards to climatic variations. It exposes the fact that even in the age of awareness about the risks climate poses, the strategies that may integrate environmental security and environmental resilience are barely present. To sum up the given paper, it is possible to propose a framework that rests on establishing links between climate adaptation and peace building based on an inclusive governance, local solution and long-term environmental planning as its key aspects of building a peaceful and sustainable future.

Keywords: Climate Change, Positive Peace, Environmental Security, Social Resilience, Pakistan, Governance Deficits, Climate Adaptation, Displacement, Water Conflict, Climate-Conflict Nexus, Sustainable Peace, Climate Vulnerability, Environmental Justice.

Introduction

Climate crisis is not a far-fetched risk anymore; it is an emerging reality with realistic implications to countries, communities and the ecology. One of the hardest hit countries by the inconveniences caused by climate change, even though it does not even contribute one per cent of total greenhouse emissions, is Pakistan. Whether it is devastating floods and recurrent droughts, as well as glacier melt and temperature increase, Pakistan has become a green state at the war front of the climate crisis. The impacts of these shocks on the environment are ecological as well as economic, but are also very social and political. They lead to the very essence of peace and security, and there is a dire need to examine climate change not just as a matter of environment but as the issue of structural distortion of harmony and positive peace.

As opposed to its more popular close relative, negative peace, which defines peace as a condition characterized by the absence of violence, positive peace speaks of the existence of justice, equality and stability of institutions. It involves the circumstances under which societies thrive and are able to stand firm during difficult times. Positive peace is particularly vulnerable to environmental degradation, socio-economic inequality, and institutional inefficiency triggered by physical violence

and public disorder in fragile states, or emerging democracies, such as Pakistan. Such structural weaknesses, together with the recurrence of climatic upheavals, lead to a complex crisis which impacts the fabric of society. Not only is climate change appearing as a background cause, it is the multiplier: a climate multiplier, a tension multiplier, a trust-in-institutions multiplier, a social contract multiplier. (Mukhtar, 2022). The geographical and ecological diversity peculiar to Pakistan, which condenses the land of glacial mountains in the North and arid deserts in the South, makes it vulnerable to a variety of climate-related hazards. The floods of 2010 and 2022, when millions of people were displaced and whole communities destroyed, are vivid evidence of the Joel level of a crisis. And behind the apparent destruction, there is a more insidious destruction, structural. Rural poverty is devastated when, in the unpredictable monsoons, agricultural regimes crack. Conflicts between provinces and ethnic communities also escalate when water resources are scarce. The effects of climate stress result in people being forced to migrate, which increases informal settlements, sometimes in conflict-enriched areas. These trends of disturbance are endemic and institutionalized, each denting the foundations of peace.

Confounding this struggle is the weakness of its institutions to which Pakistan has reacted to climate change. Although the national frameworks consider the risks of climate, they are poorly coordinated, weakly funded, and not properly connected with the general policies of peace and development. Disaster response is more of a proportion of the length of climate adaptation plans as opposed to resilience. Where they exist, peace-building strategies are reactive as opposed to preventive. Environmental governance and conflict-sensitive development are not coordinated, and there are consequent policy gaps which permit structural vulnerability to intensify gradually. The case is especially dire in such regions as Sindh, Baluchistan, and Gilgit-Baltistan, where ecological pressure crosses with any prior political, ethnic, and economic resentment. Constant experience of climate shocks in these areas has reduced the resilience of the community, degraded the status of intercommoned, and led to conflicts over resources. As an illustration, the tension over irrigation rights is back again in Sindh province due to the water crisis in Sindh, and the process of glacial melting in the Gilgit-Baltistan region endangers ecosystems and infrastructural constructions that are important to the production of energy and agriculture. Chronic drought has destroyed livestock-based livelihoods in Baluchistan, setting the stage for unrest and migration. These climatic processes impose a strain on standard peace-building activities that neglect the role of environmental stimuli and that of dealing with the complete picture of social vulnerability.

In addition, the issues affecting Pakistan are aggravated by both international and regional affairs. Climatic vulnerability of the country is not the only isolated issue; it takes place within a context of its security environment, characterized by the competition over water, energy, and land in South Asia. The politics of Trans transboundary rivers, especially Indus Basin, is affected by climate variability, development pressures and geopolitical rivalries. This escalates the ante of internal stability because a national policy merges with regional environmental diplomacy. However, in recent peace and security systems, climate risk is usually not incorporated as part of the strategic priorities.

The environmental police and policy focus in Pakistan is still too narrow. Although the role of the climate-peace nexus in international decision-making is increasingly being recognized, it still has a disproportionate focus in the academic and policy field in Pakistan that seems to be centred on mitigation and emergency response. Rather little is said of how environmental insecurity can jeopardize the social fabric, promote a sense of exclusion and inhibit resilience. There is little research done to implement the concept of a positive peace in the Pakistani context, not alone, considering climate adaptation as an instrument of peace building. Such failure to intersect analysis causes a gap in knowledge and policy in which such cross-sections are urgently required. (Hamid, 2015)

This study aims to fill that gap. The purpose of the current research is to present an in-depth overview of how the problem of environmental degradation can challenge the foundation of the structure that is inseparable from maintaining peace and long-term stability in the context of Pakistan by means of critically examining the nexus of positive peace and climate change in Pakistan. It accomplishes this

by concentrating on both the national policy action and the local community effects, especially the susceptible areas. Based on the theory of environmental peace building, resilience frameworks, and the national and international data, the study not only provides the diagnosis of the risks, it also presents propositions of the forward-looking strategies.

It contends that adaptation to a changing climate needs to be “more than infrastructure and technology” by producing social cohesion, fair governance and inclusive decision-making processes. By so doing, it adds to the more comprehensive picture of peace whose outline acknowledges the environment as both a place of weakness and a face of strength. The study also becomes applicable to other climate-prone nations that may want to utilize environmental policy creation in favor of peace-building needs in an ever-turbulent world, since the study focuses on the Pakistani case.

Problem Statement:

The climate crisis is intensifying at a critical stage in Pakistan, where it is no longer just an environmental issue, but an extremely challenging issue regarding the social stability and long-term peace. Although these are built on already existing national frameworks, vulnerabilities to climate in these frameworks are yet to comprehensively capture indications unfolding due to the effects of climate-related disruptions, ranging from floods, droughts, and glacial melting, to disrupt the underlying structural foundations of peace. These destabilizations worsen the dearth of resources, undermining institutional credibility and social and inter-ethnic animosities, especially in already weak areas, such as Sindh, Baluchistan and Gilgit-Baltistan.

Although the climate-security nexus is gaining recognition around the world, the policy and academic discourse on the issue in Pakistan is thus far rather limited to adaptation of infrastructure and response to emergencies. A major gap in environmental governance and peace building is lacking, and scant attention is paid to resilience, justice and social cohesion, which are some of the major elements of positive peace. Consequently, there is no coherent system that ensures a blend between climate adaptation and conflict prevention and structural peace building in the country.

This is both a theoretical and a policy dilemma: how can Pakistan generate an integrated strategy to not only achieve ecological and then further improve the socially protective aspects of climate change but also cease the climate-induced conflict, and sustain peace in the long term?

Literature Review:

1. Framing Positive Peace in a Climate-Vulnerable Context

The concept of **positive peace**, as distinct from negative peace, refers to the presence of justice, equity, institutional resilience, and sustainable development. While traditional security frameworks have focused on preventing direct violence or conflict (negative peace), positive peace emphasizes long-term social harmony, inclusive governance, and the elimination of structural violence. In fragile states, positive peace becomes both more critical and more vulnerable due to systemic inequality, political instability, and weak institutions.

Within this framework, climate change emerges as a powerful disruptor. Rather than being a standalone ecological problem, climate disruption alters the social, economic, and political systems that sustain peace. This is particularly evident in Pakistan, where recurrent disasters not only destroy infrastructure and displace populations but also erode trust in institutions, amplify identity-based grievances, and disrupt inter-communal relations. As such, climate change must be analyzed not only in terms of its environmental impact but as a force that challenges the very foundations of sustainable peace.

2. Climate Change and Environmental Insecurity in Pakistan

Multiple studies have confirmed that Pakistan is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change. Ranked consistently among the top ten in the Global Climate Risk Index over the past decade,

Pakistan has experienced severe floods, prolonged droughts, glacial melting, heat waves, and biodiversity collapse. These events have created widespread displacement, food insecurity, and livelihood destruction, especially in regions such as Sindh, Baluchistan, and Gilgit-Baltistan. (Ayesha, 2024)

The Pakistan Climate Change Policy (2012) and subsequent adaptation frameworks have acknowledged these vulnerabilities. However, as outlined in the paper *Climate Change in Pakistan: Impacts, Strategies, and the Way Forward*, these strategies remain largely reactionary and disconnected from broader development and peace frameworks. Rather than building long-term community resilience or institutional robustness, much of the focus remains on short-term mitigation, post-disaster response, and infrastructure repair. This policy gap underscores the need to rethink environmental governance in Pakistan through the lens of peace and security. (Zakir Hussnain, 2022) Moreover, the country's ecological stress is not distributed equally. Marginalized communities such as women, ethnic minorities, and the rural poor face disproportionate impacts. The inability of state mechanisms to account for these social dimensions of vulnerability has further fragmented trust in institutions. This fragmentation creates fertile ground for unrest, contestation, and inter-group rivalry, particularly in resource-scarce contexts.

3. Climate Change as a Threat Multiplier: The Peace and Security Nexus

Global research increasingly recognizes climate change as a threat multiplier an element that exacerbates pre-existing vulnerabilities and fuels conflict. In fragile states, where governance is weak and inequality is entrenched, environmental shocks can lead to tensions over land, water, and mobility. This has been well-documented in international studies, yet under-explored in Pakistan-specific contexts.

The knowledge policy paper *Knowledge Gaps in the Nexus of Climate, Peace and Security* emphasizes that climate-fragility pathways are often indirect, mediated through poverty, displacement, governance failure, and lack of institutional legitimacy. It argues for a systems-level analysis that integrates climate risks into peace building frameworks. In Pakistan, such an integration is still absent, with most environmental planning occurring in isolation from conflict prevention strategies. (Khalifa, 2023)

The document highlights the lack of investment in monitoring and forecasting tools, absence of climate-peace markers, and an overall disconnect between national adaptation plans and social peace frameworks. This gap not only weakens adaptive capacity but also fuels conditions that may transform climate shocks into social unrest or violent conflict especially in regions where ethnic or sectarian cleavages already exist. (Selim Jürgen Ergun, 2021)

4. Resilience Theory and Adaptive Peace building

Resilience has turned out to be an important term in transition to climate and also in peace building. Within the environmentally insecure context, resilience is the capacity of communities and institutions to absorb, adjust and recover to climate-induced stressors. It is not only about ecological or infrastructural resilience, or a sum of social cohesion, inclusive governance, and institutional legitimacy.

The capabilities of resiliency have been negatively affected by systemic inequities in urban-rural gaps in Pakistan and the absence of investment in the human capital. According to reports by Gilgit-Baltistan, though the grass-based communities have devised indigenous measures of adaptation including an early- warning system of the glacial lake outbursts and inter-communal sharing of water system, such initiatives have not been translated into a formal process. Dadu in the provinces of Baluchistan and Tharparkar, there is no appointment of social security nets or rehabilitation schemes over the collapse of livestock-based economies because of long-term droughts and, thus, migration, unemployment, and socio-dislocation.

The presence of an adaptive capacity at the community level is not enough due to lack of institutional

support which is limiting its size and sustainability. The inability to align local knowledge systems with formal structures of governance results in the production of a resilience gap that exposes population to the future shocks and diminishes the possibility of peaceful recovery.

5. Environmental Peace building and its Relevance to Pakistan

Environmental peace building A developing field of inquiry, environmental peace building examines how it is possible to construct cooperation out of shared environmental problems, to avert conflict, and facilitate post-conflict recovery. It focuses on participatory resource management, community involvement and establishment of environmental governance mechanisms that would act as a basis of building trust, and reconciliation of the society.

Environmental peace building efforts have been promising in post conflict areas around the world with the case of the water sharing agreements in the Middle East, the boundary conservation endeavors by Tran in Africa, and post-tsunami collaboration efforts in Southeast Asia. These models provide the understanding about how environmental governance could cross political differences and generate mutual benefits of peace and sustainability. This paradigm in the context of Pakistan has however not been explored too much. The water conflicts between the provinces, land depreciation in tribal lands and ecological debilitation of the metro-fringe areas are being dealt with as the questions of technology or advancement issues instead of the issues of peace and security. The lack of formats, which acknowledge environmental management as a tool of peace building, is indicative of an intellectual gap in policy and researchers. (Khuda Bakhsh, 2020)

More notable are such gaps in areas like Punjab-Sindh (inter-provincial water conflict), Baluchistan (resource extraction disputes) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (damaging forests and displacement of population). Such cases indicate that the problem of the environment is already inherent in the conflict situation of the country, and that solving them on the basis of collaborative and participatory models has the potential to bring openings to peace on the horizon.

6. Literature Gaps and the Need for Integrated Frameworks:

Despite growing global awareness of the climate-peace nexus, there remains a **critical gap in both academic research and national policy** when it comes to understanding how environmental insecurity undermines positive peace in Pakistan. The following gaps are evident:

- ❖ **Disciplinary Fragmentation:** Climate research is often situated within environmental science, while peace research belongs to political science or security studies. This separation has prevented interdisciplinary models from emerging in Pakistan's policy circles.
- ❖ **Neglect of Positive Peace Metrics:** Most national climate assessments and adaptation plans focus on direct impacts, economic losses, infrastructure damage, population displacement, but do not analyze how these outcomes affect justice, equity, institutional trust, and social harmony.
- ❖ **Insufficient Localized Data:** Much of the data used in national and global assessments is aggregated, masking the regional and community-level disparities in climate vulnerability and peace resilience.
- ❖ **Lack of Gender and Social Justice Lens:** Few studies explicitly address how climate shocks disproportionately affect women, minorities, and marginalized groups, key dimensions of positive peace.
- ❖ **Policy Disconnection:** Climate policies, development plans, and conflict prevention strategies are not linked. This leads to redundant efforts, resource misallocation, and the perpetuation of structural vulnerabilities.

Research Questions:

1. How does climate change affect the foundational structures of positive peace in Pakistan, particularly in terms of environmental security, social cohesion, and institutional resilience?

2. Why have existing climate adaptation and peace-building policies in Pakistan failed to adequately address the intersection of environmental degradation and social vulnerability?
3. What integrated approaches can be developed to align climate adaptation, conflict prevention, and resilience-building in order to sustain long-term positive peace in Pakistan?

Theoretical Framework:

The cross-appeal between the climate crisis as well as positive peace in Pakistan needs an interdisciplinary theoretical perspective that cuts across the paradigms of the environment, social and politics. In this study, the layered theoretical approach operates with four complementary strands, which include Positive Peace Theory (Johan Galtung), Environmental Security (Richard Ullman, Simon Dalby, Jon Barnett), Resilience Theory (Brian Walker and David Salt), and the Climate-Conflict Nexus (Nils Petter Gleditsch, Thomas Homer-Dixon, Ide & Scheffran). When they are combined, these frameworks enable a powerful analysis of the key aspects of the manner through which climate-induced stressors affect the framework conditions required to support sustainable peace in such fragile states as Pakistan.

❖ Positive Peace Theory:

The theory of positive peace is the core pillar of this study, which is the work of Johan Galtung, who pioneered in the studies on peace. Galtung makes a difference between negative peace (lack of direct violence) and positive peace, which is described as the existence of justice, equity, robust institutions and viable social systems. This paradigm changes the direction of analytical focus in examining the management of conflict to one that transforms structural violence into the institutions of social fairness and institutional legitimacy.

The inclusion of good governance, equitable distribution of resources, participatory decision-making, environmental sustainability and human dignity are some of the elements used to achieve positive peace. Within the setting of Pakistan, political instability, cross-ethnic volatility, and weaknesses in administration overlap with the ecological pressures with regard to positive peace, both of which are direly needed and repeatedly threatened.

Disasters due to climate, like floods, droughts, etc., reduce the positive peace by displacing the vulnerable people, destroying livelihoods, augmenting inequality, and reducing trust in the institutions. Where local governance either cannot provide its people with an equitable recovery process or does not safeguard its weak populations, disillusionment and alienation become established to the point where peace becomes implausible. Galtung, therefore, gives us a moral and analytical basis for how stress facing the environment undermines the structural integrity of peace.

❖ Environmental Security:

The idea of environmental security grafts the conventional military-oriented conception of national security to various environmental issues based on the degradation, lack of resources and susceptibility to climate-based threats. This theory was first introduced by Richard Ullman and later augmented by scholars like Simon Dalby and Jon Barnett, who said that environmental threats can destabilize states and, in doing so, lead to other phenomena, including war, at the margin of stronger political components. (Barnett, 2007)

Conceiving climate change as the threat multiplier, environmental security contends that any socio-political tension and institutional fragility is exacerbated by climate change. In the case of Pakistan, this can be seen quite evidently in inter-provincial water conflicts, land erosion in the province of Baluchistan, and forced relocation of flood victims. The consequential effect of environmental degradation, when coupled with low state capacity, would usually be social strife, identity conflict or even violence in local engagements.

Barnett has proceeded to state that environmental insecurity makes human security weaker by depriving access to resources, threatening livelihood, and increasing tension between communities and the state. The case of Pakistan is comprehending how climate disasters such as the 2022 floods have not only resulted in economic losses but also fuelled resentment towards inequality, inaction of

the government, and neglect of the unimportant regions. (Mehmood, 2023) This framework allows placing this study in the context of ecological stress as a systemic and strategic threat to peace and not as an environmental problem.

❖ **Climate-Conflict Nexus**

The **climate-conflict nexus** provides empirical and theoretical frameworks for understanding how climate change contributes to conflict, not through direct causality but by influencing socio-political pathways. Scholars like Thomas Homer-Dixon, Nils Petter Gleditsch, and more recently Tobias Ide and Jürgen Scheffran, argue that climate stress operates through **indirect structural mechanisms** such as:

- ❖ **Environmental migration**, which causes competition over scarce urban resources.
- ❖ **Livelihood collapse**, which contributes to crime, radicalization, or militia recruitment.
- ❖ **Institutional strain**, which reduces state legitimacy during repeated crises.
- ❖ **Exclusion and inequality**, which deepen identity-based grievances.

In Pakistan, this framework is visible in flood-related displacement in Sindh, the water conflict between Punjab and Sindh, and drought-induced migration from Baluchistan. The 2010 and 2022 floods revealed how environmental shocks can undermine trust in government institutions, especially when emergency relief is delayed, politicized, or unevenly distributed. Homer-Dixon also focused on the issue of resource capture, which is a process when elites acquire exclusive rights to dwindling resources, leading to disturbances with other minority populations. In Pakistan, this is manifested through land tenure conflict, appropriation over irrigation waterways and politicized relief responses. The lens, which considers climate change as a risk escalator and not as a deterministic cause of conflict, allows the study to perceive that climate change acts through shameful systems, directionless governance, and overloaded civic organizations. (Shiza Saad, 2024) (Dixon, 1991) (Scheffran, 2014)

Methodologies:

This research adopts a **qualitative case study methodology**, grounded in **interpretivist epistemology**, to explore how climate change undermines the structural foundations of positive peace in Pakistan. Qualitative research is particularly appropriate for this study due to its ability to capture context-specific experiences, localized impacts, and complex social processes that cannot be reduced to numerical variables. Since peace, resilience, and environmental insecurity are embedded in cultural, political, and institutional systems, qualitative methods provide the most suitable framework to analyze these phenomena holistically.

Research Design and Approach:

The study employs a **multi-case study design**, focusing on three climate-vulnerable and conflict-prone regions of Pakistan:

Provinces	Key Threats:
Sindh	post flood recovery and water scarcity
Balochistan	drought, displacement, and resource-based tensions
Gilgit Baltistan	glacial melt, ecological fragility, and local adaptation

Each case allows for the exploration of how environmental disruptions interact with social resilience, governance structures, and peace dynamics. The goal is to generate in-depth insights into the mechanisms through which climate stress undermines or potentially strengthens positive peace. This research is **exploratory and explanatory**, aiming to uncover the relationships between climate events, institutional responses, and community-level peace indicators.

Justification for Qualitative Methodology:

The complex and context-dependent nature of peace and climate vulnerability requires a research approach that is flexible, layered, and sensitive to local narratives. Quantitative approaches, while

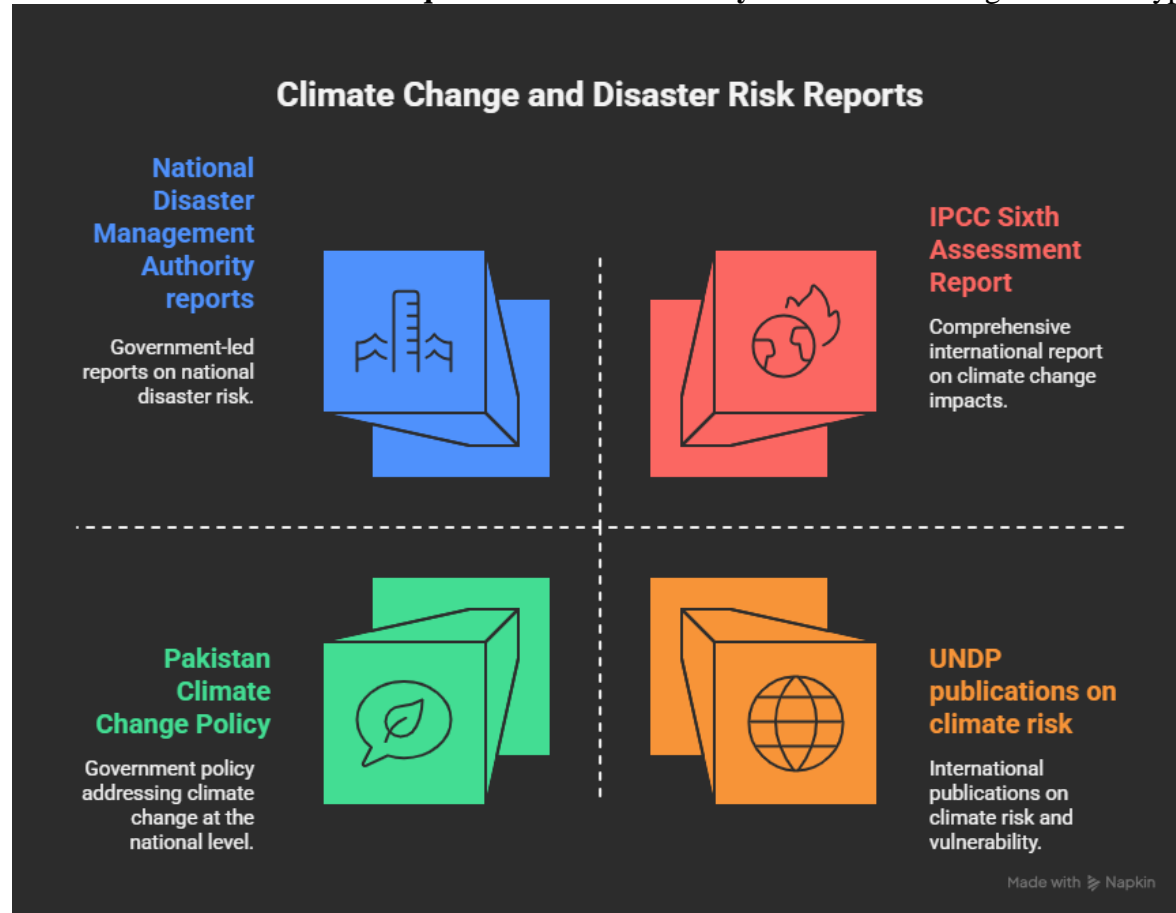
valuable for measuring impacts, are insufficient for understanding **why** and **how** certain communities fail or succeed in adapting to climate stress or maintaining social cohesion.

- ❖ Interpret **lived experiences** of affected communities.
- ❖ Analyze **institutional discourses** around adaptation and peace building.
- ❖ Capture **invisible tensions** and **power dynamics** that influence outcomes.
- ❖ Explore **emergent themes** that may not be evident in policy frameworks.

This approach is particularly critical in Pakistan, where underreporting, political sensitivities, and informal governance structures influence the way peace and environmental risks are managed at the ground level. Given the constraints of time, resources, and field access, this study relies exclusively on **secondary data sources**, which are widely accepted in qualitative research for case-based, document-driven analysis. These tools are carefully selected to maintain academic rigor and ensure data reliability, validity, and relevance.

Document Analysis:

The core data collection tool is **qualitative content analysis** of the following document types:



Ethical Consideration:

As this research relies solely on **secondary data sources**, including academic publications, policy reports, and publicly available government documents, there are **no human subjects** directly involved in the study. Therefore, **informed consent, anonymity, or privacy protection** procedures typically required in primary fieldwork do not apply here.

Nonetheless, the research upholds academic integrity and ethical best practices in the following ways:

- ❖ **Proper Attribution:** All sources, whether academic, institutional, or media-based, are acknowledged through accurate referencing and citation.

- ❖ **Data Transparency:** All documents used are publicly accessible, ensuring that the analysis is replicable and traceable.
- ❖ **Avoidance of Bias:** Efforts were made to include diverse perspectives from national, regional, and international sources, and not rely solely on government narratives.
- ❖ **Academic Honesty:** Plagiarism has been avoided through paraphrasing, critical synthesis, and the use of original interpretation of secondary data.

This approach complies with standard research ethics guidelines used by major universities and journals, particularly for student-conducted research projects based on secondary data.

Discussion and Analysis:

This part provides the results of the research, conducted on a profound, document-wholesome scrutiny of three regional units of study, Sindh, Baluchistan, as well as Gilgit-Baltistan. Such places have been selected because they are very vulnerable to the effects of climate and have social and institutional weak areas that hinder the achievement of positive peace. The analysis consists of the use of climate risk reports, scholarly articles, and national adaptation plans to describe the interplay between climate-induced environmental stress and social cohesion, institutional capacity, and human security across geographical and social-political landscapes.

Sindh Climate Displacement, Water Insecurity, and Fragile Peace:

Sindh has already been mentioned as one of the provinces most severely influenced by climate change. The floods of 2010 and 2022 were unprecedented and resulted in mass displacement as well as crop, disease and livelihood loss; education and livelihood status have been hanging in the balance due to it. An estimated 8 million people in Sindh were displaced all on their own in 2022 floods, as estimated by the NDMA. It is not just the physical cost that humans had to pay, but also social trust, opportunity to receive public services, and harmony between communities. (Imran, 2013)

The challenge of climate-displacement has been disastrous to structural peace as we understand it in a positive peace perspective; the condition contains a potent mix of insecurity, inequality, and marginalization. The rural Sindh is home to internally displaced persons (IDPs) who, in informal settlements, are deficient in water, sanitation, and other basic amenities such as health and education facilities. Such predicaments result in frustrations, conflict over a few resources, or socially uncomfortable situations between the host and refugee. In parts of the country with most of the fighting happening in sub-national districts, increased tension in access to land, delivery of aid and water was reported by local media.

What complicates the situation additionally is the problem of water insecurity. Glacial recession, mismanagement of water and even interprovincial tensions are straining the Indus River system, which supports the agrarian economy of Sindh. Slower streaming in the canals has not just harmed the farming, but it has also led to heightened water disputes between Sindh and Punjab on equitable water distribution. This is a structural complaint that threatens the ecological stability and political cooperation in the long run, as it is a result of climate-induced scarcity. (Afifa Kiran, 2017)

The reaction of institutions has frequently been criticized in the context of Sindh as slow, ill-coordinated and also politically driven. Although there are disability response structures in place, early warning systems are not used maximally, and there is irregularity in the distribution of aid. Institutional distrust, an important obstacle on the way to positive peace, is also caused by the inability of local governance to recover equity.

To conclude this discussion of the case of Sindh, floods and water scarcity as environmental stressors and social exclusion as a contested area of governance and incomplete integration are associated with the causes of the peace structural interruption. Climate-displacement and water conflict should not be reduced to technical issues only, but comprehended as questions of peace and security domains, which demand varied responses

Baluchistan Drought, Livelihood Collapse, and Ethno-Political Discontent:

One of the most underdeveloped Pakistani provinces, Baluchistan, has been chronically under a stressful climate with frequent droughts, desertification and sudden changes of temperature. In the last 20 years, droughts have caused an immense economic hit on agriculture and livestock, which are the main sources of living in the province. The provincial data indicate that tens of thousands of families have been displaced owing to the scarcity of water and crop failure in the districts of Chagai, Nushki, and Washuk. The livelihood improvement in Baluchistan has multidimensional impacts on positive peace. First, it elevates poverty and food insecurity, which widens the existing disparities. Second, it inflates rural-urban migration that overwhelms the strained urban services in places such as Quetta and Turbat. Third, and above all, it aggravates ethno-political grievances.

Baluchistan has been a territory that is politically marginalized and has separatist feelings. The failure to act in mitigating climate shocks using inclusive and equitable policies results in the failure to act being translated to a conscious state of oversight. To take only one recent example, it was civil society and local media that widely condemned the lassitude of the federal response to the 2018 drought as a case of indifference. The feeling that the Baloch communities are treated differently, are less acknowledged and not provided with resources than other provinces further the suspicion of the central institutions. (Muhammad Aslam^{1*}, 2024)

Moreover, the tension is increased by the conflicts about the extraction of the resources, including mining and infrastructure development projects that the CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor) is associated with. Most of these projects require water and land, adding pressure on the already limited numbers. Due to the lack of environmental protection and community consultations, any development is no longer perceived as a way out, and it is seen as an additional cause of exclusion. Institutional capacities in Baluchistan are poor, uncoordinated, and there are security issues. The provincial rescue crisis council does not have the capacity and technical skills to initiate long-term enhancement projects. In addition, the political instability in the region and its past of armed hostilities discourage the interest of the donors and turn the implementation of the climate-resilient development into the process of extremely difficult.

The Baluchistan incident proves that climate stress, particularly when expressed as a multiyear drought phenomenon, is one of the factors that interact with deficiencies in governance, identity-related grievances, and mismatched developmental models to erode structural peace. Peace in Balochistan will be endangered insofar as there are no specific policies that deal with ecological vulnerability and political alienation.

Gilgit-Baltistan Glacial Melting, Ecosystem Fragility, and Community Resilience:

In Pakistan, North Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) accounts for over 7,000 glaciers and is a vital source of water to the Indus Basin. As the world is warming up, the region has witnessed faster melting of glaciers and the emergence of more Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs). As found by WWF-Pakistan and the Ministry of Climate Change, the region has developed more than 3,000 glacial lakes, and 33 of them are presenting current hazards to human settlements. The great risks to environmental security and sustainable peace have been initiated by the fragility of the ecology of GB. Access to basic services and markets has often been disrupted when infrastructure, including roads, bridges and homes, has been damaged or wiped out by GLOF events. Such interruptions have economic, psychological and social effects, especially in mountainous societies where communication is scarce. (Ahmed, 2016)

Nevertheless, GB is a special lesson in community resilience, unlike Sindh or Balochistan. Most societies in GB have elaborated customary early-warning mechanisms, glacier surveillance systems, and community-based disaster preparedness measures. There is the visible involvement of local NGOs as well as women cooperatives in the management of water and innovation in agro-ecology, which are part of both adaptation and social cohesion. That being said, such bottom-up initiatives are, however, not sufficiently facilitated by the state. Climate adaptation programs are usually donor-led,

short-term and not connected with provincial/national governance processes. Although the GLOF-II projects, which have been funded by UNDP and the Green Climate Fund, helped with infrastructure and training opportunities, it has had a minimal scope. (Program, 2025)

The other issue is that of the ecological influence of uncontrolled tourism and unrestrained development. There has been overdevelopment of sensitive areas, which has led to more and more environmental pressure as well as overturning established land use. Even the best development can become self-defeating when lacking appropriate zoning rules or environmental protection measures, as these phenomena can make it more vulnerable. The institutional governance in GB is also not without limitations on its ambiguous constitutional position. As a non-provincial administrative region, it has no complete legislative powers and controls its own budget, which limits long-term planning and investment in climate resilience preparation. This vacuum of governance sets in to create an uncertainty regarding accountability and curbs the ability to scale successful community efforts.

Nevertheless, GB demonstrates that positive peace could be implemented in the proximity of community resilience acceptance, support, and its inclusion in the broader policy. The fact that GB institutionalizes local knowledge and associates it with state processes provides an opportunity to use the model to shape environmental peacebuilding in areas that are ecologically sensitive. (Dr. Nasreen Akhtar, 2023)

Findings and Conclusion:

The results of the study have shown that climate change in the context of Pakistan is not a simple environmental issue but a direct impediment to the structural prerequisites of maintaining the state of positive peace. In the provinces such as Sindh, Baluchistan and Gilgit-Baltistan, climate-related events, which include flooding, drought and glacier lake-related outbursts, are heightening social vulnerabilities and destroying local economies and increasing governance shortcomings. According to secondary sources of data in both national and international levels, there has been increased competition related to water, land, and aid among the displaced communities, and institutional responses are fragmented, iniquitous, and, most of the time, politically inclined. Lack of built-in climate-peace alchemy, in policy formulation, also mostly plays a part in cyclical processes of marginalization, mistrust, and social tension. In spite of grassroots revival initiatives, especially in Gilgit-Baltistan, there is no perennial institutional backing. Persistent incompatibility between climate adaptation policies and peace-building necessities is emphasized by the findings, which prove that as long as non-exclusive, localized, and justice-oriented plans are not implemented, environmental insecurity will continue to compromise both human development and sustainable peace in Pakistan.

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