



The Local Government, Urban Community and Climate Resilience in Pakistan: A Case Study of Lahore

Fatima Almera¹ **Mohammad Muneeb Butt**² **Mehroz Tahir**³

¹ M Phil Political Science, Department of Political Science, The University of Punjab, Pakistan.

² BS Diplomacy and Strategic Studies, Department of Political Science, The University of Punjab, Pakistan.

Email: mb.butts34603@gmail.com

³ BS Diplomacy and Strategic Studies, Department of Political Science, The University of Punjab, Pakistan.

Email: mehroztaur101@gmail.com

Corresponding Author: fatimaalmera16@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

Climate change poses a significant threat to the livelihood and well-being of Pakistan's urban communities, particularly in Lahore. Rising temperatures and urban flooding have increased the intensity of the heat waves, and changes in the precipitation pattern are exacerbating urban flooding. This study assesses the vulnerability of urban communities in Lahore to climate change using qualitative research methods, and it includes 25 interviews. According to the results, local communities are highly vulnerable to climate-related challenges, with significant impacts on livelihoods, infrastructure, and socio-economic problems. The study identifies several key factors contributing to vulnerability, including poverty, lack of awareness, and limited economic diversification. The study highlights the importance of community-based adaptation strategies, including the use of traditional knowledge and practices, to enhance resilience to climate change. The need for urgent policy action to raise awareness and support climate resilience and adaptation measures in urban communities of Pakistan. The findings of this study have important implications for policymakers, practitioners, and researchers working in the field of climate change adaptation and climate resilience. The study recommends the development of targeted adaptation programs that take into account the specific needs and vulnerabilities of urban communities in Lahore.

Keywords: Climate Resilience, Climate Change, Climate Adaptation, Urban Climate Resilience, Local Government, Community Resilience.

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Introduction

Climate change is a global issue that impacts the day-to-day life of humans. It has been discussed widely in academia and first-world countries, but it is given least to negligible importance in underdeveloped to least developed countries. However, the effects of climate change or climate-induced disasters are visible in underdeveloped and least developed countries (e.g., Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh) of the world. It leads to climate-forced displacements, and if it's not managed at its earliest, it could lead to huge climate-induced migrations that could lead to another global issue. The citizens and governments of underdeveloped and least developed states need climate governance and adaptation strategies, especially in countries like Pakistan. There were various existing legal frameworks and ongoing projects (heat wave management plan), (smog commissions), (urban forestation plan), (Sendai framework by United Nations), and many more. Therefore, there are quite significant resilience strategies to contain the impacts of climate change. This study is mainly focused on strengthening climate resilience Strategies and policies, and aims successful implementation. It also enquires about the core causes of implementation mismanagement and failure. Furthermore, in-depth study, this research is conducted at the grassroots level for more practical and real-time research.

All the existing literature is lacking in addressing the challenges that common people that they are facing daily and why they aren't concerned about climate change and its effects on them. The objectives of this research were to identify and evaluate the primary challenges and barriers encountered by local government and its efforts to enhance climate resilience. To analyse the awareness role of local government and to assess the capacity and readiness of the local community to engage in climate resilience initiatives. For the sampling of research objectives, the UCs based in Lahore were approached. Our thesis statement is "*Urban climate resilience, the local government and community of Pakistan: the case study of Lahore*". This research also includes the perspectives of residents and experts from academia and the field as well.

This study emphasises that the Lahore and local

government operate at the lower tier of administration and serve as the primary entity in the disaster management and related strategies. Local Government officials are well aware of the locals and the locality and therefore know what their problems are. When the inhabitants of a locality are affected by any adverse event. Local Government officials and representatives are the primary figures who approach. Climate resilience with mitigation and adaptation as its two pillars can work only in Pakistan if it is administered through the Local Government.

Our study concentrated on the urban areas of Lahore, with our major focus on heat waves, urban flooding, and smog during the winter. In May, June, and July, Lahore faces extreme heatwaves that put a load not only on the health department due to casualties and heat-stroke-related cases but also toll heavily on the individual's pocket. It explicitly links rising temperatures and heatwaves to increased mortality, morbidity, and the strain on the healthcare system. Acknowledge Karachi and Lahore as cities very susceptible to rising extreme heat, where, even under reduced emissions scenarios, temperatures deemed as heatwaves and linked to elevated mortality risk become commonplace (WBG & ADB, 2021, p.13). Every year in monsoon season, Lahore receives a significant amount of rain. The year 2024 rain broke the previous records in Lahore, with urban flooding in almost all areas. Unprecedented rainfall from August 1 to August 4, 2024, was witnessed in Lahore with Pakistan's Meteorological Department (PMD) documenting nearly 360 millimetres (14 inches) of precipitation in just three hours. These adverse weather events cause extensive urban flooding throughout the city, significantly impacting areas such as Model Town and Johar Town. DHA Phase 6, Shahdara, Tajpura Bazar, Canal Road and the surrounding areas of Services Hospital. The heavy precipitation caused considerable disturbances in daily activities and infrastructure in these areas (NDMA, 2024, p.8). Smog in winters is also an immense problem in Lahore, as it was declared the second most polluted city in the World and competed with Indian and Chinese cities for the top spot. This severe seasonal pollution is driven by specific meteorological conditions, as an

analysis of PM2.5 data reveals a distinct trend with significantly higher concentrations during the winter months (October - February). this is due to lower temperatures, reduced wind speeds, and temperature inversions that trap pollutants near the surface, leading to the dangerous smog for which the city is known (EPA Punjab,2025, p.48).

Research Methodology

The exploratory investigation led our research to an understanding of a range of attitudes, values, and feelings of the target group, so a qualitative approach was considered optimal. The method entailed one-to-one, in-depth interviews conducted in private and tape-recorded.

Sampling includes 25 individuals in Lahore from different socio-economic and educational backgrounds. 15 residents, including males and females aged 20-50 years. 3 UC secretaries from the different areas of Lahore, UC # 212, Iqbal town, UC #92, Awan town, UC # 105, and Jahanzaib block. The experts and practitioners include: a climate expert from Cees, Punjab University, the Director WASA, a deputy director WASA, the PDMA control room in charge, an Ex UC-chairman, A zonal officer's regulation, and A staff member from municipal cooperations. All recordings were transcribed and translated into English.

Initially, data collection, which involved interviews with urban residents and Union Council (UC) secretaries, presented significant challenges regarding conceptual understanding. Specifically, participants, irrespective of their literacy levels (ranging from functionally literate to uneducated), exhibited minimal understanding of the concept of climate change. in spite of delivering the material in the native language but their capacity to assimilate the core ideas remained limited, thus constituting a notable methodological hurdle for the research team. Interviews were subsequently conducted with the educated segment of the population, significantly more straightforward to execute, as these individuals possessed a foundational awareness of climate change. However, a group lacked a crucial appreciation for the societal-level critical and widespread implications of its impact on the community as a whole.

Finding and Results

1. Level of Awareness Among Public and Government Officials

The study found that the level of awareness regarding climate change and its effects, or in essence, their own role in mitigating it, was directly related to the educational background of the participants. Overall, there was a low or negligible level of awareness among the officials of the lower tier of local government regarding its role in building or strengthening climate resilience. Most of the participants were not familiar with the terms "climate resilience or climate change". They didn't consider it their concern or domain, even some respondents did not consider it a threat at all. A very small number of respondents acknowledged the effect of climate, but they recognised that other departments of the government are responsible for the implementation of policies and infrastructure projects aimed at mitigating the impact of climate change. However, awareness about urban flooding, heatwaves, and smog varied significantly among experts. The government officers exhibited a higher understanding of climate change and its effects, and the need to strengthen climate resilience in a more vulnerable community. In contrast, union councils' secretaries, community leaders, small business owners, and general community members were less informed, or to be specific, unaware, particularly about their role and responsibilities as citizens or nationals.

Participants from an educated background who belong to the middle-income households in urban areas generally had better access to information and had a clearer understanding of governmental action. In contrast, residents with the least or no educational backgrounds and residing in low-income areas showed limited awareness. For instance, many were unaware of the causes of climate change, heatwaves, or smog.

A very common pattern identified in the participants from lower educational and lower income background was that they believed that the government is solely responsible for all climate resilience measures, neglecting the role of individual and community actions. Additionally, another huge misconception identified in people from same background is that all happens by the

will of God, or it's a natural process. One of the residents mentioned, "the earth moves towards the sun over time it so it increases the intensity of heat during the summers and it's a natural process, as the young generation is weak and fragile they can't bear heat like our generation do, young people find excuses these days" (R5). In contrast stated, "in my childhood, I see more trees in Lahore, but as I grow older the more land area is occupied by more housing societies and trees were cut down which cause the increases of the intensity" (R4).

2. Gaps and Barriers:

The study identified some key gaps and barriers in building and strengthening the climate resilience in public through local government. These include:

- **Failure to Comprehend the Phenomenon of Climate Change:**

The key problem with the whole concept of climate change is that it's a *theoretical construct* which makes it difficult for a lay man to understand, added by the suspicions and controversies created and fuelled by the prominent leaders of the international community calling it "the greatest con job" "the greatest lie told to humanity" (Trump 2025) and although its effects are felt real time and are very much present, but the progression is too slow to make it a priority for the government and the public. The problem worsens in developing states like Pakistan which is among the consortium of developing states, with a literacy rate of only 58% for adults and 80% for the youth, which makes it difficult for them to understand the reason behind the climate-induced effects they experience. The participants in the study attributed it, a supernatural phenomenon caused by the sin's humans especially, Muslims are committing in their day to day lives. All residents without any exception coincided with the supernatural cause of climate change and one of the participants said that, "we experience heatwave and other climate effects it all because Qayamah (end time) is near, and we are people of the last time to exists before the world comes to an end. We should seek forgiveness from the Almighty and request Him to let us enter in heaven/paradise" (R1).

- **Limited Resources Available to the Public and Local Government Officials**

Climate resilience needs a change in the public behaviour affinity for anything is hard to cultivate in a society but fortunately for Pakistani people, there's an affinity for trees and nature that study discovered. When asked if they would plant a tree or maintain a rooftop garden if they had the space and finances required, all of them replied positively. Another respondent said that she always wanted to have a larger garden, as she is very close to nature; she has a keen desire to have a rooftop garden, but due to limited resources, it couldn't be done.

Another participant responded that even if they want to work for the environment, they have many more things to worry about than planting trees, maintaining the existing trees, or even starting a rooftop garden or resilient infrastructure. They said they have unpaid electricity bills, school, and college dues for their kids that demand their attention and not the climate change. We asked if Government took some initiative and provided them with the seeds and pots and maybe some economic incentives like tax exemption if they planted trees, maintained their gardens or started a rooftop garden, all of them invariably responded positively and expressed that they always had a desire to keep some kind of green space in their houses.

- **Victim-Hood Syndrome and Lack of Responsibility on The Part of Public:**

Those who actually recognised climate change as a threat induced by human activities, identified themselves as the real victims, and the government as a responsible rescuer, which, obviously, according to them, had failed them. A resident explains on inquiry, "We are not responsible. It's a government job. We elect them. The government is responsible for people facing severe heatwaves this year. The government increases the electricity bills, now people can't afford an air conditioner or air cooler, it's all the government's fault" (R 6).

- **Incapacity of the Local Government and Its Officials:**

The local Government officials are incapable of creating any sort of resilience in the community because, first of all, they don't understand the

concept of Climate change and the threat it imposes to them. A Union Council secretary, who is supposed to take on this task responded that "let's not talk about" after asking again, he replied "this is the most useless thing to talk about, I got an electricity bill of 23k, this is my concern, not the heatwave or climate" (R18).

The study found that, even if programs of climate resilience like Tree plantations are initiated by the Government, they all wane quickly as there is no follow up to these drives and consequently, they produce zero to very low results. About this particular issue, the UC secretaries also raised a concern that they have a very limited number of Gardeners or Malis to cater to these planted trees, and thus all the planted trees in the last plantation drive withered away within days or weeks.

Moreover, the Local Government, for a long time, has confined itself to some petty jobs of keeping records and issuing of certificates of death, birth, marriage, and divorce only. All the UC secretaries' responses were similar, that their duty as the top and the only priority is the issuance of certificates and nothing else. According to a UC's secretary, "the basic function of the union council is the issuance of certificates of death, birth, marriage, and divorce certificates only. Moreover, UC assist the upper tiers of power if required, such as in the dengue awareness campaign" (R17).

- Lack of Trust and Communication Between the Public and Government:**

There exists a lack of trust between people and the Local Government Officials. When asked the participants said that they can't and won't trust the Local Government Officials with their money if asked to raise funds for planting more trees or do community work to build climate resilience. They said "All fund money will go into their pockets and there will be no practical work, perhaps" (R7, R8).

Moreover, People of all four union councils and the Local Government officials have a very low frequency of formal communication. The people approached the UC only when they want issuance of certificates mentioned before. Besides that, there's no communication between them because there are no elected members of the local government and thus people can't raise their concerns very effectively. When asked UC

official said that" the only thing, I, as a representative of the union council, do for awareness or communication with the public is by displaying a flex outside my UC" (R17).

- No Domain Specialist:**

Another problem is that the subject of the climate change or environment is not represented in the Local government. While there are women to close the gender gap, youth reserved seats to include Youth participation but there is no representation of the Environment by a reserved seat. Though it should be a concern of every inhabitant of the area, having an expert or a person who is focused on this particular subject and domain might help highlight the matter at hand. According to the climate expert from the College of Earth and Environmental Sciences (CEES Lahore) "provincial or federal government are responsible for the greater initiative like policy making, while local government are responsible for implementation of the that policy at grassroots level, and individuals and community also have to play an active if we want to create or strengthen the climate resilience" (R19).

- Community Capacity and Engagement:**

The study found that community capability for engagement appears to be influenced by factors such as socioeconomic status, local leaders, education levels, and access to resources. All-inclusive, community involvement in climate resilience activities in Lahore diversifies widely. Some neighbourhoods are actively engaged in tree plantation activities, while others exhibit limited participation.

The presence of engaging and well-connected local leaders in some communities was found to have enhanced the public participation especially in areas where leaders are proactive in organizing resilience-building activities, such as dengue awareness campaigns and tree-planting drives. These communities benefited to some extent from awareness. However, in less affluent areas, where residents lacked access to information and resources and thus many community members in these areas are unaware of available resilience initiatives or do not view them as relevant to their daily lives. There is also lack of training and resources in these areas, that otherwise could have empowered individuals to take part in resilience

activities, such as emergency preparedness training or access to education of sustainable practices.

Cultural factors and everyday economics concern also play a role in limiting engagement, as many individuals prioritize immediate needs over long-term resilience planning.

Theme	Expression	Description
Awareness of climate change and the preparedness of the public and officials	Confused, Indifferent	There's a huge lack of awareness. Many people, including officials, showed a lack of awareness about climate change, believing it to be either a myth or a matter beyond human control. Only a small percentage were aware of climate resilience, with very few ready to take measures to mitigate it.
Behaviour/ attitude of people	Don't care Not concerned	The biggest hurdle that had been reported was the behaviour and attitude of the people. They (R15, R16, R17, R18) don't believe that climate change is a real thing and attribute it to various superstitions. Even if they are made to understand somehow, they don't believe it's their place to do anything for climate change or the environment because it's not their responsibility, but rather the role of the Government to take measures against it. People see themselves as the victim of climate change and another climate-induced disaster, and the Government as their rescuer who would rescue them out of the misery.
Whether Local Government officials can perform the functions envisioned in the LGA-22	Uninterested and Unbothered	Local government officials lacked awareness and professional training to address climate change and build community resilience effectively. They appeared overwhelmed by the challenges, often dismissing climate-related concerns as less important than immediate personal or administrative issues.
People trust in the Local Government.	Sceptical, Guarded	The public distrusted local government officials with funds for climate action, fearing corruption and misuse. They preferred individual actions over donating to government efforts.
Financial Constraints	Worried, Sighed with frustration	Both officials and residents faced financial limitations, hindering their ability to engage in climate action. Residents prioritized basic needs over environmental concerns but expressed willingness to participate in resilience efforts if supported by the government, often with worried looks.
Communication/Engagement between Local Government officials and the public	Disconnected, Confused	Ineffective communication between the local government and residents is due to a lack of representation and outdated methods. Information dissemination was limited and often not understood by the public, leading to low engagement in climate resilience activities, as seen in their disconnected expressions.

Discussion

1. Lack of awareness and Incapacity of the Local Government officials:

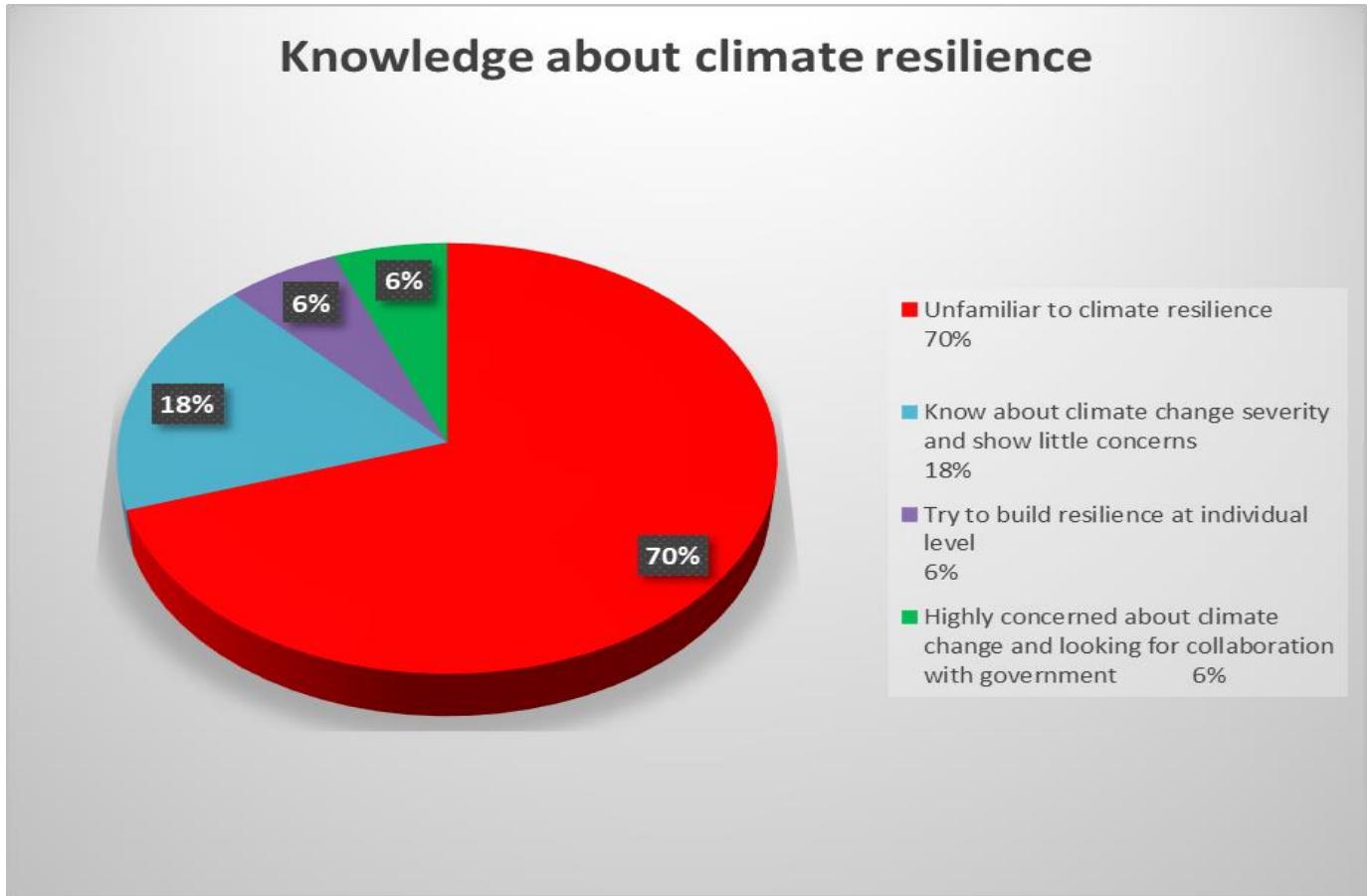
The climate change awareness is very negligible, even though Punjab has a literacy rate of 75.84

percent, as per the latest population census. Of that, male literacy stands at 80.44 percent while female literacy is at 70.73 percent but still, they think that climate change or global warming is a myth and things have always been like this and if things are getting worse than it is God's will and

nature's way of things and they can't do anything about it. Almost 70 % of the population is not familiar with term climate resilience or climate change, 18% are familiar but do not show any concerns, 6% people try to take measure in building resilience at individual level, only 6% are seriously concerned and would like to take initiative with the support of government.

Lack of awareness is not only a problem for the awareness community. Local government representatives share the same level of awareness as most of the broad-spectrum public about climate change. The biggest dilemma is that they

don't understand the importance of creating resilience in the public. Moreover, they don't have the education, awareness, and professional training to deal with climate change and to work for creating resilience. Almost all the secretaries talked about the Tree Plantation initiatives by the provincial Government, but also shared a concern that they have a limited workforce, i.e. Malis or gardeners, to tend to the saplings that are planted. Those freshly planted saplings need attention and care to survive. Unfortunately, the tree drives only involve the planting of young saplings and then leaving them on their own to survive, and according to R13, all these



planted saplings die within a week or two without proper care and attention.

2. Behaviour/ Attitude of People:

The success or failure of climate resilience depends upon the response of the public, whether they adopt it or not, and the public of the covered UCs is not aware of the issue, let alone being prepared for it. There's a huge lack of awareness. To change people's behaviour is not a one-day task but rather requires long-term community engagement at all levels. Unless the attitude/

behaviour of the people is changed, any policy will be futile. Climate resilience needs a change in public behaviour to work. While interviewing the Director of planning and design of WASA, it was revealed to us that WASA had all the capacity, infrastructure and advanced machinery to deal with the urban flooding in Lahore; nonetheless, its capacity to do so is greatly inhibited by public attitude, whereby; the public disposes their domestic wastes and refuse into the drainage system of WASA. This is also becoming a challenge for the WASA

management. This kind of factor limits the efficiency of the institutions and working bodies.

3. A Matter of Priority:

Local government has its priorities focused on the issuance of death, birth, and marriage certificates only. Creating an Environment of resilience is the least of concerns. They believe that it's not their place or job to do this. Moreover, the departments like PDMA, WASA, and DDMA are more inclined towards the alert system for incoming disasters and disaster management (in case of excessive rains) rather than creating resilience in the public before there is any disaster. Even the zonal officer from the Metropolitan corporation Lahore gave his perspective about climate change and the role of Local Government, he said, "It's not the primary function of the Local Government or the UCs to deal with the environment. It's the role of the Climate department, and the Local Government can only play an auxiliary role, and we always help and facilitate the concerned departments when they ask for help" (R24). On the other hand, the Union council secretary said that they have carried out the Dengue drive efficiently, and residents were also satisfied with the work of the dengue committee in their locality (R17). If the same priority and importance are given to climate change and climate resilience, significant changes can be observed and progress toward strengthening climate resilience.

4. Lack of Trust and Communication:

There exists a huge trust deficit between the public and the officials of the Local Government. Many residents showed their willingness to adopt climate resilience, plant more trees and take necessary measures within their capacity on an individual level. On the other hand, when asked if they would give funds or donations to the local government, almost all of them denied, reiterating the point that they would be better off doing things on their own rather than contributing to funds collected by officials. There's a huge gap in the communication between the Local Government and the residents of a particular area because elections are not held, and there is no councilor to represent the public at the Local Government. The secretary is not elected, and they don't feel the need to communicate with the public as they are not their

representative. In the digital age, the UC secretary is still using the ages-old method of awareness by using banners outside their UCs to raise awareness.

5. Lack of Resources and Financial Constraints:

Financial constraints were a major concern for the officials, in addition to the residents of the designated UCs. Keeping the statements of the UC officials in view, financial resources are directly proportional to participation in climate resilience. As a common man is trying hard to fulfil his bread and living, thinking about strengthening climate resilience or feeling the effects of climate change is simply not his cup of tea. The Residents' point of view is that they have other things to be worried about, like electricity bills, school fees for their children, and monthly food bills, rather than the increasing heat or untimely rains. The residents also showed a willingness to participate in mitigating the effects of climate change on the individual and community levels if they were supported and augmented by the Government. Moreover, A. Professor and expert on climate from CEES also recommended that people should be provided with seeds and terra-cotta pots for roof gardens because the public can't afford considering the current economic conditions, especially the people with low income, as they are more vulnerable to the effects of climate change (R19).

Recommendations and suggestions

1. Commencement of Local Body Elections:

The role of elected bodies is to raise awareness in local communities and to collect and provide information on ongoing issues to relevant departments and resolve them. Due to the absence of elected bodies, the UC's secretaries are unable to handle such a large amount of burden alone. So, there is an urgent need for elections.

2. Need for a Reserved Seat for Environmental Specialist:

In the Local Government Act, there's no reserved seat for any person who has in-depth knowledge of climate change and environmental issues. Ideally, there should be a seat in every UC, considering the grave situation of the environment in Pakistan. The knowledge and

awareness gap was discovered in the fieldwork. While taking into account current resource constraints, there should be at least one person who is an environmental specialist at the municipal or town council level, and mandatory training for every UC chairman and council to highlight the issue of climate change.

3. Public Participation and Reversing the Drama-Triangle:

The Pakistani public thinks that they are only the victims of Environmental problems and climate change, and they have not contributed to it by any means. There's a need to reverse this drama triangle and change their perspective from the victimhood to the point of view of a creator who creates solutions. Moreover, the Government needs to change their behaviour from rescuing the public from the climate-induced effects and disasters to coaching the public to build resilience against climate change. In some communities, like in India, Bihar, they took an initiative, enhancing knowledge, skills, and attitudes (KSA) in communities, targeting both men and women in villages and children in schools, thus covering people from all age groups. Overcoming the 'Victimhood Syndrome' is most important and can be achieved by encouraging proactive, community-based problem-solving over expecting aid from the government (Sagar & Kundan 2017) "One size fits all policy" won't work in every situation, every urban area and every local unit has its own set of problems, and there is a need for a specially tailored policy, plan and strategy for each area. There should be public feedback to the elected councillors that would formulate "a draft of demands", sent to the higher authorities, and this very draft will be tailored with the guidelines from the higher tier of Government for effective results. The same has been given in Article 87 of the LGA.

4. Creating the Climate Committee and Climate Fund:

Provision 138 of LGA-22 allows the formation of community-based organisations in the UCs that would be non-elected and voluntary. This organisation of local people will help in identifying the key problems faced by the locals when it comes to climate change. This can be effectively channelled to the higher tiers. The

climate committee would be an effective one as it can raise its funds and can also take funds from the Government. Even in provision 87 of LGA-22, the local government can also give 75% of its developmental budget to this CB organization. Local Government is capable of facilitating climate resilience by collecting and generating revenues. However, to save the environment from the "tragedy of the commons", there is also a need for public participation. Additionally, the public needs to contribute financially. It worked in Bihar, India, wherein a 30-70 or 20-80 formula, depending upon the situation and the type of project. (Sagar & Kundan, 2017)

5. Powers of the EPA to be delegated:

In provision 26 of the Punjab Environmental Protection Act, there is the power to delegate the power of the provincial environmental protection agency to the local Government. There's a need to delegate this power to the local Government as envisioned by the creators of the PEPA 1997.

6. Need for More Laws for Targeting the Pollution Produced by Urban Areas:

Urban areas go unchecked even after contributing a great deal to the degradation of the environment. The apex law of all the provinces in mitigating climate change is PEPA-1997, but most of the provisions of this act focus on the industrial and commercial activities that produce environmental problems above the environmental quality standards (EQS). There has been no mention of the pollution that urban areas and residential areas produce, and consequently, no observable indicators and mechanisms for enforcement of SEQs, and methods to impose penalties on this. Similarly, the Smog Rules 2023 also focus on brick kilns, industries, stubble burning and tyre burning. All these activities are often done outside the urban areas, and thus, these laws have limited effects on controlling the urban areas. There is not a single provision in the Local Government Act 2022 regarding climate change or Climate Resilience.

7. Awareness Campaign:

The government should launch a comprehensive climate change awareness campaign to educate and inform the public, particularly youth, about climate change and its impacts. The campaign should utilize electronic and print media,

broadcasting programs and talk shows on climate change on television once or twice a week. Additionally, social media platforms should be leveraged to share engaging content and encourage youth participation. In educational institutions, 30-minute lectures should be implemented to raise awareness among students. The lectures should be divided into two halves, with the first half consisting of lectures and demonstrations by mentors, and the second half comprising physical activities such as planting seeds, taking care of plants, and understanding the concept of "right plant, right place". To promote community engagement, local governments should launch tree plantations and care drives in their respective areas, encouraging local community participation, particularly among youth. Annual inter and intra UC competitions should be organized to increase community engagement and participation. To ensure effective implementation, responsibilities should be assigned to the local government, educational institutions, and community members. A monitoring and evaluation framework should be established to track progress, impact, and feedback.

8. Role of Academia:

The role of academia becomes very important in this regard. The goal of academics should be to enhance knowledge in fields that are relevant to society. This can be achieved by conducting field research, suggesting recommendations to governments, publishing, arranging seminars, or doing other academic activities. The Academia of any country is a group of people who fill the knowledge gap, and this subject of building climate resilience through local Government is a relatively new topic and needs more research and attention from Academia to become practical and applicable.

9. Climate Change and Climate Resilience in The Political Party Manifestos:

To educate the masses about the urgency of climate change and to create climate resilience, political parties must include this critical issue in their manifestos for local body elections. By doing so, these manifestos will not only raise public awareness about the severity of climate change but also emphasize individual and community responsibility in addressing this

global problem. This approach will empower citizen to take ownership of their role in strengthening climate resilience and encourage collective action to combat its impacts at the local level.

Conclusion

To conclude, this research highlights the importance of the role that local government can play in strengthening the climate resilience among people living in one of the most vulnerable areas to climate change on the planet.

The role of academia and experts is to suggest effective strategies and policies, the role of practitioners in the field is to deal with real-time challenges and the third most important pillar is public, without whose participation all of it will end in jiffy and without any result. Climate resilience can only be achieved when everyone plays their part. For that, there is a huge need for climate awareness among the representatives and officials of the government and the segments of society, regardless of their educational or socioeconomic background. The comprehensive literature review is being done from the perspective of Pakistan's and other countries' policies as well as in the context of climate resilience. The methodology we employ is qualitative. Semi-structured interviews were conducted for purposeful sampling. While using thematic analysis, codes were identified using open coding. The study found extensive loopholes in the context of the implementation of existing policies in Pakistan, which is exacerbated by the absence of elected bodies. The challenges and barriers discovered include: a lack of awareness on the part of the public and officials, the attitude of people, victimhood syndrome, incapacity of the local government officials, a matter of priority for the community, trust deficit, financial constraints, lack of communication between the public and government, limited workforce and absence of domain specialists. The findings include that the Lack of awareness is a major issue. The community thinks that climate change is a myth. The people do not believe in their responsibility to make efforts to counter the effects of climate change. Local government officials do not have enough knowledge of climate resilience. The local government officials have climate

resilience, very low on their priority list.

Conflict of Interest

The authors showed no conflict of interest.

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