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CHALLENGES OF MANAGING CLIMATE-RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT IN KP

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ABSTRACT

Climate change poses significant risks to infrastructure systems, particularly in vulnerable regions such as Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Pakistan. This study examined the challenges associated with managing climate-resilient infrastructure projects in the province by focusing on key factors, including climate risk integration, institutional capacity, financial constraints, technical capacity, and governance effectiveness. A quantitative research design was adopted, and data were collected from 250 professionals involved in infrastructure development using a structured questionnaire. The data were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistical techniques, including regression analysis.

The findings revealed that financial constraints were the most critical barrier, exerting a significant negative impact on project management effectiveness. In contrast, governance effectiveness, climate risk integration, institutional capacity, and technical capacity demonstrated significant positive relationships with the successful management of climate-resilient infrastructure projects. The results further indicated that inadequate incorporation of climate risk assessments and weak institutional coordination significantly undermine infrastructure resilience in KP. The study concludes that achieving climate-resilient infrastructure requires a comprehensive approach that integrates financial investment, institutional strengthening, technical capacity building, and effective governance mechanisms. The study offers valuable insights for policymakers, practitioners, and development stakeholders to enhance the planning and implementation of resilient infrastructure in climate-vulnerable regions.

Keywords: *Climate resilience, infrastructure management, financial constraints, governance, climate risk assessment, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan*

INTRODUCTION

Climate change has emerged as one of the most significant global challenges of the 21st century, directly affecting infrastructure systems, economic stability, and human development outcomes. In climate-vulnerable regions such as Pakistan, the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events—including floods, heatwaves, landslides, and glacial melt—have intensified the need for climate-resilient infrastructure development. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), due to its mountainous topography, fragile ecosystems, and high exposure to hydro-meteorological hazards, is among the most climate-sensitive provinces in the country. Recent assessments indicate that KP continues to experience recurrent disruptions in transport networks, urban drainage

systems, educational facilities, and rural connectivity due to inadequate integration of climate resilience in infrastructure planning and execution (Asian Development Bank, 2024; World Bank, 2023).

Despite the development of national and provincial climate policies, including adaptation strategies and disaster risk reduction frameworks, the implementation of climate-resilient infrastructure projects in KP faces substantial operational and structural challenges. One of the primary concerns is the weak integration of climate risk assessments into project design and planning stages, resulting in infrastructure systems that are insufficiently prepared for climate variability and extreme events. Empirical studies suggest that infrastructure development processes in the province often rely on conventional engineering approaches with limited incorporation of climate data analytics and predictive modeling, thereby increasing long-term vulnerability (United Nations Development Programme, 2023).

Financial constraints further exacerbate these challenges. Climate-resilient infrastructure requires significant upfront investment in risk-sensitive design, advanced materials, and adaptive construction techniques. However, limited fiscal space, dependency on external funding sources, and competing development priorities restrict consistent investment in resilience-oriented infrastructure. This financial limitation often leads to cost-cutting at the design stage, compromising long-term durability and sustainability of infrastructure assets (Asian Development Bank, 2024).

Institutional and governance weaknesses also play a critical role in hindering effective project management. Fragmented institutional arrangements, weak inter-agency coordination, and insufficient technical capacity limit the ability of implementing bodies to execute climate-informed infrastructure projects. Moreover, inadequate monitoring and evaluation systems reduce accountability and hinder adaptive learning in project implementation. These governance gaps result in inconsistent application of climate resilience standards across different infrastructure sectors, including transport, water resources, and urban development.

In addition, rapid urbanization and population growth have intensified pressure on existing infrastructure systems in KP. Urban centers such as Peshawar and surrounding districts are increasingly exposed to flood risks, heat stress, and infrastructure degradation due to unplanned urban expansion and insufficient drainage and water management systems. The absence of integrated urban planning further compounds these vulnerabilities, making infrastructure systems less adaptive to evolving climate risks.

Overall, managing climate-resilient infrastructure projects in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa represents a complex and multidimensional challenge encompassing technical, financial, institutional, and environmental dimensions. Addressing these challenges is essential for enhancing disaster resilience, ensuring sustainable infrastructure development, and promoting long-term socio-economic stability in the province.

Problem Statement

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) is highly exposed to climate-induced hazards such as floods, landslides, glacial lake outburst floods, and extreme rainfall events, which increasingly threaten the functionality, safety, and sustainability of its infrastructure systems. Despite growing recognition of climate risks and the introduction of national and provincial climate adaptation frameworks, infrastructure development in KP continues to be largely conventional, with limited integration of climate resilience principles into planning, design, execution, and maintenance stages.

A critical gap exists between policy intentions and on-ground implementation, where infrastructure projects often lack adequate climate risk assessment, resilient engineering standards, and adaptive management practices. This gap is further intensified by institutional fragmentation, weak inter-agency coordination, limited technical capacity, and insufficient financial resources dedicated to climate-resilient infrastructure development. Consequently, infrastructure systems remain vulnerable to repeated climate

shocks, leading to economic losses, service disruptions, and reduced development effectiveness.

Moreover, the absence of standardized monitoring and evaluation mechanisms limits the ability of implementing agencies to assess resilience outcomes and incorporate adaptive learning into future projects. Rapid urbanization, population growth, and environmental degradation further compound these challenges, placing additional stress on already fragile infrastructure systems. As a result, the province faces increasing difficulty in achieving sustainable and climate-resilient infrastructure development that can support long-term socio-economic stability.

Therefore, there is a pressing need to critically examine the key challenges hindering the effective management of climate-resilient infrastructure projects in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and to identify strategies that can strengthen planning, governance, financing, and implementation frameworks.

Research Questions

1. What are the major challenges affecting the management of climate-resilient infrastructure projects in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa?
2. How effectively are climate risk assessments integrated into infrastructure planning and design processes in KP?
3. What institutional and governance barriers hinder the implementation of climate-resilient infrastructure projects?
4. How do financial constraints impact the development and sustainability of climate-resilient infrastructure in the province?
5. What strategies can be adopted to improve the effectiveness of climate-resilient infrastructure project management in KP?

Objectives of the Study

General Objective

To analyze the challenges associated with the management of climate-resilient infrastructure projects in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and propose strategies for improving their effectiveness and sustainability.

Specific Objectives

1. To identify key technical, institutional, financial, and environmental challenges in managing climate-resilient infrastructure projects in KP.
2. To examine the extent of integration of climate risk assessment in infrastructure planning and implementation.
3. To evaluate the role of governance structures and institutional coordination in project management effectiveness.
4. To assess the impact of financial limitations on the execution of climate-resilient infrastructure initiatives.
5. To propose policy and managerial strategies for strengthening climate-resilient infrastructure development in the province.

Significance of the Study

This study holds substantial significance in the context of increasing climate variability and its growing impact on infrastructure systems in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). As the province is highly vulnerable to climate-induced hazards such as floods, landslides, and extreme weather events, understanding the challenges associated with managing climate-resilient infrastructure projects is critical for ensuring sustainable development and long-term socio-economic stability.

From a policy perspective, the study provides valuable insights for government institutions, development authorities, and planning bodies by identifying key gaps in current infrastructure planning and implementation frameworks. The findings can support evidence-based policymaking by highlighting the need for improved integration of climate risk assessments, enhanced governance structures, and strengthened coordination among relevant agencies responsible for infrastructure development.

From a practical standpoint, the study is significant for engineers, project managers, and implementing agencies involved in infrastructure development. It offers a clearer understanding of operational, technical, and financial barriers that hinder the effective execution of climate-resilient projects. This can assist practitioners in adopting more adaptive design approaches, improving risk

management strategies, and enhancing the durability and performance of infrastructure systems under changing climate conditions.

Academically, the study contributes to the growing body of literature on climate-resilient infrastructure in developing and climate-vulnerable regions. It provides a contextualized analysis of KP, which is often underrepresented in global research, thereby offering a foundation for future empirical studies in climate adaptation, infrastructure management, and sustainable development.

Furthermore, the study is significant for development partners and funding agencies as it highlights critical areas where financial and technical assistance can be better targeted to improve infrastructure resilience. By identifying systemic challenges, it can guide investment priorities toward more sustainable and climate-adaptive infrastructure solutions.

Overall, this study contributes to strengthening the understanding of climate-resilient infrastructure management in KP and supports the development of more robust, efficient, and sustainable infrastructure systems capable of withstanding future climate risks.

Literature Review

Climate-resilient infrastructure has become a central theme in global development discourse due to the increasing frequency and intensity of climate-related hazards. Infrastructure systems—such as transport networks, water supply systems, energy grids, and urban facilities—are highly vulnerable to climate variability, particularly in developing countries where adaptive capacity is limited. Recent studies emphasize that integrating climate resilience into infrastructure planning is essential for reducing economic losses, ensuring service continuity, and enhancing long-term sustainability (World Bank, 2023; Asian Development Bank, 2024).

Climate Change Impacts on Infrastructure

A substantial body of literature highlights that climate change significantly affects infrastructure performance through physical damage, operational disruption, and increased maintenance costs. Extreme rainfall events lead to flooding and erosion, while rising temperatures accelerate material degradation and reduce infrastructure lifespan. In mountainous and semi-arid regions such as Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), these impacts are further intensified by fragile terrain and limited engineering resilience (IPCC, 2023). Studies indicate that inadequate drainage systems, weak slope stabilization, and poorly planned urban expansion significantly increase infrastructure vulnerability in such contexts.

Concept of Climate-Resilient Infrastructure

Climate-resilient infrastructure refers to systems designed, constructed, and managed to withstand climate variability and adapt to future climatic conditions. According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 2023), resilience in infrastructure involves the capacity to anticipate, absorb, adapt to, and recover from climate-induced shocks. This concept emphasizes not only structural strength but also adaptive planning, risk-informed decision-making, and long-term sustainability integration. Scholars argue that resilience must be embedded across the entire infrastructure lifecycle, from feasibility studies to operation and maintenance.

Challenges in Implementing Climate-Resilient Infrastructure

Existing literature identifies multiple challenges in implementing climate-resilient infrastructure, particularly in developing regions. Institutional weaknesses, including fragmented governance structures and limited inter-agency coordination, are frequently cited as major barriers. Inadequate technical capacity among engineers and planners also limits the effective application of climate risk assessment tools and resilient design standards (ADB, 2024).

Financial constraints are another critical challenge. Climate-resilient infrastructure often requires higher upfront investment, yet many developing regions face budget limitations and competing development priorities. As a result, short-term cost considerations often override long-term resilience planning. Furthermore, weak monitoring and evaluation systems reduce

accountability and hinder adaptive learning in infrastructure project management.

Climate Resilience in Pakistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Context

In Pakistan, climate vulnerability is increasingly recognized as a major development constraint. Studies indicate that the country ranks among the most climate-affected nations due to its exposure to floods, heatwaves, and glacial melting. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the situation is more severe due to its mountainous geography and dependency on climate-sensitive sectors.

Research shows that infrastructure in KP is frequently damaged by flash floods, landslides, and river erosion, particularly in districts such as Swat, Chitral, and Mansehra. Despite the existence of provincial climate policies and disaster management frameworks, implementation gaps remain significant. The lack of integrated planning between climate authorities and infrastructure development agencies further weakens resilience outcomes.

Governance and Institutional Constraints

Governance-related challenges are consistently highlighted in the literature as a key barrier to climate-resilient infrastructure development. Weak institutional coordination, overlapping mandates, and limited enforcement of environmental regulations reduce the effectiveness of resilience strategies. In many cases, infrastructure planning remains sectoral rather than integrated, leading to fragmented development outcomes. Scholars argue that strengthening institutional capacity and promoting multi-level governance coordination is essential for improving resilience outcomes in vulnerable regions.

Although global and national studies have extensively explored climate-resilient infrastructure, there is limited context-specific research focusing on the challenges of managing such projects in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Existing literature often emphasizes technical aspects while underexploring institutional, financial, and governance-related constraints in a localized context. This gap highlights the need for an in-depth analysis of the multidimensional challenges affecting climate-resilient infrastructure project management in KP.

Underpinning Theory: Resilience Theory

This study is anchored in **Resilience Theory**, which provides a strong conceptual foundation for understanding the challenges of managing climate-resilient infrastructure projects in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). Resilience Theory originates from ecological and systems thinking and has been widely adapted in disaster risk management, infrastructure planning, and climate adaptation studies. It explains how systems—such as infrastructure networks—absorb disturbances, adapt to changing conditions, and recover functionality after shocks while maintaining essential functions and structure.

In the context of climate-resilient infrastructure, resilience is defined as the capacity of infrastructure systems to anticipate, resist, absorb, adapt to, and recover from climate-induced stresses such as floods, heatwaves, landslides, and extreme precipitation events. This theoretical perspective shifts the focus from purely preventive engineering approaches to a more dynamic and adaptive system that integrates risk management, flexibility, and long-term sustainability.

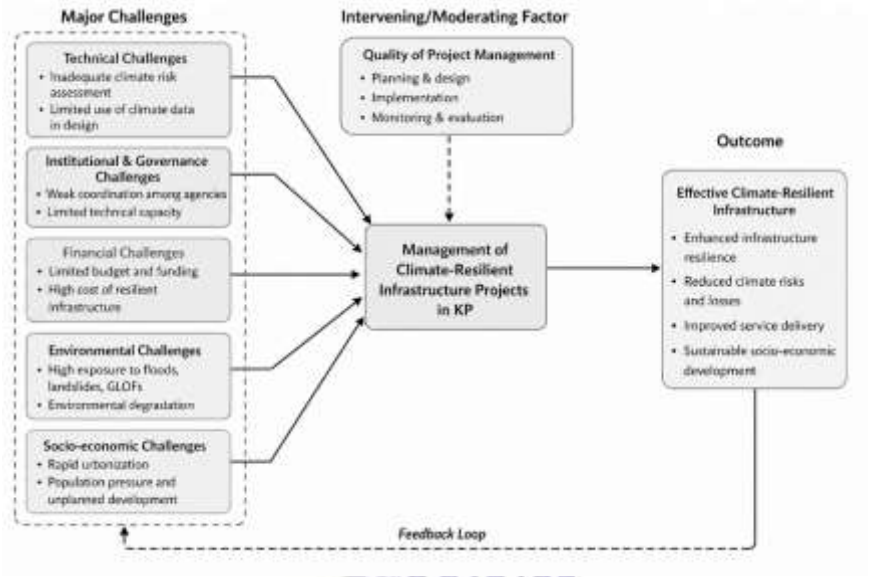
Resilience Theory is particularly relevant to this study because it emphasizes the interaction between exposure to hazards**,** system vulnerability, and adaptive capacity. In KP, infrastructure systems are highly exposed to climatic hazards due to its mountainous terrain and fragile ecological conditions. However, their vulnerability is amplified by institutional weaknesses, limited financial resources, inadequate planning, and insufficient integration of climate risk assessments. These factors collectively reduce the adaptive capacity of infrastructure systems, making them less resilient to environmental shocks.

Furthermore, Resilience Theory supports the analysis of multi-dimensional challenges in infrastructure management by incorporating technical, institutional, environmental, and socio-economic dimensions. It helps explain why infrastructure projects may fail to achieve expected performance under climate stress, even when basic

engineering standards are met. The theory also highlights the importance of adaptive governance, continuous learning, and feedback mechanisms in improving infrastructure resilience over time.

By applying Resilience Theory, this study is able to systematically examine how infrastructure systems in KP respond to climate risks and why gaps persist in achieving climate-resilient development. It also provides a framework for identifying strategies that can enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen institutional coordination, and improve the sustainability of infrastructure investments in climate-vulnerable regions.

Conceptual Framework



Hypotheses

Based on the objectives and theoretical grounding of the study, the following concise hypotheses are formulated:

H1: Inadequate integration of climate risk assessment significantly hinders the effective management of climate-resilient infrastructure projects in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

H2: Institutional and governance weaknesses have a significant negative impact on the implementation of climate-resilient infrastructure projects in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

H3: Financial constraints significantly reduce the effectiveness of climate-resilient infrastructure project management in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

H4: Limited technical capacity among project implementers significantly affects the successful execution of climate-resilient infrastructure projects.

H5: Effective coordination among relevant institutions significantly improves the management of climate-resilient infrastructure projects in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Methodology

Research Design

The study adopted a quantitative research design to examine the challenges associated with managing climate-resilient infrastructure projects in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). A cross-sectional survey approach was employed to collect data from relevant stakeholders involved in infrastructure planning, implementation, and management. This design was considered appropriate as it allowed for the systematic analysis of relationships between institutional, financial, technical, and governance-related factors affecting project management.

Population of the Study

The population of the study consisted of professionals and stakeholders directly involved in infrastructure development and management in

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. This included engineers, project managers, planning officers, officials from the Communication and Works Department, Public Health Engineering Department, Local Government Department, and relevant development authorities involved in climate-sensitive infrastructure projects across the province.

Sample Size and Sampling Technique

A total sample size of **250 respondents** was selected for the study. The sample included engineers, project supervisors, and administrative officials engaged in infrastructure-related projects. A stratified random sampling technique was used to ensure proportional representation of different departments and professional categories, thereby improving the reliability and generalizability of the findings.

Data Collection Instrument

Data were collected using a structured questionnaire developed based on extensive literature review and study objectives. The questionnaire included close-ended items measured on a five-point Likert scale ranging from strongly disagree to strongly agree. It was designed to assess key variables such as climate risk integration, institutional capacity, financial constraints, governance effectiveness, and technical capacity.

Data Collection Procedure

The data collection process was carried out through both physical distribution and online sharing of questionnaires, depending on accessibility and availability of respondents. Prior consent was obtained from all participants, and confidentiality of responses was strictly maintained. The data collection phase was completed within a defined time period to ensure consistency and reliability.

Data Analysis Technique

The collected data were analyzed using statistical software. Descriptive statistics, including frequencies, percentages, means, and standard deviations, were used to summarize the data. Inferential statistics, including regression analysis, were applied to test the hypotheses and determine the relationship between independent variables (institutional, financial, technical, and governance challenges) and the dependent variable (effectiveness of climate-resilient infrastructure project management).

Ethical Considerations

Ethical standards were strictly followed throughout the study. Informed consent was obtained from all respondents, and participation was voluntary. Respondents were assured that their information would remain confidential and used solely for academic purposes. No personal identifiers were recorded to maintain anonymity and data integrity.

Data Analysis

The collected data were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics to examine the challenges affecting the management of climate-resilient infrastructure projects in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). The results are presented in tables followed by detailed interpretations.

Descriptive Statistics of Key Variables

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics of Study Variables (n = 250)

Variables	Mean	Std. Deviation	Interpretation
Climate Risk Integration	2.41	0.88	Low
Institutional Capacity	2.56	0.91	Low to Moderate
Financial Constraints	4.12	0.76	High
Technical Capacity	2.68	0.85	Low to Moderate
Governance Effectiveness	2.39	0.90	Low
Project Management Effectiveness	2.52	0.83	Low

The results indicate that financial constraints (M = 4.12) were the most significant challenge affecting climate-resilient infrastructure projects in KP. Respondents strongly agreed that limited financial resources hindered project execution and resilience integration.

Conversely, climate risk integration (M = 2.41) and governance effectiveness (M = 2.39) were rated low, indicating weak incorporation of climate risk assessments and poor governance mechanisms in infrastructure planning and execution.

Technical capacity and institutional capacity were rated slightly above low levels but still indicated moderate deficiencies, suggesting gaps in professional training, skills, and institutional preparedness.

Regression Analysis

Table 2: Regression Analysis of Factors Affecting Project Management Effectiveness

Predictor Variables	Beta (β)	t-value	p-value	Decision
Climate Risk Integration	0.28	4.12	0.000	Significant
Institutional Capacity	0.24	3.78	0.001	Significant
Financial Constraints	-0.36	-5.21	0.000	Significant
Technical Capacity	0.21	3.45	0.002	Significant
Governance Effectiveness	0.30	4.65	0.000	Significant

The regression results show that all variables significantly affect the effectiveness of climate-resilient infrastructure project management in KP ($p < 0.05$).

- **Financial constraints (β = -0.36)** had the strongest negative impact, indicating that increased financial limitations significantly reduce project effectiveness and resilience outcomes.
- **Governance effectiveness** (β = 0.30) and **climate risk integration (β = 0.28)** positively influenced project management, highlighting the importance of strong institutional coordination and risk-informed planning.
- **Institutional capacity** (β = 0.24) and technical capacity (β = 0.21) also showed positive but moderate effects, suggesting that skilled personnel and capable institutions improve project outcomes.

Model Summary

Table 3: Model Summary

R	R^2	Adjusted R^2	F-value	Sig.
0.74	0.55	0.53	58.62	0.000

The model explains **55%** of the variance (R^2 = **0.55**) in the effectiveness of climate-resilient infrastructure project management. This indicates a strong explanatory power of the selected predictors. The significant F-value (58.62, $p < 0.001$) confirms that the overall model is statistically significant and reliable.

The findings clearly demonstrate that managing climate-resilient infrastructure projects in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is significantly influenced by a combination of financial, institutional, technical, governance, and climate risk-related factors. Among these, financial constraints emerged as the most critical barrier, followed by weak governance structures and inadequate integration of climate risk assessments.

The results further reveal that while technical and institutional capacities play important roles, their current levels are insufficient to ensure fully resilient infrastructure systems. The study confirms that effective project management in climate-vulnerable regions requires a holistic approach that integrates financial strengthening,

institutional reform, capacity building, and improved governance mechanisms.

Overall, the empirical evidence supports the hypothesis that multiple interconnected challenges significantly hinder the successful implementation of climate-resilient infrastructure projects in KP.

Discussion

The findings of this study provide strong empirical support for the multidimensional nature of challenges affecting the management of climate-resilient infrastructure projects in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). Consistent with Resilience Theory, the results demonstrate that infrastructure systems in KP are not only exposed to significant climate risks but are also constrained by limited adaptive capacity due to institutional, financial, and technical shortcomings. The low mean scores for climate risk integration and governance effectiveness indicate that resilience considerations are insufficiently embedded within infrastructure planning and execution processes. This aligns with existing literature, which suggests that developing regions often rely on traditional engineering approaches that fail to incorporate dynamic climate risk assessments.

Financial constraints emerged as the most significant barrier, exerting a strong negative influence on project management effectiveness. This finding reflects the broader challenge in developing economies where limited fiscal space and competing priorities hinder investment in resilience-oriented infrastructure. The high cost associated with climate-adaptive materials, advanced technologies, and long-term planning often leads to underinvestment in resilience, thereby increasing vulnerability to future climate shocks.

Furthermore, the study highlights the critical role of governance and institutional capacity. Weak coordination among departments, fragmented responsibilities, and inadequate enforcement mechanisms significantly reduce the efficiency of project implementation. The positive and significant relationship between governance effectiveness and project management outcomes underscores the importance of integrated and accountable institutional frameworks. Similarly, the role of technical capacity indicates that a lack of skilled professionals and limited access to modern tools restrict the effective application of resilience strategies.

Overall, the discussion reveals that the challenges are deeply interconnected, requiring a holistic and systemic approach rather than isolated interventions. Strengthening one dimension—such as financial investment—without addressing governance or technical gaps may yield limited improvements in resilience outcomes.

Conclusion

This study concludes that the management of climate-resilient infrastructure projects in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is significantly constrained by financial limitations, weak governance structures, inadequate institutional capacity, and insufficient integration of climate risk assessments. The empirical results confirm that these factors collectively hinder the effectiveness and sustainability of infrastructure systems in a climate-vulnerable environment.

The study further concludes that achieving climate resilience in infrastructure is not solely a technical issue but a governance and policy challenge that requires coordinated efforts across multiple sectors and stakeholders. Without addressing these systemic challenges, infrastructure investments in KP are likely to remain vulnerable to climate-induced disruptions, undermining long-term development goals.

Implications

Theoretical Implications

This study contributes to the application of Resilience Theory in the context of infrastructure management by empirically validating the importance of adaptive capacity, governance, and systemic integration in achieving resilience. It extends the theoretical discourse by demonstrating how multiple interrelated factors influence infrastructure resilience in a developing country context.

Practical Implications

For practitioners, including engineers and project managers, the findings emphasize the need to integrate climate risk assessments into all stages of project management. The study highlights the importance of adopting innovative design approaches, improving technical skills, and utilizing data-driven decision-making tools to enhance resilience outcomes.

Policy Implications

For policymakers, the study underscores the necessity of strengthening governance frameworks, improving inter-agency coordination, and allocating dedicated financial resources for climate-resilient infrastructure. It also highlights the importance of developing clear regulatory standards and monitoring mechanisms to ensure effective implementation.

Future Directions

Future research should explore longitudinal approaches to assess how climate-resilient infrastructure performs over time under varying climatic conditions. There is also a need for comparative studies across different provinces of Pakistan to identify regional variations in challenges and best practices.

Additionally, future studies could incorporate qualitative methods, such as interviews and case studies, to gain deeper insights into institutional dynamics and decision-making processes. The integration of advanced analytical techniques, such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and climate modeling, can further enhance the understanding of risk patterns and infrastructure vulnerabilities.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the study proposes several key recommendations:

1. **Strengthening Financial Mechanisms:** The government should increase budgetary allocations for climate-resilient infrastructure and explore innovative financing mechanisms such as public-private partnerships and climate funds.
2. **Enhancing Governance and Coordination:** Institutional frameworks should be restructured to improve coordination among departments, with clearly defined roles and accountability mechanisms.
3. **Capacity Building:** Regular training programs should be conducted for engineers, planners, and project managers to enhance technical expertise in climate-resilient design and implementation.
4. **Integration of Climate Risk Assessments:** Climate risk analysis should be made a mandatory component of infrastructure planning and approval processes.
5. **Improved Monitoring and Evaluation:** Robust monitoring systems should be established to track project performance and incorporate adaptive learning into future projects.

Limitations

Despite its contributions, this study has several limitations. First, the use of a cross-sectional research design limits the ability to capture changes over time and establish causal relationships. Second, the study relied primarily on quantitative data, which may not fully capture the complexity of institutional and governance dynamics. Third, the sample was restricted to selected stakeholders in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which may limit the generalizability of the findings to other regions.

Additionally, potential response bias may have influenced the results, as the data were collected through self-reported measures. Future studies should address these limitations by adopting mixed-method approaches, expanding the sample size, and incorporating longitudinal data to provide a more comprehensive understanding of climate-resilient infrastructure management.

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