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## EVOLUTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION CONCERN IN

Zafar Iqbal Bhatti Graduate Student Osaka University

INTRODUCTION: Pakistan is a federation consisting of four provinces namely Punjab, Sind, NWFP, and Baluchistan and three federally administered areas. Like many other countries of the world, it has witnessed rapid industrialisation since the past three decades. This, alongwith swelling growth in population and speedy urbanisation, has led to extensive exploitation of natural resources especially of land and water.

OF POLLUTION: Present state of environmental PRESENT STATE Untill in the country is depressing. pollution establishments were thought of only fulfilling industrial country's commodity demands, providing jobs, and earning foreign exchange and little was anticipated pertaining to environmental There has been no or negligible treatment pollution. and municipal effluents. Indiscriminate disposal industrial industrial and municipal wastewaters has depleted all the major and drains especially in Punjab which is the biggest Pakistan Pollution of rivers due to untreated province of effluents have led to pathogen transfer which can be clearly seen from the mortality rate of children which is about 140 per 1000. Major industrial clusters in Karachi, Sheikhupura, Kala and Faisalabad have become the focal points of Kaku. offering potential threat to human, animal and plant life. In addition, unlimited use of pesticides and fertilisers is further adding to the burden. Poor solid waste management is giving rise to unhygienic conditions causing diseases like malaria. Evidence shows that the most pressing problems in Pakistan related to water pollution by municipal and industrial effluents and air pollution by industrial emissions. Air pollution from is not so severe from the overall environmental traffic standpoint although it touches the maximum permissible limits

EVOLUTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION INFRASTRUCTURE: Feeling the gravity of the situation, an environmental protection called the Pakistan Environmental Protection Ordinance (PEPO) was promulgated in 1983. Section-3 of this Ordinance has provided for the establishment of Pakistan Environmental Protection Council which is a high powered body headed by the President of (PEPC) This council is assisted by a functional organisation Pakistan. at the Federal level named as Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (PEPA). However, the practical work of monitoring enforcement of the Environmental Quality Control Standards is entrusted to the Provincial Environmental Protection Agencies Provision of the PEPA and the Provincial EPAs was (EPAs). made in the PEPO 1983 and eventually all of these Agencies been created. Fig.1 shows the organisational infrastructure and the main functions of each organisation;

during peak hours in big cities.

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PEPO 1983
Fig.1
              PEPC (Headed by the President of Pakistan)
                    ---- Functions:-to ensure enforcement of PEPO
                                  and Env. Quality Control Stds.
                                        establish comprehensive
                                   national Environmental Policy
                                  -to make sure that the Env.con-
                                   siderations are integrated in
                                   the National Development Plans
              PEPA ( Headed by Director General)
              (1984)
                     ----Functions:-to administer the PEPO and its
                                  rules and regulations
                                  -to prepare National Env. Policy
                                   for approval of the PEPC
                                  -to revise National Env. Quality
                                  Standards as and when required
                                  -to take measures to
                                                         promote
                                  science and technology
                                  -to publish an annual report on
                                   the state of env. pollution
                 EPA Sind
EPA Punjab
                                 EPA NWFP
                                                 EPA Baluchistan
                                  (being streng- (Strengthening
(fully func-
                  (not fully
tional since
                  functional
                                                started at ini-
                                  thened)
                                                 tial level)
1987)
                  but indepen-
                  dant Director
                 General appoin-
                  ted)
       -Functions:-to prepare Env. Policy for the province and
                  help Federal Govt.in preparing National Policy
                 -to establish system for monitoring, surveill-
                  ance and inspection to combat pollution
                 -to take measures to promote science
                  technolohgy hand in hand with Federal Govt.
                 -to provide environmental education and aware-
                  ness to the public
                       coordinate implementation measures to
                  control pollution with other Govt. agencies
                 -to advise PEPA on need for legislation
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LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE HINDRANCES: Some of the main obstacles being faced are;

- 1. PEPO is not comprehensive. It requires amendments.
- 2. Env. protection needs are not integrated with national plans.
- 3. Institutional and administrative lack of enforcement of existing laws and inadequate coordinated efforts.
- 4. Inadequacy of financial resources.
- 5. Absence of environmental education and awareness in public.