



The 18th International Scientific Conference
**“DEFENSE RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
IN THE 21st CENTURY”**
Braşov, November 9th-10th 2023



DEFENSE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN PAKISTAN

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Abstract:

The study focused on Challenges in Defense Resource Management in Pakistan and this study highlights the different challenges faced in defense resource management in Pakistan, as well as the require to balance defense and financial realities, the difficulties of modernization attempts, reliance on foreign allies, internal and external threats, territorial disputes, and the expected increase in defense investment. The study highlights the significance of strategic planning, efficient resource allocation, and the execution of reforms in defense resource management to conquer these challenges

Key words: Challenges ;Defense Resource Management, strategic planning

1.Introduction

The management of defense resources in Pakistan is an essential and complicated assignment, intricately tangled with the country's geopolitical location, importance of national security, and stable economy. As a state facing various security challenges, Pakistan has historically allocated a substantial portion of its budget to defense. However, the efficient and effective management of these resources has consistently been a concern, raising questions regarding transparency, accountability, and optimization of allocations (Ali, 2021).

Pakistan's strategic position in South Asia, its ancient apprehension with neighboring India, its part in the international war on terror, and the developing dynamics in the region all contribute to the complication of its defense resource management (Hafiz, 2023).

The need to realize the degree of defense resource management in Pakistan is underline by the ever-changing dynamic of existing geopolitics. The capability of the country to manage its defense resources effectively and efficiently is a very significant, not only for its own security but also for regional stability. National defense resource management plays a critical role in ensuring the preparedness and effectiveness of military forces of the country. However, management of these resources creates several challenges that need to be tackled for optimal utilization (Ali & Jaspal, 2022). This research study observes some of the key challenges faced in managing national defense resources. Pakistan, as a country with strategic geopolitical importance, faces several challenges in managing its national defense assets professionally. This study delves into these challenges, seeking to shed light on the problems, potential solutions, and the implications for Pakistan's security and stability.



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1.1 Background of the Study: Pakistan's defense needs have been shaped by its complex and dynamic security environment. Bordering countries with varying degrees of hostility, Pakistan has had to maintain a robust defense apparatus. Over the years, the allocation and management of defense resources have become increasingly critical to ensure national security (Mammadov, & Hashimov, 2017).

Pakistan is strategically enhancing its defense capabilities across all domains - land, air, and sea. This transformation in the defense landscape is marked by a renewed focus on the modernization of the naval, air force, and army sectors. The country's defense budget is projected to reach \$10 billion by 2028, indicating a significant increase in defense investment (Kaushik, Gupta, & Shekhawat, 2022). Moreover, India is having \$60 billion of its defense budget in year 2023/2024.

These defensive measures are largely shaped by the enduring tensions and territorial disputes between India and Pakistan. However, Pakistan is also striving to balance its defense and economic realities. This is evident in its allocation of resources to both defense and economic growth. Comprehensive modernization efforts are being undertaken across all defense domains, including the navy, air force, and army. China plays a significant role in these efforts as a defense partner for Pakistan, enhancing its capacity-building initiatives. Pakistan's defense strategy aims to maintain regional equilibrium and address both internal and external complexities (Rizescu, & Tileaga, 2017). This strategy incorporates a multi-domain approach to security, reflecting Pakistan's evolving stance in the global arena.

It should be noted that while this report provides a summary of the main points related to Pakistan's defense strategy and modernization efforts, it does not provide specific information related to the challenges in defense resource management in Pakistan.

1.2 Research Gap: Regardless the significance of defense resource management, there is a gap in understanding the exact challenges faced by Pakistan. The existing literature often not have a complete analysis of the matter which are lined with the budgeting, procurement, and resource allocation in the defense sector.

Moreover, the procurement procedures in the defense sector suffer from bureaucratic procedures. These challenges can inflate costs, compromise the quality of equipment, and contribute to less prepared armed forces (Hafiz, 2023).

1.3 Problem Statement: The management of national defense resources in Pakistan faces a huge number of alarming challenges that destabilize the country's ability to guarantee the optimal utilization of these important assets.



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In Pakistan, defense expenditures signify a major share of the national budget, and are covered in opacity. The lack of unambiguousness in the budgeting method and the inadequate civilian misunderstanding raise many concerns about how assets are allocated and whether these resources have been well utilized or not.

1.4 Scope of the Study: This study aims to present the insights into the challenges being faced in managing Pakistan's defense resources like budgeting, procurement, and strategic allocation. It also examines the implications of these challenges for Pakistan and proposes potential opportunities for improvement and restructuring.

2. Defense strategy of Pakistan

Pakistan, although having a large military force, due to the larger military competence of India faces a security discrepancy and this inequality has led to a principal aim of war avoidance in the security policy of Pakistan. To mitigate this discrepancy, Pakistan has built up fuel reserves and ammunition etc (Awan & Tariq, 2023). Pakistan historic adversary since inception is India and all his strategies revolve around it. It is because of India's hegemonic designs (1948 war, 1965 war and 1971 war). And now war on terrorism for last 2 decades.

In terms of policy, Pakistan highlights a doctrine known as "offensive defense." This doctrine engages launching defensive strikes to interrupt advances of enemy and expand its significance in area of the enemy (Naseer, Khan, & Raza, 2023).

The key challenges in Defense Resource Management in Pakistan

Balancing Defense and Economic Realities: According to economic realities Pakistan is striving to balance its defense needs with in limited budget. For the fiscal year 2023-2024, the government of Pakistan has planned a 15.7% raise which equates to 1.804 trillion rupees (\$6.267 billion) in its defense budget. This demand is made due to standoff with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) over monetary stagflation and the \$1.1 billion tranche of the outstanding \$2.2 billion bailout package, IMF has suspended due to inability of Pakistan's to meet the requirements set by the IMF. Defense analysts have unreliable observations on the budget request. Some argue that defense expenditure needs to be increased due to cross border terrorism and Indian threats. Others suggest major cutbacks on recurring expenditures and a greater focus on defense exports. The economic situation could potentially affect equipment delivery and the acquisition of new weapon systems (Ullah, 2022).



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Modernization Efforts: Complete modernization efforts are being undertaken from corner to corner in all defense areas, including the navy, air force, and army, which requires strategic planning and significant resources which can pose challenges in terms of resource allocation and management.

Dependence on Foreign Partners: In Pakistan's defense China plays a significant role. This reliance on foreign partners can create challenges in terms of resource management, as it requires keeping strong diplomatic relations and discussing favorable terms for defense cooperation.

Addressing External and Internal and Complexities: Defense strategy of Pakistan aims to address both complexities whether it is internal or external and it can be challenging in terms of resource management.

Territorial Disputes: The ongoing tensions and territorial clashes between Pakistan and India shape the defense measures. This may cause challenges in terms of resource allocation, as it requires maintaining a strong defense position and also pursuing diplomatic way outs to these disputes.

Anticipated Increase in Defense Investment: Pakistan's defense budget is likely to reach \$10 billion by 2028. This major increase in defense investment may be challenging in terms of resource management, to make sure that this investment is used effectively.

Supply Chain Security: Conservation supply chains against vulnerabilities such as bogus parts or compromised information technology systems.

Security Concerns in the Region: Pakistan's comprehensive regional security environment requires the specific allocation of resources to various threats, including conventional conflicts, terrorism, tension on border, disinformation lab.

Technology and Modernization: Technologically, balance is essential capabilities in defense. Challenges in transfer of technology can affect the effectiveness and readiness of the armed forces.

Major Performance and Management Challenges Confronting t significant performance and management challenges has been faced human resources management in defense sector of Pakistan Such as acquisition Process, this may involve difficult procedures, lengthy timelines, cost, inefficient management in contract (Bordea,2023). **Human Capital Management:** Attracting, retaining and developing, skilled personnel are necessary but challenging due to competition with private sector opportunities in the ongoing financial instability in Pakistan.

3.Reforms in Defense Resource Management in Pakistan



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The reforms needed in Defense Resource Management in Pakistan are multifaceted and complex. Firstly, there is a need for greater transparency and specificity in the defense budget, particularly in relation to the nuclear deterrent program. This would allow for a more accurate assessment of the allocation of resources and the potential for reallocation or reduction in certain areas (Khan, 2021).

Secondly, there is a need for a more strategic approach to defense spending. This could involve a greater focus on defense exports, which could potentially generate revenue and reduce the reliance on foreign aid (Kurnia, Saputro, & Murtiana, 2023). It could also involve a reassessment of recurring expenditures, with a view to identifying areas where cutbacks could be made without compromising national security.

Thirdly, there is a need for improved capacity in resources management and analytical decision making (Mammadov, & Hashimov, 2017). This could potentially be addressed through partnerships with International Organizations and institutions such as the Defense Resources Management Institute (DRMI) at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California and DRESMARA, Romania. Such partnerships could provide opportunities for executive education programs for military officers and civilian defense officials, which could in turn enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of defense resource management in Pakistan.

Lastly, there is a need for a more flexible approach to defense spending, which takes into account the changing security situation and national interests. This could involve a more dynamic budgeting process, which allows for adjustments to be made in response to emerging threats or changes in the geopolitical landscape (Rizescu, & Tileaga, 2017).

The reforms needed in Defense Resource Management in Pakistan involve a combination of greater transparency, strategic planning, capacity building, and flexibility (Mohan, 2022). These reforms could potentially enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of defense spending, and contribute to the overall economic stability of the country.

4. Conclusion

The study also discusses the comprehensive modernization efforts across all defense domains in Pakistan, which pose another challenge in defense resource management. These modernization efforts require significant resources and strategic planning. The study emphasizes the need for



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effective allocation and management of these resources to ensure the success of the modernization programs.

Furthermore, the study highlights Pakistan's dependence on foreign partners, particularly China, for defense modernization efforts, which poses challenges in terms of resource management. The study emphasizes the importance of maintaining strong diplomatic relations and negotiating favorable terms for defense cooperation, which require careful resource allocation and management.

Addressing both internal and external complexities is another challenge discussed in the paper. The study emphasizes that Pakistan's defense strategy aims to address a wide range of security challenges, requiring a multi-domain approach. This approach necessitates diverse resources and capabilities, making resource management more complex.

The study also discusses the territorial disputes with India, which shape Pakistan's defense measures and pose challenges in resource allocation. The study emphasizes the need to maintain a strong defense posture while also pursuing diplomatic solutions to these disputes, which requires careful resource management.

Furthermore, the study highlights the projected increase in defense investment in Pakistan, which presents challenges in resource management. With the defense budget projected to reach \$10 billion by 2028, the study emphasizes the importance of strategic planning and efficient allocation of resources to ensure that this investment is used effectively.

5. Recommendations

To address these challenges, the study proposes several reforms in defense resource management in Pakistan. Firstly, the study suggests the need for accurate allocation with transparency and specifically in the defense budget,

Secondly, the study proposes a more strategic approach to defense spending, which could involve a greater focus on defense exports to generate revenue and reduce reliance on foreign aid.

The study also suggests reassessing recurring expenditures to identify areas where cutbacks can be made without compromising national security.

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