

Causes & Consequences of Terrorism in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan

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Abstract

Terrorism is the most serious problem Pakistan has faced. It was shifted to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa when Pakistan entered into the United States led war on terror after 9/11. Causes of terrorism in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are the United States and NATO led forces presence in Afghanistan, Drone attacks, religious fundamentalism and extremism, poverty, anti-terrorist operations in different parts of the province, IDPs, injustice, weak political culture and widely spread illiteracy. The consequences of terrorism are, it badly affected socio-economic dimensions of the province, attacks on educational institutional, a huge number of military, civilian and political leaders lost their lives, millions of people displaced internally due to anti-terrorist operation in Swat, Waziristan and other agencies, destruction of tourist industry and badly affected the economy of the province. This article analyzes the factors which caused terrorism in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and its implications.

Keywords: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, terrorism, attacks, war on terror, military operations.

Introduction

At present era, Terrorism is the gravest problem which is facing by Pakistan since 9/11 attack. Although there is no universally agreed definition of terrorism, however it can be

described as all “criminal acts directed against a State and intended to create a state of terror in the minds of particular persons or a group of persons or the general public are terrorism”. Terrorism is a criminal act that affects people more than any other crime. The acts of terrorist attacks mostly aimed to attract the local people, government, and the world attention towards their demands and to pressurize the state government. The terrorist organizations plan their actions and strategies to achieve the greatest publicity, selecting targets which symbolize that what we react and oppose. It has become a headache for federation and federating units. Terrorism from Afghanistan has spread to of Pakistan (Janz, 2010). Terrorism and extremism emerged in Pakistan as a result of Afghan war have badly affected Pakistan (Khan, Shah, and Rahman, 2020). The US war on terror has reached to a stage where it has become very harmful because of its serious consequences (Rehman, Rahman, and Ali, 2018). Terrorism emerged because of many factors in this province. These factors were including Afghanistan issue, religious intolerance, economic inequality, social injustice, political uncertainty, and also many external agencies are involved in terrorism in this province. By terrorist activities and war on terror this province suffered deadly. Terrorists targeted security forces check posts, markets, educational institutions, playgrounds, Mosques, religious places of other religious minorities, tombs, government offices and hotels.

Causes of Terrorism in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

There are the following causes of terrorism in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

1. The first and most common cause of terrorism in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is the presence of US and NATO forces in neighboring country Afghanistan. After the US and its allies attack on Afghanistan in 2001, Al-Qaeda militants and Taliban started to

took sanctuary in tribal area of this province. When Pakistan entered into the United States led war on terror, it was a sad back for those militants. As a result, that terrorists started coordinated attacks against Pakistan. That was the beginning of terrorism in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which is still exist.

2. Drone attacks have multi-dimensional effects on Pakistan tribal areas. So, families who received deaths, injuries and destruction of infrastructure naturally want revenge, which also strengthen the hands of terrorism and providing manpower. For revenge they have only one option, to join hands with terrorists. US drone strike lead to increase angriness among the youth of the battered zones and attracted their minds to terrorists to take revenge from US and her forefront ally Pakistan for the human and material fatalities of them. Drone attacks also provide a free zone to anti-Pakistan elements such as TTP to cash their sponsors of advocating animosity towards America and its front-line ally in war on terror, Pakistan. As s results, More than 2283 Pakistanis have been killed by these drone attacks whereas only 222 operatives of Al-Qaeda are supposedly and allegedly killed.
3. Another important cause of terrorism is religious extremism.
4. Poverty and economic differences among the people also created disturbance in the minds of deprived. It is argued that “a hungry man is an angry man”. With the passage of time class difference also increased. The rich is getting richer and the poor is getting poorer day by day. Poverty, hunger and disease are the common ills of the society. As a result, common men have no option except weapon and violence to earn subsistence.

5. A major development of the last few years in the tribal area is insurgency. Some of the defeated warier came to the tribal belt of Pakistan after the fall of Taliban government in Kabul and started their struggle and activities against Pakistan on the bases that those who support US against US, Jihad is also essential against them. Some local stake holder either joined the insurgents or started their activities on the name of insurgents. Deadly law and order situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is also due to insurgency.
6. Counter terrorist operations in ex-FATA, Swat many other regions had sabotage social, political and economic structure of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. This is also a cause of terrorism in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The anti-terrorism operations in different parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are considered by some people as a threat to Islam. These factors help local Taliban to gain strength and popularity. The prominent example of raising Molvi Fazlullah in Swat. That people thought it as a war against Islam and against the Pakhtuns. "According to a survey conducted by the Pakistan Institute of Peace Studies (PIPS), about 18% of Pakistani Madrass as have affiliations with Jihadi and sectarian groups; 78% students of these madras as are against Pakistan's role in the War on Terror and 81% are against military operations in tribal areas; and 20% of the students consider the current insurgency a direct reaction to Pakistan's role in the War on Terror" (Rana, 2009).
7. Injustice is one of the most important factor that contributed to the spreading of terrorism in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. When the common people grievances did not solve, they go for violent activities against the concerned people and authority. So, this phenomena also contribute a lot to terrorism in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. In Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa you will buy justice for himself and majority of the people have not enough money.

8. Illiteracy is the prominent and leading causes of terrorism, extremism and fundamentalism. An educated person knows very well that what is wrong and what is right? While an un-educated person can easily be miss-guided. That is happened in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa that foreign spy agencies miss guided lay men. Illiteracy provided fertile ground for those who wish to recruit young men and women to their cause, specifically when substantial monthly payments are attached” (CSS Forum). Terrorist organizations are manipulating the people having food insecurity and exploiting the feelings of lower and lower middle class people. They are appealing the unemployed youth motives to commit terrible crimes such as suicide attacks and car bombing” (Irshad, 2011).
9. Another reason of joining of terrorist organizations by the people is dissatisfaction with ongoing lifestyle. Mainly the fundamental rights are deprived. Then he can easily become a tool in the hands of anti-state elements and terrorist.
10. Political instability, poor governance, institutional paralysis and worst law and order situation are also lead to terrorism and violence. The worst law and order situation and lack of democratic rule also make people hatred from this system and they want to over through the existing system and replace by another social and political order which is in favor of lower and lower middle classes.
11. Sectarian violence is another factor lead to terrorism. Sectarian extremist did not tolerate other sects of their own religion and even other religions. They endeavor hard to inflict their peculiar extreme thoughts and opinions through forceful actions. This

Intolerance made the society jungle. Over four thousand people have been killed in sectarian conflicts throughout the last two decades.

12. The judicial system is weak and there is lack of speedy justice, which is also responsible for such unwanted tendencies like terrorism and extremism.

Consequences of Terrorism

The war on terror has badly affected Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province more than other provinces of Pakistan. When Pakistan joined the global war against terror after 9/11 attack on world trade center in US, a series of terrorism acts started in which a huge number of innocent civilians, military personals, destroyed the economy and socio-economic dimensions in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Since the 9/11 attacks, a huge number of civilian's people in Pakistan are killed in terrorist attacks and many more are seriously injured in this ongoing war against terrorists. The security forces have also lost a huge number of soldiers and officers in fight against terrorism in different parts of the country. According to statistics 3,486 bomb blasts in different areas including 283 suicide attacks. According to statistics about 3.5 million people had been displaced across the province (Irshad, 2011). Terrorism has completely damaged the economic condition of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and has affected almost each and every economic source. All the prominent sources of income have been damaged, including manufacturing, agriculture, forming, tourism, small and medium scale industries and tourism industry. The occupation of approximately 80 % people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is forming and agriculture. Because of terrorism and law and order situation, the losses of agriculture sector alone amounted to Rs.35 billion. The fruit-based economy of the region had collapsed due the ruin of law-and-order situation. It had

caused losses billions of rupees to farmers, laborers, property-owners and traders who were earning their living income from those fruits orchards. At that time, the country's economic survey report also showed that the share of agriculture earning in the GDP of Pakistan has been continually dropping. It reported for 25.99% of Gross Domestic Products in 2000 but after the emergence of terrorism its share dropped to 21.3% in the year 2008. The statistics showed that terrorism had not only reduced the production volume of agriculture sector in the affected areas but in the whole Pakistan (Marwat, 2010). It collapsed the economic structure of the province. It destroyed both individual and State economy. According to Finance Ministry of Pakistan the country hurt directly and indirectly losses of Rs. 2080 billion which severely affected the socio-economic development of the country (Abbasi, 2014). Terrorist violence also damaged the confidence of investors. It stopped the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) because foreigners feel threat to their lives and property. The law-and-order situation and frequent acts of terrorism have collectively reduced confidence, created a sense of drift, and augmented risk perceptions leading to diminishing rates of investment and lower economic growth (Abbasi, 2014). In Pakistan, the growth rate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) also witnessed a big shock. From 2004 to 2007 it was increased but declined afterwards (SATP, 2010). Furthermore, the infrastructure is completely damaged due to bombing. Terrorists also kidnapped a huge number of businessmen and investors across the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa also negatively affected the business environment and a large number of businessmen transferred their capitals and business to other provinces. Terrorism caused a serious law and order problem. The suicide attacks, bomb blasts and car bombings have affected the construction of the Kurram Tangi Dam, the Gomal Zam Dam and Munda Dam infrastructure because the engineers and other staff faced security problems. A number of

developmental schemes under the Reconstruction Opportunity Zones (ROZ) couldn't commence because of the security problems.

Pakistan produces about 300 million dollars annually from tourism and receives approximately 1 million tourists every year (Shah, 2009). But law and order situation, social and political instability caused by terrorism were amongst the utmost significant aspects badly affected the visitors flows to any country. Tourism in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa used to be a major source of income for both the administration and local people, but due to terrorism it is destroyed. Because of terrorism and bomb blasts a lot of hotels in the Northern areas were closed. It is estimated that only hotels in Swat district had faced the losses of Rs. 60 billion. A lot of employees lost their jobs and transportation sector had also confronted a serious blow (World Economic Forum, 2013). Terrorism also caused major setback and decrease the number of tourists coming to Pakistan when few Western countries issued Negative Travel Advisories for Pakistan. After hard struggle of Pakistan's diplomats when the travel advisory had relaxed by certain countries, then terrorist started to assassinate foreign tourist.

Terrorist and counter-terrorist operations in different parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and ex-FATA had also badly affected the education system. A lot of educational institutions across the province have been destructed by the terrorism. Only in Swat about 188 girls and 97 boys' schools were demolished and enforced students to stop them from attending schools (Ahmad, 2010). Particularly female were not permitted to go to colleges and schools by the terrorists.

Due to counter terrorism operations a huge number of people compel to leave home and take refuge in other districts. A huge number of people became IDPs due to operation in Swat against militants. NADRA had registered approximately 1.9 million internally displaced

persons (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre). Due to operation in FATA people also forced to leave their homes and became IDPs. Only from South Waziristan, total of Internally Displaced Persons was 428,000 till to the end of 2009. The return of all these IDPs to their homes was another issue after completion of operations. Worrisome condition of terrorists and poor economic situations were made IDPs unwilling to return. By September 2009 1.6 million had returned to their homes and about 1.1 million remained displaced (Daily Awasaf, July 18, 2014). Again another operation called “Zarb E Azab” in North Waziristan was started by Pakistan Army in June 2014. Because of this operation people of that area migrated to district Bannu and some other districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The number of registered IDPs till July 18, 2014 was 994504 (CSC Forum). This huge amount of IDPs into the settled regions had also put burden on the accessible resources in those areas. These people have missed behind their households, raw materials, productions, assets and both movable and unmovable property. Their homes, properties and business got a lot of losses. Their rehabilitation was also a big social, psychological and economic consequences and a huge burden for government.

The terrorism has also many Social impacts. Terrorism is very negative for any society. Social disorganization occurred in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa due to war on terror and terrorism. Relations, free moments of people, acquiring education, offering religious duties etc. were at risk. Even people faced suicide attacks during offering prayers because terrorist also targeted Mosques. It also strengthened the role of religious elites in Pakistan (Khan et al, 2018). It also caused homelessness, unemployment, food deficiencies and other social difficulties and evils in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Moreover, these frequent displacements of citizens badly affected the social fabric of Pakhtuns society. The terror had also brought

psychological problems especially in children and females. The patients of depression, trauma and uncertainty had been increased significantly. The public were feeling unsafe and insecure constantly. Those were especially suffered a lot who had closely witnessed the suicide bombings. The elimination of terrorism from Pakistan is interlinked with the Afghan issue, therefore Pakistan is also struggling to eliminate terrorism from Afghanistan. Along with facilitation in peace process Pakistan is also providing aid to Afghanistan in different sectors to help state building in Afghanistan (Khan and Rahman, 2011).

Conclusion

Terrorism emerged as the main problem in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan too after the 9/11 attacks. Both Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and its adjacent former tribal area where the major affected areas of Pakistan. There were many causes of terrorism, including the coming to militants from Afghanistan to Pakistan, Pakistan's decision to join US led war on terror, drone attacks, social, political and economic inequality, slow process of justice and militancy are the main causes of terrorism in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. In order to eliminate terrorism, we should first understand the drivers of terrorism, identify the root causes and then such policies to target terrorism at its grass root level. Terrorism had a lot of consequences in the province. Religious intolerance emerged after the rise of terrorism in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is one of the worst consequence of the terrorism in the society. It also badly affected the economy of the province, destroyed a lot of educational institutions across the province, made weak the rule of government, made strong the anti-state actors which openly challenged the state and law enforcement agencies, thousands of security agencies

personals and civilians are killed. Terrorism is poison for any society. It creates most serious problems for the state and community.

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