

Impact of Radicalization and Terrorism on Governance in Pakistan

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Abstract:

The sectarian and ethnic groups have been the great source of the internal instability in Pakistan. The Punjabi, Balochis, Sindhis and Pashtuns ethnic groups are actively involved to destabilize the political System of Pakistan. After 9/11 terrorist attacks on the United States, Pakistan has become the collision partner of U.S. against war on terror and this participation of Pakistan into war on terror has increased the radicalization and Islamic militancy in Pakistan. The growing trends, patterns and dynamics of radicalization in Pakistan may be different from each other but they are interlinked. The religious extremism is common dominant issue in all the noticeable trends and patterns of radicalization in Pakistan. Pakistani society has been facing multiple threats on account of phenomena such as jihad, extremism and radicalization since Soviet invasion in Afghanistan in December 1979. Radicalization and terrorism are major root causes of political instability in Pakistan and have bad impact on good governance in Pakistan. This Study examines the various manifestations of radicalization across the socio-cultural, ideological and religio-political spectrums, emphasizing varying tendencies of this rather complex phenomenon and how radicalization and terrorist activities have affected the governance issues in Pakistan. This research focuses on various dynamics and dimensions leading to radicalism, extremism and issues of governance in Pakistan and makes an attempt to propose a counter-radicalization strategy.

Keywords: Radicalization, Terrorism, Militancy and Governance.

Radicalization and Terrorism in Pakistan

Ethnicity, inflation, political instability, injustice, illiteracy, income inequality, high population, poverty, and high unemployment are major reasons of terrorism in Pakistan.¹ After invasion of United States of America in Afghanistan in October, 2001, when Pakistan had started to play its role as a front line state against war of terrorism, radicalization and Islamic militancy were increased in Pakistan. Pakistan had been badly affected by the terrorism, extremism, radicalization, sectarianism and Islamic militancy. The terrorist organization had started to launch the terrorist act frequently. The external terrorists are attacking and targeting Pakistan to destabilize it through their internal key players². From 2001 to 2014, Pakistan had suffered direct and indirect economic losses of \$ 120 billion³. The annual loss to the economy of Pakistan was US\$7–8 billion and from 2013 to 2016, Pakistan's foreign trade had deteriorated to \$ 22-25 billion⁴. Pakistan's Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), which was \$3.2 billion in 2007, had fallen to \$ 182 in 2012⁵. The vast upsurge of violence in Pakistan is causing the security, law and order and governance issues in Pakistan. Good Governance deals with the procedure of decision making and its true spirit of implementation. Pakistan is constantly facing the threat of social, cultural and psychological warfare since Soviet invasion in Afghanistan in 1979. The terrorist attacks and radicalization are constantly badly affecting the governance in Pakistan and it is the reason that Pakistan is imaging a troubled state now in the eyes of the global communities and the world is demanding Pakistan to improve its governance. The terrorist attacks, bad law and order situation, violence and Islami militancy are asserting Pakistan into bad governance. It has believed that Pakistani policy makers will find the credible solutions of problems to combat terrorism. There is a great pressure from the international communities especially from the United States of America to do more against the terrorist organization who are not only disturbing the law and order situation in Pakistan but also a great threat for internal peace and stability. The socio-political and economic stability is very important for good governance in any state and it cannot be ruled out in anywhere in the world in the era of globalization⁶. For peace and good governance in Pakistan, Pakistan will have

to do more to evacuate the plague of terrorism which has deteriorated matters for the government in Pakistan⁷. For eradicating terrorism, Pakistan army had launched Rah-i-HaqI in Swat Valley and Shangla District in 2007 and again extended Rah-i-HaqII in Swat Valley and Shangla District in 2008 and Sirat-i-Mustaqeem was launched in the Khyber Agency in 2008; Sherdil military operation was initiated against terrorists in Bajaur Agency; Rah-i-HaqII in Swat Valley and Shangla District was extended and Rah-i-HaqIII in Swat Valley and Shangla District was operated in 2009; Black Thunderstorm military operation was started in Buner, Lower Dir and Shangla district in 2009; the military operation Brekhna was started against terrorists in Mohmand Agency in 2009; the military operation Rah-i-Rast, was launched in Swat valley against Tahreek-e-Taliban of Pakistan in 2009; the military operation Rah-i-Nijat was initiated by the army against terrorists in South Waziristan in 2009. After the terrorist attacks at the Army Public School (APS), Peshawar on December 16, 2014, the government had approved the 20-point National Action Plan (NAP) and authorized the army to launch operation in North Waziristan against the terrorists; the military operation Zarb-i-Azb was started in North Waziristan in 2014 along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border; and Pakistan army had launched an exclusive country wide military operation Radd-ul-Fasaad in 2017⁸. In this way, Pakistani Army had launched 11 major military operations against terrorists in Pakistan to eradicate terrorism in Pakistan. From 2003 to 2015, the government had claimed to kill more than 30,000 terrorists⁹. During those operations more than 21,000 military personals were killed. The military had also launched operations against ethnic and political violence in Punjab, Karachi and Balochistan¹⁰. The comprehensive and scientifically operation was launched against the terrorists of Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) in Karachi and which had dramatically dropped violence in Karachi which reinstate the economic activities in Karachi¹¹. Karachi remained a center for violence from a long period. Violence and terrorist activities by Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) had challenged the writ of the government and it had badly affected the governance issues in Karachi. Karachi is the economic hub of Pakistan and bad law and order situation in Karachi had

disturbed the political and economic activities in Karachi. The military had also launched an operation against ethnic nationalist in Balochistan which was not successful and concrete results were not obtained from that operation. The Chinese Government had launched China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and promised to invest US\$ 50 billion in energy and infrastructure¹². The Pakistani government had deployed 1500 soldiers to protect China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Impact of Radicalization and Terrorism on Governance

It is widely evident that bad governance had badly affected the law and order situation in Pakistan; it had created economic crisis, and political instability which are enhancing the radicalization, extremism, Islamic militancy, sectarianism and religious ethnicity. The economic growth and issues of good governance are directly and indirectly affected by radicalization and terrorism in Pakistan. The growth and nourishment of physical and human capital are the major indicators of the good governance. The terrorism, violence and Islamic militancy not only badly affect the physical and capital infrastructure of the country but also weaken the socio-political foundations of the institutions which speed up the performance of the institutions. Terrorism and Islamic militancy have worsened economic growth in Pakistan¹³. The economic growth is main gage of good governance and there is major link between peace and economic growth¹⁴. The terrorism disturbs the peace. The economic development does not happen without peace and governance. The state like Pakistan with a high level of terrorism could not survive economically and badly drops the self-confidence of international and domestic investors. Both economic resources like human and financial resources move abroad. If there is no economic prosperity and stability in the country then the mechanism of good governance could not be tackled. Pakistan is spending a lot of money to control and overcome terrorism and is allocating less financial resources for economic and social infrastructure. Barth, Li, McCarthy, Phumiwasana, and Yago state that “terrorism can produce inept sources provision and thus obstructs output growth and capital formation¹⁵”. If there is bad governance and mismanagement then there will be political and economic instability which promoted radicalization in the country. Pakistan has been facing the issues of good governance

since its inception. It is true that bad governance is promoting militancy and similarly extremism, sectarianism and radicalization are badly affecting governance. Pakistan had prioritized governance assistance in the US led Global War on Terror and Pakistan had played a role of front-line ally. The United States President George Bush had stated that food shortage, non-availability of education and health, social disorder, poverty, injustice and failed government are creating good space and situation for the terrorist in the world¹⁶. In similar way, UK Prime Minister Blair said that “poverty and instability make the states weaker and weaker and weaker states can become havens for terrorists”¹⁷. N. Ocal and Yildirim say that terrorist attacks are main reasons for less economic growth in developing countries¹⁸. John Brennan counter-terrorism advisor to President Obama had considered that “the wider political, economic, and social circumstances in which extremists flourish to address “upstream factors that fuel extremism, including basic needs and legitimate grievances of ordinary people for prosperity, education, dignity and worth, and security”¹⁹. It is right that bad governance, poverty, illiteracy, political instability and social and economic injustices are the root causes of terrorism in Pakistan particularly in South Punjab.²⁰ The Foreign Minister of Pakistan Mian Khursheed Mehmood Qasuri had spoken “on occasion of an international Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia that economic disparity, political instability and inequality and rejection of human rights constituted the space and situation that had been subjugated by the extremists and radicals to radicalize the youth”²¹. Pakistan is continuously facing and in the grip of a rising terrorist insurgency. The planning of the Suicide Terrorist attacks in Pakistan particularly in South Punjab region are to be originated from the Malakand Division of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) province. It is an evident that bad governance and mismanagement is creating a good environment and condition for flourishing terrorism and Islamic militancy in Pakistan. It is also growing of radical attitude. Though, there is a sparse empirical research on the connection among the bad governance and mismanagement and radicalization in Pakistan. This research is vague and procedurally unreliable and concentrated on academic rather than policy considerations. The quick and

inexorable growth of terrorism in Pakistan is mostly ascribed to the birth, advancement and evolution of terrorist organizations like Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Al-Qaeda (AQ), which grassed into Pakistan²². The existing jihadi setup in Pakistan protected and buttressed terrorist organizations and very soon they started challenging the writ of the state in Pakistan. The economy of the state can be affected through Radicalization and terrorism. Nadeem Shah states that militancy is causing bad governance in South Punjab. He argues that four factors like availability of food, water, shelter and space and militancy are badly affecting good governance in Pakistan especially in South Punjab²³. The terrorist acts can cause directly and indirectly ripple impact on economy and the utmost immediate and measurable effect of radicalization is physical destruction which destroys existing plants, machines, transportation systems, workers, and other economic resources like tourism, hospitals, educational institutions, roads, trades, and trade centers²⁴. The terrorist activities seriously undermined law and order in Pakistan damaged social and political standing and badly affected and damaged the country's economic growth. The number of casualties and deaths was ever-growing, including civilians, and members of civil and military forces introduced extreme in the society, which induced fear, uncertainty and enlarged risk perceptions, resulting in social upheaval, economic debility and international isolation. The state struggled to reduce this treat effectively, thereby challenging its stability and survival.

The militant and religious groups are taking great advantage of bad governance in South Punjab region, projecting themselves as a better substitute to political parties. The Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM) chief Moulana Masood Azhar and Lashkar-e-Tayyabe (LeT) subsidiary Falah-e-Insaniyat representatives keep on exhorting the state of poor governance in their speeches and sermons. They are exploiting the lack of medical facilities, jobs, social justice, poor law and order situation, and lack of resources to alleviate the suffering of common person²⁵. South Punjab region has been facing bad governance for a long due to discrimination between Central Punjab and South Punjab. Poor living standards, marginalization and bad governance play a more powerful role in the radicalization of youth than religion.

The recent trend and genesis of radicalization had badly affected the governance in South Punjab. The census 2017 reveals that South Punjab is in the grip of bad governance mainly because of limiting factors. According to census, bad governance is more dominant in South Punjab districts and an important factor behind militant leanings and widespread violence.²⁶ The Governance Institutes Network International (GINI), Islamabad conducted a survey in Malakand Division KPK and found bad Governance a key factor behind militancy²⁷. The radicalization and militancy has links with bad governance. The extremism and radicalization is badly affecting good governance in Pakistan²⁸. Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa said in his maiden address to youth in May 2017 that poor governance and lack of justice in the society largely affects the youth²⁹. The census 2017 depicts a shocking picture of bad governance in South Punjab region. the census helps redefine the political map, reviewing economy and division of resources, social and governance infrastructure. The sixth census was conducted after 19 years delay as the last census was conducted in 1991. This delay in census was due to the bad law and order situation which was badly affected by militancy and radicalization.

The economic instability coupled with poor social and economic indicators creates condition that may further promote extremism. The statics show that population growth rate in South Punjab region's remote districts had decline compared to the 1998 census. The limiting factors such as shortage of food, nutrients, water and space are the key cause of decline in population growth rate. These limiting factors contribute to reduce population growth rate. The census statistics show the population growth rate decline considerably during 1981-1998 and 1998-2017 in South Punjab Region. This means that Southern Punjab region districts faced an acute shortage of quality food for want of funds. Further, the emerging trend of Radicalization has also affected it³⁰. Sometimes the activists from militant groups such as Jamat-ul-Daawa (JuD) are able to participate in the process of political representation at lower level however, these groups usually exercise their influences as outside pressure group. These usually support or facilitate

individual political leaders rather than political parties. That helps them preserve their identity without clear/extended political liabilities. Such an arrangement also suits mainstream political parties who can, at times take advantage of short-term political support without becoming associated with militant. A similar relationship has existed between these organizations and some public functionaries who have cooperated with each other to maintain stability in the area of governance. In this way, militant organizations have influenced political or sub national governance system without becoming a clear part of them³¹. The activists from militant groups taking advantage of bad governance penetrate the political and social sphere and some of them have even attempted to provide services to communities to create a soft image among the people.

Conclusion:

This research paper has examined the root causes of radicalization and terrorism in Pakistan and identified the impact on governance and political stability. This research concludes that the tide of growing extremism, ethnicity, radicalization and militancy cannot be stopped until the political manipulators, masters adopt a pro-people stance and government should take it its priority. The militant and terrorist organizations have built the religious discourse which highlights the significance of Jihad. Before Soviet invasion in Afghanistan in 1979, many militant organizations who were fighting and operating in Indian-held Jammu and Kashmir (IJK had shifted their focus into Afghanistan to defeat non-Muslims forces of Soviet Union. The militant organizations were only using Islam and were portraying that they are custodian of Islam. They are getting favour and support from the mass on the name of Islam. They are getting favour from the people on Islam for their own advantage. It is responsibility of state that it should utilize her energies to transform the ideological mindset by developing counter narrative against the terrorist organization to present true picture to the mass. Pakistan has been facing economic and political instability since 1947; this environment is providing the nurseries to the militant organizations. There is poverty, illiteracy and social disorder in Pakistan especially in South

Punjab, rural Sindh, KPK and Baluchistan which are promoting Islamic militancy, religious ethnicity, extremism and sectarianism. The government should take comprehensive and solid measures and step to eradicate poverty, illiteracy and economic and political instability. There are also issues of bad governance in Pakistan which are further promoting radicalization and government also take steps for improving governance issues. Pakistan should have to put and emphasize its counter-terrorism and counter-extremism policy on political, economic educational and social wits and not on military operation. Pakistan will still need to look at all available options to bring an end to terrorism, including engaging with the people in the western border region, by offering them socio-economic development and the rebels with military measures. However, this research paper has attempted to highpoint the overall tendencies and designs of radicalization in Pakistan and its impact on good governance.

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