



EXPLORING THE INTERNAL SECURITY THREAT FOR PAKISTAN: DISCUSSING THE CAUSES

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ABSTRACT

Pakistan is considered the hotbed of terrorism. Internal security threats in Pakistan played the vital role in enhancing the political instability, economic destabilization, crimes and security issues in the country. This research is conducted to explore the internal security issues. CPEC was rejected by the U.S. and India; hence, such decisions caused the emergence of terrorism such as terrorist activities, suicide bombing, Lal Masjid operation, APS attack, foreigner's assassinations, targeted killing, and many more challenges for the Pakistan. Such all activities setting the stages for the failure of the institutions to control over the country's situation and issues that caused the advent of the crimes in the country to destroy the economy, inflammation, poverty, unemployment, corruption, ethnicity issues, refugees issues, misunderstandings between the government and Pakistani nation, inter-provisional disharmony, political instability, and many more strategic and security challenges for the state.

Introduction

Internal security threats in Pakistan played the vital role in enhancing the political instability, economic destabilization, crimes and security issues in the country. Internal security occupies a pivotal position in any country's national security policy. There are issues relating to governance, political instability, sluggish economy, energy, water crises, ethnicity, extremism, and terrorism. During the different eras, Islamabad's alliances with the Washington as well as Beijing/Moscow showed the various internal consequences on the country. Hence, Pakistan is facing numerous internal challenges. Internal threats originate from the state or society and later these threats become a threat to the same society and state (Ahmad, Bakht, and Hassan, 2016). Pakistan is facing high level of threats like jihadi culture, terrorism, extremist, political instability, unemployment, poverty, inflation and water scarcity (NACTA, 2018).

Terrorist Activities

Terrorism is an act of creating fear in the hearts of other people. Pakistan is considered to be hotbed of terrorism but this is not true. The key wave of terrorism in Pakistan started since 2001.



Pakistan military and other related institutions tried remove terrorist activities by conducting various operations that somehow achieved but still facing (Afzal, 2021).

Lal Masjid Operation

In 2007, the Lal Masjid operation was conducted in which Islamic extremists were being trained. This operation focuses on Lal Masjid and Jamia Hafsa madrassas during the government of Pervaiz Musharaf. These two Madrassas were run by two brothers Abdul Aziz and Abdul Rashid. They openly challenged the Pakistani government. The threat was broadcast on FM radio station on April 12, 2007 (Hoodbhoy, 2007). These people openly challenged the government and attack them by telling them. When these people attack on the minister of environment and the Chinese female health center, then the Pakistani government decides to carry out an operation against them from 3-11 July. After the Lal Masjid operation, the terrorist attacks increased (Saini, 2009).

APS Attack

On December 16, 2014, a terrorist attack took place on the Army Public School Peshawar. 149 people died in this attack, of which 132 were school children. The students were martyred in a very brutal manner, river of blood flowing throughout the school (Qureshi, Gulraiz, & Shahzad, 2016). All the people who came for this attack were holders of other country's nationality like two belong to Afghanistan and three belong to Arabs. The mobile phone was using by this group was registered on the name of a woman from Hasilpur. This proves that terrorist attacks in Pakistan are not caused by its own people but by other countries. The leaders of attack group Omar Khorasani was reported died in 2017. But in the list of terrorism release by US department in 2018, they said that he is still alive. The 1st list was also published by the US in which they proved him dead (Ahmad, 2021).

Foreigners Targeted

In 2014, 3 foreigner engineers were killed in a bomb blast and these engineers is the target of attackers (Khan & Minhas, 2019). In Balochistan, there is a meeting of locals and foreigners in Sarena Restaurant but terrorist targeted it. The terrorists attack but the foreigners have already left the restaurant a short-ago. Thus, there was no loss of life of foreigners but 12 local people were killed (Grare, 2006). A woman do a suicide bomb near the university bus of Karachi University and three Chinese teachers are killed (BBC, 2022).



Causes of Terrorist Attacks in Pakistan

Soviet-Afghan War

Soviet-Afghan war was based in emergence of terrorism in Pakistan. America-Pakistan itself trained the Jihadis, so, they could fight from America's side in this war. When America's goal was fulfilled, they pulled back to nurture them. Soviet Union and U.S. were fighting for the supremacy, hence, Washington dismember Moscow through Afghan Taliban (Imran, Hashmi, & Anwar, 2022). The same mujahedeen later converted to Taliban and then terrorists however Pakistan was blamed for nurturing the Taliban. They were definitely supported by Pakistan but America's hand in establishing their foundation. They are getting help not only from Pakistan but also from other countries China, Israel and Iran (Al Jazeera, 2021). In 2001, the Taliban were attacked for the terrorist activities, however, this time Pakistan and U.S. alliance against them, as revenger, terrorists started terrorism activities against Pakistan. In 2022, 97 Pakistani soldiers were martyred from January to March (Hajira, 2022).

Foreign Interference

Another cause of terrorism in Pakistan is the interference of other countries. Other countries are directly or indirectly interfering. When America wants to show enmity with any country, it uses Pakistan and then later accuses Pakistan of doing terrorism. RAW agency of India has also got claws in Pakistan. The Haqqani network, Sajid and Dostani network are also working in Pakistan and none of these networks belong to Pakistan (Siddiqa, 2011).

Failing of Law-Enforcement Agencies

The Law-Enforcement Agencies failed in properly implementation of rule of the government. The culprits can get easily their targets because the law is not strong enough to punish them. First, the culprit is not caught; the law is not able to catch the accused in time. If the law detains the accused, they do not have enough evidence to go to court against culprit. Due to lack of evidence, they can honorably acquitted from the courts. After that, the courage of the criminal increases that if he does or even does something wrong, what will anyone do to him (Conser et al, 2011).

Crimes That Caused Strategic and Security Issues

Due to numerous internal and external security issues, many crimes emerged in the country and these are another major security and strategic challenges to Pakistan. Street crimes ratio is very high in Pakistan such as drug supply, robberies, prostitution, purse snatching and ATM fraud as well as Pakistani national's connections with the enemy's agents that became the causes



of emergence of terrorisms in the country. Such activities are the major causes of security and strategic challenges for Pakistan.

Factors Associated to Crimes

Poverty

Not being able to meet the basic needs of life is called poverty. According to the World Bank Report, 39.9% of people have a daily income of three dollars and are not even able to meet their basic needs (The World Bank, 2018). There are 22% of people whose monthly income is 13 dollars. It is so little that is difficult to even eat bread for one time with such earning (The World Bank, 2018). People are fed-up with their poverty and attract to crime to fulfill their needs in life.

Inflation

An increase in the price of goods of life is called inflation. Inflation in Pakistan increases not by years but by days. In other words, the value of money to buy anything decreases with the passage of time. It rose by 6.34%, if compare by May 2022. If compared with June 2021, then increase by 21% in June 2022. People pay attention to crime and crime professionals use the thinking of people for illegal work. In terms of inflation, Pakistan's rank 7th in the world, white it ranks 1st in Asia with 9.50% inflation rate (The World Bank, 2021).

Unemployment

If the youth have the ability to work and do not get employment is called unemployment. It is a major cause of crime. There are no employment opportunities and if employment opportunities are found, there a need of bribe and references. One of the reasons for not getting a job is the lack of education because how can one get job without education. If this continues, unemployment will increase by 6% in the coming future (Scanlon & Adlam, 2022).

Corruption

Pakistan was ranked 124th out of 180 countries in term of corruption in 2020. In 2022, Pakistan is ranked 140 out of 180 countries (Transparency International, 2018). Corruption in Pakistan is rampant, from the government to the Judiciary, police and even the education department. Corruption reigns in every corner of the country (Kayani, 2022). In 2012, Tariq Ahmad, a citizen of Lahore Johar Town, filed a case against Fouzia Gillani that she had taken a loan from Agriculture Developmental Bank and National Bank of Pakistan and it was not returned. She was Yousaf Raza Gillani's daughter and she tried to take advantage of her relationship (The Express Tribune, 2012).



Ethnicity Issue

The major ethnic groups of Pakistan include Punjabi, Balochi, Pathan, Muhajir, Pahari and Saraiki. Some people belong to Kashmiri, Chitrali, Kalash, siddis and kohistanis. There are 1.4 million Afghani citizens are live here. The trend of “Me” and “your” is on peak in Pakistan. West Pakistan and East Pakistan were separated due to language conflict. The people of East Pakistanis said that Bengali language should be made the official language, but preference given to Urdu (Custer et al., 2021).

Refugees

Pakistan is the second largest refugee hosting country in the world after Turkey. During the Soviet-Afghan war 1979-88, about 3.5 million Afghans settled in Pakistan (Imran & Xiaochuan, 2015). Later, again after the 9/11 attacks in 2001, the U.S. began drown strike on Afghanistan, a lot of Afghan peoples entered into Pakistan. When Pakistan’s military conducted a war against the terrorists in the country, as revenge, its own peoples as well as terrorists started retaliations against Pakistan. Apart from Pakistani people, Afghan people were also living in Pakistan . Most of the refugees in Balochistan live in Peshawar because the lifestyle of the people here and the Afghan people are similar. The number of refugees in KPK is 53% and Balochistan has 24 percent, Punjab has 14 percent and Sindh has 5 percent (Emery & Hiram, 2021)

Inter-Provisional Disharmony

Inter-Provisional harmony is very important for development of any country. But Pakistan has been a victim of disharmony since independence. Sometime, it is a problem of resources distribution and sometimes it is a problem of language. The separation of East Pakistan is the result of inter-provisional disharmony (Talbot, 2002).

Political Instability

Another key root of security problems in Pakistan is political instability. Since Pakistan became independent, almost half of the freedom has spent in Marsha law. The political instability has mostly started in 2013 when Nawaz Sharif came to power. Nawaz Sharif gets blasted in money laundering case and PTI starts street sit-ins (Hajira, 2022). One of the reasons for political instability is that the thinking of any political party in Pakistan does not match that of any other political party. If a party wants to make it prominent, they go to Balochistan and Hazara because they know that Balochi have hatred against Punjab and other provinces in their hearts (Mullinix, 2017). Political parties are not concerned about people; they are concerned about



their interests (Siddiqui, 2019). On the other side, religious political parties used the religious cards and other political parties have a different way of thinking. The contradiction in the thinking of religious political parties and democratic political parties is a big problem. On April 10, 2020, Imran Khan was removed from Prime Minister Chair by a no-vote confidence. This was not the first time in the history of Pakistan because no Prime Minister has been able to complete his term of government since the independence of Pakistan. On April 3, 2022, Constitution was also affected as the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Qasim Suri did not allow the vote of no confidence movement to be cast and thus dismissed this movement. Imran Khan advised to President Arif Alvi to dissolve the National Assembly and he did it under Article No. 58 of the Constitution (Ali, 2022).

Later, opposition knocked the door of Supreme Court of Pakistan then the government changed, the authority was transferred from PTI to PML-N. Islamic parties say that the solution to all the problems of Pakistan is to implement Sharia law. But these parties are also creating some Islamic extremist elements. These parties have not got a good number of seats in the National Assembly till date, but if we look at the problems, the parties creating problems are at the forefront. Dr. Wolf of China said that if the political condition of Pakistan does not suffer from instability, corruption will also decrease and Pakistan will become a country that will never need any other country (Memon, Memon, Shaikh, & Memon, 2011).

Conclusion

CPEC was rejected by the U.S. and India; hence, such decisions caused the emergence of terrorism such as terrorist activities, suicide bombing, Lal Masjid operation, APS attack, foreigner's assassinations, targeted killing, and many more challenges for the Pakistan. Such all activities setting the stages for the failure of the institutions to control over the country's situation and issues that caused the advent of the crimes in the country to destroy the economy, inflammation, poverty, unemployment, corruption, ethnicity issues, refugees issues, misunderstandings between the government and Pakistani nation, inter-provisional disharmony, political instability, and many more strategic and security challenges for the state.

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