

CAUSES AND IMPACT OF RADICALIZATION ON YOUNG PEOPLE INSIDE AND OUTSIDE PAKISTAN

Prof. Dr. Rashid Khan.

*Professor, Department of Sociology,
Peshawar University.*

Sareer Khan.

*M.Phil Scholar, Department of Sociology,
Peshawar University.*

Rukhsana Aziz.

*Ph.D Scholar, Department of Education,
Northern University. (Pakistan)*

Dr. Rehmat Ullah Shah.

*Assistant Professor, Institute of Education & Research,
University of Science & Technology, Bannu, Pakistan.*

ABSTRACT:

Radicalization means to bring about “revolutionary changes”. Revolutionary changes in all aspects of life social, economic, political and ideological. But in the present circumstances, the movement has become more religiously motivated, leading both emergence of “Taliban Phenomena”. In its extreme form it is seen in militancy, extremism and in most worst form “terrorism” and “suicide bombings” which has created feared terror and destruction of human life and property. Both Pakistan and Afghanistan are in the grip of terrorism. The phenomenon of radicalization, as mention above, has emerged since 1980 when Russia made naked aggression, when it was resisted by Afghan Jihad. When America toppled down Taliban government in 2001 and when the events of 9/11 happened. The feelings of radicalization are becoming universal; when the struggle of our armed forces is going on to contain Talibanization and the resistance of militants to adopt revengeful activities in the country.

The problem of radicalization is attributed to many complex factors and forces beside political reasons. Its causes are thought are of more social, economic, and ideological nature. The unrest in society due to insecure situation, unemployment, injustice, heart breaking inflation, poor governance, corruption, inefficiency, lack of basic amenities like education, basic health facilities, disintegration of social mores, norms and values etc had further aggravated the situation. Most importantly, an “uncertain future” of our young

people, has consequently driven them towards radicalization. The anti-west sentiments have further strengthened their conviction that the west has adopted aggressive policy, towards Muslim countries, Islam is under attack, Muslims are humiliated and therefore suicide attacks are the only alternative to reciprocate it. The study conducted on the state of such situation looking in to the genesis of radicalization, its impacts on various aspects of life of the people, was an attempt to address such issues.

Keywords: *Radicalization, Extremism, talibanization, Suicide Bombing, Islamization, Violence, Social Security, Development Issues, Disintegration, Media and its impact on Youth.*

Introduction:

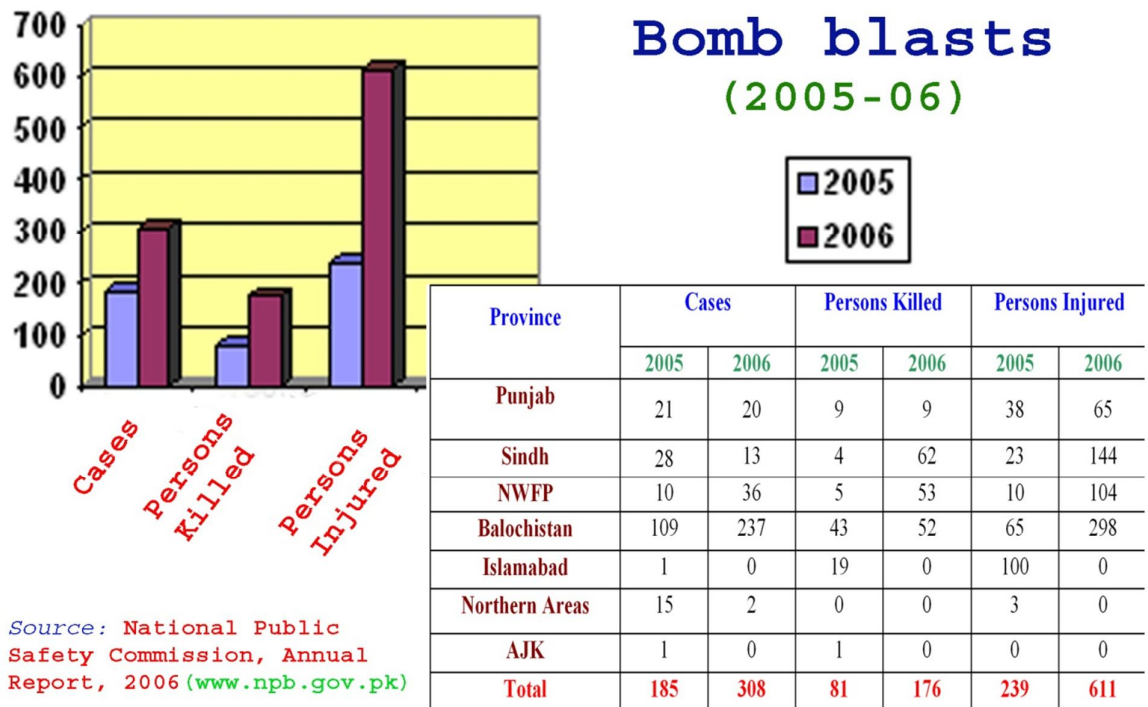
Radicalization in Pakistan:

Pakistan has enormous importance due to her strategic location; her being the front line state during the Soviet invasion on Afghanistan (1979-1988), and now a front line of defense and a staunch ally of the Allied Nations in the global war on terror. Pakistan has tremendous human and natural resources, excellent minds and brains, beautiful historical places, arts and literature, and has been contributing to the world peace and progress through various international forums, like UN and its Agencies, OIC , SAARC and other international organizations of which Pakistan is a member.

Law and order situation in Pakistan::

After 9/11, the US/Nato forces invaded and bombard the Afghan nation, sometimes indiscriminately, which led to the desired goal of destruction of Taliban rule in Afghanistan, but in addition, gave rise to a lot of internal and external problems for Pakistan: the economy, internal security environment and social tranquility jolted badly due to such problems. The spill-over effect of Taliban from Afghanistan into the tribal belt of Pakistan has been under continuous discussion in the western media and US administration, both civilian and military departments. Right from the every day reports of various research institutes in USA and news stories of *Washington Post*, the *New York Times*, etc to the well-researched analysis and reports of EUROPOL (TE-SAT, EU Terrorism Situation and Trend Report, 2008) and Council on Foreign Relations report on ‘Securing Pakistan’s Tribal Belt (Daniel Markey, 2008), Pakistan remains in the mainstream of our debate on war on terror. Pakistan has deployed more than 90,000 security forces on the Pakistani side of Afghan border, with more than 900 check points to stop cross border movement of Afghan-Taliban and other miscreants. Pakistan received a death toll of 1200 security forces in tribal areas during the ongoing war on terror and hundreds of civilians and police in the settled/urban districts. A cascade of suicide attacks in 2007 horribly terrorized the nation and literally pardysed the local administration.

Figure-I



As many as 537866 cases were registered in the country during 2006 as compared to 447745 cases recorded during 2005 thereby showing an increase of 90111 (20.1%) cases. Punjab registered a rise of 66306 (24%) cases, Sindh 10520 (22.2%) cases; NWFP 11612 (11.2%) cases, Baluchistan 1137 (16.9%) cases, Islamabad 556 (14.7%) cases and AJK 376 (7.9%) cases. However, there was a decrease of 159 (5.5%) cases recorded by Railways police, and 237 (12.8%) cases in Northern Areas.

(www.crimestatistics.com) Access on 12december, 2009

Objectives of the study:

- 1) Critical issues addressed in the paper are, the state of economy, services, political rights, and development in Pakistan.
- 2) The state of security in the present situation and its impact on future.
- 3) The most irritating issue is of radicalization and the forces driving particularly youth towards it.
- 4) Media and radicalization.
- 5) The nature of the media consumption and its impact on people in Pakistan.
- 6) The most sensitive issues is of 'suicide bombing's which has brought tremendous loss to material and human life.
- 7) Other issues are relating to the misleading perception such as:
 - A. Islam is under aggression
 - B. Suicide bombings are the acceptable way to defend Islam
 - C. Violence is the solution of all problems
 - D. Violence is an effective instrument for creating Sharia Pakistan

Methodology:

The study was delimited to,

- I. Districts Peshawar, Mardan, Kohat and Bannue
- II. The selected 150 people like Imams, teachers, community heads, businessmen and students from these areas.

The Sample of the Study

Problems in scientific research cannot be solved without employing sampling tools because the most educational and social phenomena consists of large number of units or variables. It is not always possible to interview, test or observe each and every one under controlled conditions. Sampling tools solve this problem for they help researchers to select representative units from which he can gather data that permit to draw inferences about the nature of the entire population. Therefore, non probability purposive sampling technique has been adopted for this study. The description of sample is given below:

i.	Total Respondents =	150 (Community Leader 100 Young Men 50)				
ii.	Distribution of Youngman	Peshawar	Mardan	Kohat	Bannu	
	50 =	15	15	10	10	
		(36M+F14)	(10M +5F)	(10M+ 5F)	(8M+2F)	(8M+2F)
iii.	Distribution of 100 =	30	30	20	20	
	Categories/Groups					
I.	Imams	10	10	5	5	
II.	Elders/Business holders	10	10	5	5	
III.	Teachers	5	5	5	5	
IV.	Students	5	5	5	5	

Tools for data collection

A comprehensive questionnaire has been used for this study. The questionnaire had contained both questions of quantitative (closed form) and of qualitative (open ended) nature.

Analysis of Data:**Table I: Indicates respondents views about important issues, facing to them, their community and their country**

Issues	Self		Community		Pakistan	
	Frequency	%age	Frequency	%age	Frequency	%age
Economy	89	59.3	133	88.7	140	93.3
Security	131	87.3	147	99.3	149	99.3
Utilities	114	76.0	135	90.0	132	88.3
Democracy	56	37.3	93	62.0	146	97.3
Political Leadership	48	32.0	99	66.0	146	97.3
Health	86	57.3	128	85.3	125	83.3
Education	86	57.3	128	85.3	125	83.3
Development Issues	87	58.0	133	88.7	133	88.7

Table II: Shows respondents response to the question, “thinking about your day to day life, do you think things will improve, stay the same or get worse over the next 12 months?”

Situation	Frequency	Percent
Get worse	73	48.7
Stay the same	37	24.7
Improve	34	22.7
Don't Know	6	4.0
Total	150	100.0

Table IV: Shows respondent’s response to the question, “how secure/ safe do you and family feel in day-to-day life?”

Security Satiation	Frequency	Percent
Fairly Secure	73	48.7
Not very secure	37	24.7

Not at all secure	36	24.0
Very secure	3	2.0
Don't Know	1	0.7
Total	150	100.0

Table V: Shows respondent's response to the question, "how do you rate the security /Safety of Pakistan as a whole?"

Security Situation	Frequency	Percent
Not very secure	52	34.7
Not at all secure	51	34.0
Fairly Secure	39	26.0
Very secure	5	3.3
Don't Know	3	2.0
Total	150	100.0

Table VI: Showing respondents view to the question "who is responsible for driving change and making Pakistan a more secure country?"

	Who is Responsible?	Frequency	%age
A	Government and Citizens	50	33.3%
B	Others i.e. Educationists, Students	27	18.0%
C	Citizens	15	10.0%
D	Citizens and Politicians	9	6.0%
E	Government	9	6.0%
F	Government, Citizens and Politicians	8	5.3%
G	Citizens and leaders	5	3.3%
H	Religious Groups	5	3.3%
I	Government ISI and Politicians	4	2.7%

J	Government and Army	3	2.0%
K	Politician	3	2.0%
L	Citizens, Religious Groups and Politicians	2	1.3%
M	Government and Religious Groups	2	1.3%
N	Government Army and Politicians	2	1.3%
O	Government, Army and Citizens	2	1.3%
P	Government, Citizens and Media	2	1.3%
Q	Citizens and Media	1	0.7%
R	Government and Politicians	1	0.7%
Total		150	100.0%

Table VII: Indicates respondents' answer to the question "what are the main causal factors of radicalization? What others? Why do you say that?"

	Causal factor's of Radicalization	Freq uenc y	%age
A	Injustice, Bad Governance, Bribe, Cruelty, Corruption, Poverty, Exploitation, Unemployment, Sectarianism, Illiteracy, Lawlessness, Incompetent Leaders, Western Aggression on Muslim Countries	26	17.3%
B	Frustration, Tension, Foreign Invasion, Extremism, Clashincov Culture, Suppression of Helpless Muslim Countries	10	6.7%
C	Corrupt Democracy, Feudal System, Away From Religion, West Attitude Towards Muslims	10	6.7%
D	Wrong Policies of the Government	10	6.7%
E	American Aggression and Musharraf's Support	9	6.0%
F	Government, American pro-Policies Flawed Foreign Policy	9	6.0%
G	Religious Leaders and Foreign Elements	9	6.0%
H	Western Policies Against Muslim Countries	9	6.0%
I	CIA, ISI, RAW, Musad, KGB and Musharraf Policy	8	5.3%
J	Economic Crisis and Class System	8	5.3%

K	Ignorance, Incompetent Leaders, Western Policies Towards Muslims, Economic Depression	8	5.3%
L	Afghan Jihad, Religious Groups, American, British and Israel Cruelties Against Muslims	7	4.7%
M	The Prevailing Socio-Political Situation	7	4.7%
N	Deprivation of Basic Rights, Unemployment, Uncertainties	6	4.0%
O	Foreign Forces Interference in the Political Affairs of Pakistan	5	3.3%
	Total	150	100.0%

Table IX: Shows respondents reaction to the question “what is driving Pakistani youth inside and outside Pakistan to radicalism?”

	Driving Forces	Frequency	%age
A	Anti Muslims Policies of America, Israel, UK and Other Western Countries	37	24.7%
B	Extremism, Foreign Aggression, Poverty, Unemployment	23	15.3%
C	Economic Crisis, Political Instability, Social and Economic Injustice	16	10.7%
D	Lack of Education, Unemployment and Other Injustices	15	10.0%
E	Ignorance of People	12	8.0%
F	Western Policies Against Islam	12	8.0%
G	Injustice, Unemployment, Dictatorship, American Atrocities on Muslims, Corruption, Lawlessness	10	6.7%
H	Social and Economic Crisis, Lack of Basic Facilities	9	6.0%
I	Selfishness of Rulers	8	5.3%
J	Intelligence Agencies, Attacks on Afghanistan and FATA, Absence of Political Leadership	6	4.0%
K	Indifference Towards Religion, Sectarianism, Obscenity, Inefficient Administration	2	1.3%
	Total	150	100.0%

Discussion:

The participation of 150 people belonging to various groups and areas of NWFP is a unique feature of this study. The readily response of young male and female is the clear evidence of their interest in the affairs of the country. People in Pakistan individually as a part of the community and as citizens of the country, are facing multifarious problems of security; economy, health, education, utility and development. Things in their day to day life, are not expected to improve rather they may deteriorate in future.

The entire world is suffering from the menace of radicalization. Pakistan is not exception. People as individual, and their families, are not very secure and the country at large is not secure at all. Who should be responsible for bringing about change and making Pakistan more secure, is a crucial question but the answer is simple i.e. the government and the people. What are the causal factors of radicalization, are agitating the mind of every sensible person. The consensus on all such factors are injustice, unemployment, ignorance, illiteracy, sectarianism, incompetent leadership, Taliban, Alqaida and tribal leaders influence but the most significant factors are the western policies and western aggression against Muslim countries. The factors driving Pakistani youth inside and outside Pakistan to radicalization are the same as mentioned above but important of these are the lack of basic needs, lack of productive education, and job opportunities, political instability social disintegration and dependent foreign policy and biased role of the western media. What the government can do to improve such situation? The government is of course, in a position to correct the situation if it is really a democratic government. In fact, it is a government of the people, by the people but not for the people. It can establish rule of law, provide justice to people, reduce disparities between the haves and have not, correct feudal system, control heart breaking inflation, maintain law and order situation, provide jobs on merit to the young people and shun pro-American policy.

In Pakistani society people like Imams, teachers and elders are traditionally respected and followed Imams are considered as their spiritual leaders and are so influential. It depends on their intention and their ideological philosophy whether they are leading or misleading particularly the young to a just destination.

It has been observed that media is not directly or consciously influencing the youth towards radicalization, they are, however, make them aware of what is going on in the country and around the world. From their reports on the atrocities inflicted on Muslims by the aggressors, they develop sympathy for Taliban, Alqaida, and tribal leaders, who in their view waging 'Jehad' against the aggressors. The media can reduce the threat of radicalization through positive and educative programmes, particularly, projecting the harmful consequences of radicalization on Pakistan and on Muslim Umma. People are now a days closely associated with the media therefore, it should be kept independent so that it could perform its professional duties without stress and strain. However, the government should strictly ban unauthorized FM radios propagating a particular religious philosophy of a particular religious groups.

No body denies that he should lead his life according to Holy Quran and Sunna. Islam has not been enforced by force but has been accepted by heart, by persuasion (Targheeb) and not by fear or force (Tarheeb) Islam is a 'din' a way of life which can be adopted individually and collectively by Muslims. Merely establishing Sharia courts will not answer the purpose, the whole way of life of

the people be geared according to the injunctions of Islam. Such changes can be brought about in constructive, positive and peaceful manner. There is no concept of violence in creating a Sharia state. Violence means ‘fasad’ (destruction) which is not liked by Allah Almighty.

Recommendations:

The following recommendations are forwarded in the light of the findings of study.

1. “Democracy” in true sense of the term will be incomplete in Pakistan if ‘a government of ‘the people’ does not serve the people. Such anomaly may be corrected.
2. If it is universally admitted that ‘western policies and aggression’ are the main causes of radicalization in Pakistan and around the world, then these may be seriously reviewed and redressed.
3. Western media may not play the role of catalyst for radicalization and may avert such feelings or intension of the people particularly of the young through exposing its dangerous consequences on life of the individuals and society.
4. ‘Violence’ in any form may not be used for achieving religious or political objectives. Peace is the only and lasting solution of the problems. The recent developments in Swat are case in point.
5. Let every body firmly believe that ‘dialogues not destruction’ are the solution of the problems. In NWFP in general and in FATA in particular the ‘three pronged strategy of dialogue, development and deterrence’ has not been seriously adopted so far to bring about peace in the area. Such uncertainty would further aggravate the already volatile situation.
6. Why ‘Islam is under attack’ is a mater of serious concern. Unity and solidarity be brought about in the Muslim world. All thorny issues be discussed on international forum removing all misconceptions and misunderstandings between the western and Muslim countries and adopt a global strategy for ensuring peace and tranquility in future.
7. The causes of radicalization are host of social, economic and political problems facing the country. Among them poverty, injustice and unemployment are most striking driving people specially the youth towards radicalization. Priority be accorded to these problems in planning and policy formulation in future so that such depressing situation could be improved.
8. ‘Deni-Madaris” be integrated with the formal system of education prevailing in the country. The dichotomy of ‘religious institutions’ and ‘institutions of formal system’ be removed and a harmonious integration be brought about between perennial (religious) and acquired (worldly) disciplines at all levels. Such system is hoped will develop a balanced personality of the individuals. Deni-Madaris be given material and financial support as enjoyed by the government institutions in the formal system.
9. If ‘suicide bombing’ is haram (forbidden) in Islam and if according to Holy Quran ‘taking life of an innocent person is like taking lives of the entire human beings’ then why such holy verdict of Allah Almighty is not instilled in the mind and heart of every faithful. Teachers, parents and elders can bring about change in the behavior of their dependents provided they are sincere and sensitive to the existing situation of their country ‘Imams’ or Ulemas are influential and respected in society. They are more close to the minds and hearts of the people. It is, therefore, hoped that ‘Mehrab-wa-Member’ (Pulpit) will play significant role in changing the misleading conception of ‘Jehad’ and ‘sacrifice’ offered by the followers in the way of Allah Almighty.

10. The problem of radicalization is also linked with the attitude of western media which had been biased, propagating against Islam and exacerbating an already volatile situation. Such policy may be reversed Islam be understood in true spirit. Efforts be made to abridge the gulf created by misunderstanding between the western and Muslim world.

References:

Calling Radicalization, not Islamization: Ignorance or Political Correctness?

Thursday, 31 December 2009 03:24 Syed Kamran Mirza

(www.crimestatistics.com) Access on 12december, 2009

Fasihuddin, PSP, Growing Radicalism in Tribal Areas of Pakistan and US Policy Choice
(03rd March, 2008)

Banerjee, M. (2000). *The Pathan Unarmed: Opposition and Memory in the Frontier*. New York: Oxford University Press

Caroe, O. (1958). *The Pathans*. New York: Oxford University Press

Chomsky, N. (2003). *Hegemony or Survival: America's Quest for Global Dominance*. New York: St. Martin's Press

Chomsky, N. (2006). *Rogue States: the Rule of Force in World Affairs*. London: Pluto Press.

Spains, J. W. (1995). *Pathan of the Latter Day*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Spain, J. W. (1962). *The Way of the Pathans*. New York: Oxford University

Laustsen, B.C., Diken, B. (2005). *The Culture of Exception: Sociology facing the Camp*. New York: Rutledge Press.

Meggle, G. (2005). *Ethics of Terrorism and Counter Terrorism*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Smith, P. (2005). *Why War? The culture logic of Iraq The Gulf War, and Suez*. Chicago & London: University of Chicago Press.

Haqqani, H. (2005). *Pakistan Between Mosque and Military*. Vanguard Books.

Lohor, C. R. (2008). *Jihadi Terrorism and The Radicalization Challenge In Europe*: London Press

Horgan, J. (2009). *Walking away from Terrorism: Account of Disengagement*

Paul, W. (2011). *Terrorism Verses to Democracy: The Libral state response*. New York : Rutledge Press

Vertigans, S., Marron, D. & Sutton, P. (2009). *Militant Islam: Sociology of Characteristics, Causes and Consequences*. London: Tylor & Frances Press