Dr. Ghazala Shoukat
Dr. Irfana Shah &
Farhat Jokhio

TERRORISM: PERCEPTIONS OF PSYCHOSOCIAL CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES (AN INTERVIEW BASED SURVEY)

Abstract:

Terrorism nowadays is being regarded as a global ideology which has become a very dangerous threat for the citizens of the entire world belonging to all the different nation/ communities etc. Not only resulting in human life casualties, it has culminated into devastation of economics, psychologies of people and physical sabotage. Drastic and dreadful are the outcome of terrorism leading towards large scale social insecurity and countless human casualties. It has become incumbent to 21st century to comprehend this highly misconstrued concept, though a host of good researches have been conducted, but it still needs to be unearthed from a variety of factors such as psychological, political, geographical, ideological, economic and cultural aspects in order to determine the rogue factors causing terrorism and ultimately devising superior strategies to restrain peace and harmony in our lives. The Endeavour of current research investigation is to comprehend this dilemma along with all of its root causes and traits. Moreover this paper will explore any ties between religion and terrorism. A survey utilizing interviews was used to gauge how people perceive terrorism. The sample size comprise of 200 Sindh university teachers and 200 students of the respective university who were probed. This paper was a great boon in analyzing the logics of people pertaining the causes of terrorism and it's after effect.

* **Key words**: Terrorism, Perception, Teachers, Students, Causes & effects.*

Introduction:

Infact terrorism has put the socio-political and economics systems of the entire world into shambles culminating in political chaos, economic surge and social demolition, and resulting in such psychological issues such as fear, anxiety and deprivation on a maximum. This malicious culprit has no confinements and is disparaging to humanity. Its existence might correlate with that of human civilizations, yet we don't have any obvious proof as to what define terrorism. This might be due to the existence of multiple socio-political, economic, religious, psychological and cultural factors at its back and also due to the fact that all terrorist groups and terrorist possess differing ideologies motivation and deprivations.

The English connotation of the world terror is derived from Latin phrase terror which implies to scare, frighten. Initially put into practice in 14th century in French language, was adopted in English by 1528. But an infamous old Chinese proverb "kill one and frighten ten thousand" depicts the instinctiveness and old time existence of the concept of terrorism (Schmidt, 1977). The complicated causes of terrorism, the diverging perceptions utilized and a wild array of arms and tactics available to terrorist - all these issues have made it one of the most intriguing problems at present time. The nature and domain of this problem resists its understanding by a single discipline. Terrorism is a blend of various human motivations, actions, perception and goals (Jay Mathur). Definitions have varied by Oleg Zinam, utilization of threat or violence by individuals or organized groups to create fear and willingness to submit in order to attain economic, political and socio-psychological gains." (Oleg Zinam)

Terrorism is a part of forceful diplomacy, practicing violence and its implications to compel the opponent to reconsider his thoughts and submit to a mutually agreeable eradication of the conflict." (George, 1991)

To attain socio-economic political and ideological gains is a motive of terrorism by the creation of psychological fear. A deep review of the reasons of terrorism, aided by researches confirms the fact that it is a resultant of deprivation whether socio-psychological, political or economical in nature people tune in to violence when deprived of basic socio-economic, political, religious and psychological needs. Political and socio-economic disarrays lead to massive emotions of socio-economic, political and psychological deprivations. The tendency to violence is triggered by the feelings of related deprivation.(Kaur, 2005). Whether real or imagined, there must be logic of injustice, deprivation backing every act of terrorism. The motivating force of terrorism is that particular sense of deprivation.(Nazrul Islam, 2005).

There is a huge unanimous consensus upon the condi-

tions which trigger people to utilize violent means to ensure certain changes, or to derail a particular social or political order and terrorism is an integral part in such violence. Variations do exist due to many historical, cultural and relevant political reasons but violence is usually opted by people when they realize that they are being suppressed, humiliated and discriminated despite being at no fault, but due to the annexation towards a particular cast, creed, or community, and assuming that no appropriate legal or social mechanism exists to fend off this injustice.(Walter Laqueur, 1977).

In his paper on "The political and socio-economic under currents of terrorism" Ajay Darshan Behera accurately observes that even though the modern facet of terrorism encompasses multinational characters, its ties are still rooted in the disarrays in the domestic socio-economic and political systems. He further contends that the development of terrorism from a single state logic to a transnational logic has resulted due to various reasons which include unjust distribution of wealth and the augmenting gap between rich and poor. The gap between rich and poor increases within the societies along with widening gap between national incomes of richest and the poorest countries. The connotation of war against Soviet Union in Afghanistan as Jihad or Holy war and citing the guerillas of the war as Mujahedeen's allowed a certain degree of legitimacy to an ideological driving force which is being capitalized by religious extremists to confront secular thought schools and created an ideological void. And with a huge young population undergoing stress by crisis, readily available for manipulation and hiring, blending these factors appropriately signifies the logic of terrorism particularly transnational terrorism.(Behera, 2008)

Prevention of basic political and economic rights are key factors leading to terrorism. When certain groups are deprived of their political and economic rights, they choose the appropriate technique of terrorism to portray their anger. The affected groups are triggered to adapt to violent methods to have their demands fulfilled by the particular deprivation. (Michael, 2007)

Terrorism flourishes in the society where people are ne-

glected and are victims of socio-economic and political injustice. When people are dejected, suppressed and are left to isolation, their expression of frustration and anguish is ultimately in the form of violent conduct in order to garner the attention of the entire state and citizens. (Michael, 2007) Present paper's motive is to concentrate on the in depth analysis of terrorism, the factors of socio-psychological, political and economic leading to it and to unearth the deter rioting effects of this malicious threat which have tarnished societies due to fear, non-safety, grievance and deprivation on a massive scale. Time requires this notion of several facets to be comprehended, which has raised death security issues for the entire world, inclusive of Pakistan.

Whether capitalism or socialism, either democracy or collective economy, none of these are left unharmed by this transnational rationale. (Ahmar,2003)

Objectives:

1. To analyze and grasp the perceptions on the war of terrorism by teachers.

2. To devise possible ramifications recommended by teachers of community/ society to confront the threat of terrorism/ Talibanization.

3. To imply these findings into the practical policy options.

Method:

Sample: The sample size comprises of a total of 200 participants for the investigation at hand. 100 teachers and 100 students of university of Sindh Jamshoro were comprehensively interviewed (N=200). Furthermore, a structured interview format was deployed on a sample of 200 participants, break up followed 100 teachers and 100 students of the respective institutions. Simple random sampling technique was utilized as per the sample selection is concerned.

Instruments:

In depth interview methodology was utilized for data collection. The schedule included open ended questions on the ra-

tionale of terrorism, its causes and after effects. Questions involved were "What is terrorism", "Who are the terrorist", "What are the underlying motives backing a terrorist assault?" and what are the socio psychological reasons and outcomes of terrorism? How civil society should cope up with terrorism and what social, National and global measures can be implied to avert individuals from disintegrating from the system? A structured interview was constructed to aid the quantitative analysis.

Procedure:

Participants annexed to various faculties of the university of Sindh were approached, and probed via detailed interview in order to track how they perceive terrorism. Factors giving birth it and the devastating and dreadful psychosocial, economic and political after effects of it. After devising the structured interview, it was put into effect by probing the participants and the responses generated were tabulated quantitatively. A majority of response were in written form, whereas some were recorded.

Results:

Table 1 depicts the percentage variations of the teachers and students perceptions pertaining psychosocial-economic and political causes (Graph A) and (Graph B).
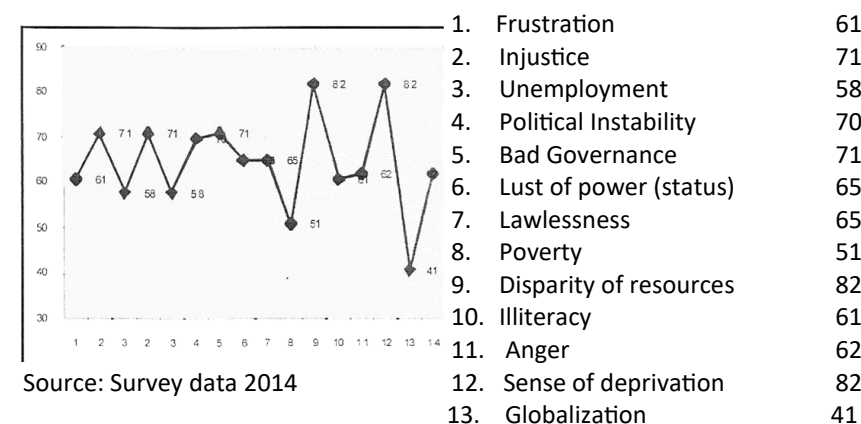
Table 1

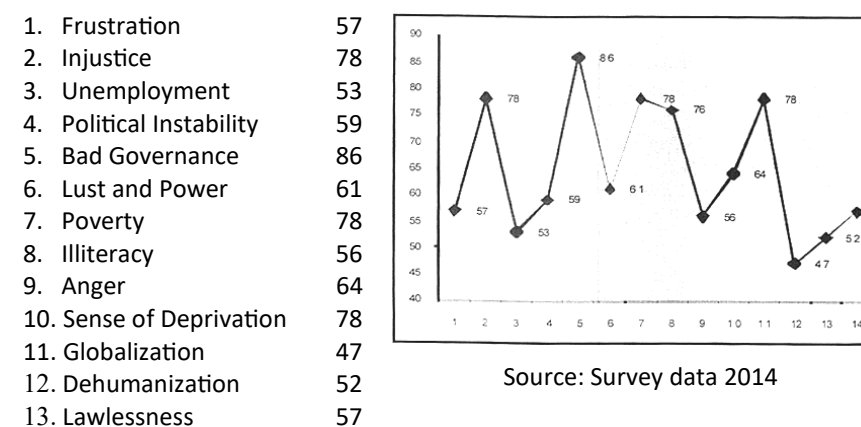| Category	Reasons	% Teacher's Perception	% of Students' Perception
Psychological of causes terrorism	a. Feeling of deprivation	82	78
	b. Frustration	61	57
	c. Lust of social status power	65	61
Social causes of terrorism	a. Poverty	59	71
	b. Injustice/Lawlessness	71	63
	c. Dehumanization	61	52
	d. Illiteracy	61	56
Economic causes of terrorism	a. Disparity of resource	78	76
	b. Economic deprivation	73	61
	c. Globalization	48	52
Political causes of terrorism	a. Political instability	70	59
	b. Governance (Bad)	71	86

Source: Survey data 2014

Students have regarded sense deprivation as a prominent psychological reason behind terrorism, differences of resources is the 2nd major variable singled out by both teachers and students as a strong economic factor supporting terrorism social factor of injustice, poverty, illiteracy and human dejection have also emerged as powerful factors behind terrorism.

Other psycho social-economic and political factors were also given prominence causing terrorism as signified by the percentages of both groups.

Source: Survey data 2014

1.	Frustration	61
2.	Injustice	71
3.	Unemployment	58
4.	Political Instability	70
5.	Bad Governance	71
6.	Lust of power (status)	65
7.	Lawlessness	65
8.	Poverty	51
9.	Disparity of resources	82
10.	Illiteracy	61
11.	Anger	62
12.	Sense of deprivation	82
13.	Globalization	41

Percentage of Student's of psycho-social, Economic and Political

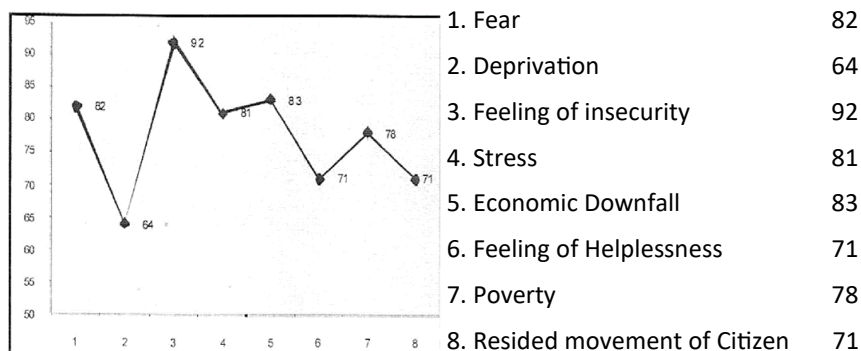| 1.	Frustration	57
2.	Injustice	78
3.	Unemployment	53
4.	Political Instability	59
5.	Bad Governance	86
6.	Lust and Power	61
7.	Poverty	78
8.	Illiteracy	56
9.	Anger	64
10.	Sense of Deprivation	78
11.	Globalization	47
12.	Dehumanization	52
13.	Lawlessness	57

Source: Survey data 2014

Though the causes of terrorism may vary significantly, its consequences are devastating for the societies, the result of the

study reveals.

Graph C signifies the proportion of teacher perception of psycho-social and economic outcomes of terrorism.
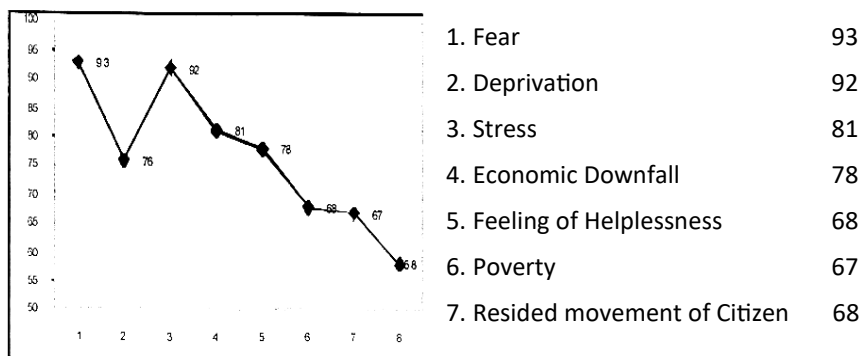
Graph D highlights the percentage of students with their perception of consequences of terrorism.

Percentage of Teachers' perceptions of Psycho-social and Economic consequences of terrorism Graph "C"

1. Fear	82
2. Deprivation	64
3. Feeling of insecurity	92
4. Stress	81
5. Economic Downfall	83
6. Feeling of Helplessness	71
7. Poverty	78
8. Resided movement of Citizen	71

Source: Survey data 2014

1 Percentage of Students' Perceptions of Psycho-social & Economic Consequences of Terrorism Graph "D"

1. Fear	93
2. Deprivation	92
3. Stress	81
4. Economic Downfall	78
5. Feeling of Helplessness	68
6. Poverty	67
7. Resided movement of Citizen	68

Source: Survey data 2014

Discussion:

To analyze terrorism was the ultimate motive of this study conducted along with comprehending psychosocial economic and political reasons affiliated with terrorism, and its outcome terrorism is a very complicated and twisting phenomenon due to which consensus on a mutual definition does not exist and it can't be deduced whether there will one in the upcoming future. (Philips 1991:thackrah, 2004).Its bases are deep rooted in psychological, political and economic problems, in order to gain worthy insights of this issue it is impending to analyze it with all the different horizons instead of tracking the ultimate context of its occurrence. Pakistan is under severe terrorists assaults ,being a front state in the war against terrorism. Optimal damage has been endured by Pakistan and the entire world in a direct or indirect manner, leading to physical and mental suffering on a large scale. Time is falling upon to understand this phenomenon from all various psychosocial, economic and political dimensions.

Result depicts various psychosocial, political and economic factors largely responsible for terrorism. The felt deprivation is the most iconic factor cited by both teachers and students causing terrorism with responses 82% for former and 78% for latter. Both groups have urged and emphasized on lust of pacer frustration as the 2nd core reasons for terrorism. People, when neglected of their basic fundamental rights of psycho-social, political and economic needs tends to generated voluptuous ill feelings of frustration, making them to adopt violence to have their demands fulfilled. Researches have endorsed these findings.

In his research on terrorism" Terrorism a socio-economic and political phenomenon" with special references to Pakistan, Sabir Michael discovered that when certain crowd annexed to certain school of thoughts are not granted their due socio-political rights and amenities, seek refuge in violence to stress their existence. (Michael, 2007) When one acknowledges himself as powerless, that realization leads him (terrorist) to violence. It is a measure of attaining or restrain power or control by infusing

fear of devastation or helplessness.(Kaur,2005)

Not only psychological, terrorism is the resultant of a host of casual factors which includes economic, political, religious and sociological factors (Hudson,1999). Current study's findings have determined reasons such as social injustice, poverty and human dejection as powerful causes backing terrorism. Not to be blamed as factors directly leading to terrorism and violence but they have vital effects through reinforcement.

Probabilities of people indulging in terrorist assaults are on a high in societies where these circumstances are prevalent. In societies where hunger, illiteracy and economic disparity are norms, terrorism is a widespread acclaim.(Michael,2007). In order to coerce governments to submit their demands, terrorists are inflicting severe casualties and damages to the society.

The damages can be cited in human casualties and economic losses (World daily net, 2003). Disparity of resources, economic deprivation and globalization are powerful economic reasons behind terrorism, as unearthed by one of the outcomes of researches at hand.

The globalization process has led to increasing political and socio-economic disarray in many developing states. Despite existing there, it has only flourished. Disorder is augmented by the incapacity of the state to grant basic fundamental rights in growing political dubiousness and economic recession (Samuel, 1968). The propagators of the root cause theory contents that politically suppressed and economically deprived people are more adoptive of violent and terrorist behavior. Since they are being deprived of their basic needs, this triggers them to alter their fate by any means concerned. Depression, humiliation, lost hope and being oppressed are the usual sufferings of these people (Kennedy, 1986). One outcome of the study also indicated political instability and government incompetency are also measure drivers of terrorism.

Consequences of terrorism:

Current study, along with envisioning various causes of terrorism has also endorsed on the devastating and demolishing after effects of terrorism.

Graph C and Graph D portray the psycho-social and economic outcomes of terrorism, according to the perceptions of the teachers and the students. Results signaled that terrorism is a playmaker of disruptive psycho-social and economic consequences, on a large scale. Psychological symptoms such as fear 82%, feelings of insecurity 92%, stress 81%, depression 64% and feelings of helplessness 71% have emerged as vital destructive and disturbing psychological outcomes of terrorism by teachers, and students perception consistently cement the perception of teachers as indicated by their weights assigned to factors (fear 93%, feelings of insecurity 92%, depression 76%, stress 81% and feelings of helplessness 68%). The findings of this research are in the line with prior researches of terrorism (Gala, 2003; North CS, 1999).

Terrorist assaults can be psychologically damaging, implied in the form of large physical attacks or chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear adversary. Psychological consequences cam emit in the shape of emotional, behavioral cognitive responses. People can fall victims to insomnia, fear, anxiety, anger and some can even prone to posttraumatic stress disorder ad depression. (Smelser & Mitchell, 2002).

The causes as well as consequences of terrorism are both diverse in nature. Terrorism has the tendency to curtail economic growth in the short run through various mode. Resulting in uncertainty, terrorism can inhibit investments and repels foreign direct investments. "Abadic and Gardeazabal 2003, 2008:Enders and Sandler 1996: Enders Sadisida and Sandler 2006). Present interrogations have come up with the same epilogue pertaining the economic consequences of terrorism. Both Graph C and D are distilled indicators that economic debacle is a drastic unfavorable outcome of terrorism. Terrorism, on one extreme cre-

ates dubiousness, and on the other reduces investment. Internal disputes leads to a whopping investment of GDP in the defense, from about 2.8% to 5% which inhibits sparing it on social overhead capital and heath.(Collier et 2003). Such switch of spending not only drains out productive investments but leaves the country vulnerable to diseases (Ghobarah, Huth and Russel 2003).Vital industries airline, tourism and export sectors can be easily affected by terrorism which culminates in decreased gross domestic product (GDP) and growth (Drakos, 2004 Drakos and Kutan 2003; Enders, Sandler and Praise 1992; Ito and Lee 2005; Nitsch and Schumaker, 2004). Other adverse consequences of terrorism are restricted mobility of people, poverty, mistrust, the study reveals. It's incumbent on all scholars and professionals to extract more Intel about its causes and consequences in order to address this issue with various objective perspectives, for the upheaval of the humanity.

References:

1. *Ahmar, M. (2003). The World after September 11: Challenges ana v]J]J u,.u,*

    °°°' (Ed). Karachi: Pakistan, p-47

2. Behera, AD, (2008). Violence, Terrorism and Human Security in South Asia. South Asia Human Security Savvies, Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies, Bangladesh. P-20.

3. Galea, S., Vlahov, D., Resnick H., Ahern, l., Susser, et al., (2003). Trends of probable post-traumatic stress disorder in New York City after the September 11 terrorist attacks. Am. l Epidemiol, pp- 158:51 4

4. George, A (1991). Western State Terrorism. New York: Routledge, Chapman and Hall. In, Zafar, M.A (2007). Violence, Terrorism and Teachings of Islam. Higher Education Commission Islamabad. Pakistan.

5. Hudson, R.A (1999). The Sociology and Psychology of Terrorism: Who becomes Terrorist and Why. A report prepared under an interagency agreement by Federal Research Division, Library of Congress. Washington, D.C Available Online, on website: http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/frd/

6. Huntington, S. P. (1968). Political order in changing societies. New Heaven, pp: 274-75.

7. Islam .N. (2005). Islam 9/11 and Global Terrorism: A study of Perceptions and Solutions. P. ll, Viva Books Private limited .New Delhi.

8. Kaur, K. (2005). Global Terrorism: Issues, Dimensions and Options (Ed). Kanshika Publishers. India New Delhi. P-15

9. Koufa, K. (2002). "On Defining Terrorism and other Matters "Encyclopedia of Imitational Terrorism. Verinder Grover, (ed.), New Delhi: Deep and Deep Publications. Pvt. Ltd, pp, 9-13

10. Lacqueur, W. (1977). Terrorism .p-75.Cited in Kaur, K. (2005). Global Terrorism: Issues, Dimensions and Options (Ed). Kanshika Publishers. India, New Delhi.

11. Matter, 1." Terrorism as a Military Weapon "in Livingstone al., n. 4, p.389. In Kaur, K. (2005). Global Terrorism: Issues, Dimensions and Options (Ed). Kanshika Publishers. India .New Delhi.

12. Michael, S. (2007). Terrorism a Socio-Economic and Political Phenomenon with Special Reference to Pakistan. Journal of Management and Social Sciences _ Vol.3, pp, 35-46.Karachi Pakistan.

    Http://www.biztck.cdu. pld downloads kescarch/ jmssv3nl/4H (j2 () terror ism% 20a%20socio%20cconomic%20and.pd

13. North, C. S., Nixon, S .l, Shariat, S., Mallonee, S., McMillan, J.C., et al., (1999). Psychiatric disorders among survivors of the Oklahoma City Bombing, IAMA pp-2822755762.

14. Schmidt, A. P. (1977). The problem of defining terrorism. Encyclopedia of World Terrorism, Vol. 1. New York: ME Sharpe, Inc. P: 12.

15. Smelser, N. J & Mitchell. (2002). Terrorism: Perspectives from the Behavioral and Social Sciences. National Research Council. Executive Summary. Washington, DC: National Academics Press Available Online, on website: Http://ww.abanet.org/adminlaw/annual2003/Council agenda/tab17e.pdf.It's.

16. Thackrah, J - R. (2004). Dictionary of Terrorism. London: Routledge. P. 12.

17. Zinam, O.n-4, pp.224-45, In Kaur, K. (2005). Global terrorism: Issues dimensions and option (Ed.), Kanshika Publishers. India: New Delhi.