

TRIBAL CLASHES IN SINDH ON WOMEN AND PROPERTY: FOCUSED AREA DISTRICT GHOTKI

Aijaz Ali Wassan¹,
Shamim Soomro²,
Farah Lalani³
& Rafique Chandio⁴

ABSTRACT

This study focuses on the causes and consequences of tribal clashes in District Ghotki in Sindh province of Pakistan. Ghotki is a semi-tribal area controlled and dominated by powerful and influential feudals, where tribal feuds on land, women and property among caste groups, ethnic groups and tribal groups are very much common. The tribal clashes which remained much more in upper or north Sindh due to the influence of different tribes. The purpose of this study is to assess the prevalence and nature of tribal clashes and the role of Sardars in dealing with such clashes. The aim is to assess the impact of tribal clashes on the victim of clashes' person, family, community and group.

Key words: Tribal clashes, Feudalism, Jirga system, Honor-killing.

INTRODUCTION

Sindhi society is a part of one of the oldest civilizations of the world. In one side this society is enriched with mysticism which gives education of tolerance, love and prosperity but another side some horrible facts cannot be avoided. In the global era where world is confined in single room, the mediums of communication become strong and active where all hidden and sensitive issues are being exposed through print and electronic media and concept of ill society seems to be ended. Despite all facts the north part of Sindh province is still engulfed in old customs, factions and feuds. Even people let their beloved family members in the hand of jirgas and panchayts. Such

¹ Dr Aijaz Ali Wassan, Associate Prof, Department of Sociology, University of Sindh, Jamshoro. Email: aijaza1@hotmail.com

² Dr Shamim Soomro, Assistant Prof. Department of Social Work, University of Sindh Jamshoro

³ Dr Farah Lalani Asstt. Prof. Department of Public Administration, University of Sindh Jamshoro

⁴ Dr Rafique Chandio, Asstt. Prof. Department of Economics, University of Sindh Jamshoro

horrible aspect of society put negative effects not only on society as a whole but it presents awful image in the world community. Ghotki is one of districts of Sindh province where same sardars are most influential in political, cultural and financial aspects.

Such factions and feuds are taking the lives of many women, men and children of the endemic area and people look helpless in front of few feudal lords or tribal chiefs. Though the district Ghotki is one the fertile districts in agriculture but due to bad law and order situation poverty, unemployment and frustration among the people has been increased. No serious safety measures have been taken by state and people are playing in the hand of few influential. There is dire need of social change through education in masses. This can only mitigate the ill practices from society.

OBJECTIVES OF STUDY

- To high light the present situation of Ghotki.
- To expose the grim picture of tribal feuds.
- To contribute in policy making.
- To suggest mitigation measures.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. Since British Empire left the region they left the concept of slavery among the masses does such feudalistic psychology is still prevailing in their predecessors?
2. To make people away from education is psychology of such heads.
3. Insincerity of state machinery is one of the key reasons of such situation.
4. Use of political power on state machinery is another factor.
5. Poor financial conditions make society in slavery.
6. Honor murders strengthen the situation.
7. No pragmatic role of civil society has been seen.
8. Non-governmental organization human rights organizations cannot show the supposed role.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Daily Kawish, (October,22, 2011) reported that, an armed clash between the Lund and Shar tribes on Thursday claimed lives of seven people in Ghotki.

GHOTKI, July 28, 2009 (Balochistan Times) -- Four persons were killed while 6 others injured in exchange of firing between two tribes in Ghamro, area of Kacha on Tuesdays morning.

Critical Theory: (George Ritzer, 2006, Sociological Theory). All above critical theory statements in concordance with adopted interpretative research paradigm. Tribal clashes patterns have been sought but not at the cost of social diversity and unique individual victim of clashes's existence.

According to critical theorists, particularly Antonio Gramsci (1932, 1977) and J.Habermas, **Dialectical Theory and Method:** The dialectical philosophic method of analysis has also been applied to analyze and relate arguments as it is compatible with the other adopted theories and methods. "For the dialectical thinker, social influences never simply flow in one direction as they do for cause-and-effect thinkers and committed to their ideas. (Mitiroff 1974).

METHODOLOGY

Secondary Analysis of Data:

In this study much of literature has been reviewed through out the research process. Conceptual content analysis of secondary data from the internet, books, research papers, booklets, pamphlets and newspapers was attempted concurrently along with the thematic analysis of interviews and findings from field observations. Findings and themes from interviews and observations were then compared with previous research studies and the rest of accessed relevant secondary data.

Quantitative Semi-Structured questionnaire:

Quantitative interviews were taken from share-tenants on semi-structured questionnaire containing almost about 100 enquiries. Ten or so quantitative questions had also been inserted and duly asked. Questionnaire transcript was updated and newer themes were added as

they emerged during the research process. To analyze the quantitative data, it was deemed useful to produce an interview summary form or memo, which was completed as soon as possible after each interview had taken place. This includes practical details about the time and place, the participants, the duration of the interview, and details about the content and emerging themes. These memos were completed as soon as possible after the interview and attached along with Questionnaire form transcripts. Some quantification of facts of share-tenants (e.g. acres of land under sharecropping, no. of family members etc), therefore, few quantitative questions were also asked to manipulate them by applying descriptive statistics to ,later on, triangulate it with data collected thorough other methods to make quantitative inferences.

Locale

District Ghotki the reason to choose the place is only that more tribal influence is seen in the locale.

Method of sampling

Random sampling method was adopted all members or units were given equal chance to be selected.

Size of sample

One hundred victims were contacted.

Result

Table-1

| Conflicts Arbitration by | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| Court | Waderas | Police | Total |
| 4% | 88% | 8% | 100 |

Table-2

| Why Police is become powerless during tribal clashes? | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| Involvement of Sardars | Involvement of agency | Total |
| 98% | 02% | 100 |

Table-3

| Are tribal clashes caused by unemployment? | | Total |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------|--------------|
| Yes | No | 100 |
| 52% | 48% | 100 |

CONCLUSION

Few people have captured the whole society. They look the king of the area they are named by their states. The existences of monarchs had been mitigated after independence but, their thinking could not be fully eradicated from society. The reason behind is lack of education, in stability of governments, martial laws which strengthen the situation. Media play vital role to show the grim pictures and because of media such issues have been highlighted and reached in the knowledge of rest of the people. But unfortunately the issues cannot be decreased despite of vital role of media. There is need of civil society's role to minimize the grim picture of such area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) Civil society organizations and democratic political parties need to be strengthened to counter the prevalent power structures, because, the area of upper Sindh and Ghotki is a state within a state.
- 2) There is need of revival of judicial system in inferior court levels.
- 3) Civil society organizations should insist that political parties to fulfill their duties.
- 4) Workshops and seminars can be arranged to train political workers in these issues.
- 5) Print and electronic media has played a commendable role in creating awareness about this issue. Particularly, the role of the Sindhi press in campaigning against honour killing and the jirga system must be appreciated.

REFERENCES

1. Maliha, R. & Shazreh, A. 2004, Rapid Assessment in Sindh and Balochistan, Pakistan, for International Labor Office, Geneva. *Daily Dawn*, 10 November, p.11
2. Aali, B. 2009, HRCP, Human Rights Commission of Pakistan fact finding mission. *Baluchistan Times*, 28 July, p.4
3. Jan, M. 1998, The Joint System of Share Tenancy and self-cultivation: Evidence from Sindh Pakistan, *Peasants Study* vol. 8, no. 3, pp. 63-85
4. Vincent A. Anfara, J. Norma T. & Mertz, N.T. 2006, *Theoretical Frameworks in Quantitative Research*: New Delhi, Sage Publication
5. Wendy, O. 2008, *Realist Ontology and Epistemology for Rural Research*, Encyclopedia of Social research, vol.1, p.10
6. Wheat and Rice Productivity and Food Security in Pakistan. 1997, *Theoretical concept of social research* vol. 1.p.13.
7. World Bank. 2002, *Poverty in Pakistan in the 1990s*, An interim Assessment Summary of the Report January