

Causes of Suicide Terrorism in Pakistan as Perceived by Media Personnel

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The current study was conducted to study the causes of suicide terrorism in Pakistan. A sample of five renowned media analysts was selected through purposive sampling. A semi-structured interview guideline was developed to collect data and content analysis was used to generate themes to fit into the pre-determined categories of analysis. Reliability and validity of content analysis were established by inviting two judges and asking them to identify themes and to determine the intensity of each category on a 7-point Likert scale. The findings suggested that misinterpretation of religion acts as the biggest motivating factor for suicide bombers followed by revenge. Collective identity was considered to be moderately responsible for driving suicide bombers, whereas, ideology was identified to be only mildly responsible. Relative deprivation and material rewards scored the lowest intensity. The study played a pivotal role in providing a psychological perspective of suicide terrorism.

Keywords: Suicide terrorism, religion, revenge, collective identity, ideology