

## Impact of No adherence of Social Norms on Business Activities in Pakistan

Dr. Faheem Akhter & Umme Ummara

\*Corresponding author:

Dr. Faheem Akhter

**Abstract:** Newly created state remained for couple of years then the time changed and Pakistan started growing her economic and administrative facets. However after a few decades the hazard of extremism in society started producing results in terms of unstable political system, weak institutions, feeble governance, social injustices and economic turmoil. This research analyses the reasons of emergence of extremism in Pakistani society, its growth and suggests some measures and strategies to counter it. Data is collected through sources available on official websites, literature on the subject using a questionnaire from 280 respondents residing in both rural and urban areas of Sindh province. Empirical results show that extremism has substantially affected Pakistan's social norms and values, economy and governance in terms of unemployment, poverty, high cost of security.

**Keywords:** Extremism, Economy, Governance, Reformation.

### INTRODUCTION

Pakistan took a start in 1947 after becoming a separate independent state. Motivated nation having a dedicated leadership grew to a stage where entire world started showing willingness to join hands with Pakistan. Developed nations wanted Pakistan to grow economically and politically because Pakistan has significant geographical location (Gul, 2012). Pakistan opted for concept of western democracy that gives opportunity to the nation to select leadership. It grants autonomy to state institutions, promotes civic sense, accelerates economic growth and liberates the residents (Akhter F. , 2016). However in case of Pakistan, people have neither recognised the western democratic norms nor have followed their own specific ritual. Resultantly, democracy in its true essence couldn't be implemented despite a number of experiments. The state experienced several forms of democracy, dictatorial regime and a combination of both, it has to weigh as to whether it has to follow the inherited system of governance (developing nations who remained in the chains of colonialism), or to address the needs of its people while keeping in view the religion, culture and civilization. Islamic golden principles of liberty, justice and peace can fit in any form of democratic rule (Shahzad, 2017). The system of governance introduced and set by the Prophet Muhammad (Peace be Upon Him) and further practiced by his Honourable Caliphs, offers ample guidance and does not let the followers astray.

Unfortunately, these golden rules have not been followed in true letter and spirit, instead various forms of governance have been followed, which failed to keep the followers as a true binding force and instead, created dichotomy in minds that resulted into fissures in the society. Seventy years have passed and nation is confused what democracy is delivering in Pakistan or what the other military rules gave. Pakistan came into being as a truly democratic Islamic state, she was once a state with strong economy, stable government and policies. The golden principles of peace, liberty, and justice were preserved in its basic idea which led to the creation of an independent state. But regrettably the coming generation failed to implement the vision of forefathers. The garden full of flowers is now become bunch of thorn, which requires cleansing and reformation. The current menace of extremism predicates on weak institutions, unstable political system, social injustices and economic turmoil. To counter all, there is a need to have strategies in every sphere of life. The research argues that ideological, political, social and economic reforms are immediately required as nation's response to take Pakistan out of the current fiasco and resort to basic principles of justice, equality, and freedom as enshrined in all religions and more so in Islam.

### Emergence of Extremism

Received: 23.04. 2020  
Accepted: 25.05.2020  
Published: 30.05.2020

Journal homepage:

<http://crosscurrentpublisher.com/ccijhss/>

Quick Response Code



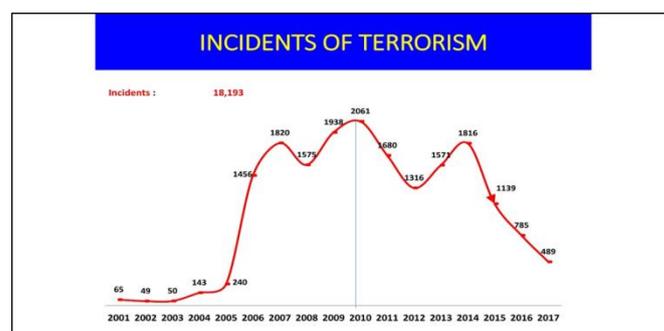
Copyright @ 2019: This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution license which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium for non commercial use (Non Commercial, or CC-BY-NC) provided the original author and source are credited.

Pakistani society is plagued with a vast variety of hues and intensities of extremism. Government and people have neglected this menace for an extraordinary long time, and today nation finds itself faced with an uphill and complicated task of dealing squarely with it (Nizami, 2018). As the cancerous growth has invaded and mutilated our social, religious, economic and political structure, the nation needs to take immediate and strong steps to quickly separate this diseased mass and throw it away from the society. The extremists are looking beyond the tribal areas to transform Pakistan into a theological state through regime change, invading the society and becoming a state actor from a non-state actor (Akhter F., 2016). Though the present militancy is mostly confined to tribal areas, but existence of capability in soft regions of Pakistan and a potential of the two combining in future, has created a situation of high security concern. The nation has started feeling suffocated, weak and helpless to act comprehensively against this foreign body invasion. The Armed Forces of Pakistan are doing their best to fight against the physical epicentres of this malice, but such large scale kinetic operations alone are not the complete panacea for this horrible mind-set. It has permeated into the length and breadth of society and is deeply ingrained in various tiers of polity. As a matter of concern, a full blown operation may manifest like an armed civil struggle, because the resistance at intellectual, political and physical levels is inadequate (Flint, 2003).

### Growth of Extremist Trends in Society

The single most important factor difficult to tackle would be separating the religious feelings from the entire cleansing process, because the perpetrators of this horrific phenomenon took advantage of three exploitable vulnerabilities of religious/ sectarian cleavages, poverty and bad governance (Akhter & Iraqi, 2018). The extreme views and acts have been so intermingled with religious feelings that any strike, ideological or physical, against these entities, would be taken as a war against religion and that would be the Achilles heel of this entire campaign. An extremist ideology itself will never accept a direct defeat. Therefore, the strategy to counter extremist tendencies transformed into extremist ideologies based on religious motivations, could be nothing else but a superior ideology or a superior argument aimed at changing the total environment to ultimately make the extremist ideology irrelevant (Scott, 2015). To prevent an extremist ideology taking advantage of slow pace of change of environment, the hard force must continuously keep defeating the extremists' overt and covert militancy (Akhter F., 2016). Thus, besides the use of force, the extermination of these germs would take huge religious, ideological, political, social and economic reforms. And all this has to be undertaken immediately, by a large group of reformists, belonging to all the above mentioned disciplines. A group of enlightened politicians, jurists, religious scholars, journalists, and security experts, led by the government,

should undertake the task to bell the cat. So that both the extremists and people at large take it as a combined social response. This 'Task Force' may be given authority to guide and coordinate the efforts of all relevant ministries ensuring synchronized effects against the extremist thoughts and terrorist acts. National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) report establishes that in Pakistan a 45% decrease in terrorists attack, 39% in deaths and 54% decrease in injuries was noted from 2014 to 2015 (NACTA, 2019).



Source: <https://nacta.gov.pk/terrorism-decline-in-pakistan/>

### Refurbishing the Reason to Exist

Prime weightage be given to basic principles of justice, equality, education and purity rather than practicing so many interpretations and sectarian leanings of Shariah laws (Sattar, 2011). Forcing the injunctions of one majority sect over all others would neither be acceptable nor practical. Freedom for all and running the state according to the shining and agreed principles of Islam should be the slogan. It perfectly matches with the ideology on which the nation struggled for independence. The nation should stop quoting what various leaders said at different occasions. Let take a fresh start, without undermining "reason to exist". For this the political parties, media and scholars have to play an important role. The debate about secular or theological state should end by organising according to the Constitution of Pakistan that assigns enough 'Muslim identity'. This idea needs to be propagated and finalised with cogent arguments, keeping it open to progression and modification.

### Inculcation of Pride in Law Abiding Attitude

An almost total breakdown of law and order has created a "free for all" like situation. Personal and group motives are being achieved through unlawful and violent means, blurring the distinction between hard core terrorist acts and individual heinous crimes. Police and lower judiciary have lost their trust and professionalism, thus absence of prosecutions and punishments (Khan & Qurat-ul-Ain, 2016). This existing archaic police force and inefficient lower judiciary need to be completely revamped. For this, vigorous planning, legislations and immediate actions are required. The government and the society need to assert themselves and bring back discipline and civility. The trust in judicial system and policing is the second

step required to start movement towards normalcy and social stability. This would entail a well thought out plan and vigorous implementation to carve out an efficient and professional police and judiciary. Ex-service men (both military and police) and judicial officers may proffer their recommendations for inculcating habit of law abidance in the civil society. High quality recruitment, continuous training and grooming with no political interference in promotions, appointments and postings should be the hallmark of a system.

### Education System - Compatible to the World

Each child must be provided with equal opportunities of good education and grooming (Akhter F. , 2016). That is the only way that we can take advantage of a vast population base (that has nearly increased to unmanageable proportions). Education should be imparted on solid scientific lines that must invoke comprehension rather than just learning. It should inculcate both logical and creative thinking, resulting in propping up good workers, managers and professionals. Adequate opportunities for physical activities and games to such a large chunk of population will ensure high physical standards with probability of more international level players, etc. This would be the most difficult task to be taken on war footings. Various streams of education be abolished with only one or two maintained.

### Sustainable Economy

To provide dignity to civil population, the first basic requirement is that they should be well fed (Maslow's theory of hierarchical needs) without begging. This means providing enough opportunities to the people so that they can earn bread for themselves (Kessler RC, 2010). To achieve that, intense economic activity will have to be jump started to create jobs. Specialists of finance, Human Resource Management (HRM), infrastructure development, etc., should be teamed up for finding a solution to this very important aspect. Economic activities must be pushed and evenly spread to remote corners, interior province, FATA and other backward areas to ensure weaning away the youth from illegal activities of narcotics, gun running, abductions and joining anti-state forces, etc. this is easier said than done. But well-meaning Pakistani professionals can find a solution. Pakistan needs sustainable economy to grow and re-gain the lost glory (Ambreen & Qayyum, 2018) that can be achieved by enhancing export capacity and capability.

### Recommended Remedies

- To bring back discipline and civility, the state and society must assert and carve out efficient and professional executive machinery with no political interference.
- Education should be reformed to invoke comprehension, inculcate both logical and creative

thinking, and provide opportunities to all alike for physical activities.

- To provide dignity to human souls, they should be well fed through improved and stable economy.
- Economic activities must be pushed and evenly spread to remote corners of the country, especially Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), Balochistan, interior Sindh, rural areas of Punjab and other neglected areas.
- Inter-institutional wrangling must end and piety, justice and freedom must become the hallmark of society.

### CONCLUSION

Reverting back to the golden principles of piety, justice, freedom of following any faith, as enshrined in Islam (like most of the other religions), will become the basis to fight back at ideological and intellectual levels against the extremist mind set. Provision of good education, economic and health opportunities to the under-nourished and poverty-stricken millions, would provide the bare minimum dignity that human beings deserve, to become worthy of independent thinking, and shunning blind following of exploitative terror mongers. Evolving an efficient policing and non-corrupted judiciary will give protection and confidence to law abiding citizens, by cleansing the society from bullies, thugs and thieves. All the above, can only be achieved through the joint endeavours of all the state organs, media and civil society. The environment now seems to be ripe for bringing about such a transition, if by stroke of luck, we get a good leadership. All inter -institutional wrangling must end and let us join hands to salvage our dear Country from present dangers, posed by a deadly combination of illiteracy, poverty and dismal state of governance.

**Author's Note:** Substantive portions of this article is author's original work and had been submitted to University of Karachi for fulfilment of requirement of award of PhD to the author in the field of public administration and management sciences.

### REFERENCES

1. Akhter, F. (2016). Education, Dialogue and Deterrence: Tools to Counter Terrorism. *Sociology and Anthropology*, 4(4), 257-262. doi:10.13189/sa.2016.040408.
2. Akhter, F. (2016). Pakistan's Emerging Challenges: Increasing Militancy, Decreasing Governance. *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, 6(3), 242-247.
3. Akhter, F., & Iraqi, M. K. (2018). Good Governance in Extremism and Militancy: A Case of Pakistan. *Journal of Education & Social Sciences*, 6(2), 3-14. doi:10.20547/jess0621806201
4. Ambreen, F., & Qayyum, A. (2018). Modeling the Impact of Exports on the Economic Growth of Pakistan. *MPRA Paper 83929 University Library of*

- Munich, Germany, revised 10 Jan 2018. Retrieved from <http://www.ideas.repec.org/s/pramprapa>
5. Flint, C. (2003). Terrorism and Counterterrorism: Geographic Research Questions and Agendas, *The Professional Geographer*. *Geographic Research Questions and Agendas, The Professional Geographer*, 55(2), 161-169. doi:10.1111/0033-0124.5502004
  6. Gul, I. (2012). *Pakistan Before and After Osama*. New York city: Lotus Collection.
  7. Kessler RC, S. A. (2010). Posttraumatic stress disorder in the National Comorbidity Survey. *Arch Gen Psychiatry*, 1048–1060.
  8. Khan, S., & Qurat-ul-Ain. (2016). Transition from unipolar to a multipolar world: implications for Pakistan's foreign policy. *ISSRA Papers*, VIII(I), 149-164.
  9. NACTA. (2019). *Terrorism Decline in Pakistan*. Islamabad: nacta.gov.pk. Retrieved from <https://nacta.gov.pk/terrorism-decline-in-pakistan/>
  10. Nizami, A. T. (2018). Terrorism in Pakistan: the psychosocial context and why it matters. *BJPsych international*, 15(1), 20-22. doi:10.1192/bji.2017.9
  11. Sattar, N. (2011). *Has Civil Society Failed in Pakistan?* . Islamabad: Social Policy and Development Centre (Pakistan).
  12. Scott , R. N. (2015). The making of terrorism in Pakistan: historical and social roots of terrorism, by Eamon Murphy. *Critical Studies on Terrorism*, 8(2), 328-330. doi:10.1080/17539153.2015.1050275
  13. Shahzad, A. K. (2017). Crisis of governance in the bureaucracy of Pakistan: a study of administrative ramifications with apposite policy recommendations. *ISSRA Papers 2017*, 15-34.