

CONCEPTUALIZING FACILITATORS AND SYMPATHIZERS UNDER PAKISTAN'S ANTI-TERRORISM ACT: COUNTER-NARRATIVES, CHALLENGES AND STRATEGIC IMPERATIVES

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ABSTRACT

Pakistan has faced international criticism for terrorism and extremism, largely stemming from inadequate past security policies and unchecked religious influences that fueled militancy. This study examines Pakistan's counter-narrative, formalized as Paigham-e Pakistan on May 27, 2018, which seeks to sever linkages between indigenous and foreign militant groups through institutional reforms, including Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) amendments, the National Action Plan (NAP), revived National Security Council (NSC), Counter-Terrorism Departments (CTDs), and Anti-Terrorism Courts (ATCs). These measures target terror financing, hate material propagation, and jihadist misinterpretations that enabled indirect support via facilitators and sympathizers, who sustained militant hierarchies despite Pakistan's substantial human and economic costs. By fostering national consensus, political stability, and social harmony via kinetic and non-kinetic de-radicalization, Pakistan achieved exit from the FATF grey list, underscoring progress in restoring societal cohesion.

Keywords: Terrorism, Counter Narrative, Facilitators, Sympathizer, De-Radicalization

INTRODUCTION

Security Predicaments are the major apprehension of every sovereign state. States face a number of Internal and external threats. These threats come in various forms. Pakistan has also faced lots of threats since its creation. One of some recent major problematic issues is terrorism which has been facing for the three decades. Millions of people lost their lives, homes and hearths. The infrastructure has been affected badly. Billions of dollars of economic loss culminate into critical situation in the country. The most crucial threat faced by Pakistan was terrorism that it witnessed after the 9/11 incident. Pakistan was ally to US-led forces in "War on Terror" in Afghanistan. For this with US, Pakistan paid a heavy price and war shifted from Afghanistan to Pakistan. The adjacent areas to Pak Afghan border especially

FATA and PATA had ethnic, religious and cultural ties. They had sympathetic attitude toward Afghan Taliban but after US WOT they revolted leading to anti-state activities. A number of groups emerged and wave of terrorism spread all over the country. There was dire need of a concrete security policy because the role of the National Security Council (NSC) remained very miserable. There was no plan, policy or security manual described which would prove fruitful for counterterrorism. The anti-terrorism act was passed by the parliament on 16 August 1997 for prevention of sectarian violence and terrorism. The main purpose of this act was to introduce a speedy trail of heinous offences and matters like terrorism and extremism. In this act all possible facilities were provided to local administration including armed

forces in critical situation. Under this article Armed forces could control a certain area where terrorist activity was suspected. A group or individual who were involved in terrorist activities, sympathizer or facilitator could be punished according to this terrorist act. This act also provides the legal power to police officer to enter and search premises under suspicion. It also defines the establishment, jurisdiction, trial procedure, punishments and powers of Anti-terrorism court. In this act an individual is also considered a terrorist who has been concerned with inspiration, commission, facilitation, and funding or instigation act of terrorism. According to this one who commits an act of terrorism shall be punishable with death penalty or imprisonment for life. For speedy trials Anti-Terrorism Courts (ATC) were established.

The main attractive target points of terrorists are congested public places, government buildings, and public facility centers. Terrorist cannot carry out terrorist activities without facilitators. These facilitators enable the terrorists to achieve their aim. They may be externally and internally supported and funded. Various intelligence agencies are involved in destabilizing and disturbing the peace and harmony of the state. India being a traditional enemy of Pakistan has been involved in anti-state activities since its creation. While the wave of terrorism originally observed after 9/11 incident. The sympathizers have been involving ethnic, racial, religious, political beneficiaries, pressure groups and anti-state mafia. They have been supporting the terrorists covertly and overtly. The logistic and financial back-up support has been provided to terrorists and extremists by these sympathizers and facilitators. The purpose of ATA was to identify and isolate the individuals, who were involved in anti-state activities and heinous crimes. The concept of Jihad that evolved forwarded against soviets, created militants who were later used as strategic tool for Pakistan against India. This study will explore all the causes and reasons as to why people join militant organization and how sympathizer helps them out, and how resources are provided to extremist and terrorists. Pakistan's Law enforces agencies and government promulgated National Action Plan (NAP). The

Counter Terrorism Department CTD was formed in 2010 with the aim "To fight terrorism in all its manifestation" The main purpose of this department is collection, verification and dissemination of information regarding terrorism, proscribed organization, violent proscribed persons and un designated entities. This department direct investigates terrorism and it's financing i.e. sympathizer or facilitators.

Statement of the Problem

Terrorism is an unpleasant phenomenon, which fragmented the state. So, it is needed, to understand scholarly changing aspects and spectacles of terrorism and its supportive organs like facilitators and sympathizers. Various attempts have been made to understand and explain the role of facilitators and sympathizers. However, little effort has been made to explore the root causes of emergence of terrorism and extremism in Pakistan. The study is about the role of facilitators and sympathizer under ATA and national counter narrative to reduce the number of facilitators and sympathizers. The main reason for the selection of this topic was scholarly understanding the role of facilitators and sympathizer in terrorism. There is a gap in literature for understanding the real role of facilitators and sympathizer in terrorism. Study will be fruitful to understand the national counter narrative to reduce the number of facilitators and sympathizer. Study identified the constitutional structural framework of ATA for counterterrorism, which strengthen the importance and significant of the study significance.

Literature Review

Pakistan has been facing the menace issue of terrorism and extremism since four decades. Various attempted has been made to scholarly understanding the phenomenon. Different scholar examined it in different aspects and identified the exogenous and endogenous factors responsible for emergence militancy in Pakistan. Security expert Anatol lieven (2011), explained that Pakistan is facing terrorism, religious militancy and Jihad that created the oppressive, chaotic and violent situation in the country.

Lauder M.A. (2009), Wallis (1984) explicates the essentials of philosophical foundation of traditionalists, Fundamentalists and religious terrorist movements involved in terrorism and extremism. Milton-Edword (2005), Shepared, (2009), and Mozaffari (2007) explain the conjunction of Jihadi organization and religious movements participate in Jihad. They discuss fundamentalist's concept of globalization and establishment of "Islamic Caliphate" around the world. The emergence of religious militancy in Pakistan is explained by the zamam (2004), Ayesha Jalal (2008), Abbas, 2015), Afzal (2018) Jawad&Kamran (2018) and Sattar (2021) This reason identified by the security analysts Fair& Jones (2010), Rehman (2011), Renno (2010), Nawaz (2011) argued that history indicate the victory of USA during Afghan war was due to the military cooperation of Pakistan. The military directorate was active for strategic decision in this era. When the wave of terrorism shifted from Afghanistan to Pakistan then success of counterinsurgency operations in Pakistan relied upon the correlation of civil and military institutions (Qazi, 2013; Nawaz, 2011). Orakzai (2011) claimed that there is a need of infrastructure for development and peace in the country. Babakhel (2022), Ahmed (2022) Kiani and Sahoutra (2020) debate on terror financing and role of facilitators and sympathizer in terrorism and extremism.

The secondary data source included general articles, newspaper editorials, Journals, Interviews and Manuals, which have been studied for this research project. For primary data personal communication was carried out with that person who placed in schedule IV. Keeping in view the theoretical underpinning the role of facilitators and sympathizer under ATA, gap exists to understand scholarly.

Research Methodology

The study is about facilitators and sympathizer in ATA? What is our national counter narrative to reduce the number of facilitators /sympathizers? Issues challenges and way forward. The best and appropriate approach to provide a deep analysis is qualitative research approach. The qualitative method has particular strength to explore cause

and reason. The research is explanatory in its nature. Explanation is based on the qualitative interpretation of the actions, policies and strategies adopted by the militants' facilitators and sympathizers. The study is deductive by nature because a specific phenomenon is analyzed in perspective of generally accepted theories. It is also descriptive and historical study. The data is collected by utilization of various sources. Secondary data sources are journals, books, articles, newspaper articles, government publications, manuals, reports and desertions. The primary data is collected through fieldwork research. The non-probability method of survey research is adopted. The personal communication is brought with security experts, intelligentsia, academics, journalist, political elites, military officials, Islamic clerics, facilitators and sympathizers of terrorists. It is attempted to explore the role of facilitators and sympathizers in ATA. It is tried to fulfill the flaws and researchable gap through this study.

Anti-Terrorism Act

The incidents of terrorism had been up-surged in Pakistan during 1990s, which exposed the fragile capacity of the prevailing laws. There was needed to develop a legal framework to strengthen its strong-arm organs to face the challenge of terrorism. For this purpose the ATA (Anti-Terrorism Act) promulgated in August 1997 with the specified determination of "prevention of sectarian violence and terrorism, and for quick trials of atrocious crimes". The law has been dynamically adequate to respond to ever changing character of militancy through amendments with the passage of time. The law covers encompasses within its realm wide-ranging areas of anti-terrorism administration including action against sympathizer and facilitators. Money laundering and probably use for terror activities. ATA covers inadmissible terrorist organizations and additionally provides action plan to property related with terrorism. It is the prime counter-terrorism legislation introduced in Pakistan. It has been amended with the passage of time by special laws including the promulgation of Investigation for Fair Trial Act, 2013 (IFTA) and the Protection of Pakistan Act, 2014(PPA). However, ATA

remained the primary law under which all terrorism defendants are tried. The ATA introduced several special mechanisms for investigation and trials of offences. The most prominent progress in this regard was the introduction of Anti-Terrorism Courts (ATCs) for speedy trials of heinous offences. ATCs courts are set up by the central government and presided by a Honorable judge of the Sessions Court (SC), or an Additional Sessions Judge (ASJ), or a District Magistrate (D.M.), or a Deputy District Magistrate (DDM). They must have 10 or more years of experience and must be appointed by the government. The trial procedure of the special courts is subjected to strict specific time – the trial is to be conducted within 7 days of completion of investigation. The court is provided with 7 days to trial the case. Under the rules recalling of eyewitnesses is forbidden. The ATA has given the armed forces and police broad discretionary powers to prevent and pre-empt suspected terrorist activity. They may “arrest, and detain without warrant” not only any person who has committed an act of terrorism or a scheduled offence. They may also “enter specific premises and search without any warrant” to take possession or custody of any weapon or ammunition.

Silent feature of ATA

It is comprehensive and widespread decree in the history of Pakistan which is proved a mile stone for counterterrorism. There are some silent features of ATA which are given below

- It provides fast track for the prosecution of cases related to terrorism.
- It attaches non-compoundable character to the crimes under its scope.
- It provides an extensive scope of tolerability of indication as compared to ordinary laws.
- It gives the protection to Judge, prosecutor, witness and all those who are associated with the cases related to terrorism under section 21 of ATA.
- Due to security reason, it authorizes the federal and provincial court the case from one court to another.
- Under the Supreme Court ruling ATA provides adequate legal framework to deal with the menace of terrorism.

➤ It defines the ‘terrorist’ as [an individual] who has committed an offence of terrorism or instigation of act of terrorism by commission, preparation, and facilitation or funding under section 7(a).

➤ It defines the role of certain organization concerned in terrorism as it commits participate, facilitate, promote, encourage, assist, patronize support and stir up the sectarian or ethnic lines of terrorism under section 11(a).

➤ It gives power to a government to proscribe a certain organization that fall in 11(a) under section 11(b) of ATA.

➤ The existence of Special Trials Courts (STCs) acted as anti-terrorism legal structure which finalized 650 cases out of 717; death sentence was awarded 344 individuals.

Concept of Facilitator and Sympathizer in Terrorism

Facilitation is an assistance that is provided to a banned organization or a person. They mostly involve conventional crimes under Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA). Facilitation can be in the form of financial support, shelter, food, logistic support, target achieving and accomplishing the mission. Facilitators enable the militants to achieve the task easily and comfortably. For this purpose they play role of a bridge. They provide technical assistance like procuring fake IMEIs, CNCs, SIMs, explosives and weapons. The physical facilitation is provided in the form of handling the situation pre-and post-attack, border crossing and escaping from the site of crime.

The role of sympathizers is different from facilitators; they have no active role in the commission of scheduled offences under ATA. Their sympathies are in the form of disseminating hate material and ideology through social and print media. There is no proper definition of the sympathizer through which they could be identified. They work for the propagation of militancy and Jihadi narrative among people. People can be targeted and defeated but it is very hard to ensure ideology from the minds of people. They remain silent and dormant but support the narrative of terrorists. They usually have close ties with the external organization and they also help out in the process of recruiting and obtaining foreign financial support. Their sympathies and

affinities may be due to ethnic, religious believes, deprivation, aggression, economical, retaliation.

Terrorism Financing in Pakistan

The private sector plays an important role in terrorism financing funding. The landlord, factory owners are included in this section. During personal communication with Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) officials told that when they were investigating accused persons. They came to know that they were financed by the rich factories owners and elite class. The foreign financing has been carried out through hundi/hawala business in Pakistan. The total foreign exchange is around 12 billion USD. It operates around the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act 1947. This old system of cash transfer plays a pivotal role in Terrorism Financing (TF). There were near by about 46,000 NGOs operating in Pakistan and after the regulatory focus was diverted to this sector only 16,000-17,000 remained. Most of them were revoked for their work due to suspected activities. These were indirectly involved in with financing the militant organizations. The charity factor has also been important for TF. Pakistan has proscribed many so-called charity and welfare organizations. Most of them were reportedly linked to ban religious and militant groups, such as Al-Khair Trust, Falah-e-Insaniyat Foundation (FIF), Al-Rasheed Trust. A study report published in 2016 revealed that just in year 2014, PKR 239.7 billion were given in charity. So Pakistan is one of the prominent countries in the world that gives the highest charity. The Zakat and Ushar are also a major source financial support to the militants. Government deducts Zakat on 1st Ramadan but people withdraw their income from banks before deduction. They give Zakat and Ushar to people who advocate their school of thoughts and sect. The hides of sacrificial animals are collected by the religious organizations and used to finance terrorism organizations. There are some sources of major financing to militant organizations.

Pakistan's Efforts to exit from grey list of FATF

Financial Action Task force is a lynchpin institution which has been working for money laundering and monitoring counter finance of terrorism actively after 9/11. It watches the financial matters related to militancy and

terrorism financing. Due to absence of solid concrete policies according to stander of FATF, Pakistan put under grey list recently in 2018. FATF issued 27-point action plan list to Pakistan for exist from the grey list, which were related to TF. According to FATF Terrorist operations and networks feed on financial resources. Effectively curbing terrorism financing is therefore among the most significant steps for countering terrorism and extremism. Put an end to terrorism financing is indeed identical to nipping the evil in the bud. Pakistan utterly took concrete step including anti money laundering bill and enhancing the role of federal investigation agency and federal board of revenue. Military played a pivotal role for completion all substantive, technical and procedural requirements of Pakistan's 2018 and 2021 action Plan. In a major development, FATF took Pakistan off global money laundering watch list on 21 October 2022(The Express Tribune,Oct21,2022)

The role of Afghan Jihad in promoting Terrorism in Pakistan

Terrorism is a contemporary issue and discussed worldwide. Terrorism and violence have always been an integral part of human history. Now, terrorism has confronted modern civilization with its unprecedented affiliation and poses a serious threat to social and political system (Sattar D. B., 2021). The Afghan Jihad laid the foundation of terrorism in Pakistan. A large number of Mujahedeen went to Afghanistan for Jihad. The Afghan war ended with high toll of causalities on both sides. The Mujahedeen were provided with sophisticated air-craft guns, anti-tank mines, mortar, and explosive ammunition for Jihad. At the end the war, the whole equipment came under the possession of the Mujahedeen. After 9/11 incident strategic allies turned into foes. Most of the Mujahedeen belong to "Wahabhi Salfi" school of thought. They had been in close ties with Al-Qaeda and other international militant organizations. Pakistan used militants as strategic tool against traditional enemy India, No comprehensive security plan was drafted for eradication of militancy. When Soviets left, Afghanistan descended into chaos. The Tajik, Uzbeks, Pashtun and Shia all had their own

militant militia. The FATA and PATA were the areas where common laws of the state did not prevail. Islamic jihadi activists acted upon self-interpretation of Holy Quran teachings. Committed terrible acts of destruction, inspired followers and fully convinced them that they are accomplishing the ordained will of Allah. They expressed that they only desired seizure of power to impose Sharia of Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and transform social behavior. Eventually, state will evolve by itself. The motivational framing convinced individuals to attain martyrdom in the way of Allah and get the divine recompense. The militant organizations emerged in Pakistan with the ideology to enforce Sharia law, which was later countered by the state. So, it is very important to identify the ideological roots and causes for the emergence of terrorism. The religious organizations adopted the motivational framing tactics and brain washing to consequently enhance the power.

Philosophical Foundation of Jihad and Militancy

The philosophical foundation identifies that terrorists believe in “Aristotelian deductive logic” in which language is manipulated to sound esoteric. The shift in religious authority can be observed using this logic. The concept of Caliphate is nested in the idea of Jihad and the idea of Jihad is nested in the concept of Shahadat. This triangular concept is mobilized to wage Jihad against the whole world (Hussain, *The Militant Discourse Religious Militancy in Pakistan*, 2013). This universe is dualistic in nature and divided into sacred and profane: virtuous and evil. The salvation can be achieved through elimination of evil; therefore, ardent action is necessary to clean the earth. Violence is divine will and sanctioned. The new social order is based on the ideology of sacred values and maintained by a central Prophet character. The participants consider themselves as an agent of sacred and soldier of God. The end of state is conceivable only by implementation of divine laws (Wallis, 1984). The influence of religion has always remained a convenient way to manipulate the local populace during terrorism. Religion is a feature of social environment that is exploited for violence rather than being recognized as a root cause of the conflict. Extremists believe

that they have exclusive access to the sacred knowledge (Lauder M. A., 2009).

Terrorism explains the sacred and primordial values that are rooted in ancestral ties with religion i.e. Islamic movements and Jihadi organization. Islam is not only a religion that is based on theological beliefs ritual worship and prayers, but also advocates a total way of life with guidance in economic, social and political behavior. This cogent logic claims an Islamic state with holistic interpretation, that concluding aims of the fundamentalists is to conquer the world by all means (Shepard, 2009). The idea of fundamentalists lies on nationalism and globalization. This conception works like centrifugal and centripetal force. Al-Qaeda believed on centrifugal ideology of universal revival of Islam, while the local movements within state worked like centripetal way. The ultimate goal of all religious movements is to establish “Islamic Caliphate” around the world. Hassan-al-Banna, a prominent Muslim scholar, argued that Muslim community should be restored in its original form because it has been buried under deceitful man made traditions. Syid Qutib advocates, Jihad itself acts for establishing the divine authority. Eventually it will conquer the world. Maulana Mawdudi was also in favor of “Islamic Caliphate” based on divine laws by overthrowing the existing social coherence. Dr. Yousaf-al-Qaradawi strictly argues that secularism among Muslims is prohibited; and the silence in Muslim world is clear-cut disobedience of God. Zawahri argues that existence of Islamic state is essential for victory of Islam. The goal of Jihad is to establish religious state all over the Islamic world and then reinstate the Caliphate for the glory of Islam (Mozaffari, 2007). The Salafi-jihadists’ concept is to raise awareness of religion among Muslims. The Salafi-jihadists urge Muslims to understand that the tide has turned completely. Islam is in danger and in constant state of decline. There is need of reforms in political, military, economic and cultural terms.

Pulling Factors of Sympathizer and Facilitators Ideological Attraction of Religion

The religious ideologies play a pivotal role and are different from the secular ideologies because these

are based on sacred values. The religion is just like stone foundation upon political, social and economic factors are built. The spiritual sentiments give birth to religious movements. The participants of terrorism and new religious movements believe that they have the exclusive approach to the sacred and divine knowledge. They believe that they are true believers and salvation can only be achieved by the elimination of evil. Therefore, for this purpose they try their best to eradicate. The spiritual insurgencies believe theirs to be theological, informed and divinely sanctioned actions. The believers of new religious movements affirm that they are participating in divine plan and destroying the source of evil. Therefore, for this purpose they introduce violence in the socio-political environment with aim to destroy the basic institution and sovereignty of state. The establishment of the millennial kingdom and Al-Qaeda ideology is an example of new religious movements (Lauder M. A., 2009).

High Population Growth rate and Unemployment

Pakistan has lack of compatible economic development and high population growth rate which produce a fertile soil for terrorist movements. Pakistan is the 6th largest country of the world population wise (Pakistan population of 196 million, 2017). The unemployment rate in Pakistan is high and peaked during the 1st decade of new millennium. It was due to poor planning, corruption, bad governance national level social approach. These factors widen the gap between rich and poor. The deprived population shows aggressive behavior among the general populace. Terrorism is often seen as a product of social disarticulation and system injustice, economic disparity and class struggle. These factors produce desire among the deprived people to join the militant organization. Most of the people who join organization are poor and deprived. They are involved in anti-state activities (Sattar D. U., 2021).

Ethnic Support

In the context of Pakistan and Afghanistan there are strong ethnic ties among "Pashtun" (Waite, 2010). Because of cross-border militant activities,

Islamabad has been unavoidably drawn into debates of Afghanistan's fate. Likewise, the terrorist activities in bordering Afghanistan contribute to the origin of conflict in Pakistan.

After 9/11 incident, the massive flight of Taliban leaders to the tribal areas of Pakistan gave new ally to terrorists. Taliban was strategically wanted to control this area. Taliban had pockets of resistance in a chain from South Waziristan to Swat (Ali, 2009).

Events associated with US intervention in Afghanistan also led to a revival of security forces with Taliban (Orakzai, 2011).

The US invasion of Afghanistan, and Pakistan government (Musharraf) supporting the US-led 'War on Terror' WOT also contributed to an increase in militancy across Pakistan. The Pashtuns were largely bounded with each other based on language, belief traditions and culture. This ethnic factor was dominant, which promoted terrorism in Pakistan. The drone strikes in Pakistan tribal areas and in Afghanistan were considered as the ethnic cleansing of Pashtuns. This added fuel to fire in the hearts and minds of the militants and sympathizers. The facilitators and contributors provide all the suitable support to the militants (Rasool, 2022).

External Interference

However, Mujahdeen of FATA and PATA have a deep ties with the Afghan Taliban. They have been fighting collectively in the Afghan war.

On the grass root level, Militant leaders Jihadi organization leaders also in supported of Mullah Omar. Due to this reason, indigenous extremist leaders of Pakistan declared Jihad on Americans in mid of October 2001(Williams B. G., 2011). Pakistan has been using militants as a strategic tool against his traditional enemy India. These militants evolved with the name of a Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan TTP. They adopted new tools and tactics and introduced the new way of jihad with suicide attacks. TTP has powerful ties with neighboring foreign militant organizations. The Izbuk and Chechin commander send physical man power to Pakistan for Jihad. The external forces in power want instability in the region and shift battle field from Afghanistan to Pakistan.

They facilitate the TTP and other militant organizations.

Counter narrative

Since 9/11 incident, law enforcement agencies has remained involved in the Global War Terrorism (GWOT). Pakistan Army has successfully downcast terrorism to a large degree in all its forms and manifestation. Terrorist preferred to target the civilian population instead of armed force only due to their excellent strategic planning. They targeted civilian population knowing that it would be easier to inflict loss of morale in the civilian population rather than in the armed forces (Malik, 2015). Terrorism has affected the political, social and economic development because it remains the primary threat to the internal security of Pakistan. There was needed to break the nexus of terrorists, facilitators and sympathizer.

The counter narrative of Pakistan in broader terms a hard interventions focus largely upon capacity building of law enforcement agencies and rigorous measures under the existing legal framework whereas soft interventions include dialogue with all stakeholders, evolving of national narrative and persisting in of sources that produce an atmosphere which in turn, creates a space for the subscription of militancy in society. Paigham-e-Pakistan (Message of Pakistan) is a great step towards right direction. This document has limited scope yet it may assist as stepping stone for evolving of counter-narrative of Pakistan. Pakistan's protracted combat against extremism and terrorism has resulted in a shared comprehension that the nation must also focus on countering and preventing aspects of violent. The counter narrative of the state is to restore the political, economic and social harmony among the society. The national narrative on sectarianism, extremism, terrorism, and militancy is the cornerstone of an ideological response to non-traditional threats. The society as a result will be inclusive, tolerant, and democratic polity. It also emphasized on the "shared values of acceptance of diversity, tolerance and debate, in the very fabric of the society. It has been praised as shield and an umbrella, which can protect Pakistan from all forms of terrorism and extremism and including the role of sectarian-based conflicts. It has been

further recognized as providing a basis for the promotion of positive and soft image of Pakistan. The element of militancy should be excluded from the society. For this purpose new constitutional frame works are introduced or amended¹ existing laws and focused to dismantle the conjunction between the terrorist-terrorist organization-financier – sympathizer and facilitator. There are three major executive initiatives taken include developing of creation of National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA), National Internal Security Policy (NISP) 2014, and the most important of all, National Action Plan (NAP). The productive aspect of the counter narrative is to bring together the assorted segment of the society under the shared values of tolerance and peace.

National Internal Security Policy (NISP) 2014

NISP (2014) replicates the ambitions of the stakeholders on the issue of national security. The challenge of militancy addressed through kinetic and non-kinetic involvements. The drivers of terrorism and extremism in society could only be obstructed through socioeconomic development and structural reforms in the framework of religious seminaries. These arrangements provide an arrangement for enhancing coordination amongst state agencies to deal with terror financing and their sympathizing.

A Composite Deterrence Plan (CDP) provides for to deal with kinetic interventions whereas Comprehensive Response Plan (CRP) would support the non-kinetic interventions. These approaches proved helpful for counter extremism and militancy. The new version of NISP was launched in 2018 which was built on flaws and gaps by achievement of objectives of the previous policy.

National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA)

It is coordinating body amongst state stakeholders and agencies. This organizational coordination NACTA was created through National Counter Terrorism Authority Act 2013. In addition to regulating coordination amongst stakeholder's state agencies, NACTA has served as a state body to overview the anti-terrorism efforts in the country.

The practice aspect of NACTA has been instrumental in maintaining consolidated list of those placed at 4th Schedule of Antiterrorism Act 1997 to facilitate the connected agencies to take legal action as justified by law. NACTA has also been involved in making Financial Management Unit (FMU) to trace the terror leads in financial transactions in the country. It plays a bridge role among intelligence agencies in the country. It reviews security landscape on periodical basis. It also evaluates and monitors the implementation of National Action Plan (NAP) across the country. National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) was established as an administrative authority unit under supervision of interior ministry of Pakistan in 2008. This entity was recognized as federal authority vide NACTA act 2013. Since 2013, it has been working as a focal national institution for state respondent to counter terrorism and extremism. Its existence was the need of time because it played a key role for coordination of civil and military actions against militancy and terrorism. It has a Joint Intelligence Directorate (JID), which work under the military hands. The main function of this authority are given below

- To collect and organize information, data, or intelligence, and coordinate and disseminate among all related participants to articulate threat assessments. This information is periodically reviewed and presented before central government for drafting timely and adequate efforts to counter extremism and terrorism;
- To formulate and coordinate inclusive counter extremism strategies and National counter terrorism policies, and analyse them on significant basis;
- To improve action plans against extremism and terrorism and report to the central government about application of these policies, on exigent basis;
- To conduct research on those issues and challenges relevant to extremism and terrorism and to formulate and circulate relevant official papers;
- To carry out relationship with global entities for smooth collaboration in capacities relating to counter terrorism and extremism;

- To analyze applicable rules and regulations and put forward modifications to federal government;

- To appoint working group of professionals from federal and provincial governments and non-government organizations for planning in areas related to the order and functions of this authority.

It has been seen, since the creation of Pakistan, that there is no exclusive entity or institution present to address the terrorism and extremism. The establishment of this authority was a great initiative from PPP government, because it proved helpful to erode insurrection. The National Action Plan (NAP) was implemented under the authorities in whom sentences of death penalties were introduced who for those convicted in cases of terrorism.

National Action Plan

The brutal terrorist attack on Army Public School (APS) Peshawar on 16th December 2014 happened which enforced the law making agencies to take solid step against counterterrorism. The urge of redefine Pakistan anti-terrorism course of action is felt by all stakeholders of the state.

Resultantly, National Action Plan came into existence and provided a new direction to the state interventions in the domain of anti-terrorism through national consensus. NAP consists of 20 action points included the implementation of death sentence of those convicted in different cases of terrorism. Under NAP strict action was taken about militancy and their outfits and armed gangs. Establishment of news institution related to security matters was established and existing was made strengthen. The religious extremism and militancy were taken in the top priority on the schedule and madaras reforms carried out. The hate material and literature was completely banned through social and print media and tried to dismantle the conjunction of terrorism.

The efficiency of the National Action Plan as a counter-extremism (CE) framework remains subject of debate. Military has neutralized at some extant the militants major attacks through kinetic operations. While the non-kinetic approaches like the reforms in institutional level like madras registration and single national curriculum is

under process and still steady and slowly. While use of soft approaches or political harmony is referred to as an effective tool for reducing the appeal of militants' ideologies as well as bringing the militants back to the mainstream by convincing them to quit violence. There are two major functional components; one is linked to reconciling with the militants for some political settlement through dialogue, resultantly militants will join the political mainstream and quitting their violent agenda and methodology of achieving their goals. The second main component of such approaches is described by different concepts and methodologies, including de-radicalization, reintegration, disengagement, and rehabilitation

Plan and Way Forward

De-Radicalization Approach

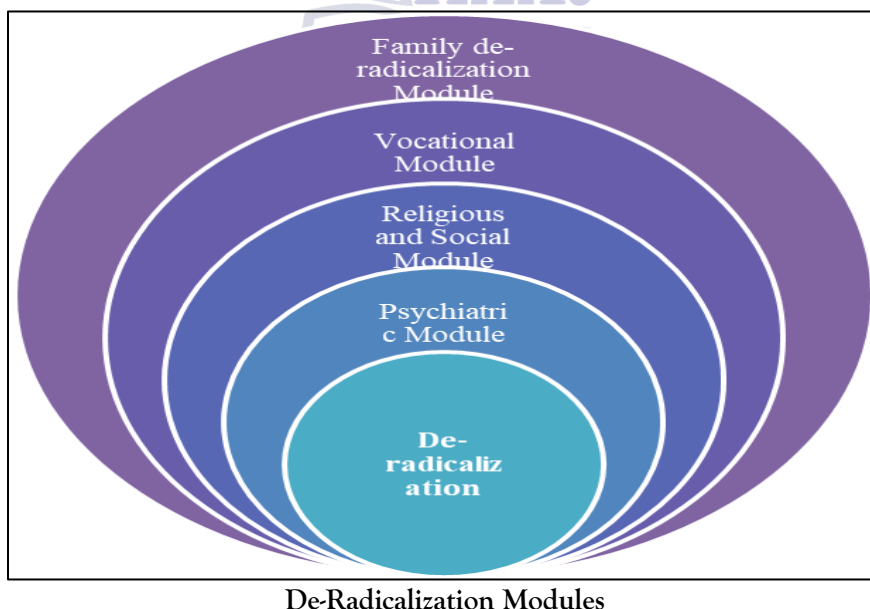
De-radicalization is a process through which individuals abandon, forswear violence, extremist worldviews, to for social change, and adopt more incremental political and social diversity (Rabasa, 2010). Horgan and Bajorgo describes that de-radicalization is imbedded and complex in the evolution of political forces and socio-economic

strata (Horgan, 2009). Militants of Tribal areas are mostly adhering to radical and violent Islamic ideologies. Due to lake access of weak legal institution performance, education PATA regulations, absence of government legitimacy and poverty are the major contributors for flourishing of terrorism. The counterinsurgency operations, multi-dimensional and multidiscipline approaches are applied for perseverance of de-radicalization. There are certain programs and plans including, rehabilitation of detainee's child suicide bombers, in order to counter the hard-core activities.

Induction of De-radicalization Facilities

The government of Pakistan and armed forces have mutually taken certain initiatives for de-radicalization. Many facilitation centers have been brought into existence and different modules are introduced. The following modules are familiarized to bring them into mainstream society.

- Psychiatric Module
- Religious and Social Module
- Vocational Module
- Family de-radicalization Module



Summary

9/11 was the incident which eventually pushed the Pakistan into chaos. The main reasons were

obscene experiments, lake of adequate enacting laws and absence of concrete security policies. The security paradigm changed in new millennium

because the US led forces presence in Afghanistan compelled the militants to move adjacent border area. Militants had closed ties on ethnic and religious bases. A large number of Afghan, Chechen, Auzbik, and Arabic militants moved towards FATA and PATA. They were welcomed and facilitation provided by the local religious clerics. Government was very conscious about this crucial changing situation. There was need of new acting laws polices, plans and reforms. The counter terrorism legislation was made by introducing amendments in ATA. The national counter narrative proved productive for curbing the terrorism and extremism. The existence of new departments like ATC and CTD were need of time that watches religious militancy. A comprehensive plan was introduced through National Action Plan, establishment of NACTA and enforcement of NISP. The TF and money laundering through 'hundi' or 'hawala' strictly banned throughout the country. The laws are revised and amended and legal assistance is provided among different law enforcement agencies units. A comprehensive plan of intelligence sharing is establish for curbing the terrorism. The madras registration and their financial assistance are brought under the ministry of religious affairs. It is tried to dismantle the nexus among the terrorist and facilitators. Pakistan tried its best and resultantly exists from the FATEF. However Pakistan have to do more for bring the social harmony in the society.

Recommendations:

1. There should be national consensus on security problematic issues.
2. Laws related to counterterrorism should be implemented forcefully.
3. The curriculum of religious madaras should be drafted under government supervision.
4. Speeches On "Juma" by Nobel clerics should be scrutinized.
5. Ambition of nationalism should be promoted.
6. Deprivation and grievances of people should be resolved on top priority.

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