

## Socio-Political Implications of Terrorism in Pakistan: A journalists' perception

Muzaffar Hussain Salik,<sup>1</sup> Muhammad Ali Tarar,<sup>2</sup> Muhammad Zia Ullah,<sup>3</sup> & Nausheen Syed<sup>4</sup>

### Abstract:

Terrorism is a perilous threat to Pakistan's progress. Present study focuses on the perception of journalists about socio-political implications of terrorism in the country. This research was conducted in Faisalabad, the third largest city of Pakistan. The sample of the study was 120 journalists selected randomly by using the snowball sampling technique. A well-designed interview schedule was used to collect data. Collected information was analyzed by using descriptive and inferential statistical techniques. This research showed that the social scenario and political outlook of the society were damaged due to the weakening of interlinked institutions affected by terrorism. Media has an effect on terrorist activities and can play its role in controlling terrorist attacks. Comprehensive strategies and policies must be devised to completely eliminate terrorism, ensuring sustainability of peace, and political activities in the society. It is also suggested that religious leaders & media should play a positive role in educating their followers to refrain from extremism and terrorist activities.

**Keywords:** Pakistan, terrorism, perception, journalists, socio-political, implications.

### INTRODUCTION

Terrorism is a very complex phenomenon concerning political style and socio-economic set-up. Pakistan is paying a heavy return for international peace for being a forefront ally in the war on terror. Terrorism has become a dangerous threat to every member of society. Nation wise meaning of terrorism has been set as per their religious education, economic & socio-political norms. Political disparity, social- economic injustice & the fundamental mind of societal persons are foundational causes of terrorism in the world. This mind set (socio-economic and political violence) adversely affected national development in term of infrastructural and intellectual development. It has negatively impacted economic progress and disturbed the political scene in the country. There is a dire need to tackle the situation with complete devotion and dedication (Michael, 2007; Azam, 2009; Khan, 2007; Salik *et al.*, 2020; Saud, 2020). Commonly terrorism can be defined as a means of "harassment, destruction, suicide attack and killing of innocent people for no reasons" (Chachar, Mangi, Abbasi, & Chachar, 2013). However, contrastingly, it is also explained that "in any region, a violent behavior of the society leads to terrorism, which in turn reflects in the mobility of people's economies and the political behavior of a society which can be controlled through counter-terrorism strategies (Hudson, 2002; Ahmad, 2013; Naazer, 2018; Ahmed & Galib, 2020; Salik *et al.*, 2020). Statement can be confirmed that "terrorism has been a potential threat for the security and

---

<sup>1</sup> Research Officer (Rural Sociology), University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Punjab, Pakistan. Email: mhsalik@uaf.edu.pk

<sup>2</sup> Director ORIC/Chairperson, Department of Sociology Ghazi University, D.G. Khan, Punjab, Pakistan. Email: alitarar2000@yahoo.com

<sup>3</sup> Chairperson, Department of Business Administration, Ghazi University, D.G. Khan, Punjab, Pakistan. Email: mziaullah@gudgk.edu.pk

<sup>4</sup> Assistant Professor, Incharge, Department of Business Administration, Government College Women University, Faisalabad, Punjab, Pakistan. Email: nausheen@gcwuf.edu.pk

stability of the people.” Over the years, it has been observed that the curse of terrorism only became worse. Crucial issues in Pakistan are the rise of militancy and extremism which is harming the societal structure of Pakistan (Khan, 2007; Yusufzai & Siddiqi, 2007). Abawi (2008) referenced a CNN report stating that “in the recent years suicide bombing had only multiplied. It had been pointed by then that Al Qaida and Pakistani Taliban both were united in-order-to have Islamic system in the country.” The rise in militancy is being considered an expanded inside security concern and made an awful picture of all-inclusive. The aggressor components have spread their activities in the whole country and no place is completely clear for the masses. After 9/11 Pakistan's decision to accept a frontline partner in the War on Terror has changed the country into a fundamental and central state. Finally, Pakistan should change its game plans from supporting Jihadist relationship to the fight against such affiliations and their activities by absolving the rising threats from United States (Rana, 2009).

The present surge of religious radicalism, extremisms, and the wonder of suicidal assaults (bombing) is normally new to the people of Pakistan. A solid rise in the radicalization in Pakistani society has been viewed since 1980, but the level of severity was not dangerous as it is today in the country. As indicated in the report of Pak Institute for Peace Studies (PIPS): In 2006, the number of terrorist attacks in Pakistan were 657 that caused 907 casualties, and left 1,543 others injured. Pakistan had to face 60 suicidal assaults in 2007 that killed 770 individuals and left 1,574 people wounded. While during 2008, 2148 attacks were witnessed, which ate up 2,267 individuals and wounded 4,558 persons. During the first half of 2009, the fatalities were 465, and estimate for injured people was 1,121 in 36 suicidal assaults.

Professionals are trying to understand the situation of this reality with unique insight to study the radicalism & religious terrorism. In addition, they are making inferences and viewing the consequence with the understanding of legislative issues at the worldwide, national and neighborhood level. The effects of the war on terrorism have severe implications for the country. The brains of the country plus the civilians tried to make sense of this new reality by understanding the meaning of it within their “own broader understanding of politics at the global, national and local level” (Bari, 2010; Saud, 2020). The war on terror in Pakistan started after September 2001, but little was known to the Western world till 2003. Pakistan being the forefront ally of U.S in the war on terror paid the cost of it in the shape of loss of “lives of a huge population i.e., citizen 35,000 plus, security personals 3,500, and infrastructural damages and a straight financial damage of \$67.93 billion” (Government of Pakistan [GOP], 2003).

Asfa & Ahmad (2012) pointed out that “Pakistan in 2012 had suffered a heavy loss in the war against terrorism”. The economy of the country is in shambles due to the constant state of insurgency (Khan, 2013; Ahmad, 2013). In the last decade, Pakistan has seen a massive destruction of life and property. It has assessed that in 2003, 16 individuals passed away in the terrorist assaults, and 2009, 3318 individuals kicked the bucket in the terrorist assaults. Between September 11, 2001 and May 2011 aggregate 35,000 Pakistanis were executed. It has been evaluated that in the blasts and suicide assaults from 2000-2010, aggregate \$68 billion have been wasted (“War on terror,” 2013). According to Pakistan’s authentic media houses, till 2018, at least 65000 people were killed (“US war on terror,” 2018) and Pakistan’s economy has suffered a total loss of \$126.79 billion due to war on terror since 2001 (“62 percent cut,” 2018).

The terrorist attacks damaged the country, worsening the economic conditions in nearly all vital sectors. The costs of terrorism include loss of livelihood, destruction of infrastructure, capital flight, decline of growth rates, low revenues and hence the deterioration of overall economy. Religion is not the only cause behind terrorism in Pakistan, but other motivational factors like socio-cultural, economic, and political are also involved, and the effects are similarly not unilateral (Iqbal, 2010; Saud, 2020; Ahmad, 2013; Naazer, 2018; Naazer, 2019; Ahmed & Galib, 2020; Salik *et al.*, 2020).

Terrorism is very serious threat to Pakistan's progress. It's roots can be traced back to 1979, when allies were fighting against Russia in Afghanistan. But it has reached the top after 9/11 and has become a menace for our homeland. Terrorists intended to destabilize the country, maintain their control in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). Al-Qaeda, Taliban, Lashkar e Jhangvi and other factions of terrorists' organizations like Baluchistan Liberation Army (BLA), Baluchistan Liberation Front etc. wanted to impose a new system according to their own agenda. Large number of organizations have been proscribed by the government of Pakistan (GOP). As per the report of the Institute of Conflict Studies (2000-2019), fatalities in Terrorist Violence in Pakistan are 63898 (South Asian Terrorism Portal, 2019).

We are all aware that the menace of terrorism has badly affected all spheres of our lives. The GOP introduced National Action Plan (NAP), initiate National Authority for Counter Terrorism (NACTA), and Pakistan Army did many operations to curb the menace of terrorism. Efforts and sacrifices of Security Forces resulted in reducing the terrorist activities and suicidal attacks. Now comprehensive strategies and policies must be devised for the complete elimination of terrorism, sustainability of peace, and political activities. Planning Commission of Pakistan and Higher Education of Pakistan (HEC) has directed the Higher Educational Institutions to do applied research in terrorism and criminology., The present study was conducted in this context.

The primary objectives of the study were to know the socio-political implications of terrorism on the public along with the testing of Hypothesis: "Socio-economic characteristics of the respondents are associated with the better perception about social and political impacts of terrorism, respectively. The journalists have been selected as respondents of this study because: (i) journalists are well informed persons than the other members of the society. (ii) they have easy access to the sources of knowledge. (iii) journalism is the fourth pillar of the state, and journalists are the eyes of the nation.

## **MATERIALS AND METHOD**

The present research was conducted in Faisalabad, the third largest city of Pakistan. The sample of the study comprised 120 journalists (from print as well as electronic media) who were selected randomly by using snowball sampling technique. This technique was applied to approach such journalists who have keen interest in socio-political & economic situation of Pakistan and they were reporting, writing, or discussing terrorist situations/ news in either print or electronic media. A well-designed interview schedule was used to collect data. Collected information was analyzed by using descriptive and inferential statistical techniques.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

**Table 1: Selected journalists' perception about who is responsible for terrorism in Pakistan (n = 120)**

Statement	To a great extent		To some extent		Not at all		Mean	S.D.	Rank
	f	%	F	%	f	%			
Failure of Government System	90	75.0	25	20.8	5	4.2	2.71	.38	4
Economic instability	59	49.2	37	30.8	24	20.0	2.29	.55	13
Political Instability	79	65.8	34	28.3	4	3.3	2.58	.50	6
Military /Security Forces	24	20.0	22	18.3	74	61.7	1.58	.47	18
Taliban/Religious Militants	86	71.7	34	28.3	0	0.0	2.72	.46	3
Jihadist Culture	65	54.2	42	35.0	13	10.8	2.43	.44	9
USA and its Allies	71	59.2	13	10.8	36	30.0	2.29	.65	14
India and other Powers	61	50.8	47	39.2	12	10.0	2.41	.64	11
Saudi Arab and its Allies	6	5.0	34	28.3	80	66.7	1.38	.69	22
Iran and its Allies	15	12.5	35	29.2	70	58.3	1.54	.78	19
Intelligent Agencies	29	24.2	40	33.3	51	42.5	1.82	.91	16
Madrasas/Religious Leaders	50	41.7	65	54.2	5	4.2	2.38	.63	12
Economic Elite /Economic Injustice	71	59.2	44	36.7	5	4.2	2.55	.34	7
Politics/Political Leaders	60	50.0	50	41.7	10	8.3	2.42	.33	10
Parents/Home	0	0.0	60	50.0	60	50.0	1.50	.82	21
Friends/Company/Peer Group	20	16.7	60	50.0	40	33.3	1.83	.92	15
School /Teachers	12	10.0	38	31.7	70	58.3	1.52	.98	20
Corruption	67	55.8	47	39.2	6	5.0	2.51	.32	8
Poor justice system	96	80.0	18	15.0	6	5.0	2.75	.25	1
Inequality in society	91	75.8	19	15.8	10	8.3	2.68	.33	5
Unemployment	89	74.2	31	25.8	0	0.0	2.74	.27	2
Media	2	1.7	80	66.7	38	31.7	1.70	.89	17

Table 1, represents the selected journalists' perception about who is responsible for terrorism in Pakistan. Flawed justice system, unemployment, Taliban/religious militants, government system failure, inequality in society, political instability, economic elite /economic injustice were responsible for terrorism in Pakistan and ranked as 1st to 7th, respectively.

**Table 2: Selected journalists' perception about why people are involved in terrorism or committing suicidal attacks in Pakistan (n = 120)**

Statement	To a great extent		To some extent		Not at all		Mean	S.D.	Rank
	F.	%	F.	%	F.	%			
Due to Poverty /for wealth	49	40.8	62	51.7	9	7.5	2.33	.57	2
Due to pressure /foreign elements	37	30.8	72	60.0	11	9.2	2.22	.68	4
Due to social & political injustice	60	50.0	50	41.7	10	8.3	2.42	.44	1
To support their families by wealth	26	21.7	43	35.8	51	42.5	1.79	.82	5
To gain reward or heaven	45	37.5	61	50.8	14	11.7	2.26	.74	3

Table 2, Indicates selected journalists' perception about why people are involved in terrorism or suicidal attacks in Pakistan? It is clear from the above table that poverty, social & political injustice, foreign elements were the major causes of terrorism or suicidal attacks in Pakistan. Khan (2005) stated that Pakistan's most severe problem was un-ending un-employment. The rich were becoming rich while the poor had nothing to eat. In such type of circumstances, only the terrorists would prosper. The people had been suffering badly. They had been fired and exhausted by the cruel cultures of poverty and insecurity.

**Table 3: Frequency distribution of journalists according to their opinion that media has an effect on terrorist activities and what type of media is more effective**

Media has effect on terrorist activities	f	%
Yes	68	56.7
No	36	30.0
Don't know	16	13.3
Total	120	100.0
Journalists. Opinion, what type of media is more effective		
Type of media		
TV	62	51.7
Newspapers	47	39.2
Internet	4	3.3
All above	7	5.8
Total	120	100.0

Data in Table 3 indicates that more than half (56.7 percent) of the selected journalists thought that media has an effect on terrorist activities while 30% of them never agreed with this opinion and 13.3 percent of them had no knowledge. Table 3 also shows that a substantial proportion

(51.7percent) of the selected journalists reported that TV is more effective, while 39.20percent told that the newspapers are more effective in control to terrorism.

**Table 4: Selected journalists' perception about who join Taliban/Terrorist Organizations**

Who join Taliban	Yes		No	
	F.	%	F.	%
Madrassa Students	98	81.7	22	18.3
Illiterate	114	95.0	6	5.0
Poor	120	100.0	0	0.0
Criminals	61	50.8	59	49.2
Unemployed Youth	89	74.2	31	25.8
Military operation Affecters'	80	66.7	40	33.3
To settle local disputes	5	4.2	115	95.8

Table 4 shows that all of the selected journalists (100 percent) had thought that poor people joined to Taliban, while 95 percent of them had thought that the illiterate people joined Taliban and 81.7 percent of them said that Madrassa students joined Taliban, 66.7 percent of them viewed that military operation affectees joined Taliban, 74.2 percent of them supported that unemployed youth joined Taliban and 50.8 percent of them thought that criminals joined Taliban and 4.2percent of them had opinion that people joined to Taliban to settle local disputes.

**Table 5:**

**Table 5. Operationalization: Social Impact of Terrorism through Perception of Journalists**

Social impact	To a great extent		To some extent		Not at all		Total	
	F.	%	F.	%	F.	%	F.	%
Loss of lives	107	89.2	8	6.7	5	4.2	120	100
Injuries	94	78.3	21	17.5	5	4.2	120	100
Lack of access to education	40	33.3	45	37.5	35	29.2	120	100
Lack of access to health care	45	37.5	71	59.2	4	3.3	120	100
Restriction over mobility	39	32.5	74	61.7	7	5.8	120	100
Force to observe purdah	47	39.2	65	54.2	8	6.7	120	100
Forced to pray Bajamat	29	24.2	63	52.5	28	23.3	120	100
Force to grow beard	32	26.7	67	55.8	21	17.5	120	100
Disability in family	29	24.2	80	66.7	11	9.2	120	100
Cannot Listen to music	29	24.2	83	69.2	8	6.7	120	100
Lack of recreation	36	30.0	70	58.3	14	11.7	120	100
Destruction of Local culture	80	66.7	30	25.0	10	8.3	120	100
NGO bashing	57	47.5	59	49.2	4	3.3	120	100

Social impact	To a great extent		To some extent		Not at all		Total	
	F.	%	F.	%	F.	%	F.	%
Doubts about religious madrasas institutions	98	81.7	22	18.3	0	0.0	120	100
Selfishness has been increased in the country	46	38.3	58	48.3	16	13.3	120	100
Negativity in thoughts and attitudes has emerged	42	35.0	54	45.0	24	20.0	120	100
Media is exerting negative impact on immature	9	7.5	100	83.3	11	9.2	120	100
There is prevailing a common unrest in the country	57	47.5	50	41.7	13	10.8	120	100
Negative effects on daily routine life ...	81	67.5	30	25.0	9	7.5	120	100
Children are getting aware of destructive weapons	80	66.7	27	22.5	13	10.8	120	100
Nation has developed inferiority complex	60	50.0	26	21.7	34	28.3	120	100
People's religious feelings have undermined	16	13.3	87	72.5	17	14.2	120	100
Our children are learning inappropriate social values	35	29.2	64	53.3	21	17.5	120	100
Increased social segregation in the society	44	36.7	59	49.2	17	14.2	120	100
Increased sense of deprivation in the society	23	19.2	76	63.3	21	17.5	120	100
People are apprehensive to join hands in social life	41	34.2	56	46.7	23	19.2	120	100
Society is losing its human grounds	25	20.8	64	53.3	31	25.8	120	100
People are restricted in all spheres of life	38	31.7	63	52.5	19	15.8	120	100
Collective activities are decreasing in the society	55	45.8	52	43.3	13	10.8	120	100
People are being victim of terror	79	65.8	24	20.0	17	14.2	120	100
Relationships and social gatherings have badly affected	84	70.0	19	15.8	17	14.2	120	100
There is a general sense of insecurity prevailing	86	71.7	17	14.2	17	14.2	120	100
Rigidity in the society is increasing	57	47.5	44	36.7	19	15.8	120	100

Table 5, represents people who became victims of terrorism. Terrorism not only caused , injuries and disabilities in the society but also increased loss of income, property, crops, orchards, agro-business, and devaluation of property that became increased economic dependency on foreign, global isolation and adversely affected development projects as well as the job opportunities. According to the perception of the respondents, social impacts of terrorism emerged in the form of negativity in thoughts and attitudes, selfishness among the individuals, inferiority complex, increment in social segregation, and sense of deprivation. It apprehended to join hands in social life along with rigidity in the society. People's religious feelings have been undermined due to terrorism and children learned inappropriate social values. Another implication was that the society lost its human grounds while relationships and social gatherings were severely affected due to terrorism. Terrorist activities created doubts about the religious madrasas institutions. Furthermore, it was a

fact that since the advent of Al-Qaeda, the mobility of people both male and female became highly restricted. Terrorism also finished the recreational activities and became a hindrance to maintain health. It is concurrent to the research of Gregory (2007), and Ali *et al.*, (2004) that Social relationships have weakened, and general sense of trust has disappeared that led to constant insecurity and increased criminal behaviour among people especially young ones. Thus, it is concluded that Al Qaeda has crippled Pakistan's the social, economic, and political structure.

**Table 6: Operationalization: Political Impact of Terrorism through Perception of Journalists. (n = 120)**

Political impact	To great extent		To some extent		Not at all	
	F.	%	F.	%	F.	%
Destruction of Jirga System	40	33.3	60	50.0	20	16.7
Destruction of Lashkars	63	52.5	33	27.5	24	20.0
Reduced support of Political Parties	52	43.3	34	28.3	34	28.3
Legitimacy of Politicians	40	33.3	52	43.3	28	23.3

Table 6, shows respondents (journalists) had a strong view that the destruction of Jirga System, deterioration in the administrative functioning, reducing the support of political parties, limitation of political activities were mainly due to the suicidal attacks and terrorist activities. Table 6, clearly mentioned that about one-third (i.e. 33.3 percent) of the respondents thought 'to a great extent' and 50 percent of them viewed 'to some extent' that the destruction of Jirga System was due to terrorism while 16.7 percent of them had not agreed with this opinion. More than half (i.e. 52.5 percent) of the respondents agreed 'to a great extent' and 27.5 percent of them agreed 'to some extent' that the destruction of local Lashkars was due to terrorism, while 20 percent of them never agreed with this opinion. A major proportion (i.e. 43.3 percent) of the respondents agreed 'to a great extent' and 28.3 percent of them agreed 'to some extent' that reduced support of political parties was due to terrorism, while 28.3 percent of them never agreed with this opinion. About one-third (i.e. 33.3 percent) of the respondents agreed 'to a great extent' and 43.3 percent of them agreed 'to some extent' that believed on the legitimacy of the politicians is due to terrorism, while 23.3 percent of them never agreed with this opinion.. These arguments were supported by Azam, (2009), "all aspects of human life i.e., socio-economic & political were badly affected due to terrorism and this enhanced the violence in society and severely destroyed the infrastructural beauty of many states i.e. Pakistan and Afghanistan." According to him, "political conflict, poverty, joblessness, and peculiar benefits of individuals are forcing factors behind this insurgency, extremism, and terrorism."

**Table 7: Journalists opinion, are political parties supporting National Action Plan?**

Response	F	%
Yes	109	90.8
No	6	5.0
Don't know	5	4.2
Total	120	100



Table 7, reveals that a huge majority (90.8percent) of the selected journalists agreed that political parties are supporting NAP, whereas 5 percent of them replied negatively and the remaining 4.2 percent of the journalists chosen had no knowledge about it.

**Table 8: Correlation between socio-economic characteristics of the journalists and their perception about social & political impact of terrorism**

Variables	Pearson correlation coefficient	P-value
<b>1.socio-economic characteristics of the journalists and their perception about social impact of terrorism</b>		
Education	.208	.023*
Age	.612	.000**
Income	.267	.003**
Family type	-.119	.197NS
Dependent variable: Social impact. * = Significant at 5% level of significant. ** = Significant at 1% level of significant. NS = Non-significant		
<b>2.Correlation between socio-economic characteristics of the respondents and their perception about political impact of terrorism</b>		
Variables	Pearson correlation coefficient	P-value
Education	.486**	.000**
Age	.321**	.000**
Income	.489**	.000**
Family type	.112	.224NS
Dependent variable: Political impact. * = Significant at 5% level of significant. ** = Significant at 1% level of significant. NS = Non-significant		

Hypothesis 1. *“Socio-economic characteristics of the journalists are associated with their perception about social impact of terrorism.”*

Sub-hypothesis 8.1.1: *“Education of the journalists is associated with perception about social impact of terrorism”.*

The correlation coefficient ( $r = .208$ ) shows a significant and positive relationship between the respondents' education and their perception about the social impact of terrorism. It means higher the education of the journalists, the higher the perception about the social impact of terrorism. So the sub-hypothesis “education of the journalists is associated with their perception about social impact of terrorism” is accepted.

Sub-hypothesis 8.1.2: *“Age of the journalists is associated with perception about social impact of terrorism.”*

The correlation coefficient ( $r = .612$ ) shows a highly significant and positive relationship between the age of the respondents and their perception about the social impact of terrorism. It means higher the age of the journalists, the higher the perception about social impact of terrorism. So the sub-hypothesis “age of the journalists is associated with their perception about social impact of terrorism” is accepted.

Sub-hypothesis 8.1.3: *“Economic status of the journalists will be associated with perception about social impact of terrorism.”*

Correlation coefficient ( $r = .267$ ) shows a highly significant relationship between the income of the respondents and their perception of the social impact of terrorism. So the sub-hypothesis “economic status of the journalists is associated with their perception about social impact of terrorism” is accepted.

Sub-hypothesis 8.1.4: *“Family structure of the journalists is associated with perception about social impact of terrorism”.*

Correlation coefficient ( $r = -.112$ ) shows a non-significant relationship between the family type of the respondents and their perception about the social impact of terrorism. So the sub-hypothesis “family structure of the journalists is associated with their perception about social impact of terrorism” is rejected.

So the hypothesis “Socio-economic characteristics of the journalists is associated with perception about social impact of terrorism” is partially accepted.

Hypothesis 8.2: *“Socio-economic characteristics of the journalists is associated with their perception about political impact of terrorism”.*

Sub-hypothesis 8.2.1: *“Education of the journalists is associated with perception about political impact of terrorism”.*

The correlation coefficient ( $r = .486$ ) shows a highly-significant and positive relationship between education of the respondents and their perception about the political impact of terrorism. It means higher the education of the journalists, the higher the perception about the political impact of terrorism. So the sub-hypothesis “education of the journalists is associated with their perception about political impact of terrorism” is accepted.

Sub-hypothesis 8.2.2: *“Age of the journalist will be associated with perception about political impact of terrorism”.*

The correlation coefficient ( $r = .321$ ) shows a highly significant and positive relationship between the age of the respondents and their perception about the political impact of terrorism. It means higher the age of the journalists, the higher the perception about political impact of terrorism. So the sub-hypothesis “age of the journalists is associated with their perception about political impact of terrorism” is accepted.

Sub-hypothesis 8.2.3: *“Economic status of the journalists is associated with perception about political impact of terrorism”.*

The correlation coefficient ( $r = .489$ ) shows a highly significant relationship between the income of the respondents and their perception about the political impact of terrorism. So the sub-hypothesis “economic status of the journalists is associated with their perception about political impact of terrorism” is accepted.

Sub-hypothesis 8.2.4: *“Family structure of the journalists is associated with perception about political impact of terrorism.”*

The correlation coefficient ( $r = .112$ ) shows a non-significant relationship between the family type of the respondents and their perception about the political impact of terrorism. So the sub-hypothesis “family structure of the journalists is associated with their perception about political impact of terrorism” is rejected.

So the hypothesis “Socio-economic characteristics of the journalists is associated with perception about the political impact of terrorism” is partially accepted.”

## **CONCLUSION**

It was concluded that most journalists thought that poor justice system, unemployment, religious militants, Talibanization, failure of the government system, inequality in society, political instability, economic injustice, and foreign elements were the significant causes of terrorism and suicidal attacks in Pakistan. It not only affected income, property, crops, orchards, agro-business, devaluation of property, livelihood, economic dependency on foreign, global isolation but adversely affected development projects as well as the job opportunities. The better socio-political status of a society is definitely linked with the progress and wellbeing of the public. Terrorism has become a reality in our country during the last two decades, which proved a sudden cause of change in society and affected every sphere of local and national culture. This research indicates, how the local culture, social outlook and political activities in the areas of insurgency were extremely altered due to the suicidal attacks and terrorist activities leading to extensive implications upon the economy of the society.

According to the perception of the respondents, social impacts of terrorism emerged in the form of negativity in thoughts and attitudes, selfishness among the individuals, inferiority complex, incensement in social segregation, and sense of deprivation. It also apprehended to join hands in social life along with rigidity in the society. People's religious feelings have been undermined due to terrorism, and children learned inappropriate social values. Another implication was loss of human grounds in the society while relationships and social gatherings were severely affected due to this hazard. Terrorist activities also created doubts about the religious madrasas institutions. Respondents (journalists) have a strong view that destruction of the Jirga System, deterioration in the administrative functioning, reduced support of political parties, and limitation of political activities were mainly due to the suicidal attacks and terrorist activities in the areas of insurgency. Pakistan's security agencies efforts and sacrifices resulted in reducing this menace. Now comprehensive strategies and policies must be devised for the complete elimination of terrorism, the sustainability of peace, and political activities in the society. It is also suggested that religious leaders should play a positive role in educating their followers to refrain from extremism and terrorist activities.

**References:**

- 62 percent cut in war on terror losses. (2018, Apr. 27). *Dawn*.
- Abawi, A. (2008). Pakistan bombings reach 'unprecedented' level. *CNN*.
- Ahmad, M. (2013). Insurgency in FATA: Causes and a way forward. *Pakistan Annual Research Journal*, 49(1), 11-43.
- Ahmed, S.Z and B. Galib. (2020). Religious fundamentalism and violent extremism. In R. A. Francisco (Ed), *The difficult task of peace: Crisis, fragility and conflict in an uncertain world*. 245-260. Berlin: Springer.
- Ali, M., Tanwir, F., Aakram, M. B., Raza, M. F., & Maann, A. A. (2004). Social environment and its relationship with juvenile crimes in Punjab: A case study in Borstal jail Faisalabad (Pakistan). *International Journal of Agriculture and Biology*; 6(5): 937-38
- Asfa, R. & Ahmad, M. (2012). Impact of Terrorism on Global Security in 2011: A Pakistani Perspective. *Berkeley Journal of Social Sciences*, 2(2), 1-9.
- Azam, M. (2009, Jan.-Mar.). Radicalization in Pakistan: Sociocultural realities. *Conflict and Peace Studies*, 2(1), 43-66.
- Bari, F. (2010). *Gendered perceptions and impact of terrorism/ Talibanization in Pakistan. (Special Study Report)*. Lahore: Heinrich Boll Stiftung Pakistan.
- Chachar, A. A., Mangi, A. A., Abbasi, Z. & Chachar, Z. A. (2013, Feb.). Impact of terrorism on psychology of working women in Pakistan: A case study of Sindh. *International Journal of Science and Research*, 2(2), 462-65.
- Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Finance . (2003). Economic survey of Pakistan, 2002-03. Islamabad: author.
- Gregory, S. (2007). The ISI and the war on terror. *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*, 30(12), 1013-31.
- Hudson, R. A. (2002). Who becomes a terrorist and why? Government report (1999) on profiling terrorists. Guilford, USA: Lyons Press.
- Iqbal, K. (2010, Jan.-Mar.). Evolution of suicide terrorism in Pakistan and counter strategies. *Journal of Conflict and Peace Studies*, 3(1), 55-74.
- Khan, A. U., (2005). *The terrorist threat and the policy response in Pakistan*. (SIPRI Policy Paper No. 11). Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.
- Khan, I. (2007). *Pashtuns in the crossfire: Pashtun politics in the shadow of war against terrorism* (Brief No. 19). Islamabad: Pakistan Security Research Unit.
- Khan, T. (2013). The social, political and economic effects of the war on terror in Pakistan (2009 to 2011). *ISSRA Papers*, 5(1), 65-90.
- Michael, S. (2007). Terrorism a socio-economic and political phenomenon with special reference to Pakistan. *Journal of Management and Social Sciences*, 3(1), 35-46.
- Naazer, M. A. (2018). Internal conflicts and opportunistic intervention by neighboring states: A study of India's involvement in insurgencies in South Asia. *IPRI Journal*, 18 (1), 63-100.
- Naazer, M. A. (2019). The issue of Jammu & Kashmir and Indian surrogate warfare against Pakistan. *Asian Journal of International Peace & Security (AJIPS)*, 3, 25-45.
- Rana, M. A., (2009). Mapping the madrasa mindset: Political attitude of Pakistani madaris *Conflict and Peace Studies*, 2(1), 31-35.

- Salik, M. H., Tarar, M. A., Akram M. B., & Riaz, A. (2020). Deterioration of agricultural economy: An emic account on the impacts of terrorism in Pakistan. *Asian Journal of International Peace & Security (AJIPS)*, 4(1), 204-12.
- Saud, M. (2020). Youth participation in political activities: The art of participation in Bhakkar, Punjab Pakistan. *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment*, 30(6), 760-77.
- South Asian Terrorism Portal. . (2019, Jun. 23). Terrorism in Pakistan. Retrieved from: <https://www.satp.org/satporgtp/countries/pakistan/database/casualties.htm>
- US war on terror killed at least 65000 people in Pakistan: Study. (2018, Nov. 9). *The Nation*.
- War on terror: Pakistan reminds Americans of its sacrifices with an ad. (2013, Sep. 12). *Express Tribune*.
- Yusufzai, A. (2007, Dec. 24). Challenges 2007-2008: Spate of suicide bombings auger ill for Pakistan. *Inter Press Service*. Retrieved from: <http://www.ipsnews.net/2007/12/challenges-2007-2008-spate-of-suicide-bombings-auger-ill-for-pakistan>