

Critical analysis of the issue of terrorism published in leading English newspaper (the news) of Pakistan

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Abstract: As is known, for centuries, various acts of terrorism have been carried out in different parts of the world by different groups for a variety of purposes. The nature of terrorism changes with changing world conditions and increases its impact and power with the new means made possible by developing technology. One hypothesis was formulated. The scope of the study was limited to the articles published in the (The News International) English newspapers of Pakistan and their readers. The mixed research approach was adopted. The population was comprised of all the readers of the selected articles of the Daily News newspapers. The researcher used the stratified random sampling design. Questionnaires were major techniques used for data collection. Data was collected through personal visits. Data was analyzed qualitatively and quantitatively. Content analysis was carried out of the articles revealed the level of social issues discussed in important newspapers. The result of the test showed that much knowledge of social issues was available in The News International (English newspaper of Pakistan) for the readers.

Key words: *Terrorism; Newspapers; Leading; Critical; Pakistan*

1. Introduction

Pakistan is developing country and people of Pakistan are facing social issues which are disturbing the social life and peace of mind of the people. People are too confused to solve these problems by themselves as it is the duty of the government to solve it and too costly to be solved by any individual. Everybody is affected by these issues. Most of the population of Pakistan is from middle and lower middle class (Huang, Fischer, & Xu, 2017).

The social issues which are discussed in the News International are Corruption, Power Crisis, Education, Justice & Law, Population, Target Killing, Security, Inflation, Poverty, Traffic, Pollution, Religion/Sectarian, Child Rights, Senior Citizens, Gender, Agricultural facilities, Kidnappings, Health, Employment, Holidays, Forest, Water, CNG, Land Mafia, Terrorism, Decease, Natural Disaster, Medicines, Recreation, Sanitation, Crimes, Smoking, Futile Traditions, Morality, Road Block, Holiday, Diminishing Cultures (Huang et al., 2017). The reporters and photographers are less influenced in their choice than the editors. The news media shapes their news according to their priorities and broadcasts the only issues which are considered duly important. Media is assumed as the body through which information are flowing without any modification. According to the null effects model the media displays the real picture of the stories or it alters the news at a minute level. But the modern

researchers believe that the media gives preference to the specific issues and other issues are neglected. They disagree with the passive role of media and favor the active role of media (Wahid et al., 2017).

The articles published in newspapers depict the policy of that organization towards a specific issue. These pages show the image of whole the organization not of any single figure individually. The opinions are framed under the advice of its editor. The opinions of the people are formulated as per the prejudice and choice of the newspaper organizations (Funk & McCombs, 2017).

Mass media performances intervene to resolve the problems of every individual's lived practices and also perform it as a vigorous representative of socialization. The mass media presents the news to develop its meanings in such a way that they are rooted in the society in such a way that the male and the female individually, by their own will to stop that, they cannot do so. The mass media serves as dominant instrument of gender socialization with its quality to describe, delineate and reduce the news stories (Green & Kälvevemark, 2017).

2. Literature review

The importance of social issues cannot be ignored. It is a distinction of American sociology as science must remain in touch with the real life and its exigencies. No nation of the world can race with the American sociologist in delivering day to day minute information regarding social issues as criminal courts, crime, case historian mental and

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social irregularities, fraudster, gangs, murderers, smugglers, prostitutes, ghettos and slums etc (Hirani, 2017). German sociologists are of the view that every social fact is a function of the time and place which it occurs (Crawford, Brandt, Inbar, Chambers, & Motyl, 2017).

2.1. Leading English newspapers of Pakistan profile

Religiously motivated terrorism is considered the most alarming terrorist threat today (Fair, Goldstein, & Hamza, 2017). When the movement was emerging in the tribal areas, the state continued pretending it was not a major issue. The militants remained resolute enough in pursuing their strategy of ideological propagation (Rehman & Vanin, 2017). Suicide attacks and attacks on infrastructure, schools, banks, railway tracks and gas pipelines etc. are some other examples of home-grown terrorism. Many of these terrorist acts have external sponsorship either by states or non-state actors (Khan, 2017).

2.2. International or state sponsored terrorism

These acts have strategic significance. Attacks on such high value targets in Pakistan as President, Prime Minister, Marriot Hotel, Sri Lankan Cricket Team, Army GHQ, PNS Mehran Base, Police Stations, drone attacks and FC training centers etc. come in this category. These acts are sponsored by state agents as a tool of state policy (Khan, 2017).

2.3. Ethnic terrorism

Ethnicity is deeply rooted in Pakistani society which has already once caused disintegration of the country. Recently, ethnicity emerged again in the Sindh province where Urdu speaking community clashed with other ethnic communities on linguistic divide. This ethnic terrorism took hold of Karachi and Hyderabad in late 80s & 90s decade. However due economic rejuvenated activity and ethnic group mainstreaming the same was collapsed for the time being (Okafor & Piesse, 2017).

2.4. Separatist terrorism

Pakistan has experienced separatist terrorism in the past in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Baluchistan and the same is still going on in Baluchistan currently. The province of Baluchistan has experienced intermittent gorilla war since last many decades. The militants have active support from foreign elements. The Indian involvement in fueling separatist movement in Baluchistan through its consulates in Afghanistan has been an open secret (Rehman, Nasir, & Shahbaz, 2017).

2.5. Nationalist threat

The nationalist are the sub nationals within the organizations that fight for recognition and a proper identification within the federation, and their struggle is motivated by the fears and apprehensions of pre-dominant role of other ethnic groups or nationalities within the federation. They always feel threatened that their economic, social and cultural interests will not be protected in the wake of control of one majority province. They also feel that their local resources are being used by other regions and they are not paid the right price. The lack of development and poverty frustrates the population and external hands exploit the situation to inculcate a sense of deprivation and fuel violent insurgency (Saleem, 2017).

2.6. Religious extremism and sectarian terrorism

Religious extremism is responsible for creating division on religious grounds and is responsible for violence against followers of other religions. Today, sectarian terrorism is a major form of terrorist threat facing Pakistan. The sectarian violence in Pakistan has been mainly divided along Shia and Sunni lines and currently an increase in the frequency and lethality of the sectarian violence have been noticed. During early years, both sects co-existed peacefully but the Afghan Jihad polarized the Mujahideen along sectarian lines with spillover effects in Pakistan resulting in killings of Shias and Sunnis in sectarian clashes. The banned organizations like Sipah-e-Sahabah and Sipah-e-Muhammad have been responsible for most of the sectarian violence. The sectarian terrorism poses an internal security threat to the country. So far, the people of Pakistan have refused to get divided on sectarian lines and the violence remained restricted to the fanatics and the extremists with the vast majority remaining detached, unsympathetic and rather antagonist to this approach (Weinbaum, 2017).

However, the sectarian issue has the potential of creating serious social and security threat in case extremists are able to incite sectarian sentiments as they did in Iraq. Jihadi Terrorism Jihadi terrorism with a global agenda is real threat to Pakistan national security. This phenomenon took shape with Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in late 1970s. After the withdrawal of Soviet Union from Afghanistan, this armed struggle against foreign occupation degenerated into a sort of civil war which continued well into the 21st century (Ali, Ullah, Ullah, Nisar, & Ahmad, 2017). They follow money line and serve their foreign masters. Pakistani Taliban emerged and came to lime light in the aftermath of US invasion in Afghanistan. They joined hands with the fleeing Al-Qaeda and Afghan Taliban and made an alliance with them. The tribal agencies (FATA) between Afghanistan and Pakistan are considered to be the hub of Pakistani Taliban. They also try to take advantage of situation to settle personal scores and gain advantages from deteriorating law and order (Lodhi, 2017).

2.7. Factors responsible for growing militancy

Issues like poverty, unemployment, lack of health related facilities, illiteracy and lack of justice are considered to be some of the major causes of militancy in Pakistan and elsewhere. Education and health are the most neglected sectors as Pakistan spends only 1.8 percent of its GDP on education while Cuba spends 18.7 percent of its GDP on education. In Pakistan, 40% percent population lives on or below the poverty line while the figure goes up to 45 percent in under-developed regions especially FATA (Mlula, Ruszkiewicz, & Shirley, 2017).

According to a World Food Program study, around 89 of Pakistan’s 112 districts are facing many problems including food insecurity and diseases. The diminishing public expenditures on education and health have forced a sizable population to seek the services of Islamic charities for their basic needs which make them extremely vulnerable to the various forms of vicious terrorist propaganda. Internally, Pakistan’s complex socio-cultural makeup presents a conducive environment for ethnic and religious/sectarian polarization greatly eroding national cohesion, where each group enjoys trans-national affiliations and sponsorship to flex its muscle at home. During the last two decades, over 4000 people have been killed in religious/sectarian polarization Conflicts (Weinbaum, 2017).

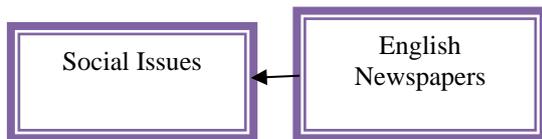


Fig. 1: Conceptual frameworks

The Theoretical Framework model for the Social Issues discussed in important English newspapers of Pakistan

2.8. Analysis of the issue of the terrorism in the News Jan-March, 2016

It consists of terrorism, human trafficking, terrorist incidents, illegal immigration, Afghan refugees, organized crime and mainly war on terror.

Table 1: In January, 2016 total articles published on terrorism

Total articles on social issues	344
Total articles on terrorism	25
News post	6
Editorials	13
Opinions	12

The News published 7.26% articles about terrorism during the month of January, 2016.

Table 2: In February, 2016 total articles published on terrorism

Total articles on social issues	355
Total articles on terrorism	35

Newspost	10
Editorials	9
Opinions	16

The News published 9.85% articles about terrorism during the month of February, 2016.

Table 3: In March, 2016 total articles published on terrorism

Total articles on social issues	395
Total articles on terrorism	22
Newspost	9
Editorials	8
Opinions	5

The News published 5.56% articles about terrorism during the month of March, 2016.

3. Research methodology

In the study the researcher has used the mix research approach which is quite modern. Population of the study was all readers of The News (newspaper) in Pakistan. The population was more than the energy and finance, so the researcher used stratified random sampling and total size of sample was 150. For data collection I used research articles and books which are considered the best for authenticity. To check the reliability of the instruments I used Cron Bach Alpha. SPSS 22 software is used for the analysis of the collected data.

The reliability of the research instruments used in the study was determined through computation of Cronbach Alpha. Cronbach Alpha tells the internal consistency of a tool. It can determine reliability based in average correlation among items and it is commonly used for this purpose.

Table 4: Reliability of research instruments

Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.782	20

The calculated value of “r” of English language was 0.782. In this way, the validity and reliability of the questionnaire was found satisfactory.

Interviews of the experts were carried out. The researcher asked them different questions to know their expert view in the development in the articles of the English newspapers. Record Analysis of the articles published in January 2016- December 2016 in the important newspapers was carried out. Data was collected through personal visits. Data was analyzed qualitatively and quantitatively. The t-test was used to test hypothesis.

Table 5: Cronbach's alpha

Cronbach's Alpha	No. of Items
.841	35

The calculated value of “r” of social issues was .841. The validity and reliability of the items were found satisfactory.

3.1. Testing of the hypotheses

3.1.1. Null Hypothesis

There is no significant difference in the adequacies of information related to current social issues provided to younger and older readers of newspaper articles.

3.1.2. Research hypothesis

There is a significant difference in the adequacies of information related to current social issues provided to younger and older readers of newspaper articles.

Table 6: Computation of t Test

	Age	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	T	Df
Social Issues	Below 25	88	3.4226	.53403	.05693	-.245	198
	25 and above	112	3.4418	.56086	.05300	-.246	190.814

Decision Rule : Reject H_0 if completed $t \geq 1.96$

Talking about to Table 6, it is found that the tabulated value of $t = 1.96$ with $df = 198$ at $\alpha = 0.05$ is greater than the computed value of $t = .245$. Therefore, the null hypothesis is accepted and it concluded that there is no significant difference in the adequacies of information related to current social issues provided to younger and older readers of newspaper articles.

4. Conclusion

The scope of the study was limited to the readers of the English newspapers and editors of the newspapers. The purpose of the study was to analyze the articles published in leading English newspapers, and make recommendations for further development and awareness regarding the quality of the articles published in the daily Dawn and in the News International English newspapers. The following one hypothesis was formulated for the study; there was no significant difference in enhancing the level of English language knowledge provided to graduate and undergraduate readers. The population of the study was consisted of all the readers of the leading English newspapers. The overall strategy of the present study was mixed research approach. The population was large and heterogeneous. It was not possible to carry out a census. A stratified random sampling design was adopted. Total sample size was 200 readers. Questionnaire was used for collection of data. A questionnaire comprised of 35 items was developed. The data was analyzed by using descriptive and inferential statistical procedure. The data analysis was done through SPSS 22 software.

One major hypothesis and 20 item wise hypotheses were formed to analyze the performance of the articles published in leading English newspapers of Pakistan. Mixed opinions were found in respect of all the items of the questionnaire. After this study, I have had an opportunity to assess the position and status the articles of the leading English newspapers of Pakistan. There are a number of findings from this study that demands further debate. There is no significant difference in enhancing the level of English language knowledge provided to graduate and undergraduate readers.

The item-wise analysis showed that all the hypotheses were rejected as viewed by the readers. Once again Pakistan is at a crossroads. Militant and extremists threaten the territorial integrity of the State.

The asymmetric guerilla warfare introduced by Afghan Jihad continues to haunt us. The government of the day is sandwiched between conflicting pressure from the United States and the militant extremists. The economy is in shambles and over inflation coupled with lack of investment and the flight of capital is destroying the fabric of our society. Rampant corruption, nepotism and breakdown of civic facilities have held the nation hostage. Poor law and order caused by mercenaries, criminals and extremists have taken a heavy toll on the everyday life of innocent people. Doubts are being raised about the capability of the security forces to meet these challenges and even the viability of the state. Away forward has to be found despite the enormity and complexity of the national scene. Pakistani people have the capability to brave all odds given right and sincere guidance. The future course has to be chartered carefully with national consensus. Time has come to involve the people of Pakistan into the decision making that affect their very life. The people must reject extremisms in all its forms and work towards establishing a peaceful, tolerant, pluralistic, law abiding, modern, progressive and corruption free society. Terrorism is a great hurdle in our socio-economic prosperity, political stability and geostrategic sustainability. Development activities are on halt in these areas.

The rule of ignorance, stagnation, fanaticism, and destruction is spreading like a wild fire especially in Baluchistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA. The militancy is caused by numerous factors; hence no single solution exists for our problems. Multiple simultaneous courses need to be adopted and global picture must to be taken into account while considering way forward. The local as well as external factors need be taken care of to isolate and eliminate terrorism. On international level, we have to engage US and our neighbors to eliminate support for militancy in Pakistan. On national level, we have to sort out economy, education, and civic infrastructure to facilitate a progressive and prosperous society. The improvement of law and

order and elimination of corruption and nepotism must remain high on our priority list. At the same time, a strict check has to be maintained on the use of religious seminaries to breed and spread sectarianism and extremism.

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