Terrorism a Socio-Economic and Political Phenomenon with Special Reference to Pakistan

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ABSTRACT

Terrorism is a very confusing term which is linked with socio-economic and political set-up. Although Pakistan is front line state in war against terrorism, it is severely confronting terrorist attacks which have shaken its social fabric, hampered economic progress and shackled political system. Terrorism has not only destroyed the socio-economic fabric of the society but also it has harmed the world peace to a great extent. The article encompasses different aspects of the phenomenon in the context of Pakistan. It includes meaning and definition, origin, historical background, causes, types, terrorism and review of militant movements, psycho-social effects of terrorism on masses, analysis of situation of terrorism in Pakistan, and the role of civil society to combat terrorism followed by the recommendations.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Terror, terrorists, and terrorism are more frequently burning issues of the media. In present time the world is confronting terrorism in different manifestations. After 9/11 the phenomenon of terrorism has drastically changed the socio-economic and geo-political scenario of the world. It has shaken the social fabric and world peace. Terrorism is the result of extremism which results in different forms of manifestation of violence. The ultimate sufferers of the terrorism are the innocent masses who have actually nothing to do with the complicated new world order. Terrorism is a tree and extremism provides balance food to grow the tree properly. Different accused groups allegedly involved in terrorism are the branches of this tree. Terrorism is the social evil and problem of today. It is the materialization of the violence which has been an integral part of human history. Human beings have witnessed several furious wars and massacres in almost every civilization and every part of the world throughout the ages till today. The phenomenon of the terrorism has occurred due to socio-economic injustice, political disparity and quest of selfish individuals and groups to retain the power for their vested interests. No doubt, terrorism upsets humanity on the whole and creates unrest in the society.

Although the acts of terrorism are visible every where in the world, but Pakistan is facing the phenomenon of terrorism directly and severely as a social problem. Pakistan is the front line state among international community and consequently the people and state of Pakistan are facing the outrage of the terrorists. Pakistan is an Islamic republic which got its independence from the British Empire in 1947. It total land area is 769,096 square kilometers. It is a developing country with economic growth rate of 7.6%. It is the second state in the world which was created on the basis of religious ideology along with Israel. The estimated population of Pakistan is almost 156,770,000 out of which 96.72% are Muslims whereas the rest of the population consists of different religious minority groups including Christians, and Hindus etc. The territory of the Pakistan is the part of rich civilization of Indus and 'Ghandhara Civilization'. Since its independence Pakistan has remained in the focus of attention of world powers to gain their politico economic interests. Pakistan was created for the oppressed people of sub-continent. It started its journey of socio-economic and political development according to the aspiration of its creators. Although there remained political instability and manifold problems, it emerged quickly as a strong country. The society of Pakistan was considered to be the most peaceful society, but since 1979 after the Russian invasion in Afghanistan the society saw great twist in the social fabric and politico economic system. The world super powers encouraged the militant organizations to promote the culture of Jihad (Islamic holy war) to defeat Russia. The world powers provided their huge support to the government of Pakistan and related militant organizations in the form of money, weapons and politico moral support. In eighties Pakistan became fertile land for the militant groups where extremist mentality was promoted both by the government and other stake holders to attract the youth to fight against the Russian forces. The government of late Zia-ul-Haq, president of Pakistan (1977-1988) and related subgroups continued to enjoy the blessing of the world powers but soon after the evacuation of Russia from Afghanistan these militant groups scattered. The international community pulled back its support from these militant organizations and their agenda was completely changed. These groups which were very resourceful in terms of money, weapons and religo-political influence in the region started to fight against each other. During the afghan war the huge quantity of arms and ammunition came and stored in Pakistan which was later used by these groups in sectarian tribal and political violence. Meanwhile, political instability, corruption, social injustice and economic disparity added fuel on fire in giving rise to different forms of manifestation of terrorism. With the collapse of Russia from the world order the geo-political situation of Pakistan changed. In this changed scenario the terrorism strongly gripped and swiftly spread in Pakistani society. Its most visible manifestation was sectarianism in 1990s triggered by religious extremism. After 9/11 Pakistan once again became the front line state in war against terror in international community. Pakistan played its role effectively to curb terrorism and militant groups which increased the acts of terrorism in Pakistan. The terrorism further enhanced intolerance and fear among the masses. These days terrorism is one of the social evils not only for Pakistan but also for all over the world. This is how the phenomenon of terrorism occurred in Pakistan and negatively hit the society as a socio-economic and political problem. The social workers who are considered to be the catalyst for social change are required to think and work on the subject to defuse the fear and effects of terrorism for social well being.

2. MEANING AND DEFINITION

It is difficult to tell the meaning of terrorism but it can be briefly said that the terrorism is state of mind rather than activity. To find the meaning of terrorism it is relevant to look at the etymology of the word violence which is strongly inter-connected with word terrorism. The term violence is derived from Latin violaer that means to violate or to go against the socially accepted norms or to misuse it. Similarly terrorism means to impose one's own interpretations of religious teachings, socio-cultural, and politico-economic values and norms through violence in the society. Very briefly terrorism means the physical and mental process of terrifying individual and certain groups of society through the element of violence. Academically it is the most difficult task to define the terrorism as a minimum

acceptable term. Sociologists, criminologists and political scientists are trying their best to reach on the minimum acceptable definition but due to the great complexity of the phenomenon and situations there are lot of work to be done. I rather than propounding any specific definition would like to stretch the view point of social scientists regarding terrorism.

In simple words terrorism is the state of fear created through the act of violence. The common understanding about the terrorism is that "Terrorism is an organized system of intimidation, especially for political ends". Different stakeholders such as terrorist groups, states and social scientists have arch differences over the definition of the terrorism depending on the complexity of the circumstances. There is a great controversy over how to term various freedom movements as a liberation struggle or terrorists' movements. An act of certain group is freedom fight for some people and terrorism for others. This phenomenon makes it difficult to agree on exact meaning and definition of the terrorism. Every one explains the terrorism according to his/her certain connotation and vested interests. Some definitions and versions of terrorism are mentioned below to understand the phenomenon more profoundly.

Terrorism is the public harassment, wave of agitation, protest against the government, damage to public and private property, in order to draw the attention of authorities. It can be asserted that terrorism is absolutely against peaceful political set-up. According to Encyclopedia of political thought it is a form of political violence, directed at a government but often involving ordinary citizens, whose aim is to create a climate of fear in which the of the aims of the terrorist will be granted by government in question.

Charles Townshend (2002) describes the US and British version of terrorism in his book entitled "Terrorism a very short Introduction" as "The terrorism is the calculated use or threat of violence to inculcate fear, intended to coerce or intimidate governments or societies". Terrorism is the language of being noticed (Delillo, 1992). According to the Dictionary of Social Sciences "Terrorism refers to the illegitimate use of force by those who appose existing social, political or economic arrangements". http://jmm.aaa.net.au/articles/1257.htm. .

In short it can be concluded that the terrorism is an act of violence performed by any rebellion group or individual to get the certain viewpoint acknowledged or recognized by the society and government. It is a use of force to impose the vested interest of the extremist schools of thoughts and violent groups. Terrorism may be described as a strategy of violence designed to inspire terror within a particular segment of a given society. Terrorism is a state of intense fear which threatens the most fundamental human drive the will to survive intact. When the certain groups or certain school of thought are not given due socio-political acknowledgement and accommodation they turn to violence to show their existence. It is the extreme of imposition of the will by the rulers or dissident groups on the society.

3. THE NEW CONNOTATION OF TERRORISM

Present day the concept of terrorism is based on duplicity- the trend slogan is that "on man's terrorism is another person's freedom fight". Freedom fighters of Kashmir are terrorists for India and USA while the forefathers of the Americans, who won freedom from England with armed assistance of France, are considered to be liberators. Similarly, Israelis and Palestinians have been impeaching each other for terrorist activities.

Modern "Terrorism" word was coined by US when they threatened Imam Khomeni's government to be labeled as terrorist if they did not release American consulate members, who had been kept as hostages after Iranian revolution in 1979.

The new terrorism emerged in the 1980s from more traditional forms of political conflict

in the strands of strident Muslims terrorism began to appear that was unrelated to the Palestinian or any other definable political cause. In Egypt President Anawar Sadat Waqs assassinated by religious extremists and Hezbollah suicide bombers in Lebanon targeted symbols of American military power. By the mid-1990s religious –based terrorism aimed at the general population as well as at symbols of government power exploded throughout the world. Activists from virtually every religious tradition were involved not only Islamic suicide bombers in the Middle East but also Christian militants in the United States, Jewish assassins in Israel, a terrorist Buddhist sect in Japan, the Tamils in Sri Lanka and radical Sikhs and Hindus in India.

4. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF TERRORISM

History of terrorism is as old as the human civilization. To overview the history of terrorism one will have to depend upon the history of violence that was given a new name in French revolution. In ancient times the terrorism manifested in the form of individual and tribal riots. Later the small states faced terrorist attacks by the bigger states as a foreign aggression. Human history has witnessed countless furious wars in which million of people were massacred in dreadful terrorist acts. The series of human subjugation is still visible even in 21st century. The violence which has been present in the human history throughout the ages has been given new name terrorism after French Revolution in 1779. We see in the history that Alexander the great and other warriors continuously killed millions of people that can also be termed as the terrorists of ancient human history.

The Roman Empire also contested several dangerous wars to establish their kingdom in the world. Even the people of God continued to fight with each other in the name of religion. We have the example of crusades a wars between the Islamic regimes and Romans which were fought to manipulating the name of religion. Those wars also resulted in the killing of thousand of innocents just for the quest of power.

The earlier organization that exhibited aspects of modern terrorist organization was the Zealots of Judea, known to the Roman as sicarii, or dagger-men. They carried on an underground campaign of assassination of Roman occupation forces, as well as any Jews they felt had collaborated with the Romans. In ancient India many wars were fought among different groups or tribes. The European nations also fought wars with each other resulting in the deaths of several innocent people. The French Revolutionary Governments coined the word terrorism by instituting systematic state terror against the population of French in the 1790s, killing thousands of people.

In 20th Century the world witnessed World War I and II as big showdowns of terrorism to achieve the goals of superpower. Later the incident of atomic bombardment on Japan and human conflict in Vietnam are big human destruction which shakes the conscious of the mankind. In the last decade of 20th Century the phenomenon of terrorism continued to occur in the world more prominently after the end of cold war. The incidents of spetember11 and July 7 are the height of terrorist acts. It shaped the world in the new directions. In modern times we have seen the horrible wars in Persian Gulf, Middle East and Africa in which the violence was used to terrorize the opponent. The war between Iraq and Iran, Kuwait and Iraq and deadly killings in Rwanda, Zaire and Congo are the worst recent examples of terrorism. Even these days in many countries of the world the proxy and guerrilla wars are harming and killing innocent and irrelevant people.

In short, it can be firmly said that terrorism was present throughout the human history but since few decades it has been given a new dimension. This phenomenon should always be seen in historical perspective to understand the issue properly .

5. CAUSES OF TERRORISM

To understand and solve the problem of terrorism it is essential for all to realize and identify the causes of terrorism. The terrorism is a complex phenomenon which has several reasons such as social, economic, religious and political etc. all these factors contribute in the enhancement and flourishing the terrorist activities. This global phenomenon has various causes and some of them are being spelled out briefly for the better understanding of the issue. This is also notable that the causes of terrorism may be different in various societies due to its religious, ethnic and political nature.

(i) Helplessness and Hopelessness

Helplessness which leads to hopelessness is the psychological state that enhances terrorism in the society. The society in which the people are ignored and have to suffer from socio-economic and political injustice provide conducive environment to promote terrorism. When the people and their problem are neglected or kept aloof they ultimately express their resentment in the form of violent behaviour to attract the attention of the state and the people. We can witness that in the long standing political disputes such as Palestine and Kashmir etc where the aspirations of the people were not heeded some of them started militant movements. Similarly, in communist regimes where the people were not given their socio-political rights they brought about even deadly revolution.

(ii) Political and Economic Deprivation

Political and Economic deprivations are the main root causes of terrorism. When the political and economic rights of the certain groups are not granted it chooses the suitable method of terrorism to show their anger. This deprivation encourages the effected groups to adopt the violent ways to get their aspirations fulfilled. For example we can see that in northern states of India such as Asam, Nagaland, and West Bengal etc. the communists started gorilla war against the Indian Government. Charles Kegley while discussing the contemporary terrorism presents a root cause school of thought which asserts that political and economic deprivation are the main causes of terrorism. He views the advocates of "Root Causes Theory" propel that "politically oppressed and economically deprived people are more prone to violent and terrorist behavior. They are deprived of their basic needs and this condition forces them to change their fate by hook or crook (Zafar, 2007:27).

(iii) Influence of Communist Regimes

At the end of cold war the influence of communist regimes inspired by Marxist and Leninist theories made a cause of escalation of terrorism in the world. Being influenced by such regimes many freedom movements adopted violence. We see in Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka communists and Tamales started violent movements in the last to decades of twentieth century for their freedom.

(iv) Poverty and Economic Exploitation

In the society where there is illiteracy, hunger and economic disparity the terrorism flourishes rapidly. All these factors lead to increase in poverty which itself is the mother of terrorism. Famous philosopher Aristotle had agreed on the assertion stating that "Poverty is mother of Terrorism and Revolution". We see for example in Muslim countries there is a huge amount of poverty and that is why, it becomes easier for the terrorist groups to find the interested persons due to their poor economic conditions. Daniel Pipes (2002) says that "As long as there is poverty, inequality, injustice and repressive political systems, militant Islamic tendencies will grow in the world".

(V) Easy Access to Weapons and Modern Technology

Due to incredible advancement in weapons technology and human knowledge it has become easy for the terrorists to get them easily. Hugh quantity of information about the arms manufacturing has been spread by internet which has made the access of the terrorists easy and they use weapons to get quick results the act of terrorism.

(VI) Sheer Success of Terrorism

Terrorism is a short cut tactic for the terrorists to achieve their goals quickly. It is more result orientated rather than peaceful movement. That is why the terrorist groups adopt this for getting more results in shorter time. Easy access to weapons and widespread information of the arms technology is the cause of escalation of terrorism in modern times.

(VI) Lack of Democracy and Dictatorship

Lack of Democracy is the main cause of terrorism in present times. The dictators and autocrat governments frighten opponents. They do it to the create the fear among the masses to suppress any opposition against their governments. In undemocratic circumstances the people do not find ways to express their disagreement and as a result some of them turn to the violent means to submit their expression. We can see in many autocrat and communist states in Latin America and Africa the massive force was used against the political opponents such as in Cuba Zambia and Congo etc.

(VIII) Religious Extremism

There is a school of thought which considers that the religious extremism is the major cause of terrorism. Mark Juergensmeyer says that "The religion is crucial for these acts since it gives moral justifications for the killing and provides images of cosmic war that allows activists to believe that they are waging spiritual scenarios" (Zafar, 2007:31). It does not mean that the religion causes terrorism but it does mean that the religion often provides symbols that make possible bloodshed even catastrophic acts of terrorism. As evidence we can observe that the majority of the terrorist movements are inspired by the religion or at-least it is claimed.

(IX) Biological and Social Elements

Other than above mentioned causes sociologists have another point of view. A man is violent by nature. The sociologists present three hypotheses biological instinctual, social learning, and frustration aggression. Sigmund Freud's says that "Man is embodied with an instinctive urge and appetite of attacking and subjugating others" (Zafar, 2007).

It means that naturally human beings try to divert towards violence and terrorism by nature. The second point is that the social learning of the person also convinces him/her towards terrorism. If one grows and develops in the oppressed society one can be easily attracted towards violence and terrorism. Jean Jacques Rousseau presents the theory of social learning he says that "human mind is like a blank sheet and whatever his society likes, paints on it" (IBID).

If one lives in violent society he/she would remain motivated towards terrorism. Theory of frustration aggression was coined by the psychologists of Yale University in 1939. They viewed that the aggressive behaviour of a man reveals the existence of frustration in him. It means frustration produces the aggression and it is not sui genres.

All above discussion does not encompass the causes of terrorism but provides view for the laymen. However, it is the common responsibility of all the stakeholders to contemplate on the issue to understand the phenomenon of the terrorism in religo-cultural and socio-

economic perspective. In short, a sense of deprivation, sense of being exploited and sense of being cheated are important factors escalating terrorism in this modern era.

Other than above discussion I would like to mention the causes of terrorism in the context of Pakistan as highlighted by the Gen. Pervez Musharraf President of Pakistan. He, while addressing in international seminar on Global Terrorism on August 29-2007 organized by institute of Regional studies (IRS) Islamabad pin pointed some noteworthy causes of terrorism in Pakistani and global perspective. He described following causes which deserve due attention by the international community.

• Political deprivation and alienation are an arch cause of terrorism. This leads to hopelessness. The sense of powerlessness, which then leads to these terrorist acts.

• Lack of education and poverty are equally responsible for the increasing in terrorist activities. The illiterate are wrongly given the hope to go directly in to the heaven if he/she commits terrorist act for God or religion. Thus, in circumstance where there is lack of education and poverty it becomes easier for the master minds of the terrorist groups to launch the offences at the cost of the socio-economic compulsion and ignorance of the poor masses.

• President Gen. Pervez Musharraf has rightly indicated that the wrong understanding and misinterpretation of the religion is the important cause of terrorism. He asserts that in Pakistan there are many clerics who have limited knowledge of the teachings and values of the Islam. They misguide the people for their vested interests in the name of religion.

6. TYPES OF TERRORISM

The phenomenon of the terrorism is very complex on the whole in all aspects. There is disagreement among the scholars over the types of the terrorism unlike its definition. Various attempts have been made to derive the most common types of terrorism. However, the type of terrorism must be seen in socio-historic and politico economic perspective.

Encyclopedia of Britannica describes the following types of terrorism:

(i) Revolutionary Terrorism

It is the most common form of terrorism to achieve certain political objectives radically. Practitioners of this type of terrorism seek the complete abolition of a political system and its replacement with new structures. Modern instances of such activity include campaigns by the Italian Red Brigades, the German Red Faction (Baader-Meinhof Gang), the Basque separatist group ETA, and the Peruvian Shining Path (Sendero Luminoso), each of which attempted to topple a national regime.

(ii) Sub Revolutionary Terrorism

Sub revolutionary terrorism is rather less common. It is used not to overthrow an existing regime but to modify the existing socio-political structure. Since this modification is often accomplished through the threats of deposing the existing regime, sub revolutionary groups are Somewhat more difficult to identify. An example can be seen in the African National Congress (ANC) and its campaign to end apartheid in South Africa.

(iii) Establishment Terrorism

The Soviet Union and its allies allegedly engaged in widespread support of international terrorism during the cold war; in the 1980s the United States supported rebel groups in Africa that allegedly engaged in acts of terrorism, such as the National Union for the Total

Independence of Angola (UNITA).These types are theoretical and directly related with nation state. The typology of the terrorism is very broad subject it can be further classified on the basis of motives, methods and subjects. Let us have a glance of some other types of terrorism for further understanding.

(IV) Nationalist Terrorism

The aim of the nationalist terrorism is to establish a separate state or homeland for the certain ethnic, religious or tribal groups. This sort of terrorism has been popular among the most successful at winning international sympathy and concessions. It is very difficult to define terrorism because many practitioners of it claim to be the freedom fighters. They use violence to draw attention of the world to gain sympathy for their national cause. The most relevant examples of this type are the movement run by Irish republican Army in UK (IRA) and Palestine liberation organization (PLO) in Palestine. However, it is interesting fact that both of the groups renounced terrorism in 1990s and adopted the political means of conflict resolution.

(V) Religious Terrorism

Religious terrorism comes from many major faiths, as well as from small cults. This type of terrorism is growing rapidly and is discussed widely on the international media. Religious terrorists seek to use violence to further what they see as divinely commanded purposes, often targeting broad categories of foes in an attempt to bring about sweeping changes.

(VI) State-Sponsored Terrorism

State-sponsored terrorism is one of the most controversial types of terrorism. In this category the state uses hidden groups to suppress anti state or anti government elements in the country. State-sponsored terrorist groups are deliberately used by radical states as foreign policy tools—as Hoffman puts it, as "a cost-effective way of waging war covertly, through the use of surrogate warriors or 'guns for hire". State sponsored terrorism is normally executed by autocratic to suppress the political opponents. The state sponsor terrorist groups are more effective, efficient and active rather than any group because of having moral, political and logistic support of the government or state.

(VII) Inter-State or International Terrorism

This type of terrorism became evident in 20th century. Last century witnessed the events of insurgency and terrorism between two big powers in the guise of cold war. Although both the USSR and USA never confronted directly but no one can deny the proxy wars of these two powers in different parts of the world. Palestine is very clear example of the international terrorism where America supported Israel and USSR was giving backup to Al-Fateh a militant arm of Palestinian liberation organization (PLO).

(VIII) Group Terrorism

It occurs on the formation of various groups for common objectives in the society. Such groups are based on sectarian, linguistic, ethnic and tribal bases. When these groups work for the establishment of the supremacy and superiority for their own agenda it ultimately causes tension and clash with opponent groups. For example, Catholic and protestant conflict in Ireland, black white tension in US and South Africa etc.

7. TERRORISM AND ISLAM: SOME MISCONCEPTIONS

The west is engaged in presenting distorted image of Islam linking all the terrorist activities taking place in any part of the world with it. Like other religions, Islam is the religion of peace, love and harmony. Actually the word "Islam" in addition to meaning submission

(to ALLAH/GOD), is also derived from the Arabic word Salam (Peace). Dr Aamir Liaquat Hussain (2002) stated that many of the terrorists' acts are committed in this world by people who consider themselves religious. They know religions of the world promote love, peace, and tolerance but the extremist religious groups try to impose their connotation forcefully.

Islam it self is the religion of peace and promotes love, social justice and human equality. The Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) taught his followers the peaceful co-existence through his teachings and practice. If one wishes to know the teachings of Islam about the terrorism and violence should refer to Holy Quran which is the unchallengeable source of Islamic teachings. After 9/11 and subsequent incidence of terrorism the tendency has increased to label the Muslim community and religion of Islam with terrorism. This is totally a propaganda that has made this world more polarized and disputed. The considerable point is that most of the terrorist groups in the world provide cover of the religion to their terrorist actions. So is the case with the group active in Muslim countries. Moreover, there is no proper understanding of the teachings of Islam and differences among the various sects of Islam over the interpretation of Islamic teachings made it easy for the opponents to assert their views. However, I personally believe that Holy Quran has clearly condemned and forbidden the killing of innocent people. In Islam the war is only allowed when it is in self defense. Holy Quran upholds that death of a single humanbeing is a death of humanity.

8. PSYCHO-SOCIAL EFFECTS OF TERRORISM

The end sufferer of the terrorism is the general public. It is general consensus among the social scientists that human conflict and corruption can not be done away from the society. The human conflict results in the form of violence or terrorism. The repercussions of the terrorism are very serious for the masses. No doubt, the terrorism not only directly affects economic development and prosperity but the psycho-social repercussions and heavily damage human personality and the society. The effects of terrorism may vary from different persons to different societies but I would like to discuss the general repercussions that harm individual and society accumulatively.

• First of all the terrorism creates sense of fear in the minds of the people. This fear further leads to sense of dissatisfaction and terror among the people.

• Due to terrorism the sense of helplessness prevails in the human minds. This sense of helplessness further leads to hopelessness among the people regarding their personal and social well-being.

• The violent acts of terrorism badly damage the mental growth of the human beings and put them in to constant stressful situation. Such attacks especially, leave harmful and far reaching effects on the minds of the children when they see dead bodies and horrible scenes of the terrorism on the media. These days the media gives extra ordinary coverage to the incidents of terrorism all over the world and people find themselves involved very much which creates resentment in their minds.

• Being affected by the repercussion of the terrorism the snobbish attitude develops among the masses. It further damages human and familial relationships which ultimately affects the working performance of the individuals.

• The constant terrorist acts bring about the reason of losing trust and cohesion of the people on the government and state. It enhances anger and resentment among the masses against the government and the state apparatus.

• The people find themselves the victims of psychological diseases such as anxiety and

frustration, aggression, and deprivation. This embarrassing situation results in the productivity of the human beings as highly undermined. The social relationships severely suffer from great loss in the presence of these psychological diseases.

- Terrorism not only badly impacts on individual but also the whole social system has to suffer the consequences. Due to terrorism social split widens among the people belonging to the different schools of thought. This split becomes the cause of significant social division which harms the social fabric and unity negatively.

- Due to the fear of terrorist attacks the people try to escape from their social and professional responsibilities. For example a soldier can not perform his duty if he/she has witnessed other companions dying in the deadly terrorist attacks. Of course, one will join his/her duty but due to constant fear of losing the life he/she would perform duty in the state of fear.

- Terrorism promotes social segregation and isolation among the different strata of the society. It creates distance between the supporters and suffers of the accused terrorist attacks. That means the terrorism enhances the social disturbance and people feel divided in the society.

- Terrorism definitely affects the social progress and well-being of the people. Because of the terrorists activities the businesses and economy of the country suffer which directly lessen the job opportunities. As a result poverty increases which damages the society very much.

In short, terrorism has long lasting effects on the individuals, groups and overall society. The social prosperity and the well-being of the masses are at the risk and in the situation of constant strain and stress. The humanbeings find it difficult to live their life properly and calmly. The violent behavior develops among the people who lead to socio-economic decline and destroy the human and social relationships.

9. ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN COMBATING TERRORISM

In present time the civil society groups are considered to be the most effective in conflict resolution. Terrorism is obviously the state of extreme in human conflict that occurs when the violence enters in the matter. The terrorism is the result of failure in conflict resolution which can occur any where in the world. It is the crucial social problem of the society as well. Every stakeholder should play its due role in combating the terrorism. In combating terrorism the role of the civil society is inevitable. I believe that almost everyone is directly and indirectly part of civil society groups especially the professionals of all the disciplines. As a professional social worker I think that it is the prime responsibility of the civil society groups to work to combat terrorism at all levels.

The fight against terrorism demands to be fought both at pre-conflict and post-conflict stages. It is important to increase the pressure on the terrorist movements before the occurrence of any damage. Similarly, if the conflict results in terrorism and violence then, the victims deserve our practical support. The civil society especially the social workers shout promote the terrorism as a social evil. They should advocate with their governments to reduce socio-economic injustice, poverty, and inequality which are the main causes of terrorism. The civil society groups and especially, the professional social workers can engage themselves in combating terrorism in three ways.

First of all, we should denounce terrorism at personal level in our academic activities and general practice of social work. Secondly, it is important for the civil society to rise against the terrorism by raising its voice at local national and international level. The third part is the most important one which demands practical foresight. However, one may think that

how one can work practically at individual level to combat terrorism. There are so many ways. We can become a part of socio-religious community organizations which are trying to decrease the causes of terrorism. This can be done at both community and professional level in our vicinity and on workplace. We should also become a part of political system through participation in political process and parties as pressure groups to divert the governments attention to resolve the disputed matters at national and international levels. Civil society organization may advocate with the governments and intergovernmental organizations to resolve the long standing issues at national and international levels they may also try to advocate with the active terrorist groups to bring them towards the peaceful struggle to solve their problems. Civil society groups and especially social workers can play a vital role by initiating and executing the projects of inter-faith harmony at community, national, and international level. The members of the civil society organizations and groups should volunteer themselves in the activities of community development, peace and inter-faith harmony. The civil society groups will have to work hard to get the people realize that the terrorism is the social evil. The civil society groups should work actively for conflict resolution.

On the whole, the civil society groups should work as a catalyst to curb extremism or terrorism. They should endeavor to identify the region specific causes of terrorism through in death social researches and should work with the masses, terrorist groups and governments to diminish the terrorism from the society.

10. ANALYSIS OF SITUATION OF TERRORISM IN PAKISTAN

Pakistan is absolutely a non-terrorist country. It has always condemned terrorism believing in peace and tranquility throughout the world. It took firm and severe action whenever it has to deal with the terrorists. It has always supported anti-terrorist movements on all international platforms especially after 9/11. Pakistan is one of the leading countries which provides majority of the troops for UN peace keeping forces which is the clear evidence of commitment of Pakistan for international peace. Pakistan was punished through terrorism for its principled stand on Afghanistan. Even recently, Pakistan's security is at high risk due to the terrorist acts in Karachi and other major cities including federally administered tribal areas (FATA) adjacent to the Afghan borders. At the end of Afghan war in 1987/1988 the militant organizations turned to Pakistan after the failure of Afghan government and international community to disarm those groups. It resulted in sectarianism and fight among the terrorist groups which brought about the cause of several dangerous attacks killing many of innocent lives.

11. CONCLUSION

Terrorism is an assault on fundamental rights. By definition, terrorism is a crime, that invariable victimizes innocent people. They are mostly not the ultimate targets of terrorists, but only the means to achieve other hidden objectives. The effort of the international community in general and the institutions working against terrorism in special should help individual states in diagnosing the causes and issues which need to be resolved. Untied Nation has failed to address the issue of terrorism at its own. Moreover, the international community should try to agree upon the minimum common agenda to curb terrorism. The clear cut distinction should be established and maintained to work closely in the fight against terrorism.

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