

## **Socio-Economic Impact of Militancy: A Case Study of Darra Adam Khel, FATA (KPK), Pakistan**

MUHAMMAD JEHANGIR KHAN<sup>1</sup>, USMAN AHMAD<sup>2</sup> and ADNAN KHAN<sup>3</sup>

Militancy has become a major security issue for Pakistan. More than 40 thousand Pakistani citizens have been killed by the terrorist gangs. Militants have targeted state institutions and challenged the writ of the government. The rise of militancy and extremist tendencies has strong roots in both recent and past history of the country. Militancy brings destruction in any area and affects almost every aspect of life. Consequently, the socio-economic status of affected people is brutally suffered. This study investigates the impact of militancy on local people in Federally Administrated Tribal Areas (FATA). Main factors covered under Hujra system includes, the visiting trend of friends, relatives and passengers/strangers to Hujra. Secondly, the impact of militancy on economic aspect of the society is also investigated. The economic factors include the level of income and livelihood of the local people. The analysis reveals that militancy bitterly affected the social and economic fabric of the locale.

Keywords: FATA, Militancy, Socio-economic Status

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

The militant culture in Pakistan has been on the rise for more than three decade. This has not only affected the society but also its institutions. Militancy has deep historical roots and it is not a new phenomenon for Pakistan. The origin of militancy in Pakistan can be traced back to the war against soviet occupation of Afghanistan but in addition to this, Zia's Islamisation and socioeconomic factors have played a crucial role in the growth of militancy in Pakistan. The most important factor which is responsible for the proliferation of militancy is Russian invasion of Afghanistan and brought two superpowers face to face and Pakistan aligned with USA. Unfortunately, the government at that time abortive to realise the sectarian and religious extremism causes and consequences. At that time FATA (Federally Administered Tribal Areas) was used as base for the war, madrasas, jihadi training camps, militant organizations and religious parties came to the forefront. The religious concept of Jihad was amalgamated with the fight against the Soviets in Afghanistan for obvious political gains at the international level, without considering long-term effects for Pakistan. The result was an increase in militant organizations and arms smuggling (Firdous, 2009).

After the occasion of 9/11 the wave of terrorism which had badly shaken the roots of Pakistani society also had an element of sectarianism which has been apparent

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<sup>1</sup> Assistant Professor, PIDE, Islamabad Email: [Jehangir@pide.org.pk](mailto:Jehangir@pide.org.pk).

<sup>2</sup> Senior Research Economist, PIDE, Islamabad Email: [usmanahmad@pide.org.pk](mailto:usmanahmad@pide.org.pk)

<sup>3</sup> Alumni, PIDE, Islamabad Email: [afriadiadnan56@yahoo.com](mailto:afriadiadnan56@yahoo.com)

since 2006. Al Qaeda and the TTP (Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan) joined with sectarian-based militant outfits to operate on a broad spectrum. 2006 was the year which worsened Pakistan's internal security paradox. According to Pakistan Institute for Peace Studies (PIPS) security report, there were 657 militant attacks, including 41 of a sectarian nature, leaving 907 people dead and 1543 others injured. Moreover, there were seven suicide attacks. After 9/11, with the help of America, Pakistan started military action against Al-Qaeda and their supporters. There was no proper umbrella under which militant carry their militant activities, in 2007 they formed TTP (Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan) and started their militant activity under TTP (Firdous, 2009). The recent wave of targeting the shrines of Sufi saints illustrates the complex nature of sectarian militancy in Pakistan.

According to the 1998 census report, FATA is one of the most economically backward areas of Pakistan. Around 60 percent of its population is below the national poverty line. Per-capita income is half of the national per-capita income. Per capita public development expenditure is one third of the national average. After the 14 years of 1998 census the economic situation of FATA is quite same, according to a White Paper of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government, it is Pakistan's poorest province with an overall incidence of poverty at 44 per cent as compared to 23.9 per cent for Pakistan<sup>4</sup>. Moreover almost 60 per cent of the people of FATA live below the poverty line making it the most backward region of Pakistan. The overall literacy rate is 17.42 percent compared to the 56 percent nationally. The male literacy rate is 29 percent, while 3 percent is female literacy rate compared of 32.6 percent for female nationally (Wazir, 2014). For 3.1 million inhabitants, FATA has just 41 hospitals and one doctor to 6762 patients. Natural resources, including minerals and coal are untapped. Majority of the locals depend on subsistence agriculture since there is little industrial development and a few jobs (Wazir, 2014).

FATA was the safe place for militants, initially they start hiding and after that these groups started their militant activities in FATA slowly, enhancing militancy in the boarding areas of FATA. As the militant activities rose in FATA, they paved the way for other militant groups and groups destroyed the socio-economic structure of FATA (Chughtai, 2013). The rising militancy disrupts the economic position of region which as a result disturbs the quality of life in the region (Adora, 2010). The terrorists' activities have been a dire threat for the security of whole world and the main causes of growing terrorism were poor economic structure, brutal political system, and disbursed social setup (Firdous, 2009). Besides political factors, poor socio-economic conditions in FATA are described as the foremost reason driving the desperately wretched into the arms of the militant outfits. Socio-economic issues such as poverty, illiteracy, health conditions, social injustice, unemployment and security have a devastating impact on the social fabric of the country. Militancy has adversely affected human life including social, economic and political system and has destroyed the infrastructural beauty of Pakistan (Azam, 2009). FATA is an underdeveloped area and militant activities made it more

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<sup>4</sup> [http://www.nwfpfinance.gov.pk/White\\_paper\\_%202010-11.pdf](http://www.nwfpfinance.gov.pk/White_paper_%202010-11.pdf)

marginalized and deprived. There is a strong need to develop general agreement to finish extremism from FATA, so that the people can contribute in education their children and economic opportunities. Poverty can be taken as an independent variable that deprives the poor from other basic necessities like food, shelter, health, education and even the attainment of justice. It drives people to opt for violent means to bring about change in their condition. In the context of militancy in Pakistan it is significant to note that the most vulnerable and poor parts of Pakistan. The current study is exploratory in nature and tried explore the impact of militancy on the socio-economic status of local people in Darra Adam Khel (FATA-KPK). The below sections are as follows; section 2 explains brief literature review, while section 3 discusses the data and methodological framework of the study. Section 4 explains results and discussion. Conclusion is given in the last section.

## 2 BRIEF REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The term militancy can be defined as the use of violence to achieve some end or to express hatred or contempt for some group of people. Militancy is an aggressive and hostile action or an armed struggle by an individual or a group to enforce their will upon others, irrespective of the latter's acceptance. Militants believe in violence to defend what they believe to be true or their right. The struggle may be against a group, community, occupation forces, or the established authority of the state who believe that they are against their self-proclaimed ideology (Malik, 2013). Many socio-political factors have been viewed important for the increase in militancy in Pakistan. Social deprivation, Afghan refugees, drugs-smuggling and religious exploitation through madrassas are the main factors which have become the cause of increasing militancy in Pakistan (Firdous, 2009). There is also internal instability in Pakistan, which are home grown, such as drug-smuggling, social deprivation, religious exploitation, these factors play active role in spreading militancy (Abbass, 2007).

There are number of reasons including easy access to arms and ammunition, deprivation of the rural areas, bad governance, non-availability of justice and unstable geopolitical situation for increasing terror threats. Pakistan is facing various issues such as unemployment; poverty and illiteracy as the important factors contributing to militancy (Khan, 2009). Participation in the militant groups is mostly from the low socio-economic group in Pakistan. The incidence of poverty in south Punjab at 50.1 per cent affecting the districts of Rahim Yar Khan, Bahawalpur, Bahawalnagar, Multan, Lodhran, Vehari and Khanewal and in West Punjab at 52.1 per cent affecting districts of Mianawali, Khushab, Bhakkar, DG Khan, Rajanpur, Leyyah and Muzaffargarh<sup>5</sup>. Compared to that, the incidence of poverty in northern Punjab comprising the districts of Rawalpindi, Chakkwal, Jhelum and Attock at 21.31 per cent<sup>6</sup> and in south Punjab, 36 per cent of the rural population is poor, the second highest in the provinces of Pakistan. High poverty rate and lower literacy in South Punjab and rural Sindh a safe place for terrorist activities. Large numbers of madrassas in these areas are producing likeminded people,

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<sup>5</sup> Farooq Hasnat, Global Security Watch-Pakistan (2012)

<sup>6</sup> <http://pakrealestatetimes.com/showthread.php?tid=18>

whom encourage militancy (Siddiqa, 2011). Literacy rate in Pakistan also reflects society's vulnerability. According to UNESCO the literacy rate in Pakistan is 55 percent which is the lowest rate in the world the country standing 160<sup>th</sup> among the countries of the world<sup>7</sup>. This reflects the role of poverty and illiteracy in militancy. Unemployment caused by illiteracy is another key element. The estimated rate of unemployment in 2008 was 12.6 per cent which rose to 14 per cent in 2009<sup>8</sup>. Due to lack of opportunities Pakistan is also suffering from underemployment and cyclical unemployment. The energy crisis in the past few years has made the employment situation even worse. Moreover, unemployment among the youth is extensive.

In FATA government has paid poor attention towards literacy, development and employment and these factors became very helpful for the militants for their emergence (Ahmad, 2013). Illiteracy in FATA is very high, development projects are negligible and employment opportunities are also very limited. From independence till now Pakistan did not deploy army at Western border, after the incidence of 9/11 Pakistan started military operations in FATA to clear FATA from militancy, but the local public was against the military operation because due to military operation the local people were displaced. Causes of increasing militancy in FATA include illiteracy, underdevelopment, unemployment and FCR (Frontier Crime Regulation). Since the tribal belt comprising FATA has been governed by a different set of laws called the Frontier Crimes Regulation (FCR) inherited from the British and the administration there is run by a political agent (PA) with the coordination of local Maliks and Sardars, it was easy for militant tendencies to nurture in these areas. In this multifaceted phenomenon Hillary Clinton stated that, "We cannot stop terrorism or defeat the ideologies of violent extremism when hundreds of millions of young people see a future with no jobs, no hope, and no way ever to catch up to the developed world"<sup>9</sup>. The report of International Crisis Group, "Pakistan's Tribal Areas: Appeasing the Militant" published in 2006 tells that "the only way to deal with the challenges of militancy in FATA is to ensure rule of law and the availability of political and civil rights".

### 3 DATA AND METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK

This research is based on the analysis of primary data through field survey. Data is collected through structured questionnaire. The questionnaire was constructed according to the need of the study to fulfil the objectives of the study. The current study is exploratory in nature and tried explore the impact of militancy on the socio-economic status of local people in Darra Adam Khel (FATA-KPK). The collected data from the field survey is analyzed through descriptive statistics. The results are represented as graphs, charts and tables. A sample of 200 households is collected, which covers nearly 15 percent of total household's population of Darra Adam Khel. Simple random

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<sup>7</sup> The Nation, July 29, 2010

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/fields/2129.html>

<sup>9</sup> The Nation, January 7, 2010

sampling technique is used to survey the households. Total population of the study area is 68224 according to 1998 census<sup>10</sup>, comprised of 6879 households (Table-1).

**Table 1: Locale Population**

Region	Population	Household Size	Total Number of Households	Households Selected
Akhorwal	13815	9.5	1454	42
Bostikhel	8102	10.2	794	23
Sheraki	10593	10.3	1028	30
Torchapar	9011	9.4	959	28
Zarghunkhel	26703	10.1	2644	77

Formulation by Researchers

#### 4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The current section presents findings of this study which are based on primary data. This section is divided into three sections. Information about local people perception is presented in the first section. Section two discusses the general household while section three reports socio-economic impacts of militancy.

##### 4.1 Local People Perception

The local people perception about militancy explains 39 percent respondents were of the view that the major cause of militancy in the research is poverty, and 31 percent think that the major cause of militancy in the research area is illiteracy (Table-).

**Table 1: Local People Perception**

Responses	Frequency	Percent
Poverty	77	39
Illiteracy	62	31
Religious Factor	34	17
FCR	18	9
Local Dispute	9	5

Formulation by Researchers

From the sample 17 respondents think that the cause of militancy is religious factor, while 9 percent respondent thinks the cause of militancy is FCR and the remaining 5 percent respondent think that the cause of militancy is local dispute.

##### 4.2 Livelihood Source/Activity Sector

The distribution of the surveyed respondent by livelihood source (Table-2), before conflict majority of the respondent are attached in the field of manufacturing sector (22 percent), followed by retail trade (21 percent). Only 14.5 percent respondent attached with construction sector, followed by agriculture sector (3 percent). After conflict majority of the respondent attached with manufacturing sector (18.5 percent)

<sup>10</sup> According to Bureau of Statistics, Pakistan

followed by transportation sector (17 percent). Only 10.5 percent of the respondent attached with wholesale trade, followed by agriculture sector (2.5 percent).

**Table 2: Livelihood Source/Activity Sector**

Response s	Agricultu re/Live stock	Constructi on	Manufact uring	Transform ation	Wholes ale Trade	Ret ail trad e	Une mplo yed
Before	6	29	44	31	33	42	15
After	5	32	37	34	21	32	39

Formulation by Researchers

The business situation in the region before and after conflict and results shows the business activities in the study area were not affected before the conflict. In before situation there was no impact on business activity. While after conflict 83.5 percent of the respondents were of the view that the business activity affected and 16.5 percent view that business activity is not affected. Militancy badly affects business activity in the region (Table-3).

**Table 3: Business/Employment Status**

Responses	Yes	No	Total
Before	0	200	200
After	167	33	200

Formulation by Researchers

The distribution of the respondent by the factors responsible for low business activities, table-4 illustrate that 76.5 percent respondent reported that the business activities are affected due to conflict in the study area and 17.5 percent respondent say that business activity is affected due to poverty and remaining 6 percent respondent told business activity is affected due to illiteracy. Majority respondent response is conflict; therefore due to militancy business activity is affected.

**Table: 4 Business Activities**

Responses	Frequency	Percent
Conflict	153	76.5
Poverty	35	17.5
Illiteracy	12	6

Formulation by Researchers

The business activity in the research area before and after conflict situation, before conflict business activity in the research area is not affected and affected after the conflict (table-5).

**Table 5: Business Activities (Arm Factories)**

Responses	Yes	No
Before	0	200
After	200	0

Formulation by Researchers

Majority of the respondent were of the view that business activity in the research area is affected. This means militancy is the reason of affecting the business activity in the research area.

**4.3 Socio-Economic Impact of Militancy**

This study's results were based on before and after analysis of militancy. In this study 2007 is selected for before analysis and after analysis is based on period from 2007 and onwards, because there was no militancy in the region. Table 6 shows the change perceived in Hujra system because of conflict in this area. Hujra system in the study area has been affected by conflict (83.5 percent). Table 6 shows visitors trend in the study area before and after conflict. About 87 percent of the respondents expressed that visitor’s trend changed. Table 6 shows stranger visitors trend in the resreach area before and after conflict and shows that all the respondent explained that stranger visitor trend did not change before conflict in the study area.

After conflict 8 percent respondent stated that stranger visitor trend in the study area did not change after conflict while 92 percent respondent expressed that stranger visitor trend has changed. Majority of the respondents were of the view that stranger visitor trend changed in the study area after conflict. Due to militancy stranger visitor trend change in the research area. From the table-6 death ceremony in the research before and after conflict, before conflict 100 percent explained that death ceremony was not affected in the study area and after conflict 19 percent respondent told that death ceremony in the study did not affect and 81 percent respondent told that death ceremony is affected after conflict in the study area. Death ceremony is affected in the research region is due to the militancy. In above table marriage ceremony in the study area before conflict is not affected according to the local people.

**Table 6 Socio-Economic Impact of Militancy**

Responses	Hujra System	Visitor	Stranger Visitor	Death ceremony	Marriage Ceremony	Entertainment Progamme	Mobility at Day Time	Mobility at Night Time
Before/Not Affected	200	200	200	200	200	177	190	181
Before/Affected	0	0	0	0	0	23	10	19
After/Not Affected	33	26	16	38	13	11	56	200
After/Affected	167	174	184	162	187	189	144	0

Formulation by Researchers

After conflict in the study area marriage ceremony is affected in the study area. In the study area 93.5 percent people think that marriage ceremony affected after conflict and 6.5 percent people think that marriage ceremony after conflict did not effect. This

means that militancy affect the marriage ceremony in the study area. In the study area 81.5 percent respondent expressed that marriage ceremony is affected in the study area due to conflict and the remaining 18.5 percent stated that marriage ceremony is affected in the study area due to resource base local conflict.

In the study area before conflict 11.5 respondent expressed that they were not free to arrange entertainment Programmes and 88.5 respondents expressed that they were free to arrange entertainment programme in the study area. After the conflict in the study area 94.5 percent respondent articulated that they were not free to arrange entertainment programme in the region and just 5.5 percent respondent told that were free to arrange entertainment programme in the study area after conflict. Militancy affects the entertainment programme in the research area. The results shows freely movement of people at day time in the study area before and after conflict. In the study area 5 percent respondent articulated that they cannot move in the locale at day time and 95 percent respondent voiced that they could freely move in the locale at day time before conflict. After conflict 28 percent respondent told that they cannot freely move in the locale at day time and 72 percent respondent told that they can freely move in the locale at day time. Results explain freely movement in the study area at night time before and after conflict. Before conflict in the study area 90.5 percent people told that they can freely move in the region at night time and 9.5 percent respondent stated that they cannot move in the study area at night time. After conflict 100 percent respondent stated that they cannot move in the study area at night time.

## 5 CONCLUSIONS

Since independence FATA has remained a very backward area of Pakistan. The socio-economic, educational and health situation of FATA are very low as compared to other parts of the country. During conflict situation they suffered a lot and face very difficult situation and also face brutal of militant. Militants were imposing their own agenda and these people have their own value system and became very difficult for local to adopt the militant agenda. There was no strong hold of government institution in FATA, therefore militant have not faced any difficulties in entering FATA. The current study is based on before and after the emergence of militant in the study area. In the social factors include Hujra system, trend of friend and relative and the unknown visitor trend in the Hujra changed dramatically after conflict situation. Hujra was the gathering of center in Pakhtoon society and discussed different issues in Hujra. The emergence of militant affected Hujra, in which different activity take place in Pakhtoon society. The trend of friend and family visit affected very much in Hujra, due to uncertainty, and unknown visitors' trend approximately vanished in the Hujra system. The emergence of militant also affected the Malaks system badly. Malaks are the elder of Pakhtoon society, whose resolve dispute in the region and try to maintain peace in the region. The militants targeted Malaks who were compelled to displace to relatively peaceful places, where they have not face any threat. In the conflict situation the role of Malaks in the decision

making was approximately finished and they were not in a position to maintain their role in the region. In conflict situation free movement of the local people was also disturbed both day and night time. The economic situation in the study area was also severely affected at the time of conflict. Source of income of the people also affected in the study area and source of livelihood is also affected in the region. In the time of conflict the daily wage worker increase as compared to other sector, this shows that people become jobless due to militancy. The result shows that business activities are also affected in the study area due to militancy. The main activity of business in the study area was arms factory and the business of arms factory is also badly affected, as a result of militancy. It may be concluded from the above discussion that the increasing challenge of militancy in Pakistan requires a combination of force, negotiations and social uplift to address the issue.

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