

# STRATEGIES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT BODIES TO COMBAT TERRORISM IN KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA, PAKISTAN

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## ABSTRACT

*Previously, the role of police was restricted to ordinary and regular crime prevention before 9/11, as there was no urgent need to face the issue of terrorism in the region. Concerning prevention from terrorism, the role of the police has increased manifold after the increase of terror incidents across the globe in general, and Pakistan, in particular. This study explores the police role and their strategies to prevent terrorism in the best interest of public safety. Security situations in Pakistan require police preparedness, enhanced police training, and adoption of various strategies to reform police for effectively countering terrorism. This paper would help encourage policymakers and law enforcement officers at all levels of government to become more informed about the role of the police and their strategies to prevent terrorism in the interests of public security. The study suggests reforming police image and to equip them with modern technologies, providing improved training, offering incentives and rewards for a good performance to motivate and encourage positive attitude and returns.*

**Keywords:** Preventing Terrorism; Strategies; Police; Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

## INTRODUCTION

In the last two decades, terrorism has become one of the most prominent topics in many areas, especially in the field of criminology and security studies. Almost every aspect of life is affected by terrorism and because of this reason, it has become a major priority for the police, across the world, including Pakistan to respond to the menace of terrorism. Many countries of the world including Great Britain, America, and Germany, began to review their readiness and took steps to restructure the police department to tackle terrorism (Weisburd, Jonathan, & Perry, 2009; Bayley & Weisburd, 2009; Bamford, 2004). Howard (2004), states that in order

to defeat terrorism, the police force should be taken as a proactive valuable asset in defeating, deterring, and recovering from terrorist attacks. Intelligence, law enforcement and security agencies are expected to team up and work together with other security forces to uncover terrorist networks.

A police officer, who is also known as a policeman, policewoman, cop, police employee or a police agent, is responsible for the prevention and detection of crime (Dulaney, 1996). Police as a civilian organization is not only answerable for detection and prevention of crime but also for maintaining the rule of law. Almost everywhere on the planet, the incidence of crime is on the rise. Between 1975 and 1990, the number of offences reported worldwide each year rose from 350 to 500 million. According to the United Nations, violent crimes increased by almost 10 percent during the last decade (Chalom, Léonard, Vanderschueren, & Vézina, 2001). Preventing terrorism and ensuring public safety is the principal role of police personnel. The safety of one person and the security of one's property are widely viewed as basic human rights which are fundamental to the community's overall quality of life.

Effective policing strategies to tackle terrorism are the most important and inseparable part of human social life but unfortunately, the capacity of Pakistan police is not so praiseworthy in this regard. Since the last seventy years of independence, Pakistan has been facing the issues of weak policing structures and institutions and has always been subject to criticism because of allegations of corruption, political interference and therefore required reforms (Ullah, Hussain, & Sajid, 2015). There is much work required to improve and develop the system of policing so that people can have more trust in building up police as an institution. Abbas (2011) stated that a nation can be prospered, progressed, and developed if it gives high priority to public safety, law and order, and crime prevention. The aim and purpose of this study is to explore and find out the main indicators which are working on the reduction of crime and to dig out the public perception regarding police role in preventing terrorism.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The central aim of this study is to analyze police role, strategies, and preparedness in countering terrorism in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Moreover, the study also intends to investigate the challenges and problems faced by the police in dealing with terrorism.

Based on methodical observations and systematic literature review, the study will also put forward study-based recommendations on police role and initiatives taken by police to tackle terrorism in the region.

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This research study consists of a secondary analysis of data related to the issue of preventing terrorism, and police strategies to counter the prevalent terrorism. With the help of books, newspaper articles and research journals, a systematic review of the relevant literature is conducted. Besides that, online internet searches were also conducted for relevant data about the topic. Likewise, the researchers also visited the Police Training College (PTC) Hangu, several times to discuss different policing and terrorism-related topics. The researchers also diligently analyzed police training and police personnel at PTC Hangu. Thus, the study encompasses extensive systematic literature review from authentic sources to collect the data and present it methodically, to postulate purposeful outcomes.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Explaining Police, Policing and Relevant Concepts**

The Oxford Dictionary defined Police as “the civil force of the state, responsible for the prevention and detection of crime and the maintenance of public order” (Simpson, 1989). The word police have been derived from the French word “policer” meaning “power of the people”. In ancient and feudal times people policed themselves, families looked out for themselves, they were known as the “kin police” (Marenin & Das, 2000).

When the fear of terror is on the rise, the public reflexively turns to its police to “do something about it”. Shustru, Levine, Harris, and Wong (2008) stated that responsiveness and law enforcement knowledge is the key to success in preventing terrorism. This will help the police for early action against potential terrorists. Another important function of the police is to coordinate with the other law enforcing agencies (LEAs) for crime prevention. For effective policing, they should sense, predict and prevent terror incidents before it happens. Police are also needed to engage community people in countering terrorism strategies (Nadeem, 2004). Implementation of the Intelligence-Led Policing (ILP) model is also very important for countering terrorism strategy. Newburn (2012) pointed out that targeted patrolling is of significant value in preventing terrorism.

## **Pakistan and the War on Terror**

Pakistan is one of the most affected countries since the beginning of the war on terror. A lot of Pakistani has lost their lives in the war on terror. Wasim (2010), argues that the year 2009 was the worst of any year. In this year 2,586 insurgent, terrorist and sectarian-related accidents were reported. According to SATP (2014), the “Pakistan Security Report 2009” published by PIPS, in these accidents 3,021 people were killed and 7,334 people injured.

Over the last few years, terrorism in Pakistan has become a major and very destructive phenomenon. After 9/11, war on terror in Pakistan has had two principal elements: the U.S. war on terror with the cooperation of Pakistan forces and the government’s battle with *extremist* groups inside Pakistan’s territory. Pakistan army launched many military operations against militant groups along the tribal regions of Pakistan near Afghan borders. Due to this reason, many people migrated and displaced from their homes and shifted to settled areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. Because of this, many militant groups started fighting against Pakistan law enforcing agencies. Thousands of police personnel lost their lives in several terrorist attacks. The war on terror has also damaged the Pakistan economy and infrastructure to a great extent.

## **Responsive and Effective Police Training – To Counter Terrorism**

The profession of policing is a very difficult and challenging occupation, which needs uninterrupted professional development. Police personnel must have a varied knowledge of criminal law, investigative skills, and the ability for effective decision making. The significance of effective police training increases throughout the world in order to tackle terrorism more efficiently.

To tackle terrorism, Pakistan’s police capacity and training system are inadequate. In order to face the current challenges, the training practices and training syllabus in Pakistan is old-fashioned. Course books used in the upper, lower and intermediate levels of courses in police training colleges need key amendments. Abbas (2009), stated that trainers are not appropriately trained in police training colleges in order to face the new challenges of terrorism. There is a lack of proper facilities available to the trainers in police training colleges. In Pakistan, most of the emphasis is given to legal, theoretical, and academic work on police training. In most of the topics in police training, there is repetition from lower to upper level of training.

Fasihuddin (2009), stated that in Pakistan, police training requires serious revision. Police training should include individual and group presentations, experimental learning, physical exercises, practical and psychological tests, tutorial discussions, scientific investigation and specialized training for various situations. For induction and recruitment into police service, the level of education should be revised and increased. Birzer and Roberson (2007), stated that a police officer should be more interested in providing community service than mere a crime fighter. The technology of crime prevention should also be introduced in police training.

For counter-terrorism, there is no universally applicable police training policy in any the world (Rineheart, 2010). Weak training of police personnel to tackle terrorism could have serious consequences. New courses related to suicide bombings, organized crimes, counter-terrorism strategies, suicide bombings, bomb blasts, target killings, conflict resolution, restorative justice and stress management should also be introduced in police training colleges. Police must be fully trained and equipped in order to respond to terrorist accidents effectively. In counter-terrorism strategies, the responsibilities of the police have increased manifold. Proper training for all police personnel is of foremost importance in order to win the war against terror.

### **Responding to Terrorism: Police Preparedness and Prevention**

Countering and preventing terrorism are staggering issues for police personnel. Since the 9/11 attacks in the U.S., efficient policing to counter terrorist attacks has remained a challenge at the national level (Fayyaz, 2008). Pakistan in general and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, in particular, are the primary targets of terrorism. The performance of police personnel in counterterrorism is very poor. Pakistan police personnel are corrupt, poorly trained, weakly equipped and psychologically they are not prepared for counter-terrorism. Several factors influence the police role in countering terrorism. The infrastructure of law enforcement in Pakistan is outdated and needs to be improved. According to LaFree (2012), "It is hard to imagine a convincing anti-terrorism approach that does not heavily rely on state and local police. Police role is important in terms of preventing terrorism as well as removing public fears in the wake of a terrorist attack".

After the tragic event of 9/11, the need was felt to ensure police preparedness on preventing terrorism. Police personnel can play a very significant role in gathering information related to suspects for further prevention of terrorism. One of the major responsibilities of police

personnel is to deliver timely and consistent information to the community people. Abbas (2012) commented that an efficient, well-functioning civilian police service is critical to counter-terrorism efforts in Pakistan. He further argued that to improve police image and credibility, police personnel must work to address the issue of terrorism and need to improve the law and order situation in Pakistan. International funds for counter-terrorism are mainly directed towards the military while funding for the police force is inadequate.

Jehangir (2013) stated that any counter-terrorism strategy must revolve around the police and other Law Enforcing Agencies (LEAs). This strategy must have a centralized coordination unit based on intelligence. For preventing the terrorism, recruitment and training process of police personnel needs to be changed. Although there are many deficiencies in Pakistan police to counter terrorism effectively, the police performance in Pakistan has improved in recent years. There is a need for political, moral, legal and financial support to the police personnel to count terrorism more efficiently. The government of Pakistan has announced recently National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) and additionally the government has also recruited elite forces (20,000) in each province with the help of foreign funding.

Shah (2013) argued that police are the first line of defence against the terrorist. Police personnel in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa disproportionately suffer more than any other provincial police and even more than the army (Taj, 2010). There is a lack of weapons and training to the police in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Police personnel are more vulnerable to terrorist attacks than the army. The reason for this is that the army has better security arrangements than the police. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police personnel are dependent on the Intelligence Bureau (IB) and Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) for intelligence. To counter terrorism, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police have raised Anti-terrorist squad in each district. Police personnel have increased their patrolling and checking at all entry and exit points. Closed circuit cameras have been installed at all busy and important places in major cities. On May 22, 2014, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa established a new anti-terrorist force, the Special Combat Unit (SCU). The major function of SCU is to counter terrorist attacks and to manage extraordinary situations. It was argued that the force will be like Pakistan Army Zarrar Company in the Special Services Group. The best commandoes from the Elite Force have been selected for the force.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

There are some hurdles in the way of effective policing in our society and without removing these issues it is difficult for police personnel to get success. The role and significance of police in crime reduction, prevention, and control cannot be neglected. To make police more effective, the whole structure of the police needs to be reorganized. The issue of countering terrorism is not only faced by Pakistan, but the entire world is facing and dealing with this issue. The role of Pakistan police is significant in countering terrorism and a lot of police personnel have lost their lives in countering terrorism rather than any other law enforcing agency in the world. Capacities of Pakistan police have now improved to a greater extent in countering terrorism. A new anti-terrorist force and Special Combat Unit (SCU) also established to counter terrorism more effectively. The law and order situations are now improving to a greater extent in the country and now the public feels more secure in public places.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The role of police personnel in responding to terrorism is very important. The government needs to realize the problems of police personnel and should improve the capacities of police to respond more effectively. The government should allocate an increased budget to police training colleges. Terrorism is one of the most serious threats to police as well. Hundreds of police officials have embraced death in terrorist incidents, in this context, there is a dire need to train every police officer on the subject of terrorism from every angle. The curriculum of police training colleges needs to be improved and revised and courses related to countering terrorism strategies, intelligence, criminal justice, suicide terrorism and stress management should be included in basic police training.

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