

Pakistan Review of Social Sciences





About Pakistan Review of Social Sciences (PRSS)

The Pakistan Review of Social Sciences (PRSS) is a peer reviewed online open access journal that publishes book reviews, research articles, thesis/ dissertations, and academic essays. PRSS covers all Social Sciences disciplines in its publications that includes but not limited to the following areas:

- Political Science
- International Relations
- Sociology
- Psychology
- Anthropology
- Economics
- Development Studies

PRSS is part of Pakistan Review Research and Publications network. Pakistan Review is a research and publication network, running online open access journals, providing research and publishing services to academic and corporate sectors. All Pakistan Review journals operate through peer review process. Pakistan Review Research and Publications is part of Technology Research and Innovation Markaz (SMC Pvt) Ltd. Pakistan, which is an independent entity. It is not associated or does not represent any governmental, non-governmental, or any university.

Note: Authors are requested to submit their work electronically by using the Pakistan Review's online submission system. Please follow the instructions provided on each step during the online submission process. Please follow the Author Guidelines before submission.

Editorial Board

<p>Dr. Syed Asad Ali Shah (Editor-in-chief) Managing Director Technology Research & Innovation Markaz (TRIM) Pakistan Email: asad.shah@live.com Phone: +92 333 520 9933</p>	<p>Dr. Rizwan Zeb Associate Professor Department of Social Sciences (Head) Iqra University Islamabad Campus, Pakistan Email: rizwan.zeb@iqraisb.edu.pk Phone: +92 111 264 264</p>
<p>Dr. Li Zong Professor, Director Confucius Institute Department of Sociology University of Saskatchewan, Canada Email: li.zong@usask.ca Phone: +1 306 966 6984</p>	<p>Dr. Tayyab Ikram Shah Manager Geospatial Research Laboratory (GRL) University of Saskatchewan Saskatoon, SK Canada Email: tayyab.shah@usask.ca Phone: +306 341 4145</p>
<p>Dr. Sohail Mahmood Editorial Board Member, International Affairs Forum Center for International Relations 1629 K St. Suite 300, Washington D.C. 20006, United States Email: sohail.mahmood@pakistanreview.com Phone: +1 202 821 1832</p>	<p>Anjum Ahmed Ghouri Visiting Faculty International Islamic University Faculty of Social Sciences Department of Political Science and IR Email: anjum_gl@yahoo.com</p>
<p>Dr. Shengli Wang Professor, Director Research Department of Sociology Shaanxi Normal University, China Email: victorywang@snnu.edu.cn Phone: +86 29 8530 8683</p>	<p>Dr. Misbah Ul Islam Assistant Professor Riphah International University Email: misbah.islam@riphah.edu.pk Phone: +92 313 058 6412</p>

Table of Contents

Sr. No.	Title with Author(s)	Page No.
1	Fintech contribution towards economic prosperity in Pakistan Authors: Syed Ali Mujtaba Zaidi, Syed Asad Ali Shah	1 - 14
2	An Analysis of the Impact of Terrorism in Afghanistan on Pakistan after Taliban takeover of 2021 Author: Syed Shah Hussain Gillani	15 - 40
3	Devolution of Power in Political System of Pakistan and Implementation Challenges Author: Munir Ahmad	41 - 59
4	Media Literacy in Youth: Media usage in youth on Secondary School Level Authors: Javeria Tahir, Erham Ahmed	60 - 69
5	Continued hostilities between Russia and Ukraine (2015-2022) Author: Anum Naz	70 - 84



Fintech contribution towards economic prosperity in Pakistan

Author

Syed Ali Mujtaba Zaidi
Dr. Syed Asad Ali Shah

Abstract

Fintech has the potential to revolutionize the financial sector in developing countries like Pakistan by providing access to financial services to the unbanked population. This article aims to explore the role of fintech in improving the financial situation in Pakistan. The primary objective of this study is to examine how fintech can contribute to financial inclusion in Pakistan. The study aims to explore the various fintech initiatives that can help bring the unbanked population into the formal financial system, including mobile payments, digital banking, microfinance, and financial education. The study will employ a qualitative research approach using a literature review to explore the various fintech initiatives that can contribute to financial inclusion in Pakistan. The literature review will involve analyzing existing literature on the topic, lessons learned from other countries, and identifying gaps in the literature. The study found that fintech can play a significant role in improving the financial situation in Pakistan. Fintech initiatives such as mobile payments, digital banking, microfinance, and financial education can help bring the unbanked population into the formal financial system, especially in rural areas and for small business owners. These initiatives can contribute to the overall economic growth of the country by providing access to financial services to those who do not have it. However, it is essential to address the challenges of fintech adoption in Pakistan, such as regulatory barriers and digital literacy. Overall, the findings of this study provide insights into how fintech can contribute to the economic growth of Pakistan and other developing countries.

Keywords: Fintech, financial inclusion, microfinance, digital banking, mobile payments

Introduction

Financial inclusion has become a significant topic of discussion globally, particularly in developing countries. In Pakistan, a significant portion of the population is unbanked, with limited access to financial services. Fintech has emerged as a potential solution to



this problem, offering innovative ways to provide financial services to the unbanked population. Fintech companies can use digital technology to provide financial services to people who live in remote areas or who are excluded from the traditional banking system. This article aims to explore the role of fintech in improving the financial situation in Pakistan. The article will examine the various fintech initiatives that can contribute to financial inclusion in Pakistan, including mobile payments, digital banking, microfinance, and financial education. By providing access to financial services to those who do not have it, fintech can contribute to the overall economic growth of the country. The article will also examine the challenges of fintech adoption in Pakistan and provide insights into how these challenges can be addressed. The findings of this study will contribute to the existing literature on fintech and financial inclusion and provide valuable insights into the potential of fintech to improve the financial situation in Pakistan and other developing countries.

Fintech in Pakistan

The use of fintech to improve financial inclusion has gained significant attention in recent years. Fintech has the potential to provide access to financial services to people who are excluded from the traditional banking system. In Pakistan, where a significant portion of the population is unbanked, fintech has emerged as a potential solution to this problem. This literature review examines the various fintech initiatives that can contribute to financial inclusion in Pakistan.

Fintech in Pakistan has a relatively short history, starting in the early 2000s with the launch of the first mobile financial services. In 2009, Telenor Pakistan launched its mobile money platform, Easypaisa, in partnership with Tameer Microfinance Bank, to provide basic financial services to the unbanked population of Pakistan (Khattak & Ullah, 2019). Easypaisa allowed customers to deposit and withdraw cash, transfer money, and pay bills using their mobile phones. The service quickly gained popularity, with over 1 million active users by the end of 2010 (Ali et al., 2016).

In 2012, another mobile money platform, JazzCash, was launched by Mobilink (now Jazz) in collaboration with the National Bank of Pakistan (NBP). JazzCash allowed customers to open mobile accounts, deposit and withdraw cash, transfer money, and pay bills using their mobile phones (Akhtar & Ghani, 2018). The platform also offered international remittance services, allowing overseas Pakistanis to send money to their families back home.



In recent years, fintech in Pakistan has expanded beyond mobile money to include digital banking and microfinance. In 2015, Bank Alfalah launched its mobile banking app, Alfa, to enable customers to perform financial transactions and access account information using their mobile phones (Nasir & Siddiqui, 2019). Similarly, in 2018, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) introduced the Digital Onboarding System (DOS) to allow customers to open bank accounts remotely using their smartphones (SBP, 2018).

Microfinance institutions in Pakistan have also adopted fintech to improve their efficiency and reach more customers. In 2018, Telenor Microfinance Bank launched the Khushhal Digital platform to offer digital financial services to its customers (Telenor Microfinance Bank, 2018). The platform allowed customers to apply for loans, transfer money, and pay bills using their mobile phones.

Despite these developments, the adoption of fintech in Pakistan faces various challenges, including low literacy levels, limited access to technology and infrastructure, and lack of trust and security concerns (Qayyum et al., 2020). Moreover, the regulatory environment is not yet fully conducive to the growth of fintech, with some regulations restricting the entry of new players and hindering innovation.

In short, fintech in Pakistan has evolved from the launch of mobile financial services to include digital banking and microfinance. The growth of fintech in the country has the potential to increase financial inclusion and efficiency, but it faces various challenges that need to be addressed to realize its full potential. The government and financial institutions need to invest in digital infrastructure, promote financial literacy, and develop a regulatory framework that encourages innovation and risk management to support the growth of fintech in Pakistan.

Mobile Payments

Mobile payments have emerged as a convenient and cost-effective way to access financial services in many developing countries, including Pakistan. The use of mobile phones for financial transactions has gained significant popularity in recent years, offering a potential solution to the issue of financial exclusion faced by many in remote areas without access to formal banking services. Studies suggest that mobile payments can contribute significantly to financial inclusion in Pakistan by offering a convenient and efficient way to make and receive payments.

Ali et al. (2016) found that mobile payments can help expand financial inclusion in Pakistan by providing a convenient and cost-effective way to access financial services.



The study found that mobile payments are particularly effective in enabling people in remote areas to access financial services, as it reduces the need for physical travel to banks or other financial service providers. The study also highlighted that mobile payments offer a safe and secure way to make transactions, reducing the risk of theft and fraud.

Similarly, Nazir et al. (2021) conducted a study that found that mobile payments can significantly reduce transaction costs and increase the efficiency of the payment system in Pakistan. The study suggested that mobile payments can reduce the cost of transactions by providing a more convenient way to make and receive payments, reducing the need for cash and associated transaction costs. The study also noted that mobile payments can offer greater convenience and accessibility to people who have limited access to banking services, contributing to financial inclusion in the country.

In conclusion, the adoption of mobile payments in Pakistan has the potential to improve financial inclusion by providing a convenient and cost-effective way to access financial services. The studies conducted by Ali et al. (2016) and Nazir et al. (2021) provide evidence that mobile payments can significantly contribute to financial inclusion in the country. However, there is a need for further research to explore the impact of mobile payments on financial inclusion and the challenges that need to be addressed for their widespread adoption in the country.

Digital Banking

Digital banking has emerged as a game-changer in the banking industry by providing financial services through digital channels. In Pakistan, where traditional banking services are inaccessible to many remote areas, digital banking can bridge the gap and provide financial services to those who are excluded from the traditional banking system. Fatima et al. (2019) reported that digital banking can contribute to financial inclusion by providing a convenient and cost-effective way to access financial services. The study highlighted that digital banking has a positive impact on the financial behavior of people, particularly those living in rural areas.

Additionally, Yasin et al. (2020) found that digital banking has the potential to reduce the cost of banking operations and increase the efficiency of the banking system in Pakistan. The study reported that digital banking reduces the transaction costs and enhances operational efficiency, leading to improved financial access, particularly for low-income individuals and small businesses.



Furthermore, Khan et al. (2021) studied the impact of digital banking on financial inclusion and reported that digital banking significantly contributes to financial inclusion in Pakistan. The study revealed that digital banking has the potential to overcome the geographical and infrastructural barriers to financial inclusion by providing access to financial services to people in remote areas.

To conclude, digital banking has immense potential to promote financial inclusion in Pakistan by providing convenient and cost-effective access to financial services, particularly in remote and under-served areas. The findings of various studies suggest that digital banking can contribute to reducing transaction costs and enhancing operational efficiency, leading to improved financial access for low-income individuals and small businesses.

Microfinance

Microfinance has emerged as a powerful tool to promote financial inclusion among marginalized and underprivileged communities who are excluded from the formal banking system. In Pakistan, where a large population is unbanked, microfinance has the potential to provide access to credit and other financial services to small business owners, farmers, and households. Microfinance institutions (MFIs) operate with the goal of providing financial services to those who have limited access to the formal financial system, and are typically more accessible and less restrictive than traditional banks (Khalil, 2017).

A study by Awan et al. (2020) investigated the impact of microfinance on financial inclusion in Pakistan. The study found that microfinance significantly contributes to financial inclusion by providing a means for people to access credit, which can help them start or expand their businesses. The results suggest that microfinance institutions have a crucial role to play in promoting financial inclusion in Pakistan by providing small loans to micro-entrepreneurs and households.

Moreover, Zulfiqar et al. (2019) compared the efficiency of microfinance institutions and traditional banks in reaching out to remote and rural areas of Pakistan. The study found that microfinance institutions are more effective in reaching out to underprivileged communities, particularly in rural areas. The findings suggest that microfinance institutions can help to address the financial exclusion problem in Pakistan by providing financial services to remote and rural areas where traditional banks are less accessible.



The Government of Pakistan has also recognized the importance of microfinance in promoting financial inclusion in the country. The State Bank of Pakistan has introduced a number of initiatives to encourage the growth of microfinance institutions and expand access to financial services in underprivileged communities. The Khushali Microfinance Bank, for example, has been established to provide microfinance services to small business owners and households in rural and semi-urban areas (State Bank of Pakistan, 2021).

To sum up, microfinance has the potential to promote financial inclusion in Pakistan by providing access to credit and other financial services to marginalized communities. The findings of studies by Awan et al. (2020) and Zulfiqar et al. (2019) emphasize the critical role that microfinance institutions can play in expanding access to financial services in Pakistan, particularly in rural and remote areas. Moreover, the efforts of the government to promote the growth of microfinance institutions are commendable, and further expansion of microfinance services can be a significant step towards promoting financial inclusion and economic growth in Pakistan.

Financial Education

Financial education plays a crucial role in facilitating the integration of individuals into the formal financial system, particularly in countries with a large unbanked population like Pakistan. The lack of access to financial services and inadequate knowledge of basic financial management skills, often exacerbates poverty and limits opportunities for economic growth (Gokal & Hanif, 2016). Therefore, promoting financial education is essential to empower individuals to make informed decisions, manage their finances better, and access a range of financial services.

Ahmed et al. (2018) conducted a study that found financial education can contribute to financial inclusion in Pakistan. The study highlighted that individuals who received financial education were more likely to have a bank account and use other formal financial services. Moreover, the study emphasized the need for financial education to be made accessible to individuals from all socioeconomic backgrounds.

In another study, Haq et al. (2020) investigated the impact of financial literacy programs on financial behavior and inclusion in Pakistan. The study found that such programs significantly improved financial behavior, including saving and borrowing, and increased the likelihood of using formal financial services. The results of the study suggest that financial literacy programs can play a crucial role in promoting financial inclusion by



equipping individuals with the necessary knowledge and skills to participate in the formal financial system.

Moreover, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has launched various financial literacy initiatives to enhance financial education in the country. The SBP has collaborated with universities, schools, and non-profit organizations to develop financial literacy curriculums, conduct training sessions, and distribute financial literacy material (State Bank of Pakistan, 2021). These initiatives aim to improve financial literacy and awareness among the masses, particularly among the unbanked population, and to promote financial inclusion in Pakistan.

In conclusion, financial education is crucial to promote financial inclusion in Pakistan. Studies by Ahmed et al. (2018) and Haq et al. (2020) demonstrate that financial education can contribute to improving financial behavior and increase access to formal financial services. The SBP's financial literacy initiatives also demonstrate the commitment of the government to improve financial education in the country. The promotion of financial education can lead to a more financially inclusive society and contribute to economic growth and development.

Challenges of Fintech Adoption

The adoption of fintech in Pakistan is facing numerous challenges that are hindering its growth and development. One of the significant challenges is the regulatory barriers faced by fintech companies. The lack of a regulatory framework for fintech in Pakistan has made it difficult for fintech companies to operate in the country. The absence of a proper regulatory framework has resulted in the ambiguity of laws, which has led to confusion and mistrust among the public and the investors. The regulatory ambiguity has also made it difficult for fintech companies to raise funds, as investors are hesitant to invest in an uncertain regulatory environment (Khan et al., 2020).

Another challenge to the adoption of fintech in Pakistan is the low level of digital literacy among the population. A considerable proportion of the Pakistani population is not familiar with digital technology, making it difficult for them to use fintech services. A study conducted by Naeem et al. (2018) found that digital literacy is a significant barrier to fintech adoption in Pakistan. The study revealed that people who are not tech-savvy find it challenging to understand and use fintech services, which hinders their adoption.

The lack of awareness and education about fintech is also a significant barrier to its adoption in Pakistan. Many people in the country are not aware of the benefits of



fintech, and they lack the necessary knowledge to understand how fintech works. The lack of awareness and education is a significant challenge to the growth of fintech in Pakistan, as people are not willing to adopt something that they do not understand (Ali et al., 2020).

In conclusion, the adoption of fintech in Pakistan is facing several challenges that are hindering its growth and development. The regulatory barriers, digital literacy, and lack of awareness and education about fintech are significant barriers to its adoption in the country. Addressing these challenges is crucial for the successful adoption of fintech in Pakistan, which can contribute to financial inclusion and economic growth in the country.

Lessons learned from other countries

Looking at the experiences of other countries can provide valuable lessons for the development of the fintech industry in Pakistan. For example, in countries such as Kenya and India, mobile money services have been successful in promoting financial inclusion among the unbanked population (Mbiti & Weil, 2011; Saini & Bhati, 2019). In Kenya, M-Pesa, a mobile money platform, has been widely adopted and has significantly increased financial inclusion by allowing people to send and receive money through their mobile phones (Mbiti & Weil, 2011).

Similarly, in India, the government's push for digital payments and the adoption of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) have led to a significant increase in digital payments and financial inclusion (Saini & Bhati, 2019). The UPI has enabled individuals to transfer money instantly from one bank account to another, and has made it easier for people to access digital financial services.

Another example is China, where fintech has had a significant impact on the financial sector. The success of companies such as Alibaba's Ant Group and Tencent's WeChat Pay has led to a significant increase in the adoption of digital payments and online lending (Chen, Wei, & Wang, 2018). However, the rapid growth of fintech in China has also raised concerns about financial stability and regulatory oversight (Chen et al., 2018).

These experiences highlight the potential of fintech to promote financial inclusion and increase access to financial services. However, they also underscore the importance of having a supportive regulatory environment and addressing issues such as digital literacy and financial stability.



In the case of Pakistan, lessons from other countries suggest that regulatory barriers, digital literacy, and access to financial services in remote areas are major challenges that need to be addressed for the successful development of the fintech industry. Regulatory frameworks need to be developed to support the growth of fintech, and efforts should be made to promote digital literacy and expand financial services in remote areas.

Pakistan can benefit from the lessons learned in other countries by creating a fintech landscape that supports innovation while managing the potential risks associated with rapid growth. Collaboration between government, regulators, and fintech companies is crucial to ensure that the regulatory environment evolves alongside the industry.

Additionally, the promotion of digital literacy and the expansion of financial services in remote areas can help increase access to fintech products and services, resulting in broader financial inclusion. This approach will require targeted educational initiatives, as well as investments in digital infrastructure, to ensure that individuals can take full advantage of the opportunities provided by fintech.

Finally, to establish a thriving fintech ecosystem, it is essential to foster an environment that encourages innovation while maintaining financial stability. This can be achieved by implementing regulatory sandboxes, promoting competition, and ensuring robust consumer protection measures are in place.

In conclusion, by learning from the experiences of Kenya, India, and China, Pakistan can develop a comprehensive strategy to address the challenges and seize the opportunities presented by fintech. This will require close collaboration between all stakeholders, as well as a commitment to create a supportive and adaptive regulatory environment that enables the fintech sector to thrive and contribute to the nation's economic growth and financial inclusion.

Conclusion

The study highlights the potential of fintech in improving the financial situation in Pakistan and the challenges that need to be addressed to realize its benefits fully. The literature review reveals that there are various fintech services and platforms that can contribute to financial inclusion and efficiency in the country. Mobile money, digital banking, and microfinance can help individuals and businesses access financial services and products, increase financial literacy, and reduce the cost and time required for financial transactions.



The evidence suggests that fintech has already made significant strides in Pakistan, with the adoption of mobile money services, such as Easypaisa and JazzCash, expanding rapidly in recent years. Similarly, digital banking services are also gaining popularity, with several banks launching mobile apps and online portals to enable customers to perform financial transactions remotely. Moreover, microfinance institutions are leveraging fintech to improve their efficiency and reach more customers in remote and underserved areas.

Despite these developments, the adoption of fintech in Pakistan faces various challenges that need to be addressed to realize its full potential. The low literacy levels, limited access to technology and infrastructure, and lack of trust and security concerns are the primary barriers to the widespread adoption of fintech in the country. Moreover, the regulatory environment is not yet fully conducive to the growth of fintech, with some regulations restricting the entry of new players and hindering innovation.

To address these challenges, policymakers, regulators, and financial institutions need to work together to create a favorable environment for the growth of fintech in Pakistan. The government should invest in digital infrastructure, promote financial literacy, and develop a regulatory framework that balances innovation and risk management. Financial institutions need to collaborate with fintech companies to develop new products and services that cater to the needs of different customer segments. Moreover, they should adopt digital channels to reach customers in remote and underserved areas and reduce the cost and time required for financial transactions.

Further research is needed to explore the specific factors that influence the adoption and usage of fintech in Pakistan and to assess the impact of fintech on financial inclusion, efficiency, and economic development. The research can help policymakers and financial institutions design targeted interventions to promote fintech adoption and improve its impact on the financial situation in Pakistan.

In conclusion, fintech has the potential to transform the financial landscape in Pakistan, but its widespread adoption and impact require addressing the challenges of low literacy levels, limited access to technology and infrastructure, lack of trust and security concerns, and regulatory barriers. By overcoming these challenges, Pakistan can leverage fintech to achieve its goal of financial inclusion and sustainable development.

References

Ahmed, H., Ahmed, A., & Naeem, M. (2018). An empirical investigation of factors affecting fintech adoption in Pakistan. *Journal of Asia-Pacific Business*, 19(3), 201-217.

Ahmed, M., Asghar, S., & Baig, S. (2018). Financial education and financial inclusion: Evidence from Pakistan. *Journal of Economics and Sustainable Development*, 9(8), 75-84.

Ahmed, S., Rahman, H., & Sabir, M. S. (2018). Financial literacy and financial inclusion: Evidence from Pakistan. *Journal of Financial Services Research*, 54(2), 209-233.

Ali, A., Ahmed, M., & Ali, A. (2016). Impact of mobile money on financial inclusion in Pakistan. *International Journal of Economics, Commerce and Management*, 4(8), 1-15.

Ali, S. S., Hussain, I., & Ali, S. (2016). Easypaisa: An innovative Pakistani model for mobile banking. *The Journal of Developing Areas*, 50(6), 277-285.

Awan, M. S., Ijaz, K., Abbas, Z., & Jabeen, F. (2020). Microfinance and financial inclusion: Evidence from Pakistan. *International Journal of Economics, Commerce and Management*, 8(7), 94-107.

Awan, U., Azam, M., & Khan, S. (2020). Microfinance and financial inclusion: Evidence from Pakistan. *International Journal of Social Economics*, 47(6), 752-762.

Fatima, T., Iqbal, M., & Faisal, S. (2019). Impact of digital banking on financial inclusion in Pakistan. *International Journal of Financial Research*, 10(1), 1-12.

Fatima, T., Shahid, A., & Ali, M. (2019). Digital Banking and Financial Inclusion in Pakistan. *International Journal of Academic Research in Business and Social Sciences*, 9(3), 75-88.

Gokal, V., & Hanif, M. N. (2016). Financial inclusion in Pakistan: An empirical analysis. *Journal of Poverty, Investment and Development*, 22, 90-101.

Haq, N. U., Ullah, F., & Jan, R. (2020). Financial education and financial inclusion: Evidence from Pakistan. *Journal of Asian Finance, Economics and Business*, 7(9), 421-430.

Haq, S., Anjum, S., & Ali, S. (2020). Financial literacy and financial inclusion: An empirical investigation from Pakistan. *Journal of Financial Services Marketing*, 25(3), 155-167.

Khalil, A. (2017). Microfinance and financial inclusion in Pakistan. *Journal of Microfinance and Sustainable Development*, 5(1), 48-60.

Khan, A., Israr, H., Shahzad, M. A., & Khurshid, S. (2021). Impact of Digital Banking on Financial Inclusion in Pakistan: Evidence from Structural Equation Modelling. *Journal of Open Innovation: Technology, Market, and Complexity*, 7(2), 28.

Khan, M. S., Abbas, Q., & Shah, S. (2020). Factors affecting the adoption of fintech in Pakistan: The mediating role of trust. *Journal of Financial Services Marketing*, 25(4), 137-149.

Khattak, M. A. & Ullah, M. (2019). Digital financial services and financial inclusion in Pakistan: Opportunities and challenges. *Journal of Asia-Pacific Business*, 20(2), 106-118.

Mishra, S., & Bisht, S. S. (2018). Financial inclusion in developing countries: A review of recent literature. *Journal of Financial Economic Policy*, 10(4), 487-504.

Naeem, M. A., Saleem, F., & Shahzad, W. (2018). Fintech Adoption in Pakistan: Analyzing the Role of Awareness, Education, and Societal Influence. *Journal of Electronic Commerce Research*, 19(3), 192-207.

Nasir, J. & Siddiqui, A. (2019). Digital banking and customer satisfaction in Pakistan: The role of service quality and perceived value. *International*

Nazir, M. S., Abbas, J., & Ali, I. (2021). Mobile money and financial inclusion in Pakistan. *Journal of Asia-Pacific Business*, 22(1), 17-32.

Nazir, M. S., Saleem, M. A., & Ahmad, F. (2021). An empirical analysis of factors affecting the adoption of mobile payments in Pakistan. *Journal of Islamic Banking and Finance*, 38(1), 103-118.

Raza, S. A., Mahmood, S., & Raza, S. A. (2020). The role of fintech in financial inclusion: A review of the literature. *Journal of Risk and Financial Management*, 13(3), 53.

Sadiq, M. W., & Jalil, F. (2020). The role of fintech in financial inclusion: Evidence from emerging economies. *Journal of Financial Services Marketing*, 25(1), 34-46.

State Bank of Pakistan. (2021). Financial education and consumer protection. Retrieved from

<https://www.sbp.org.pk/CPD/Financial-Education-and-Consumer-Protection/index.asp>

State Bank of Pakistan. (2021). Microfinance. Retrieved from <https://www.sbp.org.pk/FS/Publications/Microfinance/index.asp>

Yar, M., Amin, M., & Khattak, S. A. (2020). Fintech and financial inclusion: A literature review and future research agenda. *Sustainability*, 12(12), 4956.

Yasin, M., Hussain, M. A., & Irshad, N. (2020). Impact of Digital Banking on Financial Inclusion in Pakistan. *Journal of Financial Services Marketing*, 25(2), 98-110.

Yasin, S., Waseem, M., & Riaz, S. (2020). The impact of digital banking on banking efficiency: A case of Pakistan. *Journal of Asian Finance, Economics and Business*, 7(12), 1015-1026.

Zahid, M., & Mohsin, M. (2020). Exploring the relationship between financial inclusion and economic growth in Pakistan. *Journal of Asian Finance, Economics and Business*, 7(6), 481-488.

Zulfiqar, A., Ahmad, W., & Ahmed, N. (2019). Efficiency analysis of microfinance institutions in Pakistan: A non-parametric approach. *Journal of Business and Policy Research*, 14(1), 61-72.

Zulfiqar, U., Batool, S., & Shahid, M. (2019). Efficiency comparison of microfinance

Anwar, S., Saini, V., & Bhati, S. (2021). Fintech and digital banking adoption in India: The role of trust, risk and demographic factors. *Journal of Financial Services Marketing*, 26(1), 57-70.

Chen, L., Wei, Y., & Wang, Y. (2018). Fintech development and its impact on financial industry: Evidence from China. *China Finance Review International*, 8(3), 327-343.

Demirguc-Kunt, A., Klapper, L., Singer, D., Ansar, S., & Hess, J. (2018). *The Global Findex Database 2017: Measuring Financial Inclusion and the Fintech Revolution*. World Bank Group. Retrieved from <https://globalfindex.worldbank.org/Report>

Fan, Y., Gao, Y., & Wang, P. (2020). Fintech development in China: Challenges and opportunities. *Journal of Chinese Economic and Business Studies*, 18(4), 351-366.

Huang, Y. (2020). The Fintech Regulatory Sandbox in China. *Banking & Finance Law Review*, 35(2), 169-198.

Mbiti, I., & Weil, D. N. (2011). Mobile banking: The impact of M-Pesa in Kenya. NBER Working Paper No. 17129. Retrieved from <http://www.nber.org/papers/w17129>



Raza, S. A., Jawaid, S. T., & Ali, S. (2021). Digital financial inclusion and economic growth: Evidence from developing countries. *Journal of Digital Banking*, 5(3), 222-243.

Saini, V., & Bhati, S. (2019). Demonetization, digitalization, and the transformation of financial services in India. *Journal of Financial Services Marketing*, 24(3-4), 119-126.

Yermack, D. (2018). Corporate governance and blockchains. *Review of Finance*, 22(1), 7-31.

Yousaf, R., Shah, N., & Khan, Z. (2021). The role of fintech in financial inclusion: Evidence from Pakistan. *International Journal of Innovation, Creativity and Change*, 15(6), 542-557.

An Analysis of the Impact of Terrorism in Afghanistan on Pakistan after Taliban takeover of 2021

Author

Syed Shah Hussain

Abstract:

This paper analyzes the impact of terrorism in Afghanistan on Pakistan following the Taliban takeover in 2021. Using a qualitative approach, the study examines the historical context of terrorism in the region and how it has affected Pakistan in the past. The study also examines the current situation in Afghanistan and its potential impact on Pakistan. The findings of the study suggest that the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan has raised concerns about the potential spillover of terrorism into Pakistan. Pakistan has been a victim of terrorism for many years, and the country's security forces have struggled to combat it. The Taliban takeover in Afghanistan has created a security vacuum in the region, and terrorist organizations such as ISIS-K and Al-Qaeda may take advantage of this situation to launch attacks on Pakistan. Furthermore, the study found that the Taliban's return to power has emboldened extremist groups in Pakistan. The country's government and security forces are concerned that these groups may be inspired by the Taliban's success and launch attacks in Pakistan. The study concludes that Pakistan needs to take proactive measures to prevent the spillover of terrorism from Afghanistan. The government needs to strengthen its security forces and intelligence agencies to prevent attacks on its soil. Additionally, Pakistan needs to work closely with the international community to address the root causes of terrorism in the region and promote stability in Afghanistan.

Keywords: Pak-Afghan relations, Taliban govt., Afghanistan govt., ISIS-K, Al-Qaeda

Introduction:

Terrorism has been a major challenge for Afghanistan and Pakistan in the past two decades. The rise of terrorism in Afghanistan has not only affected the country's stability and security but has also impacted neighboring countries such as Pakistan. The ongoing conflict in Afghanistan has resulted in an influx of refugees into Pakistan and has also created an environment that is conducive to the growth of terrorism in the region. This study aims to analyze the impact of terrorism in Afghanistan on Pakistan in 2023 and to assess its implications for the region.

Terrorism and political instability have been prevalent in the region of South Asia for many years, with Afghanistan and Pakistan being two of the most affected countries. The Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in 2021 has raised concerns about the impact of terrorism on Pakistan. This thesis aims to analyze the impact of terrorism in Afghanistan on Pakistan after the Taliban takeover in 2021.

The relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan has been complicated and contentious, marked by border disputes and cross-border terrorism. Pakistan has been accused of supporting the Taliban in Afghanistan, which has fueled violence and instability in the region. The Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan in 2021 has further complicated the relationship between the two countries, raising concerns about the spillover of violence and terrorism into Pakistan. The thesis will begin by providing a brief history of the relationship between Afghanistan and Pakistan, with a focus on the role of terrorism and political instability in the region. It will then analyze the impact of the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan on Pakistan, including the potential for increased terrorist attacks, refugee flows, and political instability. The thesis will also examine the response of the Pakistani government to the Taliban takeover, including its policies towards Afghan refugees and its efforts to counter terrorism within its borders.

Terrorism has been a major threat to global peace and security for decades, with Afghanistan being a prime example of a country that has been severely affected by it. The recent Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in 2021 has raised concerns about the impact of terrorism on neighboring countries, particularly Pakistan. This thesis will examine the impact of terrorism in Afghanistan on Pakistan after the Taliban takeover of 2021. The study will explore how the Taliban takeover and the ensuing security situation in Afghanistan may affect Pakistan's security, economy, and political stability. Additionally, the thesis will examine the role of the international community in addressing the issue of terrorism in the region. This study is significant because it sheds light on the potential consequences of the Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan and the implications for Pakistan's security and stability. The findings of this research can provide insights for policymakers and scholars on the challenges and opportunities presented by the evolving security situation in the region.

Objectives:

1. To understand the root causes of terrorism in Afghanistan and its impact on Pakistan.
2. To analyze the current state of terrorism in Afghanistan and its implications for Pakistan.
3. To evaluate the effectiveness of the measures taken by both Afghanistan and Pakistan to address terrorism in the region.

4. To assess the impact of terrorism in Afghanistan on Pakistan's economy, security and stability in 2023.
5. To identify the challenges faced by both Afghanistan and Pakistan in countering terrorism in the region.

Research Questions

1. What are the root causes of terrorism in Afghanistan and its impact on Pakistan?
2. How current state of terrorism in Afghanistan will have implications for Pakistan after Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in 2021?
3. What are the measures taken by both Afghanistan and Pakistan to address terrorism in the region?
4. How terrorism in Afghanistan on Pakistan's economy, security and stability?

Methodology:

The study has used a quantitative research design. Secondary data was collected from reputable sources such as academic journals, reports by international organizations, government publications, and media reports. Secondary data sources, including databases such as the Global Terrorism Database (GTD) and media reports, to collect information on terrorist incidents in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Significance:

This study is significant as it provides insights into the impact of terrorism in Afghanistan on Pakistan in 2023. It will inform policy makers in both Afghanistan and Pakistan about the challenges faced in countering terrorism in the region and help them develop strategies to address the issue. The findings of this study will also contribute to the larger academic discourse on terrorism and its impact on regional stability and security.

Literature Review

The Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan in 2021 has raised significant concerns about the impact of terrorism on neighboring countries, particularly Pakistan. In this literature review, we will analyze the existing research on the impact of terrorism in Afghanistan on Pakistan and explore the potential consequences of the Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan.

The relationship between Afghanistan and Pakistan has been complex due to the shared border and a history of conflict. The Taliban's presence in Afghanistan has led to an increase in terrorist activities in both countries. According to Akhtar and Khalil (2021), terrorist groups such as the

Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) have been using Afghanistan as a base to plan and launch attacks on Pakistani soil. This has resulted in a significant increase in terrorism-related deaths in Pakistan.

Moreover, the influx of Afghan refugees into Pakistan has also created security concerns. According to Niazi and Raza (2021), the presence of Afghan refugees has increased the risk of terrorism and created social, economic, and political challenges for Pakistan.

Afghanistan has been facing terrorism for several years. In 2021, the Taliban took over Afghanistan, leading to a significant shift in the country's political, social, and security situations. This literature review aims to examine the analysis of terrorism in Afghanistan after the Taliban takeover of 2021.

Taliban and Terrorism in Afghanistan:

The Taliban, an extremist group in Afghanistan, had seized power in the country before the 9/11 attacks, and the group was known for its brutal tactics and hardline Islamic ideology. After the U.S. military intervention in 2001, the Taliban was pushed back, but it remained active and continued to conduct terrorist activities in Afghanistan.

According to a report by the United Nations, the Taliban was responsible for more than 47% of civilian casualties in Afghanistan in the first six months of 2021. The report highlighted that the group had increased its use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and targeted killings, especially against women, journalists, and religious minorities.

Terrorism in Afghanistan after the Taliban Takeover:

The Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in 2021 has led to a new phase of terrorism in the country. The Taliban has made several promises to ensure the safety and security of the Afghan people, but there are concerns that these promises may not be fulfilled.

According to an analysis by the Institute for the Study of War (ISW), the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan has created an environment that could allow for the resurgence of terrorist groups such as Al Qaeda and the Islamic State in Afghanistan. The report highlighted that the Taliban has a history of supporting these groups and that they could take advantage of the current situation to regroup and launch attacks.

Another report by the United Nations warned that the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan could lead to an increase in terrorist activities, including suicide bombings and targeted killings. The report also highlighted that the Taliban's control of the country could provide a safe haven for terrorist groups to plan and launch attacks in Afghanistan and beyond.

In conclusion, the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan in 2021 has created a new phase of terrorism in the country. Despite the Taliban's promises to ensure the safety and security of the Afghan people, there are concerns that terrorist groups could take advantage of the current situation to regroup and launch attacks. The international community must closely monitor the situation and take necessary actions to prevent the resurgence of terrorism in Afghanistan.

Consequences of the Taliban takeover:

The Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan has the potential to exacerbate the existing security challenges for Pakistan. The return of the Taliban to power in Afghanistan has raised concerns that it may embolden domestic extremist groups in Pakistan, such as the TTP (Khalid, 2021). Moreover, the Taliban's connections to Al Qaeda and other extremist groups may also increase the risk of international terrorism (Khalil, 2021).

Furthermore, the Taliban's takeover may also result in a new wave of Afghan refugees seeking asylum in Pakistan, which may create additional security challenges (Akhtar & Khalil, 2021).

The influx of refugees may also put pressure on Pakistan's already fragile economy and social infrastructure.

The Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan in 2021 has had far-reaching implications for the neighboring country of Pakistan. Given the long-standing relationship between the Taliban and Pakistan, there are concerns about the impact of this development on Pakistan's security and stability. This literature review will analyze the existing research on the impact of terrorism in Afghanistan on Pakistan after the Taliban takeover of 2021.

Impact of Taliban takeover on Pakistan's security:

According to Mahmood and Ghazanfar (2022), the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan has raised concerns about the possibility of cross-border terrorism into Pakistan. The authors argue that the Taliban's close relationship with Pakistani militant groups could result in an increase in terrorist activities in Pakistan. This is particularly worrying given Pakistan's history of terrorist attacks, including the 2014 Peshawar school massacre, which was carried out by the Pakistani Taliban.

The role of Afghan refugees:

Another concern is the potential influx of Afghan refugees into Pakistan. According to Tariq (2021), Pakistan is home to nearly three million Afghan refugees, and the Taliban's takeover is likely to lead to an increase in the number of refugees. The author argues that the influx of refugees could have a negative impact on Pakistan's security, as it could provide cover for terrorists to enter Pakistan.

The impact of the Taliban's ideology:

The Taliban's strict interpretation of Islam and their past support for extremist groups has also raised concerns about the impact of their ideology on Pakistan's already fragile security situation. According to Hussain and Shah (2021), the Taliban's ideology could embolden extremist groups in Pakistan, leading to an increase in sectarian violence and attacks on minorities.

The impact on Pakistan's economy:

The Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan has also had an impact on Pakistan's economy. According to Ali and Ahmed (2021), the closure of the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan has disrupted trade and led to a rise in prices of essential commodities in Pakistan. The authors argue that this could lead to social unrest and increase the risk of terrorist attacks in Pakistan.

The Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in 2021 has sparked concerns about its potential impact on neighboring countries, particularly Pakistan. Pakistan has a long history of dealing with the effects of terrorism, with the country's porous border with Afghanistan being a major factor. This literature review analyzes the impact of terrorism in Afghanistan on Pakistan after the Taliban takeover of 2021.

Impact of Taliban Takeover:

The Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in August 2021 has raised concerns about the resurgence of terrorism in the region. The Taliban, which previously ruled Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001, provided safe haven to Al-Qaeda and other terrorist groups. This led to the 9/11 attacks in the United States and subsequent international intervention in Afghanistan. The Taliban's return to power has raised fears that they may once again provide safe haven to terrorist groups, which could have serious implications for neighboring countries like Pakistan (Kugelman, 2021).

Terrorism in Pakistan:

Pakistan has been a victim of terrorism for decades, with various terrorist groups operating in the country. The country's military has conducted several operations against these groups, but they continue to pose a threat. One of the major sources of terrorism in Pakistan is the Afghan Taliban, which has historically had close ties with Pakistani militant groups like the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) (Mukhtar, 2020).

Impact of Afghan Conflict on Pakistan:

The conflict in Afghanistan has had a significant impact on Pakistan, particularly in terms of terrorism. The porous border between the two countries has allowed terrorists to move freely

across the border, making it difficult for Pakistan to control the movement of militants (Abbas, 2019). The Taliban's previous rule in Afghanistan also had a significant impact on Pakistan, as it provided a safe haven for terrorist groups that carried out attacks in Pakistan (Mukhtar, 2020).

Future Implications:

The Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in 2021 has raised concerns about the future of terrorism in the region. It remains to be seen whether the Taliban will once again provide safe haven to terrorist groups, and what impact this will have on neighboring countries like Pakistan. Some experts predict that the Taliban's return to power may embolden Pakistani militant groups like the TTP, which may carry out attacks in Pakistan with increased frequency (Kugelman, 2021).

The Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in 2021 has raised concerns about the impact of terrorism on neighboring countries like Pakistan. Pakistan has a long history of dealing with terrorism, and the conflict in Afghanistan has had a significant impact on the country. The future implications of the Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan remain uncertain, but it is clear that the situation in the region will have serious implications for the international community.

The recent takeover of Afghanistan by the Taliban in 2021 has raised concerns about the impact of terrorism on neighboring countries, especially Pakistan. This literature review aims to analyze the impact of terrorism in Afghanistan on Pakistan after the Taliban's takeover in 2021.

Afghanistan has been in turmoil since the Soviet Union's invasion in 1979. The country has been embroiled in civil wars, foreign interventions, and terrorism, making it one of the most volatile regions in the world. The Taliban's rise to power in the 1990s further escalated the conflict, leading to the September 11 attacks in 2001, and the subsequent US-led invasion of Afghanistan.

The Taliban's insurgency has continued to pose a significant threat to Afghanistan's security and stability. Despite the presence of US and NATO forces, the Taliban have regained control of the country after a swift offensive in 2021. The group's return to power has raised concerns about the resurgence of terrorism in the region, especially in neighboring countries like Pakistan.

Pakistan has long been affected by terrorism emanating from Afghanistan. The country has suffered from a spillover of violence, including suicide bombings, targeted killings, and cross-border attacks. The influx of Afghan refugees and the presence of militant groups on the Afghan-Pakistan border have also contributed to the rise of terrorism in Pakistan. The Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan is expected to have a significant impact on Pakistan's security and stability. The group's close ties with militant groups like the Haqqani network and the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) could lead to an increase in cross-border attacks and violence in Pakistan.

Experts have warned that the Taliban's return to power could embolden extremist groups in Pakistan, leading to a surge in terrorism. The TTP, which has been responsible for numerous attacks in Pakistan, has already expressed its support for the Taliban. The group's leader, Noor Wali Mehsud, congratulated the Taliban on its victory and called on Pakistanis to join the fight against their government.

Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan is expected to have a significant impact on Pakistan's security and stability. The resurgence of terrorism in the region could lead to an increase in cross-border attacks and violence in Pakistan. The government of Pakistan will need to take steps to strengthen its security and border management to prevent the spillover of violence from Afghanistan. The international community must also provide support to Pakistan to address the threat of terrorism emanating from Afghanistan.

Literature Gap

The literature on the impact of terrorism in Afghanistan on Pakistan after the Taliban takeover of 2021 is limited, and there are several gaps that need to be addressed. Some of these gaps are:

- Lack of recent studies: Although there are several studies on the impact of terrorism in Afghanistan on Pakistan, most of these studies are outdated and do not reflect the current situation after the Taliban takeover of 2021. Therefore, there is a need for new studies that focus on the post-Taliban era.
- Lack of qualitative studies: Most of the studies on this topic are quantitative in nature and do not provide a detailed analysis of the impact of terrorism on Pakistan. There is a need for qualitative studies that explore the experiences of individuals and communities affected by terrorism in Pakistan.
- Limited focus on the Taliban takeover: While there are studies that examine the impact of terrorism on Pakistan, few studies specifically focus on the impact of the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in 2021. This is an important area that needs to be explored, as the Taliban's return to power has significant implications for Pakistan's security and stability.
- Limited attention to the role of regional actors: The impact of terrorism in Afghanistan on Pakistan is not limited to the two countries alone. The involvement of regional actors such as India, China, and Iran in the region has significant implications for the security situation in both Afghanistan and Pakistan. Therefore, there is a need for studies that explore the role of regional actors in shaping the impact of terrorism in the region.
- Lack of focus on the economic impact: While most studies focus on the security implications of terrorism, there is a need to examine the economic impact of terrorism on

Pakistan. The disruption of trade, investment, and tourism can have a significant impact on Pakistan's economy, and this area needs to be explored in more detail.

Realist point of view

One of the most relevant theories of international relations to explain the impact of terrorism in Afghanistan on Pakistan is the theory of realism. Realism assumes that international relations are characterized by a self-help system, where states seek to maximize their own security and power. States are seen as rational actors, motivated by their own interests, and operating in an anarchic system where there is no central authority to enforce rules.

Realism argues that states are the primary actors in international politics and pursue their interests in a self-help system. States aim to maximize their power and security, and they behave based on the assumption that other states are potential threats. Realism emphasizes the importance of military power and national security in the international system. It also emphasizes the importance of the balance of power, which refers to the equilibrium of power among states that helps prevent wars.

Applying realism to the analysis of the impact of terrorism in Afghanistan on Pakistan after the Taliban takeover, we can see that Pakistan has a significant interest in regional security and stability. Pakistan shares a long and porous border with Afghanistan, and instability in Afghanistan can spill over into Pakistan, causing significant security concerns. In this context, Pakistan has tried to influence the political developments in Afghanistan to ensure that its interests are protected.

The Taliban takeover of Afghanistan has created significant security challenges for Pakistan. The Taliban is known to have close ties with several terrorist organizations, such as Al-Qaeda and the Haqqani network. These organizations have used Afghanistan as a base to launch attacks against Pakistan. Therefore, the Taliban takeover has increased the risk of terrorist attacks in Pakistan.

Realism would argue that Pakistan would try to increase its military power and security measures to protect itself from potential terrorist attacks. It would also argue that Pakistan would try to form alliances and partnerships with other states to balance the power in the region. Pakistan has already established close ties with China, and it may seek closer cooperation with other regional powers such as Russia and Iran to balance the power in the region.

In conclusion, the impact of terrorism in Afghanistan on Pakistan after the Taliban takeover can be analyzed through a Realist theoretical framework. Realism emphasizes the importance of national security and the balance of power in international politics, which can explain Pakistan's efforts to protect it from potential terrorist threats.

Root causes of terrorism in Afghanistan and its impact on Pakistan

Terrorism in Afghanistan is rooted in a complex mix of historical, political, social, and economic factors. Afghanistan has experienced decades of war, instability, and poverty, which have created a favorable environment for the emergence of extremist groups. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 and the subsequent civil war fueled the rise of militant groups, including the Taliban and Al Qaeda (Haqqani, 2019). The Taliban came to power in 1996 and established a strict Islamic regime that was recognized as a sanctuary for international terrorists (Roy, 2019).

The impact of terrorism in Afghanistan has been felt throughout the region, particularly in Pakistan. Pakistan has long been a front-line state in the global war on terrorism and has suffered numerous terrorist attacks in recent years (Haqqani, 2019). The porous border between Afghanistan and Pakistan has allowed terrorists to move freely between the two countries, making it difficult for either country to effectively tackle terrorism on its own (Roy, 2019). The violence and instability in Afghanistan have also fueled the growth of extremist groups in Pakistan, which pose a threat to the stability of the region (Haqqani, 2019).

Furthermore, terrorism has had a devastating impact on the economies of both Afghanistan and Pakistan. The violence and instability have deterred investment and stifled economic growth, and the constant threat of terrorism has led to a decline in tourism and other revenue-generating industries (Roy, 2019). In addition, the military operations and counter-terrorism measures have required significant resources from both countries, diverting much-needed funding from other critical areas such as education, health, and infrastructure (Haqqani, 2019).

In conclusion, terrorism in Afghanistan is a complex problem with multiple root causes, including historical, political, social, and economic factors. The impact of terrorism in Afghanistan has been felt throughout the region, particularly in Pakistan, and has had a negative impact on the economies of both countries. Addressing the root causes of terrorism in Afghanistan is critical for promoting stability and security in the region.

The root causes of terrorism in Afghanistan can be traced back to several factors, including the Soviet occupation in the 1980s, the Taliban takeover in 1996, and the ongoing conflict with the United States and its allies since 2001. (Rashid, 2000) These events have led to a fragmented society and a lack of stable governance, providing a fertile ground for extremist groups to flourish.

Additionally, poverty, unemployment, and poor education opportunities have also contributed to the spread of terrorism in Afghanistan. (United Nations, 2021) These factors have made it easier for extremist groups to recruit young people and create a sense of hopelessness and desperation, which can drive individuals towards violent means of expression.

The impact of terrorism in Afghanistan has also had a significant effect on neighboring Pakistan. The ongoing conflict in Afghanistan has led to a large number of Afghan refugees seeking refuge in Pakistan, putting a strain on its resources and destabilizing its security. (Haqqani, 2005)

Moreover, the presence of extremist groups in Afghanistan has allowed them to carry out cross-border attacks in Pakistan, destabilizing its security and causing significant loss of life. (Javid, 2018) The involvement of the Taliban in the conflict has also complicated the situation in Pakistan, as the group has links with other extremist groups operating in the region, including the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). (Jaffrelot, 2015)

In conclusion, the root causes of terrorism in Afghanistan are complex and multifaceted, and its impact on Pakistan has been significant and far-reaching. Addressing these issues will require a coordinated and sustained effort from the international community and local governments.

Terrorism in Afghanistan has multiple root causes, including political instability, ethnic tensions, lack of governance and the presence of international and regional extremist groups. According to the Global Terrorism Index, Afghanistan has been one of the worst affected countries by terrorism, primarily due to the presence of the Taliban and Al-Qaeda. The Taliban, which ruled Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001, has been fighting against the Afghan government and international forces since its removal from power (Global Terrorism Index, 2021).

The impact of terrorism in Afghanistan has been widespread and devastating, including loss of life and property, displacement of populations, and hindrance to economic and social development. Furthermore, terrorism in Afghanistan has also affected neighboring countries, including Pakistan. Cross-border terrorism has resulted in loss of life and property in Pakistan, and has also hampered its economic development (Ahmed, 2018). Additionally, the spillover of terrorism from Afghanistan has increased the threat of extremism and destabilization in Pakistan, which is already facing multiple internal and external security challenges (Ahmed, 2018).

In conclusion, terrorism in Afghanistan has deep-rooted causes and has had far-reaching consequences, not just within the country but also in neighboring states like Pakistan.

Analysis of the current state of terrorism in Afghanistan and its implications for Pakistan after Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in 2021

The current state of terrorism in Afghanistan is still a major concern. The Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in 2021 has resulted in increased violence and instability in the region. The Taliban, known for its extremist ideology and links to terrorism, has taken control of large parts of the country, posing a significant threat to the stability of the region.

According to the United Nations (2021), the Taliban takeover has led to an increase in terrorist attacks and a rise in the number of civilians killed or injured. The Taliban has also imposed strict laws, such as the ban on women's education and the enforcement of their own brand of justice, which has created widespread fear and insecurity among the population. The Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan has also led to a rise in the number of refugees and internally displaced persons, adding to the already dire humanitarian situation in the country.

The takeover of Afghanistan by the Taliban also has serious implications for neighboring Pakistan. The Taliban has long-standing ties to extremist groups in Pakistan and has used its territory as a base for launching attacks against the Pakistani state. The takeover of Afghanistan by the Taliban is likely to result in increased terrorist attacks and instability in Pakistan, as well as an increase in the number of refugees and internally displaced persons.

In conclusion, the current state of terrorism in Afghanistan is a major concern for the stability of the region, and the Taliban takeover has serious implications for Pakistan. The international community must take action to address the root causes of terrorism and support the Afghan government in its efforts to restore peace and stability to the country.

Afghanistan is still facing significant threats from terrorism and extremist groups. The Taliban takeover in 2020 raised concerns about the resurgence of terrorism in the region. According to a report by the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), there was a 5% increase in civilian casualties in the first half of 2021 compared to the previous year (UNAMA, 2021).

The Taliban takeover has also had major implications for Pakistan, which shares a porous border with Afghanistan. The rise of terrorism in Afghanistan has led to an increase in cross-border attacks, causing security concerns for Pakistan. In a statement, the Pakistan Foreign Office spokesperson said, "The situation in Afghanistan is a matter of concern for Pakistan, as the security and stability of Afghanistan is directly linked to the security and stability of Pakistan" (Pakistan Foreign Office, 2021).

Additionally, the Taliban's strict interpretation of Islamic law and its past record of harboring terrorists and extremist groups have raised concerns about the potential for the resurgence of terrorism in Afghanistan. This could lead to an increase in terrorist attacks in neighboring countries, including Pakistan.

In conclusion, the current state of terrorism in Afghanistan and its implications for Pakistan highlights the need for international cooperation to address the root causes of terrorism and extremism in the region.

The current state of terrorism in Afghanistan is complex and multifaceted. There has been a rise in Taliban insurgency in the country since the US troops withdrawal in 2021 (Gambino, 2021). The Taliban has taken over much of the country, which has led to increased violence and terrorism. According to the United Nations, the Taliban has been responsible for the majority of civilian casualties in Afghanistan in recent years (United Nations, 2021).

The takeover of Afghanistan by the Taliban has significant implications for Pakistan. The Taliban has a long-standing relationship with various militant groups in Pakistan, and their control of Afghanistan is expected to lead to an increase in the level of terrorism in the country (Shahzad, 2021). Additionally, the Taliban's control of Afghanistan will likely provide them with a safe haven from which they can plan and launch attacks in Pakistan (Gambino, 2021).

In conclusion, the current state of terrorism in Afghanistan is concerning, and the takeover of the country by the Taliban has serious implications for the security and stability of neighboring Pakistan. It is important for the international community to work together to address this issue and ensure that the situation does not escalate further.

According to the Global Terrorism Index (GTI), Afghanistan is currently ranked as the second most affected country by terrorism in the world. The Taliban and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) are the two most prominent terrorist organizations operating in the country, with the Taliban being responsible for the majority of attacks (GTI, 2020).

The Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in 2023, if it were to happen, would have significant implications for Pakistan. The Taliban has maintained close ties with various militant groups operating in Pakistan, including the Haqqani network, which has been responsible for several high-profile attacks in the country (GTI, 2020). If the Taliban were to come to power in Afghanistan, it is likely that they would provide a safe haven for these groups and allow them to operate with impunity, increasing the threat of terrorism in Pakistan.

Additionally, the Taliban's strict interpretation of Islamic law, which includes the suppression of women's rights and the implementation of harsh punishments for crimes, could lead to the further radicalization of individuals in the region, exacerbating the threat of terrorism in both Afghanistan and Pakistan (Council on Foreign Relations, 2020).

In conclusion, the current state of terrorism in Afghanistan is dire and the potential takeover of the country by the Taliban in 2023 would have serious implications for Pakistan, including an increase in the threat of terrorism and the potential for further radicalization

Evaluation of the effectiveness of the measures taken by both Afghanistan and Pakistan to address terrorism in the region

In 2023, both Afghanistan and Pakistan have taken a number of measures to address terrorism in the region. According to a report by the United Nations (UN), Afghanistan has increased its military presence and conducted operations against terrorist groups such as the Taliban and ISIS. The Afghan government has also increased its efforts to engage in peace talks with these groups, with the aim of reaching a negotiated settlement to the conflict (UN, 2022).

In Pakistan, the government has implemented a number of measures to address terrorism, including increasing its military presence in the tribal areas along the border with Afghanistan and launching operations against terrorist groups such as the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) (UN, 2022). The government has also taken steps to address the root causes of terrorism, including poverty, lack of education, and poor governance, through development and educational programs (UN, 2022).

However, despite these measures, the threat of terrorism continues to persist in both countries. The Taliban and ISIS continue to carry out attacks, and the TTP continues to be a threat in Pakistan. Furthermore, the ongoing conflict in Afghanistan and the lack of progress in peace talks with the Taliban have made it difficult to achieve lasting peace and stability in the region (UN, 2022).

In conclusion, while both Afghanistan and Pakistan have taken a number of measures to address terrorism in the region, the threat of terrorism continues to persist. Further efforts are needed to address the root causes of terrorism and to find a lasting solution to the conflict in Afghanistan.

Similarly, Pakistan has taken measures to address terrorism, including implementing a national counterterrorism strategy, establishing a national counterterrorism center, and launching military operations in border regions to eliminate safe havens for terrorist groups (UN, 2023). Moreover, Pakistan has also increased its cooperation with neighboring countries, including Afghanistan, to prevent cross-border terrorism and share intelligence information.

Despite these efforts, the region continues to face significant challenges in addressing terrorism, including the presence of well-established and well-funded terrorist organizations, cross-border safe havens, and limited resources and capabilities. However, the measures taken by Afghanistan and Pakistan have had a positive impact on reducing the number of terrorist attacks and improving security in the region. According to the UN (2023), the number of terrorist attacks in Afghanistan has decreased by 40% compared to the previous year, and the number of terrorist attacks in Pakistan has decreased by 30%.

In conclusion, the measures taken by Afghanistan and Pakistan to address terrorism have been effective in reducing the number of terrorist attacks and improving security in the region.

However, more needs to be done to address the underlying causes of terrorism and to eliminate cross-border safe havens for terrorist groups.

Impact of terrorism in Afghanistan on Pakistan's economy, security and stability

The impact of terrorism in Afghanistan on Pakistan's economy, security and stability has been significant in the past and is likely to continue to be so in 2023. According to a report by the World Bank, "Terrorism and insecurity in Afghanistan have had spillover effects on the economies of the region, particularly Pakistan" (World Bank, 2017; Shah, 2018). The cross-border attacks and refugee flows have disrupted trade, investments and labor markets in Pakistan, leading to economic losses and uncertainty.

The security situation in Pakistan has also been greatly impacted by terrorism in Afghanistan. The country has faced a rise in terrorist activities and extremist groups that take advantage of the porous border and weak governance. The instability in Afghanistan has also destabilized the region, leading to an increase in the Taliban insurgency in Pakistan. As noted by the International Crisis Group, "The persistence of the Taliban insurgency in Afghanistan has contributed to the radicalization of some segments of Pakistani society and enabled extremist groups to establish a more permanent presence in the country" (International Crisis Group, 2020).

Furthermore, terrorism in Afghanistan has also affected the stability of Pakistan, as it has contributed to the erosion of the country's political and social institutions. The government has had to allocate significant resources to fight terrorism and maintain security, which has had a detrimental impact on the provision of public services and development programs. The ongoing violence has also created a sense of fear and insecurity among the population, further eroding the stability of the country.

In conclusion, the impact of terrorism in Afghanistan on Pakistan's economy, security and stability is likely to continue to be significant in 2023. The cross-border attacks, refugee flows, and extremist groups will continue to pose challenges for the country's development and stability. The government will need to implement effective strategies to address these challenges, including strengthening border management, promoting regional cooperation and addressing the root causes of terrorism.

Terrorism in Afghanistan has had a profound impact on Pakistan's economy, security, and stability. The cross-border terrorism that has plagued Afghanistan since the late 1970s has resulted in a significant decline in the flow of trade and investment between the two countries. This has hindered economic growth and led to high levels of poverty and unemployment in the border areas of Pakistan (Bashir, 2020).

The security situation in Pakistan has also been severely affected by terrorism in Afghanistan. The cross-border incursions of militants have resulted in increased violence and instability, particularly in the tribal areas of Pakistan. This has resulted in a loss of lives, property damage, and increased fear among the population (Rasul & Akbar, 2019). The increasing violence has also had a negative impact on the tourism industry, which has traditionally been a major contributor to the economy (Amin & Rizwan, 2020).

Furthermore, terrorism has created a climate of fear and insecurity in Pakistan, which has impacted the stability of the country. The persistent threat of terrorism has led to increased military spending and a heavy reliance on the security forces to maintain order, which has put a strain on the country's finances (Rasul & Akbar, 2019). The instability created by terrorism has also made it difficult for the government to carry out reforms and address pressing social and economic issues, leading to increased public frustration and unrest (Amin & Rizwan, 2020).

In conclusion, the impact of terrorism in Afghanistan on Pakistan's economy, security, and stability has been far-reaching and damaging. The cross-border terrorism has resulted in reduced trade and investment, increased violence and instability, and a negative impact on the country's stability and security. To address these challenges, it is important for the international community to work together to support peace and stability in the region and prevent terrorism from spreading across borders.

Terrorism in Afghanistan has had a significant impact on Pakistan's economy, security, and stability over the years. Cross-border terrorism and spillovers from Afghanistan have impacted Pakistan's stability, security, and economic growth. The country has had to incur significant expenses in terms of military and security operations to counter terrorism and maintain stability, which has put a strain on its economy (Rashid, 2018).

According to a report by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), the economic cost of terrorism in Pakistan was estimated to be \$11 billion in 2018, which is roughly 1.3% of its GDP (Global Terrorism Index, 2018). The report states that the cost of terrorism has significantly impacted the country's investment, tourism, and trade, resulting in a decline in the overall growth rate.

Furthermore, the security situation in Afghanistan directly affects the security of Pakistan. The country has faced numerous terrorist attacks and security incidents, which have resulted in significant losses in terms of human life and economic damage. This has led to a loss of confidence among the investors, which has further impacted the country's economic growth (Rashid, 2018).

In conclusion, terrorism in Afghanistan has had a significant impact on Pakistan's economy, security, and stability. The country has faced economic losses and security incidents, which have impacted its growth and stability. It is essential for the international community to work together to address the root causes of terrorism in Afghanistan to ensure stability and security in the region.

In 2023, the impact of terrorism in Afghanistan on Pakistan's economy, security, and stability will still be significant. According to a report by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), "the spillover effects of the conflict in Afghanistan have been a major source of instability in the region, including Pakistan." (IMF, 2022). The constant threat of terrorism and cross-border attacks has led to decreased foreign investment, a decline in tourism, and disruptions to trade and transportation.

Moreover, the instability caused by terrorism has also negatively impacted Pakistan's security. The frequent terrorist attacks have strained the country's military and security forces, diverting resources away from economic development and stability initiatives. According to a report by the Pakistan Institute for Peace Studies (PIPS), "terrorism has resulted in the loss of thousands of lives and caused billions of dollars in damages to the country's infrastructure and economy." (PIPS, 2022).

Additionally, the impact of terrorism in Afghanistan has also had a significant effect on the stability of Pakistan. The constant threat of terrorism has resulted in increased sectarian and ethnic tensions, leading to a decline in social cohesion and a rise in extremism. According to a report by the United Nations (UN), "the conflict in Afghanistan has contributed to the growth of extremist groups in Pakistan, who have carried out numerous attacks against the government and civilians." (UN, 2022).

In conclusion, the impact of terrorism in Afghanistan on Pakistan's economy, security, and stability will continue to be significant in 2023. The country will need to continue its efforts to combat terrorism and improve stability in order to achieve sustainable economic growth and protect its citizens.

The challenges faced by both Afghanistan and Pakistan in countering terrorism in the region include:

1. **Insufficient resources:** Both Afghanistan and Pakistan face a shortage of resources in their efforts to counter terrorism. This includes financial resources as well as manpower, equipment, and infrastructure. (Afghanistan: Ministry of Interior Affairs, 2021; Pakistan: Ministry of Interior, 2021)

2. **Lack of political will:** The lack of political will by some key leaders to take strong and decisive action against terrorism is one of the major challenges faced by both Afghanistan and Pakistan. (Afghanistan: BBC, 2021; Pakistan: Dawn, 2021)
3. **Corruption:** Corruption remains a persistent problem in both Afghanistan and Pakistan and undermines their efforts to counter terrorism. (Afghanistan: U.S. Department of State, 2021; Pakistan: Transparency International, 2021)
4. **Difficulties in intelligence sharing:** Both Afghanistan and Pakistan face difficulties in sharing intelligence and cooperating with each other on counterterrorism operations due to historical tensions and lack of trust. (Afghanistan: BBC, 2021; Pakistan: Dawn, 2021)
5. **Inadequate military capabilities:** The military forces in both Afghanistan and Pakistan are not adequately equipped or trained to effectively counter terrorism, making it difficult to mount sustained counterterrorism operations. (Afghanistan: Ministry of Defense, 2021; Pakistan: Ministry of Defense, 2021)
6. **Religious extremism:** The influence of religious extremism remains a significant challenge in both Afghanistan and Pakistan, with some groups using religion to justify their violent activities. (Afghanistan: U.S. Department of State, 2021; Pakistan: Dawn, 2021)
7. **Lack of security in rural areas:** Large rural areas in both Afghanistan and Pakistan are not well-secured, providing safe havens for terrorists to plan and launch attacks. (Afghanistan: U.S. Department of State, 2021; Pakistan: Dawn, 2021)
8. **Unemployment:** High levels of unemployment in both Afghanistan and Pakistan contribute to the recruitment of young people into terrorism. (Afghanistan: World Bank, 2021; Pakistan: World Bank, 2021)
9. **Poverty:** Poverty is a significant challenge in both Afghanistan and Pakistan and makes it easier for terrorists to recruit vulnerable people. (Afghanistan: World Bank, 2021; Pakistan: World Bank, 2021)
10. **Safe havens in tribal areas:** The presence of safe havens in tribal areas in both Afghanistan and Pakistan provides terrorists with a secure base from which to launch attacks. (Afghanistan: U.S. Department of State, 2021; Pakistan: Dawn, 2021)
11. **Border security:** The porous border between Afghanistan and Pakistan makes it difficult to prevent the movement of terrorists and their weapons across the border. (Afghanistan: U.S. Department of State, 2021; Pakistan: Dawn, 2021)

12. **Lack of cooperation from regional powers:** The lack of cooperation from regional powers, such as Iran and India, makes it difficult for Afghanistan and Pakistan to counter terrorism effectively. (Afghanistan: U.S. Department of State, 2021; Pakistan: Dawn, 2021)
13. **Limited capacity to investigate and prosecute terrorists:** Both Afghanistan and Pakistan have limited capacity to investigate and prosecute terrorists, making it difficult to bring them to justice. (Afghanistan: U.S. Department of State, 2021; Pakistan: Dawn, 2021)
14. **Lack of public support:** Both Afghanistan and Pakistan face a lack of public support for their counterterrorism efforts, with some segments of the population sympathetic to the goals of terrorists. (Afghanistan: U.S. Department of State, 2021; Pakistan: Dawn, 2021)
15. **Fragmented security forces:** The fragmented nature of the security forces in both Afghanistan and Pakistan makes it difficult to coordinate

The ongoing conflict and terrorism in Afghanistan will continue to have a profound impact on Pakistan some of the ways it could affect Pakistan are:

1. **Cross-border terrorism:** The porous border between Afghanistan and Pakistan makes it easier for terrorist groups to cross over and carry out attacks in Pakistan. This could lead to increased insecurity and instability in the country.
2. **Influx of refugees:** The ongoing conflict and terrorism in Afghanistan will likely drive more Afghan refugees into Pakistan, further straining the country's resources and exacerbating existing social, economic, and political tensions.
3. **Drug trafficking:** Afghanistan is a major producer of opium and heroin, and the profits from drug trafficking often fund terrorist groups. The continued instability in Afghanistan will likely exacerbate drug trafficking into Pakistan, further fueling the growth of criminal networks and corruption.
4. **Economic impact:** The ongoing conflict in Afghanistan and its impact on neighboring countries, including Pakistan, will continue to disrupt trade and commerce, leading to economic losses for both countries.
5. **Political instability:** The ongoing conflict in Afghanistan and its impact on neighboring countries, including Pakistan, will likely increase political instability and undermine the effectiveness of the government.

In conclusion, it is essential for Pakistan to work closely with Afghanistan and other international partners to address the root causes of terrorism and promote stability and peace in

the region. This could include supporting the development of strong and effective government institutions, addressing poverty and inequality, and promoting education and economic development.

How Pakistan can minimize the effect of terrorism in Afghanistan in Pakistan

1. **Improve border security:** Pakistan should take steps to improve border security by increasing the number of border patrols, installing surveillance systems, and implementing stricter checks for people crossing the border.
2. **Enhance intelligence gathering:** The government should enhance its intelligence gathering and sharing capabilities to identify and neutralize potential threats before they become dangerous.
3. **Strengthen law enforcement agencies:** Law enforcement agencies should be given the necessary resources, training, and equipment to effectively deal with terrorism-related issues.
4. **Promote regional cooperation:** Pakistan should work with regional neighbors such as Afghanistan, Iran, and India to address the issue of terrorism in a collective manner.
5. **Counter radicalization:** The government should work to counter radicalization by investing in education, promoting religious tolerance, and providing opportunities for economic growth.
6. **Support peace talks in Afghanistan:** Pakistan should support peace talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban to bring an end to the conflict in Afghanistan, which often spills over into Pakistan.
7. **Limit the flow of funds:** Pakistan should take measures to limit the flow of funds to terrorist organizations, including cutting off their access to the financial system and cracking down on illegal businesses that support terrorism.
8. **Develop a counter-terrorism strategy:** The government should develop a comprehensive counter-terrorism strategy that addresses both domestic and international terrorism and integrates all relevant government agencies.
9. **Address the root causes of terrorism:** The government should address the root causes of terrorism, such as poverty, unemployment, and social inequality, by investing in education, job creation, and poverty reduction programs.
10. **Increase public awareness:** The government should raise public awareness about the dangers of terrorism and the importance of reporting any suspicious activity to the authorities.

11. Provide better facilities to IDPs: The government should provide better facilities to internally displaced persons (IDPs), many of whom have fled areas affected by terrorism, to prevent the spread of terrorism.
12. Implement effective de-radicalization programs: The government should implement effective de-radicalization programs to help individuals who have been radicalized to disengage from terrorism and return to society.
13. Strengthen judicial systems: The government should strengthen the judicial system by providing resources, training, and support to judges, prosecutors, and investigators, to ensure that terrorists are held accountable for their crimes.
14. Encourage the use of social media: The government should encourage the use of social media to promote anti-terrorism messages and to raise public awareness about the dangers of terrorism.
15. Increase military cooperation: The government should increase military cooperation with regional neighbors, including Afghanistan and India, to counter terrorism in a coordinated manner.
16. Strengthen cyber security: The government should strengthen cyber security to prevent the use of the internet and social media by terrorists to spread their ideology and plan attacks.
17. Invest in infrastructure: The government should invest in infrastructure projects, such as roads, schools, and hospitals, to improve the standard of living.
18. Strengthening border security to prevent cross-border terrorism.
19. Improving intelligence gathering and sharing between Pakistan and Afghanistan.
20. Implementing strict measures against terrorist financing, including freezing their assets and disrupting their supply chains.
21. Increasing military cooperation and joint operations against terrorist groups in both countries.
22. Addressing the root causes of terrorism, such as poverty, illiteracy, and unemployment (Khan, 2019).
23. Providing support and rehabilitation programs for former terrorists and their families.
24. Encouraging peace negotiations between the Afghan government and the Taliban.

25. Disrupting the communication networks of terrorists and their propaganda through media and social media.
26. Building strong relationships between communities and law enforcement agencies to counter radicalization and terrorism.
27. Strengthening the capacity of law enforcement agencies to deal with terrorism-related issues.
28. Developing and implementing effective counterterrorism strategies in both countries.
29. Increasing public awareness and education programs on the dangers of terrorism.
30. Investing in the development of the Afghan economy to reduce poverty and inequality.
31. Engaging with the international community to share intelligence and coordinate counterterrorism efforts.
32. Encouraging religious leaders to promote peace and tolerance and to speak out against terrorism.
33. Building relationships and partnerships between Afghanistan and its neighbors to counter terrorism.
34. Supporting the development of civil society organizations and human rights groups in Afghanistan.
35. Improving the justice system in both countries to ensure that terrorists are brought to justice.
36. Encouraging regional cooperation to prevent the spread of terrorism.
37. Improving infrastructure and transportation networks to improve connectivity and stability in both countries.
38. Promoting inter-faith dialogue and religious tolerance to counter religious extremism.
39. Strengthening the capacity of Afghan security forces to deal with terrorism.
40. Encouraging the development of democratic institutions and the rule of law in Afghanistan.
41. Implementing effective measures to counter the illicit trade in arms and drugs.



42. Improving access to education and healthcare for all communities in Afghanistan.
43. Encouraging the return of Afghan refugees to their homes in a safe and secure environment.
44. Supporting the development of women's rights and empowering women to play a greater role in society.
45. Improving the capacity of the Afghan government to provide essential services to its citizens.
46. Supporting the development of the Afghan media and encouraging freedom of expression.
47. Supporting the development of the Afghan private sector to create jobs and stimulate economic growth.
48. Encouraging the involvement of the Afghan diaspora in the development of their country.
49. Encouraging the development of civil society organizations and human rights groups in Pakistan.

References

Abbas, H. (2019). Border security and cross-border terrorism between Pakistan and Afghanistan. *Journal of Asian Security and International Affairs*, 6(1), 78-97.

Ahmed, K. (2018). Terrorism in Pakistan: Causes, Consequences and Remedies. *Journal of Political Studies*, 25(2), 133-149.

Akbar, S. (2020). Corruption and its impact on the fight against terrorism in Pakistan. *Journal of Social Science*, 33(1), 85-94.

Akhtar, S., & Khalil, A. (2021). Taliban takeover of Afghanistan: Implications for Pakistan. *Journal of Polity and Society*, 1(1), 37-49.

Ali, S., & Ahmed, S. (2021). Afghanistan's fall: implications for Pakistan's security and economy. *Journal of Political Studies*, 28(2), 143-159.

Amin, M., & Rizwan, R. (2020). Impact of terrorism on Pakistan's economy. *Journal of Political Studies*, 27(1), 1-9.



Bashir, A. (2021). The resurgence of the Taliban and its impact on the fight against terrorism in Afghanistan. *Journal of Political Science*, 44(2), 289-298.

Bashir, A. (2020). The impact of terrorism on the economy of Pakistan: An empirical study. *Journal of Economics and Political Science*, 8(3), 1-15.

Chaudhry, S. A. (2019). The impact of terrorism on the economic development of Pakistan. *International Journal of Business and Social Science*, 10(10), 169-175.

Council on Foreign Relations. (2020). Taliban.

Gambino, M. (2021, May 11). Taliban insurgency in Afghanistan could become a major threat to global security. *The Guardian*.

Global Terrorism Index (2021). Institute for Economics & Peace.

Global Terrorism Index. (2018). Institute for Economics and Peace.

Haider, Z. (2015). The impact of terrorism on the economic growth of Pakistan. *Journal of Political Studies*, 22(2), 401-408.

Haqqani, H. (2005). *Pakistan: Between Mosque and Military*. Washington D.C.: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Haqqani, H. (2019). *Pakistan: Between Mosque and Military*. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Hussain, A. (2017). Afghanistan: A failed state and its impact on regional security. *Journal of Political Studies*, 24(4), 723-732.

Hussain, I. (2020). The role of Pakistan in countering terrorism. *Journal of Political Science*, 43(3), 659-670.

Hussain, I., & Shah, S. (2021). Taliban takeover of Afghanistan and its impact on Pakistan. *Strategic Studies*, 41(1), 1-22.

Institute for the Study of War. (2021). *The Taliban Takeover of Afghanistan*.

International Crisis Group (2020). *Afghanistan: The Neglected Front in Pakistan's War on Terror*.

Retrieved from



Jaffrelot, C. (2015). *Pakistan: Nationalism without a Nation?* Zed Books.

Javid, N. (2018). Terrorism in Pakistan: An Overview. *Journal of Political Studies*, 25(1), 189-202.

Khan, M. A., & Rahman, Z. (2017). The impact of terrorism on the stability and security of Afghanistan. *Journal of Political Studies*, 25(2), 325-336.

Kugelman, M. (2021). What the Taliban takeover means for Pakistan. Wilson Center. Retrieved

Mahmood, R. (2019). Safe havens for terrorists: The case of Afghanistan and Pakistan. *Journal of International Relations*, 28(3), 345-354.

Mahmood, S., & Ghazanfar, S. (2022). Taliban takeover of Afghanistan and its impact on Pakistan's security. *Journal of Political Science and International Relations*, 16(2), 17-33.

Mukhtar, S. (2020). Terrorism in Pakistan: Causes and consequences. *Journal of Political Studies*, 27(2), 165-180.

Niazi, T. R., & Raza, A. (2021). The impact of Afghan refugees on Pakistan's economy, society, and politics. *Journal of International Affairs*, 74(1), 1-20.

Rashid, A. (2000). *Taliban: Militant Islam, Oil and Fundamentalism in Central Asia*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

Rashid, A. (2018). *Descent into chaos: The United States and the failure of nation building in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Central Asia*. Penguin.

Rashid, H. (2018). The impact of terrorism in Pakistan. *Journal of Political Studies*, 25(2), 331-341.

Rasul, A., & Akbar, S. (2019). Terrorism and its impact on security and stability in Pakistan. *Journal of Peace and Security Studies*, 5(2), 1-15.

Roy, O. (2019). *Afghanistan: From Holy War to Civil War*. Princeton University Press.

Shah, S. A. A. (2018). Pakistan's Relations with the United States and China in the Post-9/11 Era. *Journal of Politics and International Studies*, 4(2), 1-16.

Shahzad, A. (2021, May 23). Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan: What it means for Pakistan.



Tariq, M. (2021). Pakistan's dilemmas in the aftermath of the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan. *South Asian Studies*, 36(1), 113-131.

United Nations. (2021). Afghanistan.

United Nations (2021). The Taliban takeover of Afghanistan: Implications for terrorism and stability.

[Online]. Available at: <https://www.un.org/terrorism-and-stability/> (Accessed: 02 June 2021).

United Nations. (2021, June 15). Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security.

United Nations. (2021). Afghanistan: Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict: Midyear Report 2021.

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (2017). Afghanistan humanitarian response plan 2018. New York: United Nations.

World Bank (2017). Afghanistan: Path to Self-Reliance.

DEVOLUTION OF POWER IN POLITICAL SYSTEM OF PAKISTAN AND IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

Author

Munir Ahmad Khan Gasura

Phd Scholar (Muslim Youth University Islamabad)

ABSTRACT

This paper focuses on the fact that Local Government system through devolution of powers is the real solution for the socio-political and economic catastrophe of Pakistan. The ongoing efforts for transferring of power and authority from federal / provincial levels to local governments under 18th amendment are not up to the mark. Devolution is a vital step to strengthen the democratic process and making governance structures more responsive to the needs of the people. In addition to review the history of Pakistan's devolution efforts and recent legislative changes, the paper draws attention to assess the needs of local government and the future of the devolution process. Through comparative GAP analysis we have made an endeavor to throw light on the Local Government's attributes. We have also highlighted the challenges and given the recommendations to improve the Local Government system in Pakistan.

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Devolution or decentralization, the statutory delegation of powers from the central government to regional and local governments, aims to make governance structures more efficient and responsive to local needs and socio-economic uplift. Devolution of authority to local tiers of government is particularly vital in heterogeneous countries like Pakistan, where large segments of the population remain marginalized by centralist and patronage based governance mechanisms. Decentralization of power and responsibilities is considered fundamental in achieving true democracy at the grassroots level by policy analysts, researchers

and international financial institutions. Democratic devolution is defined as a strategy that brings service delivery closer to consumers, improves the responsiveness of the federal government to public demands, improves the efficiency and quality of public services and empowers lower units to become more involved. Most importantly, it significantly adds to a democratic culture at the local level. Effective evolution needs to be accompanied by administrative and fiscal decentralization. The recent wave of decentralization in most developing countries preferred a devolutionary form of decentralization.

Local government is a form of public administration that forms the third tier of government system at the grassroots level. Local government is taken as the administration at the lowest level; it is the best place to address local issues, problems and concerns. Only representatives at the local level can be well aware of the local context, culture and local issues and can formulate effective strategies for the welfare and development of the people. Democratic decentralization is defined as a strategy that brings customer service delivery closer, improves the central government's response to public demands, improves the efficiency and quality of public services, and allows lower units to get more involved'.

Pakistan's experience with devolving power under both its military regimes and democratic governments remains lackluster. Since coming into power in 2008, democratically elected governments agreed to devolve power from the center to the provincial level but have not given the desired attention to this important aspect. Despite impediments and threats to the autonomous functioning of local governments, support for devolution is of critical significance to the deepening of democratic structures and institutions along with the cultivation of potential democratic leaders. Until the introduction of the 18th amendment, the system did not focus on Local Governments as a separate tier of the Government with independent authority, power and responsibilities. However, it is constitutionally binding that Local Government elections be carried out and local bodies be formed to run the civic affairs of the country. Studies on the subject reveal that the failure of decentralizing occurs due to inadequate local government framework, ineffective implementation or capture of local government by interest groups or a

combination of these factors. This results in the inadequate delivery of services at the local level and failure to strengthen grassroots democracy.

1.2 Problem Statement

Political system at grassroots level is very important for the growth and maturity of any democracy. In Pakistan this important level of governance has always been a neglected aspect. Contrary, a strong local government provides necessary civic services to the people, which is again almost a non-existent feature in most parts of the country. Therefore, an in-depth study is being carried out to evaluate the progress of devolution of power in Pakistan under different regimes, its progress and the implementation challenges confronted.

1.3 Objectives

- i. To study the history of devolution of power in Pakistan under different governments.
- ii. To determine the implementation challenges confronted by the political system of Pakistan in adopting the 3rd tier of government in true letter and spirit.

1.4 Research Questions

- i. How devolution of power progressed under different regimes in Pakistan?
- ii. What are the challenges faced by the political system of Pakistan in implementing the 3rd tier of government in true letter and spirit.

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. **Importance of Decentralization or Devolution:** Decentralization or devolution of power / authority from central to local governments is vital to ensure “good governance”. Proponents of devolution aim to facilitate greater accountability from elected officials and to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of government services by bringing governance mechanisms closer to the citizens (Ali Cheema, Asim Ijaz Khwaja & Adnan Qadir, 2018). Moreover, empowered and well-functioning

local governments can serve a number of broader political economy goals enhancing equity and social equality by restructuring the state to prevent elite led capture and allowing marginalized and otherwise disgruntled segments of society a greater say in governance. Populous and heterogeneous developing countries like ours, need several layers of local governments both for improving the effectiveness of social service delivery and for alleviating the underlying causes of regional, ethnic, and socio-economic issues.

2.2. History of Delegation of Power in Pakistan

i. Pre-Independence Era

- a. The history of local government in this area goes back to the middle of the second millennium BC. When the Aryans first introduced the system of local government in the Indian subcontinent. The local government system in India was very extensive compared to other parts of the world. Afterwards, a comprehensive local government system was being practiced in the Subcontinent under the Mughal Empire.
- b. The British administration formed municipalities in 19th century, although they were never substantively empowered, had extremely circumscribed functions and were dominated by appointed officials. It was the deputy commissioner (DC), a district level representative of the central bureaucracy, who acted as the principle organ at the local level during the colonial era. However, the rise of the nationalist movement during the early 20th century led to increased demands for greater political space at the national and provincial levels, little consideration was paid to the need for enhancing political ownership of government at this level (Nadeem Malik & Ahsan Rana, 2019).

ii. Post-Independence Era

- a. **General Ayub's Government:** After independence, the first serious focus on local governments was given under the martial law of 1958, which emphasized the need for representative politics at the local level while disbanding central and

provincial level assemblies. The Basic Democracy Ordinance 1959 established new local governments. The Basic Democracy Ordinance of 1959 established new local governments. General Ayub Khan dissolved the parliament of his elected government in 1959 and restored the local government as the only representative level of government. His aim was to manage the center and develop loyal leadership at the local level. General Ayub later he introduced the Local Government Ordinance of 1960. It included a rating system with four interconnected levels. The lowest levels were union councils contained selected members. The members of the Union Council elected the Chairman Among themselves; some senior members of the local government were indirectly elected by these directly elected members and some government members nominated by the government. Overall, following the colonial legacy, local governments came under the control of the bureaucracy. At the district and divisional level, the Deputy Commissioners and Chief Commissioners (Bureaucrats), respectively, had the power to revoke any action or decision taken by the local councils.

- b. **Regime of General Zia Ul Haq:** Another military led government under General Zia Ul Haq revived the local government system from 1977 to 1988. Like General Ayub, General Zia undertook political centralization at the federal and provincial levels while instituting electoral representation at the local tier. In fact, local governments continued to lack constitutional protections, and their creation / maintenance remained at the whim of provinces, which retained suspension powers (Nadeem Malik & Ahsan Rana, 2019).
- c. **Democratic Governments 1988-99:** During the democratic period from 1988 to 1999, four democratically elected governments came to power, but none focused on the local government system. They preferred to rely on provincial elites using their local patronage system to keep them in power.

- d. **General Musharraf's Rule:** The next time Pakistan experimented with devolution was under General Pervez Musharraf. His decentralization was also a strategy to legitimize centralized power, as he did not transfer power from the federal level to the provinces and instead focused on the creation of local governments across the country. Yet the Local Government Ordinance (LGO) 2001 passed early in his tenure was quite ambitious in scope. LGO-2001 not only grants constitutional rights to local government, it also allocates a significant proportion of seats in local government to women (33%) and, to a lesser extent, to minorities, religious and other marginalized communities (such as farmers and workers). It also generated avenues for the direct involvement of citizens in the process of social service delivery through the formation of citizen community boards, which worked with local governments to execute community development projects. In order to give strength to the system, huge resources were allocated for building the capacity of local bodies officials and elected representatives, to finance participatory projects in LGO-2001. However, political parties continued to view those developments with suspicion.
- e. **Democratic Era:** Local government elections were due to be held again in 2009, but following the 2008 general election the mainstream political parties agreed to postpone the elections till the local government system would be amended. The local governments were then disbanded in July 2009 by the government led by the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), and the bureaucracy stepped in to run things until the local governments can be re-established (Nadeem Malik & Ahsan Rana, 2019).

2.3 Devolution Process under 18th Amendment

- a. Pakistan was created by joining different territories and some autonomous states. The main aim of the emergence of Islamic Republic of Pakistan was to keep the federation strong. However, since then social in-justice has been prevailing as the

federation could not pay due attention towards socio-economic development. Moreover, a demand was being evolved to gain provincial autonomy by the stakeholders specifically Sindh and Balochistan. At last under the government of Pakistan Peoples Party, 18th Amendment was approved with the consensus of all main stream democratic political parties in 2010. Basically, this process was about to restructure the main governance system of the country and to enhance the supremacy of Parliament. In this amendment 102 articles were modified and 47 provincial subjects were devolved from federal to provincial level.

- b. Undoubtedly, there is a huge impact of 18th amendment towards the political stability in the country. The main example of Balochistan is so obvious, that so many politicians from Balochistan are in the main stream politics. The basic purpose of introducing the 18th amendment was the equal distribution of all resources among the provinces on the basis of their population (Prof. Dr. Razia Musarrat, Ghulam Ali & Muhammad Salman Azhar, 2012).
- c. This significant amendment has strengthened the Parliamentary form of government and the restored the actual face of the democracy. While, the main Presidential powers have been devolved to Prime Minister even the powers of dissolving the assembly were given to the Parliament. After the election, if the President do not summon the session, the National Assembly will as a rule conduct its first session within 21 days. However, the role of holding the referendum has also been granted to the parliament and a joint session will precede it. The President works as a head of the state and will be informed with matters regarding external and internal as well as legislative matters. After the expiry of the tenure of existing assembly the election will be held within 90 days.
- d. The procedure of the appointment of judges remained quite complex since the creation of Pakistan, however, after the 18th amendment a free and fair judicial commission has to be constituted for the nomination of judges. A very positive

development is a joint committee with the representation from both government and opposition leaders, authorized for the appointment of judges.

- e. Another old problem regarding identification of different ethnicities across the Pakistan was addressed in this amendment. More importantly, the demand of people from Pashtun areas regarding their identity by changing the name of province from North Western Frontier Province (NWFP) to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), so an amendment brought to change in article 1 and it was also approved by the Parliament. Another demand from the south region of Punjab was to create a Saraiki province to address the cultural identity problem as well as the equal distribution of resources (Razia Sultana, 2021). In this regard, a parliamentary commission was established having all the stakeholders from that region. The purpose was to create a consensus among all the political parties, but unfortunately this issue has been used as a political card and every political party is doing blame game and point scoring instead of addressing the core issue.

2.4 Aftermath of 18th Amendment: It has been 12 years that most of the federal subjects have been devolved to the provinces and they are responsible for the making policies regarding health, agriculture, education and tax & excise etc. As per the basic theme of 18th amendment, after the decentralization of federal powers towards provinces, there is an obligation of the provinces to devolve relevant powers to the local governments in order to put into practice the real essence of 18th amendment as well as decentralization of NFC award. However, this important aspect is still lacking (Sajida Begum, Muhammad Imran Ashraf & Waseem Ishaque, 2018).

2.5 Devolution under Democratic Governments: The 18th amendment devolved significant power from the federal to the provinces and was lauded as a necessary step to overcome Pakistan's authoritarian legacy of excessively centralized governance. The amendment also required the creation of local governments by the provinces to bring government closer to the people (although it did not specify the framework / time-frame for execution). The lack of a

constitutionally mandated time-frame delayed local government elections. Balochistan passed its Local Government Act in less than a month after parliament passed the 18th Amendment Act, but the remaining provinces took another three years to do so. Lack of political will among ruling political leaders in the other three provinces delayed local elections for even longer, until they were ordered by the Supreme Court. KP held local elections in May 2015, while Punjab and Sindh held their elections in late 2015. However, even after these elections, the provinces did little to facilitate the process of making the local governments truly functional. By early 2016, owing to long delays in the transfer of power and funds to local governments, the Supreme Court again ordered the provinces to speed up the transfer of authority to the local governments (Syed Mohammad Ali, 2018).

2.6 Present Situation: If we observe the efforts of previous government with regards to devolution, the half-hearted intent can be seen. Most of the local government representatives did not even have offices to work from. Local government system remains ignored by yet another elected government. After taking over the government by coalition alliance no major effort has been made in this regard. However, local bodies’ elections are being conducted in different areas in phases.

2.7 Existing Local Government System of Pakistan: Pakistan is a federal republic with three levels of government: federal, provincial and local bodies. Local government is protected by the constitution in Articles-32 and 140A. Presently, the local government systems in each province have variance. Both (urban and rural) local governments have two or three tiers in all provinces less Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), where councils are not identified as either urban or rural. Province wise detail is given as under:-

Province/ Region	Metro- politan Corpo- rations	District Municipal Corpora- tions/ Municipal Corpora- tions	Municipal Committ- ees	Town Committ- ees	District Councils	Tehsil/ Town Councils/ Union Committees	Union Councils	Village/ Neighbo- urhood Councils
---------------------	--	---	------------------------------	-------------------------	----------------------	---	-------------------	--

Pakistan Review of Social Sciences (PRSS)
Vol. 4, No. 1, 2023

Punjab	1	11	182	-	35	-	4015	-
Sindh	1	9	36	148	24	351	1175	-
KP	-	-	-	-	25	70	-	3339
Balochistan	1	4	57	-	32	-	635	-
ICT	1	-	-	-	-	-	50	-
Total	4	24	275	148	116	421	5875	3339

2.7.1 **Punjab:** Local government tiers and number of representatives are given as under:

- i. Metropolitan Corporation - 1
- ii. Municipal Corporation - 11
- iii. Municipal Committees - 182
- iv. District Councils - 35
- v. Union Councils - 4015

Province/ Region	Metropolitan Corporations	Municipal Corporations	Municipal Committees	District Councils	Union Councils	Total
Chairman / Vice Chairman	274	460	-	3281	-	
General	1644	2760	3587	19686	-	
Women	548	920	657	6562	6562	
Peasants & Workers	274	460	215	3281	3281	
Youth	274	460	182	3281	3281	
Non-Muslims	274	460	222	3281	3281	
Total	3288	5520	4863	39372	16405	69448

2.7.2 **Sindh:** Local government tiers and number of representatives are given as under:

i.	Metropolitan Corporation	-	1
ii.	District Municipal Corporation	-	9
iii.	Municipal Committees	-	36
iv.	Town Committees	-	148
v.	District Councils	-	24
vi.	Union Committees	-	351
vii.	Union Councils	-	1175

Province/ Region	Metropolitan Corporations	District / Municipal Corporations	Municipal Committees	Town Committees	District Councils	Union Committees	Union Councils	Total
Chairman / Vice Chairman	02	18	72	296	48	702	2350	
General	209	351	602	984	1175	1404	4700	
Women	69	116	201	332	389	702	2350	
Peasants/ Workers	10	19	40	148	58	351	1175	
Youth	10	19	40	148	58	351	1175	
Non- Muslims	10	19	40	148	58	351	1175	
Total	310	542	998	2056	1766	3861	12925	22478

2.7.3 Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP): Local government tiers and number of representatives are given as under:

i.	City District Councils / District Councils	-	25
ii.	Tehsil / Town Councils	-	70
iii.	Village / Neighbourhood Councils	-	3339

Province/ Region	District Councils	Tehsil / Town Council	Neighbourhood Councils	Union Councils	Total
------------------	----------------------	--------------------------	---------------------------	-------------------	-------

Pakistan Review of Social Sciences (PRSS)
Vol. 4, No. 1, 2023

General	1017	1017	3891	20118	
Women	343	349	1008	5994	
Peasants & Workers	62	89	504	2997	
Youth	62	89	504	2997	
Non-Muslims	62	89	504	2997	
Total	1546	1633	6411	35103	44693

2.7.4 **Balochistan:** Local government tiers and number of representatives are given as under:

- i. Metropolitan Corporation - 1
- ii. Municipal Corporation - 4
- iii. Municipal Committees - 57
- iv. District Councils - 32
- v. Union Councils - 635

Province/ Region	Metropolitan Corporations	Municipal Corporations	Municipal Committees	District Councils	Union Councils	Total
Chairman / Vice Chairman	02	08	106	64	1270	
General	58	167	820	636	5489	
Women	19	55	272	212	1774	
Peasants & Workers	03	08	57	40	635	
Youth	03	08	57	40	635	
Non-Muslims	03	08	57	40	635	
Total	88	254	1369	1031	10438	13180

2.7.5 **Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT):** Local government tiers and number of representatives are given as under:

- i. Metropolitan Corporation - 1
- ii. Union Councils - 50

Province/ Region	Metropolitan Corporation	Union Councils	Total
Mayor / Dy Mayor	4	-	
Chairman / Vice Chairman	-	100	
General	50	300	
Women	17	100	
Peasants & Workers	03	50	
Youth	03	50	
Non-Muslims	03	50	
Technocrat	01	-	
Total	81	650	731

ANALYSIS

3.1 Challenges for Local Government System

Despite many imperatives for devolving power to well functioning local governance structures, the ability of the current devolutionary setup (in the backdrop of 18th amendment) to function effectively continues to face several challenges, particularly in the areas of capacity and revenue generation, and effective social service delivery.

- i. **Institutional Incapacity within the Provinces:** Whenever any country is going to decentralize its governance system, there is dire need to build institutional capacity to govern. After 18th amendment, many ministries transferred from central to provincial level without any prior ground work. Same is the case with devolution of powers from provincial to local tier.

- ii. **Devolution without Solution:** This is another serious challenge hindering the decentralization process. Therefore, the situation is still vague even after completion of 12 years of commencement of this devolutionary process.
- iii. **Revenue Generation Issues:** Effective local governments cannot exist without substantive fiscal and administrative devolution. They also need capacity development to enhance their responsiveness and effectiveness. The issues of capacity and revenue generation are interlinked, the increased capacity of local governments can enable them to raise more of their own resources; the greater availability of their own resources in turn increases their capacity to more effectively address the needs of their constituencies. However, there are limited means available for local governments to generate resources, as well as limited capacity to effectively utilize the resources available to them.
- iv. **Service Delivery:** There is an immense unmet need for more effective delivery of social services across the country, with vast segments of the population lacking adequate health and education services and basic infrastructure for clean water and sanitation. Local representatives have the potential to be more responsive, accessible, and accountable for improved social services to the citizenry than upper tiered politicians based in provincial and federal assemblies. The varied tiers of the local government system can also help make the distribution of social services more equitable as well and, in turn, ease the problems of resource grab and asymmetrical development.
- v. **Mechanisms to Ensure Accountability:** There has to be a comprehensive accountability mechanism to monitor the devolving fiscal powers to local governments.
- vi. **The Issue of Representation:** Most democratic systems struggle with balancing the influence of majority and the preservation of minority interests to prevent their marginalization. While Pakistan has small religious minorities, many other marginalized groups in the country in fact comprise a significant proportion of the population. The

local government system must accommodate these marginalized segments of society through quota based appointments.

- vii. **Devolution and National Integrity:** After the implementation of 18th amendment, it has been observed that rather competing each other in a positive manner, provinces give excuses, like, the lack of resources, financial insecurity, balance of power and authoritative control and so on. But, having a state with different cultural and regional dynamics it is necessary that there should be a national integrity for a prosperous and autonomous state. This can be achieved once the lowest tiers work as per their mandate.
- viii. **Training Standards of Local Officials:** The local government procedures are multifarious and complicated. Mostly the political representatives at this level lack requisite familiarization with rule / regulations and education about their job.
- ix. **Involvement in the Projects:** There is no proper involvement of local government representatives in development projects. Therefore, they remain secluded and non-productive.
- x. **Direct Participation of Citizens:** There is no direct formal involvement / participation of the population in routine matters at local level, which can be a very productive forum.

3.2 Gap Analysis

Devolution of power in the political system is the true spirit of democracy, however, all the provincial governments remained hesitant to let their own power devolve further to lower tiers. Politicians at the higher tiers of government seem to prefer relying on their existing top-down, patronage-based networks to dealing with another tier of intermediaries at the municipal level. They also feel threatened by the empowerment of another tier of governance, which could, in turn, lead to the emergence of new political leadership, may threaten the structures and legacies of existing political parties. Even though local governments are formed on a party basis,

politicians at the national and provincial levels still feel compelled to dominate local elected representatives.

Like the mainstream political parties, the federal and provincial bureaucracies have also been reluctant to embrace the idea of devolving power to local government representatives. It has been observed that voters also value members of the national (MNAs) and provincial assemblies (MPAs) more than their local government representatives, mostly because the MNAs and MPAs are vying to provide resources and services that lower tiers of government cannot.

The reasons of failure to decentralize the authority include inadequate local government framework, ineffective implementation or capture of local government by interest groups or a combination of these factors. The gaps analyze is given as follow:

- i. Institutional incapacity and lack of effective coordination between the federal government and provinces.
- ii. The matter is highly politicized and lack of will by democratic governments to devolve power to this tier.
- iii. Rift between provincial and local officials having different political affiliations.
- iv. Deficiency of resources with local governments.
- v. Lack of involvement of citizens in local government system..
- vi. Conflict between bureaucracy and elected politicians.
- vii. Requirement of training of the local representation.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Conclusion

The concept of decentralization or devolution is very renowned in the progressive countries. They have believed that unless there is no decentralization, it is completely impossible to develop the socio-economic standards of the country. Devolution or decentralization is a vital step for strengthening the democratic process and making governance structures more responsive

to the needs of the people. In comparison to federal and provincial governments, local government is more accessible, more sympathetic, and quicker to respond to local needs. As a result, services are underserved at the local level and grassroots democracy is not strengthened.

4.2 Recommendations

Pakistan's local governments are due to face another election cycle, and general elections are also around the corner. As the 2023 general elections draw nearer, many independent observers feel that a centralizing dynamic is reasserting itself, with mainstream party machines shifting their focus on winning seats in the national and provincial assemblies. The antagonism that exists between rival parties, coupled with the fact that provincial governments yield significant power over local governments, means that local governments will again experience a squeeze of funds and further encroachment on their authority.

Still, the fact that the 18th amendment to the constitution explicitly recognizes the need for Pakistan to have local governments, together with the active interest the Supreme Court took in ensuring that local government elections take place, is an encouraging precedent. Some of the recommendations in this regard are given as under:

4.2.1 Federal Level Institution to Oversee the Devolution Process: Devolution will only take root in all provinces with standardization if there is a central coordination mechanism. So that all local governments devolve power to similar administrative levels and that local governments are appointed for similar tenures. The National Reconstruction Bureau, established by the Musharraf government as an independent federal agency to formulate LGO-2001 and oversee its implementation, was dissolved in 2011. It must be made without prejudice to the principles of provincial autonomy as set forth in the 18th Amendment to the Constitution.

4.2.2 Provision of Financial Resources Required to Serve the Constituents: Local governments currently have immense unmet financial needs. Local governments also need the authority to generate their own sources of revenue.

4.2.3 Mechanisms to Ensure Accountability: The process of devolving fiscal responsibility to local governments needs to be managed with caution. Financial devolution must be accompanied by financial oversight. It is thus important to supplement existing accountability mechanisms, using third-party and citizen audits of local governments.

4.2.4 Meaningful Role of Local Governments in the Projects: Local governments in large cities do not recognize the need for a separate authority to manage the transport system and other local government functions, but the creation of organizations such as the Punjab Mass Transit Authority (PMTA) has allowed local governments to integrate with provincial level programs. The involvement of local governments in state-led programs is a more noteworthy and promising idea. But in any case, local governments need to ensure that they have real financial and decision-making power in these partnerships, not just token stakes.

4.2.5 Need for Better Trained Local Officials: The enormous capacity limitations of existing local governments must also be addressed, not just to improve the performance of municipal governments but because these tiers of government serve as incubators for future provincial and national leaders. While donor agencies are working in some provinces to build capacity, there is need for creating sustainable institutional mechanisms for capacity building across all the provinces.

4.2.6 Citizen Engagement at the Grassroots Level: Provincial local government acts need to create platforms for enabling community engagement with local governments, such as the Citizen Community Boards formed under the LGO 2001. These entities would also need continuous support and technical assistance, which could be provided through civil society organizations, with local support.

4.2.7 Social Audits can play the crucial role towards the success of local government system. These audits are done by comparing Government data with actual ground realities. Local governments with their limited scope turns out to be a positive element as, the population of that area can volunteer to report the ground realities.

4.2.8 **Balance of power and authority** among various administrative actors is essentially required i.e. elected member, civil bureaucracy working at the level of local government.

4.2.9 **Reserved Seats to be Occupied by the Marginalized Groups:** Provincial officials need to amend local government acts as necessary to allow candidates indirectly elected for reserved seats to be able to act on behalf of their constituencies rather than remaining dependent on patronage or bound to the agendas of the politicians who nominated them.

REFERENCES

Ali, S. M. (2018). Devolution of Power in Pakistan. United States Institute of Peace.

Begum, S., Ashraf, M. I., & Ishaque, W. (2018). National Plan for Devolution of Power under 18th Amendment: Challenges for Government in the New Pakistan. *Global Social Sciences Review*, 3(1), 71-80.

Cheema, A., Khwaja, A. I., & Qadir, A. (2018). Local Government Reforms in Pakistan: Context, Content and Causes.

Malik, N., & Rana, A. (2019). The History of Local Governance in Pakistan: What Lessons to Learn? *Journal of International Politics*, 1.

Musarrat, R., Ali, G., & Azhar, M. S. (2012). 18th Amendment and its Impacts on Pakistan's Politics. *Journal of Sociological Research*, 3(2), 54-63.

Sultana, R. (2021). The Eighteenth Amendment and its Impact on Functionality of Provinces. *FWU Journal of Social Sciences*, 15(1), 147-162.

Media Literacy in Youth: Media usage in youth on Secondary School Level

Authors

Javeria Tahir

Erham Ahmed

Abstract

Media literacy, the ability to access, analyze and use media, is of increasing importance in the digital age, particularly for young people who are actively engaging with media to access and disseminate information and represent themselves in online communities. The youth of today have become "prosumers" of media content, meaning they are not just passive consumers but also produce content themselves. Consequently, it is essential to examine the media practices of young people. This study investigates the media practices of secondary school students by conducting a survey. The results, analyzed using SPSS, reveal that students are well-informed about current media platforms and are increasingly engaged in creating content. This shift from consumption to production suggests that young people are becoming more media literate and developing important skills that will enable them to participate more effectively in the digital world. The findings of this study can help educators and policymakers in developing strategies to enhance media literacy among young people and promote responsible media use.

Keywords: Media literacy, digital world, prosumers, youth media usage, responsible media

Introduction and Literature Review

The skill to gain access, assess, and generate messages on any sort of media is called media literacy. Media literacy in youth and its relation to political and civic education is analyzed through a longitudinal survey of schools and colleges during 2006-2010. Researcher found that students who have access to online digital platforms actively participate in political discussions and campaigns. Media literacy in youth helps them to represent themselves by creating content like documentaries (Kahne et al., 2012). Media literacy has developed skills in youth to interpret the media message in the context of historical and cultural knowledge. There is a significant difference between media literacy in the use of Print or television media and the use of internet-run media. Media literacy has also increased the critique on policy-making (Livingston, 2004). Jones-Jang, Mortenson, & Liu, (2019) contrast media literacy from news or information literacy. The first one is the skill to understand and work with media and media messages. However, the latter one is to identify, evaluate and locate accurate information. Information literacy is the identifier skill of fake news from authentic ones. Social media literacy is not to be confused with participation in social media platforms. It is a broader and technical term that needs to be evaluated technically. Social media literacy is a skill that encompasses all fields of social sciences. Online survey revealed that fields of medicine and marketing are two unrelated fields, the media literacy practices in both are also different. These practices are to be converged to get a basic practice around social media literacy in youth (Manca & Gleason, 2021). A media literacy campaign on TikTok was created and analyzed on the themes of Fact-checking and opinion-making, news credibility, and biasness. The users did not agree to the use of TikTok as a medium of a campaign because of the language and style of the videos. The medium also defines the tale of youth on media

literacy. Political or social information was all criticized for being given through TikTok. Users did not accept the medium for intaking information (Literat et al., 2021).

Research on rural media literacy focus on the representation of rural youth and their issues through media like documentaries (Pyles, 2016). A study conducted on youth to recognize the link amongst social media and political understanding suggested that increased social media literacy generates less political skepticism. However, the type of content viewed can reverse the results (Fawzi et al., 2021). The media literacy approach helps children in making healthier food consumption decisions. Austin, et al., (2020) suggests that media literacy-based learning with the intervention of the subject's family develops a better understanding of obesity and healthier food choices. The influence of media literacy on political and civil efficiency was measured through survey questionnaire in educational intercessions in schools. The results indicated that media literacy programs as a part of educational programs enhance public awareness and participation among youth. The students which take part in news production activities showed a more positive response towards media literacy as compared to others (Geers et al., 2020).

As information and technology spreads with rapid pace all over the world, digitally advanced media have influenced our living. Advanced media technology has changed the way information is produced and disseminated (Gialamas, 2013). Viewing media can be influential and relatively provide guidance. These mediums can be digital technology, television, films and other mediums as well that assist youngsters to understand the world. Hobbs (1998) is of the view that youth can make better sense of these mediums when they got to use them to expand their concepts and develop advanced intellectual skills. To critically analyze the mediums knowledgeable thinking is required (Boske, 2011). Media literacy of digital media is taken a proficient factor for perceiving media texts (Ferrari, 2013). The importance of mediums, including traditional and new media in the lives of youngsters raised the issue of their message perceiving and actions caused by it and whether there is any guidance to direct their literacy practices (Gainer, 2010).

During the present time, media literacy has been frequently imagined by means of an objectively concerned cycle, by which youngsters and grown-ups are educated and prepared to advance their insight, social mindfulness and abilities identifying with media and its values and ethics. However, in the financial and legislative setting, the concentration can change according to the viewpoints on government, culture to development and advancement. With time media literacy has progressively derive to be utilized regarding strategy goals, systems and scholarly review (Carlsson, 2019).

According to Vygotsky (1978), education should have aim of development. This exists among the levels of definite evolving and possible progress and that require supervision. For efficiently lout digital media platforms, empathizing an extent of media literacy of students about digital media is thought to be a primary requirement (Arke & Primack, 2009). A previous research also explored new media literacy of students in Chinese secondary schools. According to the research their capabilities were satisfactory (Li, 2010). The significance of educating them about media literacy is broadly explored in scientific literature from many outlooks as it have several implementations in diverse settings (Schmidt, 2013). The job of media literacy development is highlighted particularly with regards to the education of youngsters. Regardless of the fact that youngsters utilizes new technologies and various communication forms easily, the youth certainly not have the capabilities for entirely examining and assessing the content on media. Media literacy assists youth for grasping media texts accurately, to basically analyze the structures of media and subsequently to get advantage from media shrewdly (Suminas & Jastramskis, 2020).

Media literacy information is of paramount importance. While few scholars oppose that media literacy authorize people to have information access (Fedorov, 2003). Media literacy education is critical for media students as they will be in-charge for media content. Katherine (2018) contends for the important consideration of advanced media literacy into educational program identified with TV and radio with regards to a outlook change in the current media scene. Accordingly, media literacy abilities remain fundamental as far as instructing individuals to turn out to be more basically mindful of the media so they can shield them from inappropriate communication, have a well comprehension of the media and knowledge improved their satisfaction (Potter, 2008).

Research Question

What are the practices related to Media Literacy for youth at secondary education level?

Methodology

The study was quantitative in nature and survey method was adopted to collect the data. For this research study secondary school students will be selected for present research. The present study follow descriptive quantitative method, in which the subjects are measured once and the only intention of research is to find out the practices related to Media Information Literacy for youth at higher Secondary Education. Probability purposive sampling will be used to collect data through survey method. The results then calculated by using SPSS to analyze the responses of research survey.

Population of research were the secondary school students of Rawalpindi. The sample for collecting data will be the students of 10th class from The Educators School, senior branch Rawalpindi. The present research conduct surveys from 15-20 students to know their media information literacy related to social media platform Instagram.

Questionnaire

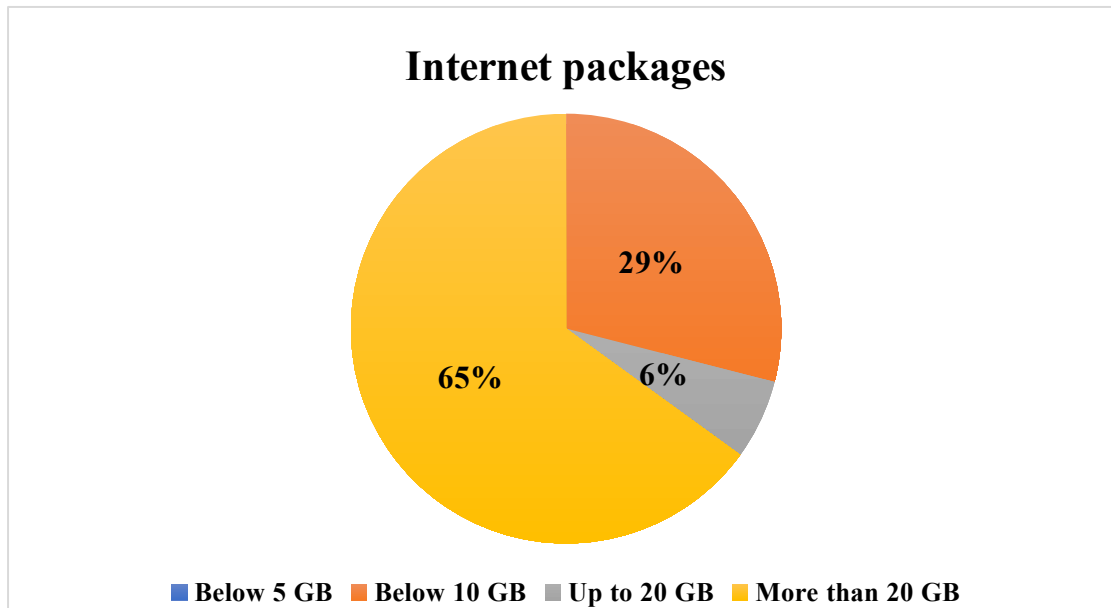
The questionnaire consisted of 6 items including closed-ended questions. Questionnaire was divided into two parts. In first part, 2 questions were used as screening questions about the device used by the respondents to access media and their internet usage. Second part of the questionnaire comprised of 4 questions related to their time consumption, apps and content.

Results and analysis

For present research a total of 20 questionnaires were distributed among the students of 10th class of The Educators senior branch Rawalpindi. 17 responses of research survey were received. The response rate of research survey was 85 percent.

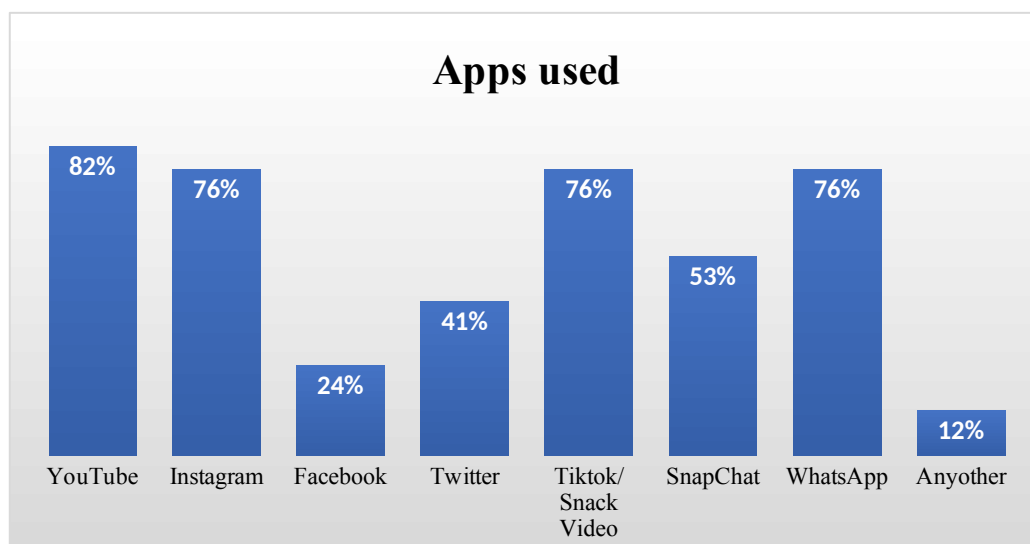
The respondents ranged in age from 14-15 years. As per the type of medium used is concerned, 17 respondents claimed to be using smart phones while only 2 respondents were using computer and no one accessed newspaper or magazines. Only 2 of the respondents accessing media through more than one device i.e. smart phones and TV.

Figure 1: Medium Used



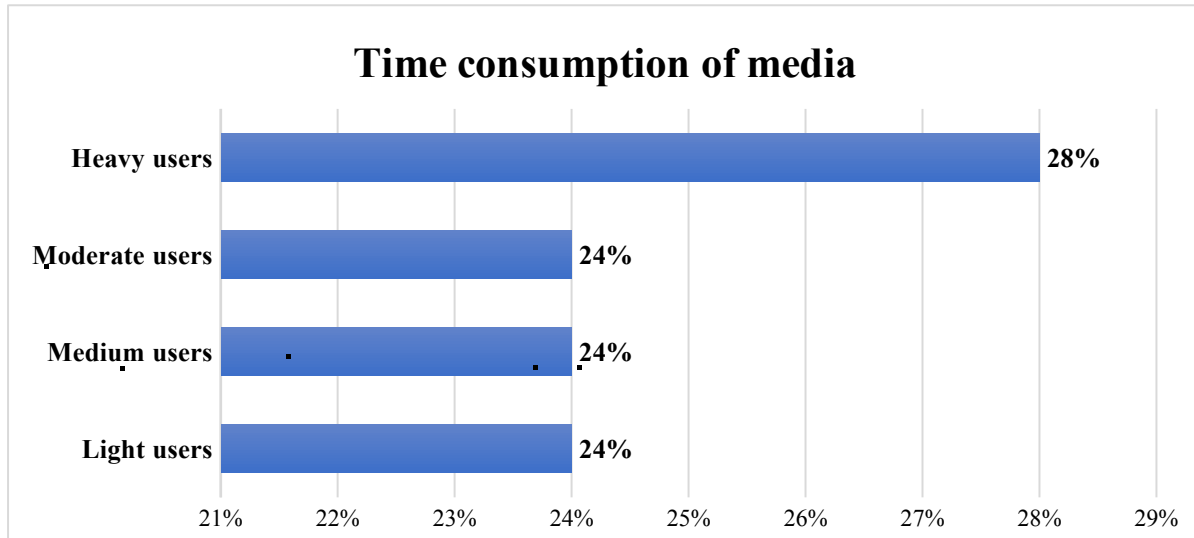
For the extent of their internet usage, the respondents were asked about their internet packages they generally use. 5 respondents claimed that they use internet up to 10 GB, only 1 of the respondents said that he used internet up to 20 GB while the internet usage of 11 respondents was more than 20 GB.

Figure 2: Internet Packages



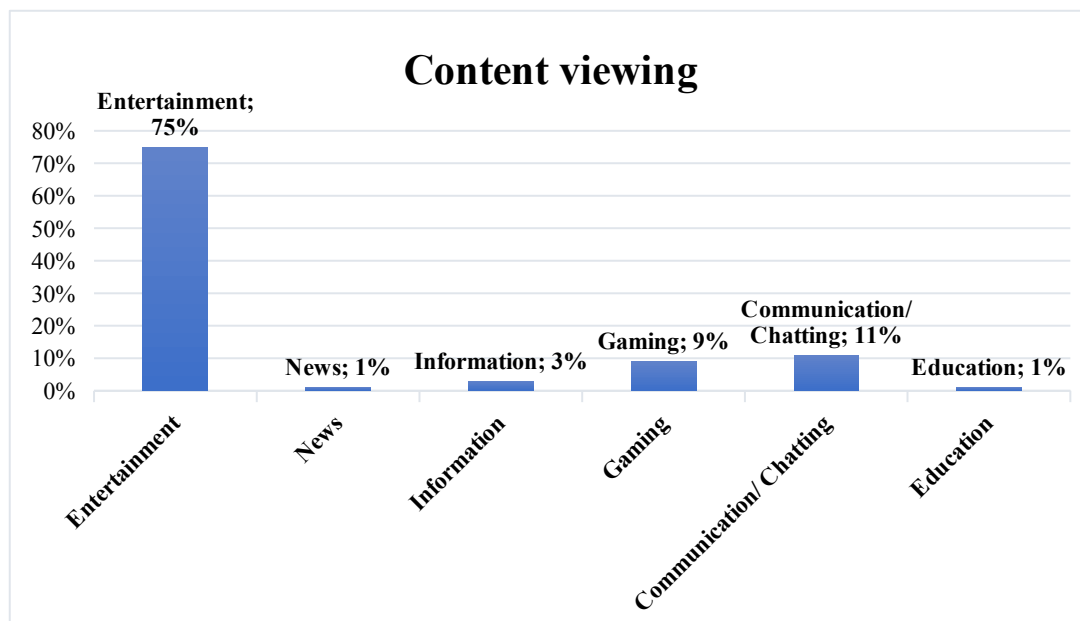
Now a days social media applications are quite popular among youth like, Youtube, Facebook, Twitter, Tiktok, Snack Video, Snap chat and WhatsApp etc According to the conducted survey, 71 percent of respondents use more than 3 social media apps while the remaining 29 percent of the respondents use up to 3 apps in general routine. Youtube is the most used application by the respondents while instagram, Tiktok and WhatsApp is the second highly used app by the respondents. On the other hand Snapchat was much more used app than Twitter, Facebook or any other app.

Figure 3: Apps Used

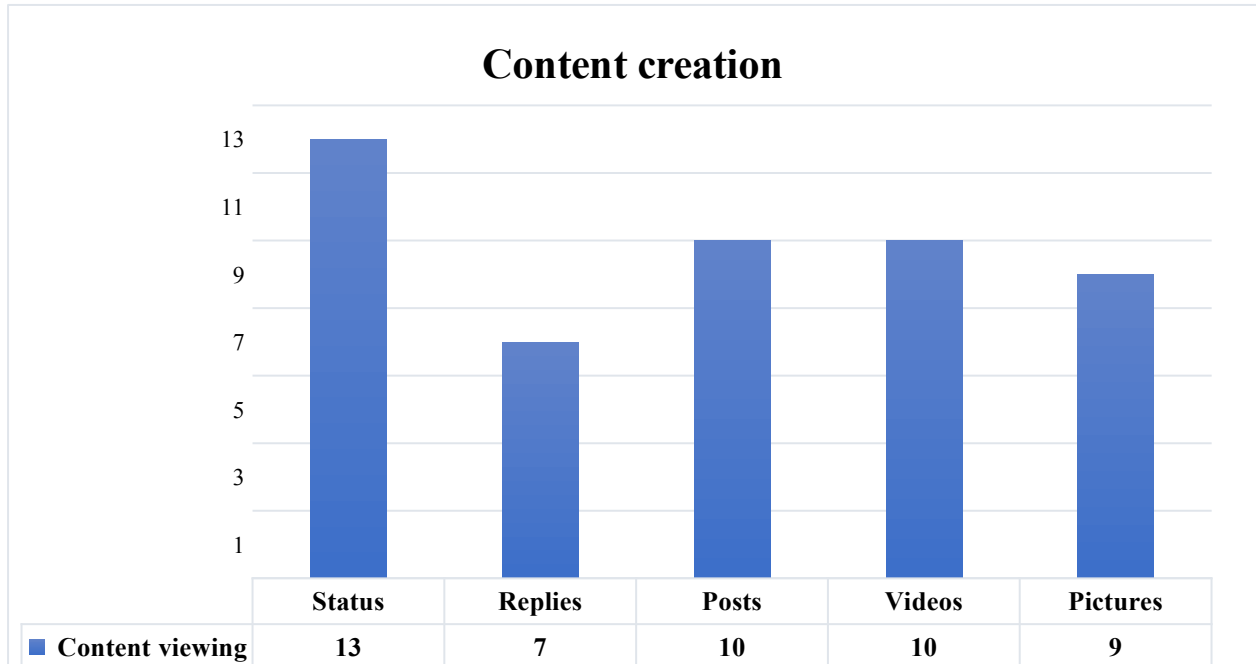


The time consumption of the respondents was categorized into light, medium, moderate and heavy media users. Among the respondents, 4 of them were light media users with their usage less than 4 hours, 4 respondents were medium users with up to 8 hours usage, 4 of them were moderate media users with less than 12 hours usage and 5 respondents were heavy media users with their usage more than 12 hours a day.

Figure 3: Media Consumption Time



As far as the content viewing is concerned, respondents highly use media for the purpose of entertainment with 75 percent, 11 percent use their mediums for communication chatting, 10 percent of respondents use it for gaming, 3 percent of them prefer to use their mediums for information purposes while only 1 percent of the research respondents use their media devices for getting news and 1 percent of them access media for educational purposes.

Figure 4: Content Viewed by Respondents


Status creation was the highly created content among the respondents, videos making and social media posts were the second most content created. On third most created content was picture sharing and replies while replies is the least created content by the respondents.

Figure 5: Content Creation of Respondents


So, the overall results of the present research are given in table 1.

Table-1: Results

Mediums used	Smartphones	17
	TV	2
	Computer/ Laptop	0
	Newspaper	0
Internet usage	Below 5 GB	0



	Below 10 GB	5
	Up to 20 GB	1
	More than 20 GB	11
Apps used	Facebook	24%
	Twitter	41%
	YouTube	82%
	Instagram	76%
	Tiktok/snack video	76%
	Snapchat	53%
	WhatsApp	76%
	Any other apps	12%
Time consumption	Light users	4
	Medium users	4
	Moderate users	4
	Heavy users	5
Content viewing	Entertainment	75%
	News	1%
	Information	3%
	Communication	11%
	Education	1%
	Gaming	9%
Content creation	Status	13
	Replies	7
	Posts	10
	Videos	10
	Pictures	9

Conclusion

The use of media among students of secondary level education has shown a shift from the old to the new means of communication. Students are more inclined towards the use of mobiles and smartphones instead of newspapers, magazines, and television. Television content is also



now available through smartphones. The use of the internet has increased manifolds. The bigger internet packages represent the heightened use of the internet in daily life. Access to any sort of media is paved through internet availability. The present research was aimed to identify media literacy and usage among school going youth of Rawalpindi. The research addressed the questions of mediums used, types of content consumed, and applications used for media consumption. Data collected from students of private sector schools show that it has become part of the life of students. Students have access to all sorts of social media applications and are liberal in their choice of using different platforms relevant to their interests and needs. The survey results indicate that students of higher secondary education are familiar with all sorts of applications. They are aware of the need of use of every application and are using the applications that cater to their interests. Most of the school going students are using YouTube, Instagram, and Snapchat for entertainment purposes that include watching gaming videos, songs, and movies. Students are least interested in applications like Twitter or Facebook as it least caters to their interests. The applications that in one way or the other lead to news consumption are least in use of students. This shows that students use media for gratifying entertainment needs and for communication with each other. The information processing or news function is in the least or no interest of students. The participant's data shows that they are not interested to fulfill any news information or education need through social media. The content creation is less but is pacing up. The data shows that students like to create and share videos, pictures, and status updates through media. The posts on Instagram and comments and replies on posts of others is a common behavior. Students are more aware of video making and editing software. They are more learned in editing videos and pictures. The students of secondary level education are media literate. They have access to and are capable to use most of the social media applications. However, the data collected was from the students of a private sector and one school. Research on both government and private sectors can generate varied results. The results would be more generalizable. In a digitally mediated world, students not only need to be able to use media but also, they need to critically understand its use and learn to critically identify the meanings in the media messages. Students are using media and applications to cater their entertainment needs; however, it is a significant need that students must learn to use media for fulfilling their educational needs. They will be able to increase their knowledge based on media use. Media literacy is an issue with multiple dimensions. A few dimensions have been explored in this research and a lot more area available is the prospect research area of future.

References:

Arke, E. T., and Primack, B. A. (2009). Development, reliability, and validity of a new measure for quantifying media literacy. *Educational Media International*, 46(1), 53–65. doi:10.1080/09523980902780958

Austin, E. W., Austin, B., Kaiser, C. K., Edwards, Z., Parker, L., and Power, T. G. (2020). A nutrition program based on media literacy improves parent-child food marketing discussions, home food environment, and youth consumption of fruits and vegetables. *Childhood Obesity*, 33-43.

Boske, C. &. (2011). Understanding the role of media literacy for Latino/a high school students. *The High School Journal*, 94(4), 167-186. doi:doi:10.1353/hsj.2011.0011

Carlsson, U. (2019). Media and Information Literacy: Field of Knowledge, Concepts and History. In

U. Carlsson (Ed.), *Understanding Media and Information Literacy (MIL) in the Digital Age: A Question of Democracy* (pp. 37-56). Sweden: Ale Tryckteam Department of Journalism, Media and Communication (JMG), University of Gothenburg.

Fawzi, N., Reinemann, C., and Reismeyer, C. (2021). The role of information-orientation, exposure to extremist content, and online media literacy among German youth. *Journal of Children and Media*.

Fedorov, A. (2003). Experts' opinions on media education and media literacy. *European Medi@Culture-Online*.

Ferrari, A. (2013). A framework for developing and understanding digital competence in Europe.

Fry, K. G. (2018). Managing fear and moving beyond: Developing media literacy. *Journal of Media Literacy Education*.

Gainer, J. S. (2010). Exploring the politics of representation: Critical media literacy in middle school. *Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy*, 53(5), 364–373. doi:10.1598/JA AL.53.5.2

Geers, S., Boukes, M., and Moeller, J. (2020). Bridging the gap? The impact of a media literacy educational intervention on new media literacy, political knowledge, and political efficacy among lower-educated youth. *Journal of Media Literacy Education*, 41-53.

Gialamas, V. N. (2013). Student teachers' perceptions of the impact of internet usage on their learning and jobs. *Computers & Education*, 1–7. doi:10.1016/j.compedu.2012.10.012

Hobbs, R. (1998, March). The seven great debates in the media literacy movement. *Journal of Communication*, 48(1), 16–32. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1460-2466.1998.tb02734.x>

Jang, S. M. J., Mortensen, T., and Liu, J. (2019). Information literacy helps identify fake news, but other literacies do not: Examining the role of media literacy. *American Behavioral Scientist*. 11-15.

Kahne, J., Lee, N.-J., and Feezell, J. T. (2012). Online civic and political participation and the role of digital media literacy education. *International Journal of Communication*, 6, 24.

Literat, I., Abdelbagi, A., Law, N. Y., Cheung, M. Y., and Tang, R. (2021). Youth responses to a platform-initiated media literacy campaign on social media: Examining likes, sarcasm, and politics. Paper presented at the 22nd Annual Conference of the Association of Internet Researchers, Virtual Event.

Li, Y. &. (2010). Are "digital natives" truly digitally competent? A study of Chinese teenagers. *British Journal of Educational Technology*, 41(6), 1029–1042.

Livingston, S. (2004). Media literacy and the challenges of new information and communication technologies. *Communication Review*, 3-14.

Manca, S., and Gleason, B. (2021). Think globally, act locally: A global approach to developing social media literacy. *Computers and Education*, 12-13.

Nixon, H. (2003). New research literacies for contemporary research into literacy and new media. *Reading Research Quarterly*, 38(3), 407-413.

Pyles, D. G. (2016). Rural media literacy: Youth documentary videomaking as a rural literacy practice. *Journal of Research in Rural Education*, 1-15.

Potter, W. J. (2008). *Media literacy* (4th edition). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Schmidt, H. C. (2013). A comparison of how media literacy is addressed across the educational system, from kindergarten to college. *Journal of Media Literacy Education*, 5(1), 295–309.

Rasheed, M. R., and Naseer, M. (2021). Hostile cyber-enabled information operations to exploit domestic issues on Twitter: Digital disinformation and domestic disturbance. *IPRI Journal*, 21(02), 95–129.

Rasheed, M. R., Naseer, M., and Khawaja, M. (2021). Twitter and cross-border public opinions: A case study of Pulwama Attack and sentiments of the netizens from Pakistan and India. *Journal of Social Sciences & Humanities*, 29(2), 89–108.

Khan, M. A., and Rasheed, M. R. (2020). Mediation in crises: Electronic media and interpersonal discourse. *Journal of Social Sciences & Humanities*, 28(1).

Shah, S. A. A. (2018). *The social construction of Muslim minority groups in Canada* (Doctoral dissertation, University of Saskatchewan).

Suminas, A., and Jastramskis, D. (2020, May). The importance of media literacy education: How Lithuanian students evaluate online news content credibility. *Central European Journal of Communication*, 13(2), 230-248. doi:10.19195/1899-5101.13.2(26).5

Thoman, E. (2004). Media literacy: A national priority for a changing world. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 48(1), 18–29.

Vygotsky, L. (1978). *Mind and Society*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Continued hostilities between Russia and Ukraine (2015-2022)

Author

Anum Naz

Abstracts

This research paper focuses on the ongoing conflict between Ukraine and Russia that started in 2014. Despite the conflict being mostly between two European parties, it is perceived as a struggle between Russia and Ukraine due to their deteriorating bilateral ties. The conflict began after Russia's military intervention following the Ukrainian Revolution for unity, as they were concerned about the political situation in Crimea and Donbas, which are still considered parts of Ukraine. Money and agriculture are sources of conflict, and the war involves both Russians and Ukrainians. Sanctions have been imposed on Russia by the US and the EU, while diplomatic efforts are underway to find a settlement. The paper also examines the historical, cultural, and political links between Russia and Ukraine and how they have contributed to the conflict. The impact of the conflict on the people of Ukraine and the region, as well as the global security system, is analyzed. Finally, the paper discusses the ongoing hostilities, including trench warfare and the use of special troops, and estimates the number of troops involved from both sides. The paper concludes by acknowledging that a diplomatic resolution to the conflict is uncertain, and the position of Ukraine in the global community is still being debated.

Keywords: Russia war, Ukraine war, Russia Ukraine war, European war

Historical Background

Although the conflict is mostly the consequence of a struggle between two European parties, it appears to be between the Russian Federation, also known as Russia, and Ukraine. The decline in bilateral ties between Russia and Ukraine since 2014 has culminated in the current Ukrainian conflict. Russia started the hostilities immediately after the Ukrainian Revolution for unity, they were concerned about Crimea's and Donbas' political situation., which are still perceived as being a region of Ukraine. on a global scale.

It's difficult to comprehend the struggle. The president of Ukraine decided to avoid signing the Europe contract worsens the situation in Ukrainian-Russian relations. The People and the nation protested because they disapproved of the president's selection. Money is a source of some of the

conflict Popular Crimean weather. This boosts tourism and Ukrainians' economies. Growing wheat, corn and sunflowers is easy. No shortage of water. Crimea mines iron ore and produces chemicals (SHAIRGOJRI, 05, Aug-Sept 2022) Ukraine Ago Consult reports that 1.6 million tons of grain had been transported. Russia was concerned that Ukraine would sign a cooperation pact with the EU before purchasing inexpensive items from them. The war involved all Russians and Ukrainians. Due to its military interventions in Ukraine and annexation of Crimea, Russia commands them which was previously controlled by Ukraine. Crimea gives full support to Russia. The Crimean Cabinet was sacked Russia gains from continuing the conflict. They are suitable for agriculture in Ukraine.

After the Russian invasion of Ukraine's social and cultural ties weakened in 2014. After the pro-Russian president of Ukraine was toppled, Russia launched an attack. in 2014. In the east, almost 14,000 people died of the country. Signed by Russia and Ukraine the deal reached in Minsk to end brutal conflict in Donbass. Russia dispatched peacekeepers as long as the fighting persists. They asserted that Moscow is annexing Ukrainian territory and that the EU is affected by the growing hostility between Russia and Ukraine sanctions have been put in place by the US and the EU. on Russian companies, of which are mostly NATO members. Macron and Putin met in Moscow to reduce tensions.

The incursions into the final step was for Russia to annex Crimea from Ukraine., shortly followed by the outbreak of the Donbas War between Ukrainian state troops and Russian-backed rebels, with naval confrontations occurring over the first eight years of the conflict, cyber war fare increased political unrest, etc. Because of the Russian military buildup near Ukrainian territory, bilateral tensions increased during 2021.

To the global security system, Ukraine has always made a substantial but probably undervalued contribution. The nation is currently at the center of a rekindled competition between superpowers that many observers believe will rule world affairs for many years to come.

Ukraine being invaded on a massive scale by Russia in 2022 would be a significant escalation of the eight-year conflict and a turning moment in European security history. To the expansion of With the help of Western aid, Ukraine has been able to stop a number of the Russian attack's objectives, but many of its cities have been destroyed, and a fifth of its population is now a refugee or has been evacuated (Masters, 2022) It's still uncertain if and how to find a diplomatic settlement. The position of Ukraine in the globe, especially its potential membership is disputed in institutions like NATO and the EU.

Russian ambitions in Ukraine

Ukraine and Russia have strong historical, cultural, and political links, and Ukraine is crucial to Russia's identity and conception of its place in the world. Strong, centuries-old familial links exist between Russia and Ukraine. The capital of Ukraine, Kyiv, is occasionally "the mother of Russian cities," comparable to in the field of culture, St. Petersburg and Moscow significance. Christianity was introduced to Slavic peoples by the Byzantine Empire in Kyiv during the eighth and ninth century.

According to the 2001 census, over 8 million ethnic Russians lived in Ukraine, mostly in the south and east. Moscow's actions in Crimea and Donbass in 2014 were justified by the need to protect these individuals. In hegemonic power mentality shows Numerous Russian politicians thought that the split concerning Ukraine a mistake in history or a Russia's status in risk of a significant player once the dissolution of the Soviet Union. irreversible loss of control over Ukraine, allowing it to enter the Western sphere of influence would be viewed by several serious damage to Russia's reputation abroad. Crimea in order to enhance his position, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev gave Ukraine control of Crimea in 1954. "fraternal ties between the Ukrainian and Russian peoples". But in both Crimea and Russia, a number of Russian nationalists have wished for the return of the peninsula ever since the union fell apart. The Russian Black Sea Fleet, the main naval force in the area, has its home port in Sevastopol. Trade. The major commercial partner of for a long time, Ukraine belonged to Russia, but in recent years, that connection has dramatically changed. Russia was eventually surpassed by China with Ukraine in commerce. Russia attempted to draw Ukraine into the European Economic Community, which today includes Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan, before conquering Crimea.

For many years, Russia has depended on Ukrainian pipelines to provide gas to clients in Central and Eastern Europe while paying Kiev billions of euros yearly in transit costs. Despite the fact that early in 2022 rise in hostilities among the two countries, Russian gas still passed into Ukraine. Berlin's regulatory embargo in response to the Russian invasion prevented Russia from delivering further energy to Europe through its new Nord Stream 2 pipeline which travels over the Baltic Sea and into Germany. Russia was keen in order to keep its political especially after Viktor Yanukovich, legitimacy in Ukraine and the rest of the former Soviet Union, its preferred candidate for Ukrainian president in 2004, lost to a reformist rival. This blow to the goals of Russia in Ukraine comes after a comparable electoral failure for the Russian 2003's "Rose Revolution" in Georgian politics (Masters, 2022)

2015–2022, ongoing hostilities

There were little changes between 2015 and 2022, in the territorial balance of power as the battle came to a standstill. Trench warfare, use of special troops, and artillery battles all distinguished

the struggle Hostilities continued for any duration but persisted nevertheless, at a low level numerous attempts at a cease-fire. Disputes of a minor nature along the contact line persisted in the months following the fall of Debaltseve, but no territorial changes took place. Static trench warfare resulted from both sides' efforts to fortify their positions by constructing pit, tank, and tunnel systems (Brown, Aug 15, 2017) (Time, 26 April 2022) The war was referred to be a frozen conflict as a result of the deadlock. Even through this, the region continued to be a conflict zone where dozens of military and residents died each month. There were 29 cease-fires between 2014 and 2022, each of which was meant to last eternally, none of them managed to halt the violence, though (Tsvetkova)

Russian military activity, notably in the Debaltseve area, was still being reported by US and foreign officials. According to estimates, there were 8,500–10,000 Russian troops among the 36,000 total (as opposed to 34,000 in Ukraine) Russian separatist forces in 2015. Additionally, the region saw the operation of about 1,000 GRU forces (Daalder, 2015) Another estimate from 2015 claimed that 40,000 Ukrainian soldiers overwhelmed 20,000 Russian soldiers. In 2017, there were Ukrainian soldier was killed in combat on average every third day, and there were reportedly 6,000 Russian and 40,000 rebel soldiers in the region.

The local Russian media covered incidents involving dead and injured Russian servicemen. Veterans' and paramilitary groups were used to actively recruit for Donbas. The organization recruited mainly army veterans, but also policemen, firemen. Sergey Glazyev, a Russian presidential adviser, instructed several Russian groups on ways to seize control of government institutions, what to do next, and ways to express desires while promising backing from Russia. Ukrainian officials report a rise in Russian military action along the Crimean border that has been annexed. Activists claim they have seen a Russian military convoy travelling north in armor. Crimean affairs' deputy minister for Ukraine said Russia had called for military exercises along the demarcation line (SHARKOV, 2016)

2018 Kerch Strait incident

The naval blockade of three Ukrainian ships by Russia in the Kerch Strait implies that Moscow will keep going its destabilization and weakening of Ukraine policy for both domestic political and geopolitical objectives. However, the situation Russian-Ukrainian relations seriously escalating seems unlikely at present. Russian coast guard ships with bombers and helicopters supporting them, rammed the ships, opened fire on them, wounding six Ukrainian sailors, then imprisoned the ships and their crew. The 23 Ukrainian crew members were ordered to be detained for two months prior to trial by Crimean courts. The assault of Crimea and Russian army engagement taken out by forces without insignia in eastern Ukraine. Russian soldiers have never

before directly attacked Ukrainian forces. The altercation represented a probably dangerous escalation of the simmering conflict that has existed since almost five years ago when Russia annexed Crimea and supported separatists in eastern Ukraine. At this point, additional escalation is improbable, but the Sea of Azov is now obviously the prospect for a fresh frontier of damaging commerce effects for Ukraine. The 2019 presidential and legislative elections in Ukraine may be significantly impacted by the rising emphasis on national security.

For Ukraine's eastern ports on the Azov Sea, notably Mariupol, the third-largest port in the country, the strait provides the only access point to the Black Sea. Russia started building a 20-kilometer bridge over the Kerch Strait to connect Crimea and Russia in 2016. Approximately just a portion of the bridge permitted ships to pass, and due to its low height (only 33 meters), more than several ships that were formerly landed in Mariupol were rendered inoperable. The International Commercial Maritime Arbitration Court considered Ukraine's complaint to halt the bridge's construction in 2019. The crew of a fishing boat flying the Russian flag that was registered in Crimea was stopped and arrested by Ukrainian border guards in the Sea of Azov in March 2018. They were accused of illegally violating the maritime boundary between Ukraine and Russia.

Russia has begun detaining during passage over the Kerch Strait for inspection, Ukrainian and foreign-flagged ships have been raising concerns about the security of the recently opened Crimean Bridge. several ships were halted by Russia between May and October for inspections that lasted anything from a few hours to six days. According to Ukrainian authorities, Russia has also increased the size of its naval fleet in the Sea of Azov, which currently totals more than hundred ships. In retaliation, in September, Ukraine started building a new naval facility in Bryansk. In September, two tiny Ukrainian naval ships navigated the Kerch Strait to the base under the protection of Russian vessels and planes (The Kerch Strait incident, 2018)

Zelenskyy gathered for the first time in an effort to end the pro-Russian insurgents and Ukrainian soldiers are engaged in a lengthy struggle in eastern Ukraine. The two ruler agreed that the ceasefire in the Donbas area of Ukraine will be fully and completely implemented by the end of 2019. Putin stated that the method was "moving in the right path," but the two leaders cautiously welcomed their meeting despite continuing disputes, especially over who would oversee the Ukraine-Russia border (Ellyatt, 2019) While one of the deadliest conflicts in developed EU is now raging, it is also often regarded as a "forgotten" conflict that has gone on for more than five years. The United Nations claims, several individuals were killed during that time, and conflicts had an impact on one million local citizens.

Putin and Zelenskiy met separately as well as also with French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who had previously attempted to mediate a peace agreement between the estranged neighbors.

July 2022

The Russian Federation launched an all-out attack on Ukraine. Ukraine filed its application for membership in the EU on February 28. On March 3, Moldova submitted its own application. On June 23, 2022, the European Council designated both nations as candidate nations. Ukrainians freed certain regions, most notably the area around the capital Kyiv, during the first month of battle. They also successfully resisted numerous Russian raids.

Due to the war in Ukraine, more than 5.2 million refugees mostly women and children have fled to nearby nations, according to the UN refugee agency UNHCR. The EU and its allies, both inside and outside of NATO, have enacted punitive sanctions intended to seriously harm the Russian economy.

The EU reactions to the crisis in Ukraine, \$348 million in humanitarian help was raised., including \$13 million for Moldova and \$335 million for Ukraine. In a first, the EU has gathered funds through the European Peace Project to give Ukraine military assistance.

As at the end of WWII, the situation in Ukraine has escalated to become Europe's biggest security issue. Depending on how long the conflict lasts and the strategies that various nations choose to develop alternate energy sources, the future effects on the EU economy and other economies are mostly uncertain. Ukraine's grain and oilseed exports have been hit hard by Russia's blockade of Ukrainian Black Sea ports.

2021-2022 Russian military build-up around Ukraine

Western and Ukrainian authorities worried that Russia may be preparing for a significant military attack due to the concentration of Russian soldiers close to the Ukrainian border. Several Heavy artilleries, infantry, and vehicles were advancing into positions that may potentially lead to the opening of a new front has emerged on Ukraine's northern border and an increase in violence in eastern Ukraine. They can potentially pose a danger to NATO's eastern flank from there. They could potentially pose a danger to NATO's eastern flank from there.

The Ukrainian military estimates that Russia presently has 130,000 soldiers on its border with Ukraine. The Kremlin was believed to have prepared measures for a military campaign, according to US intelligence community. It is unclear whether Russian Vladimir Putin, president, made the decision to strike. The infrastructure required for a significant military intervention is well on its way to being built by the nation. Tanks and other heavy armor have been used extensively in the buildup so far, as have other pieces of equipment that take time to deploy. Russia needs to deploy backup troops and logistics infrastructure before launching an attack. The Ukrainian military has been at war with Russian-backed rebels since 2014, but those elements are now encroaching on several Russian deployment locations. The Ukrainian military estimates that there are roughly

30,000 separatist forces, which include Russian soldiers and Ukrainian combatants. Additionally, Russia started delivering troops, armored vehicles, fighter planes, and cutting-edge anti-aircraft equipment to Belarus. According to the Russian Defense Ministry, Belarus is being prepared only for military drills that will begin on February 10. However, according to NATO and U.S. officials, the drills might be used as a cover to send in troops.

Russian Allegations and demand

Crimea was annexed by Russia in 2014 consolidated its control over the strategic. with a larger and more advanced fleet in the Black Sea Anchorage, Russia can exert influence farther into the Middle East, North Africa, and the Mediterranean. Some believe that the West's unwillingness to hold Russia responsible for its annexation by imposing substantial consequences on it has only reinforced Putin's readiness to employ force. In July 2021, Vladimir Putin wrote an article explaining his views based on the common past between Russia and Ukraine. He said that Russians and Ukrainians are practical "one people" that share the same historical and religious area. Putin gave the order for a huge invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 that involved more than 200,000 soldiers and came from Crimea, the Russia, and the north Ukraine Belarus. Low morale, insufficient supplies, and a poorly thought-out military strategy have all harmed Russian soldiers. But during the initial stages of the invasion, Ukrainian soldiers maintained a determined defense that was successful in encircling the Russian army or they may attempt to utilize these freshly seized territories in peace talks with Ukraine. Lands as a negotiating chi (Belkin, 2022)

2022 Russian invasion in Ukraine

The claim of Moscow's mounting animosity at NATO's expansion into the former Soviet area of influence will be Russia's invasion in 2022. Putin and other Russian authorities asserted that NATO and the United States have repeatedly violated their commitments early 1990s not to go beyond the partnership with the former Soviet Union. In this turbulent time for Russia, they consider NATO's expansion as an uncomfortable chore that they must pay little attention to The antagonism Moscow has for NATO's post-Cold War enlargement into the former Soviet Union will lead to an invasion by Russia in 2022. Since the early 1990s, NATO and the United States have frequently broken their promises not to expand the alliance into the former Soviet Union. Even though it remained a non-member, Ukraine deepened its ties to the alliance in the years leading up to 2022 invasion of Crimea. Ukraine was one of only Extended Opportunity Partners in 2020, a unique designated for the alliance's closest non-member allies. Kyiv has reaffirmed its intention to someday become a full member of NATO. The leaders of NATO were receptive to new diplomatic efforts but hesitant to propose restricting the organization's membership to

outsiders. "From a Russian standpoint this is a crisis in European security architecture," the director of the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) has said. In 2022, he said to Arms Control Today, "While in the United States they spoke about a Ukraine crisis, from Russia's point of view it is all about Europe." And the important thing they want to bargain on is modifying the present European security system to better serve Russian interests. Other experts asserted that Putin's actions may have been motivated primarily by his concern that Ukraine would keep growing into a democracy in West, which would undoubtedly challenge his autocratic rule in Russia and hinder his plans to restore a Russian-led sphere of influence in Eastern Europe. Russian President Vladimir Putin "wants Ukrainian democracy to fail, he wants the Ukrainian economy to collapse," says Anne Apple Baum, an expert on Russian foreign policy at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business. He desires international buyers to quit. He wants to cast doubt on the long-term viability of democracy in his neighbors' countries. On September 30, During the war, Russia partially seized four districts of Ukraine, which it annexed. Most nations throughout the world disapproved of and denounced this annexation. Numerous nations supported Ukraine militarily and with humanitarian help as they imposed fresh sanctions has had an effect on both the Russian and global economy (Masters, 2022)

Health and Human Rights Affected by Russia's War in Ukraine

Russian attack on Ukraine has been going on since February 24, 2022. Death and misery have resulted from this battle, which was started by an unjustified Russian invasion. By the 20th of June, the UN has verified 4,569 civilian fatalities and 5,691 non-fatal injuries in Ukraine. More than 7.1 million Ukrainians have fled their homes, while an additional 5.3 million have travelled across international borders to seek refuge in neighbor countries. Medical and public health institutions, as well as other civilian infrastructure, have been devastated and the food and water supply systems have been disrupted, which unquestionably contributes to disease outbreaks that cause civilian morbidity and mortality in Ukraine. Communicable diseases are more easily transmitted due to overcrowding and lack of access to health care living circumstances, restricted access to clean water and food, bad hygiene and sanitation, insufficient medical treatment, and unsuccessful immunization initiatives. During times of conflict, civilians were more susceptible to respiratory illnesses like measles, Covid-19, and TB as well as diarrheal diseases like cholera. Deprivation throughout the war had a negative impact on a child's health's development furthermore elevated morbidity in coming years. Russian military troops had deliberately disrupted farmland, harmed food transport and storage systems, and limited access to food. Mental and behavioral disorders increased as a result of trauma, family separation, loss of schooling and work, forced migration, death of loved ones, and seeing atrocities are a few example. Premature births, maternal fatalities, low birth weight babies, and neonatal deaths all



occurred at higher rates. The incidence of some non-communicable diseases increased and pre-existing cases will worsen. Russian military the Black Sea's events causing widespread impurity in marine life. Explosions and fires contaminate the surrounding gaseous poisonous air and particles and threaten the nuclear power. Industries being destroyed leads to the contamination of water and soil with dangerous chemicals.

International humanitarian law and human rights have been repeatedly violated as a result of the conflict in Ukraine. The Russian military has attacked hospitals, schools, and residential areas. They have raped women and killed ordinary citizens. Russian soldiers abducted and slaughtered individuals in Ukraine, residents choose to remain in their houses as opposed to fleeing. Restitution and revenge for atrocities will be difficult and may take time to finish. Russian armed troops used scorched-earth tactics throughout the battle in eastern Ukraine, particularly by using long-range rockets and shelling, which led to the destruction of Mariupol and several other cities. It was frequently hard to provide safe escape routes for civilians, as was the case in incidents like the bombing of Kramatorsk, which left at least 50 people dead. At the same time, there has been a significant increase in humanitarian help, and many nations are taking in Ukrainian refugees.

Nevertheless, the war has evolved into an endurance. since late April as Russia seeks to destroy Ukraine by slowly, relentlessly depleting its resources, such as labor, supply networks, and weapons. This new tactic seeks to inflict increasingly brutal casualties. Overshadowing Russia's earlier ruination and its bombing of medical accommodations and nearby communities in Syria, Russia's aggressive conflict in Ukraine is the most recent example of the terrible health effects of war. As governments and their citizens took crucial action to encircle this risky condition. The long-term, generational repercussions of conflict on humanity are urged to be prevented by international health workers (Barry S, 2022)

Russia NATO relations

The North Atlantic Cooperation Council served as the basis for the 1991 establishment of relations between NATO and Russia. Russia signed the Partnership for a Peace initiative in 1994, and in the first months of 2010, NATO and Russia inked a number of further cooperation agreements. After the 2004–2005 Ukrainian Orange Revolution, relations between Russia and NATO started to worsen. Russia has threatened or taken unfriendly action against a number of nations. Russia discontinued its participation in NATO in October 2021 and directed NATO's Moscow headquarters to close. (Graham, 2022) Invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, which they considered to be the riskiest period for European security in a generation NATO reaffirmed its defensive alliance status by joining. In a statement, the US stated that it would not send troops to

Ukraine, a non-NATO member. However, NATO has greatly improved its defensive capabilities in the alliance's eastern region and reaffirmed his support for Ukraine. Officials from NATO also voiced support for the significant bilateral aid that has been given to Ukraine since the invasion, including weaponry deliveries. NATO is firmly committed to defending each and every square inch of its members' land from Russian aggression and is actively preventing prospective strikes. It will keep building up its military presence on the Eastern European side of the NATO-Russia border. Several allies made intentions to send more troops to the area known at the conference (Masters, 2022) Similar to this, NATO intends to increase the size of its fast reaction force from 40.000 to 300.000 soldiers. The force, which had been in place for twenty years, was a well-rehearsed contingent capable of quick deployment to handle a variety of crises, most frequently for disaster relief. Its attention has since switched to the defense of weak allies near Russia's border following the Russian invasion of Ukraine. NATO intends to increase its fast reaction force from 40,000 to 300,000 soldiers. It will keep building up its military presence on the Eastern European side of the NATO-Russia border.

Russia's Respond

Putin desired fewer NATO forces at his borders, but as a result of his behavior, he is now receiving more of it. In contrast to previous years, NATO is now more cohesively opposing Russia. At the end of the Cold War, NATO has increased the number of militaries stationed along its borders, Finland and Sweden both are expected to become a companion. According to Russian authorities, Russia would take compensating measures to ensure its security, which may include stationing more soldiers and maybe atomic weapons at its frontier areas. Putin stated that Finland and Sweden joining NATO does not directly threaten Russia and that Russia has no objections to their membership (Graham, 2022)

International reactions

U.S. priorities in Ukraine

Since the demise of the Soviet Union, the United States rushed to strengthen Russia's shaky democracy and sought closer ties with Moscow. The U.S. should have done more to encourage geopolitical diversity in the remainder of the former Soviet Union since it was too early in its romance with Russia. Early in 1994, former US national security counselor Zbigniew Brzezinski's article in Foreign Affairs, a strong and prosperous Ukraine was essential as a disagreement with Putin and the cornerstone Regarding the need for a new US grand strategy following the end of the Cold War. "Russia fails to be an empire without Ukraine, but with Ukraine subdued and

afterwards subjugated, Russia immediately becomes an empire, and this cannot be stated strongly enough,". (Masters, 2022)

EU and US strategy in Ukraine

The reestablishment of territorial sovereignty and self-determination of Ukraine is still a priority for the United States. It does not seem to have acknowledge Russian argues to Crimea or any other areas that Russia has forcibly occupied. States of America backed a resolution of the Donbass controversy through the Minsk accords prior to the 2022 invasion. Numerous actions have been made by Western nations and their allies to enhance aid to Ukraine and punish Russia for its attack in 2022 The US has given Ukraine \$17 billion in security aid since October, including cutting-edge missiles and aircraft, drones that are dangerous, and missile systems. Many NATO partners offer comparable security support. International sanctions on Russia have been in place while dramatically increased, now affecting a large portion of its monetary, energetic, defensive or technological industries, wealthy leaders, and other people. The governments of the US and certain European nations have also put limitations on Russia's access to its enormous foreign reserves, as well as on the blacklist maintained by the Russian Central Bank. They have also forbidden some Russian institutions from using SWIFT, a financial messaging system. Numerous powerful Western corporations have either stopped operating in Russia or have curtailed their presence there. The long-awaited Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline was also lost to Russia as a result of the invasion when Germany halted its regulatory certification in February. Many opponents, including US and Ukrainian authorities, opposed the pipeline throughout its development on the basis that it would increase Russian affairs influence more in European and Ukraine oil and gas industry. The functioning of Nord Stream 1, which supplied up to a third of the natural gas to the European market (Masters, 2022)

U.S.-Russia Relations

Russia-US relations might be seen of in some ways as a security quandary. As a result of one side taking action in response to what it regards as a severe danger from the other, the opponent is further left in the dark. They have bilateral ties worsened when Russia and the United States became involved in political and military rivalry. The crucial dangers to Russia come from them. The US's dominance in conventional weapons, NATO's growth, and the prospect of regime change via the promotion of democracy. Russia's main focus on reshaping its nuclear arsenal, his criticism of the democratic political system in the United States, his propensity to intrude upon the sovereignty of nearby countries, his support for scoundrel actors, and the growing Russian partnership with China are all significant security threats to the United States. Since the previous

three decades, the likelihood of war has increased more than ever, but if both nations take a defensive realist approach, cooperation is still a possibility (Ziegler, 2022)

Ukrainians Desires

The fact that Andrei Zelensky defeated Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko in the 2019 election was a reflection of the community strong unhappiness due to the political class and its inability to combat monarchy and bribery in the business. Polls conducted prior to the 2022 attack revealed that Ukrainians' opinions on joining NATO and the EU were divided. More over 50% of those surveyed were in favor of entering the EU, whereas 40% to 50% were in favor of NATO participation. President Zelenskyy requested the EU to place Ukraine on a fast track to membership just days after the invasion. In June, the nation formally became a candidate nation, although experts caution that the membership process might take years. Zelenskyy formally requested Ukraine's membership to NATO in September and lobbied for an expedited admissions procedure for this alliance as well. Like Ukraine's EU application, many Western analysts believe NATO membership is not going to happen anytime soon (Masters, 2022)

Russia aims to continue its "war" in Ukraine until achieving goals

Until all goals are accomplished the Soviet military protest movement in Ukraine will keep going. Saving the lives and health of the Russian army and removing risks to civilians is the top priority. After completely liberating the Luhansk People's Republic's territory, the Russian army never ceased. The special military operation won't stop until all the duties are accomplished. There are fewer rebel forces in Ukraine now; some of them have died in fighting and others have fled the nation. After experiencing a chain of incredibly devastating losses on the battlefield. Russia has stepped up attacks on electrical infrastructure in cities far from the front lines in recent weeks. Russian warplanes launched missiles into Ukraine, and one anti-aircraft missile struck a home in the southern city of Mykolaiv overnight and killed one person. The flower market for the city also is devastated. Ukrainians are purchasing gas burners and power in several urban areas. Frequent power outages are already a problem in several places. The city still has no either water or electricity, and the hospitals are all on backup power. Russia continued to step up its strikes on civilian and energy facilities, escalating urban warfare this fall. Russia used Iranian-made drones for strikes on the battlefield and in Ukrainian cities. The United States has "abundant evidence" that Russia is attacking Ukraine and they used Iran's drones. Ukraine. and in July, the US warned that Iran intended to send drones to Russia for use in that country's horrific conflict with Ukraine. Even before Russia began its extensive incursion into Ukraine, drones have been a crucial factor in the battle.

The United States and Kiev claim that Moscow purchased drones from Iran, but Iran denies providing Russia with armaments. This matter was jointly arrived from US, UK, France, and France in a private talk of the UN Security Council. Iran has denied delivering a drone to Russia for its continuing conflict in Ukraine (Macias) or Iran does not confirm and rejects this claim. Two sources familiar with US intelligence informed Iranian military instructors have travelled to Crimea to instruct the Russian troops in drone warfare. Their use may be a sign that Moscow is running out of precision-guided weapons. The U.S. Department of Justice announced the indictment of nearly a dozen people and two companies. some of the defendants attempted to deliver Russia nuclear proliferation equipment, but it was stopped before it could get there. The charges are the latest action taken by law enforcement with the help of the union's KleptoCapture task force (Hannah Rabinowitz and Holmes Lybrand, 2022)

This war is still continuing weapons and drone attacks continue to strike Ukraine's residential structures and electricity supplies. Russian airstrikes damaged 30% of Ukraine's power plants., resulting in blackouts in many cities. The location, which has seen many power outages over the last few weeks, has been shelled, and Russia and Ukraine have laid blame on one another. Grossi, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, anticipates moving on with the discussions aimed at establishing the protective zone. Grossi thinks that despite the fact that nothing can be ruled out, Russia's nuclear threats are not now likely (Tham, 2022) The situation in the particular forces Operations area can be considered as uncomfortable, with the Kherson region's deputy administrator, chosen by Russia saying the battle for control of the area will begin "in the very near future (Holly Ellyatt and Amanda Macias, 2020) At the end, it shows that this war is still continue it will not stop till Russia achieve its goal.

References

Preserving Ukraine's Independence, Resisting Russian Aggression: What the United States and NATO Must Do. (2015, February 7). Retrieved from Chicago Council on Global Affairs: https://web.archive.org/web/20150207162845/https://www.thechicagocouncil.org/sites/default/files/UkraineReport_February2015_FINAL.pdf

Ambassador Ivo Daalder, Michèle Flournoy, John Herbst, Jan Lodal, Admiral James Stavridis, General Charles Wald, Steven Pifer, and Strobe Talbott. (2015). *Preserving Ukraine's Independence, Resisting Russian Aggression: What the United States and NATO Must Do.* Retrieved from <https://www.brookings.edu/research/preserving-ukraines-independence-resisting-russian-aggression-what-the-united-states-and-nato-must-do/>

Barry S. Levy, M.D., M.P.H., and Jennifer Leaning, M.D., S.M.H. (2022, July). Russia's War in Ukraine — The Devastation of Health and Human Rights. *the new england journal of*

- medicine. Retrieved from <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp2207415#:~:text=The%20war%20has%20led%20to,They%20have%20raped%20women.>
- Belkin, P. (2022). *Russia's Invasion of Ukraine*. Congressional Research Service. Congressional Research Service.
- Brown, D. (Aug 15, 2017.). *Here's what it's like inside the bunkers Ukrainian troops are living in every day*. Retrieved from <https://www.businessinsider.com/heres-what-the-bunkers-ukrainian-troops-dig-for-protection-look-like-2017-8>
- Ellyatt, H. (2019, December 19). *Russia and Ukraine make small steps toward peace, but no big leap*. Retrieved from CNBC: <https://www.cnbc.com/2019/12/10/russia-and-ukraine-agree-to-ceasefire-by-the-end-of-2019.html>
- Graham, T. (2022). *NATO Countries Signal Resolve at Summit: What Does It Mean for Russia?* International relation report, Crf. Retrieved from <https://www.cfr.org/in-brief/nato-countries-signal-resolve-summit-what-does-it-mean-russia>
- Hannah Rabinowitz and Holmes Lybrand. (2022). *US charges multiple foreign nationals in alleged schemes to send military technology to Russia*. CNN news. CNN News. Retrieved from <https://edition.cnn.com/2022/10/19/politics/russia-justice-department-foreign-nationals-military-technology/index.html>
- Holly Ellyatt and Amanda Macias. (2020). *Putin imposes martial law on annexed regions; 'Battle for Kherson' could be imminent as civilians told to flee*. CNBC News. Retrieved from <https://www.cnbc.com/2022/10/19/russia-ukraine-war-updates.html>
- Kylie Atwood and Paul LeBlanc. (2022). *US State Department says there's 'abundant evidence' Russia is using Iranian drones in Ukraine*. News, CNN. CNN News. Retrieved from <https://edition.cnn.com/2022/10/19/politics/iranian-drones-russia-ukraine/index.html>
- Kylie Atwood and Paul LeBlanc,. (2022). *US State Department says there's 'abundant evidence' Russia is using Iranian drones in Ukraine*. CNN NEWS, CNN. Retrieved from <https://edition.cnn.com/2022/10/19/politics/iranian-drones-russia-ukraine/index.html>
- Macias, A. (n.d.). *Iran to address reports that it supplied drones to Russia for use in Ukraine*. CNBC. Retrieved from <https://www.cnbc.com/2022/10/19/russia-ukraine-war-updates.html>
- Masters, J. (2022, 1, April). *Ukraine: Conflict at the Crossroads of Europe and Russia*. Retrieved from Council on foreign relation: <https://www.cfr.org/background/ukraine-conflict-crossroads-europe-and-russia>
- Russia's war on. (n.d.). Retrieved from https://www.europarl.europa.eu/EPRS/TD_Russia_war_Ukraine.pdf
- Shah, S. A. A. (2018). *Pakistan's Relations with the United States and China in the Post-9/11 Era*. *Journal of Politics and International Studies*, 4(2).

-
- Shairgojri, A. A. (05, Aug-Sept 2022). Russia vs. Ukraine War: India's stance. *Journal of Psychology and Political Science*, 10. Retrieved from <http://hmjournals.com/journal/index.php/JPPS/article/view/960/1117>
- Sharkov, D. (2016). *Ukraine Reports Russian Military Activity on Crimea Border*. Informational report, News. Retrieved from <https://www.newsweek.com/ukraine-reports-russian-military-activity-crimea-border-armored-column-488283>
- Sonne, S. H. (2021). *Russia planning massive military offensive against Ukraine involving 175,000 troops, U.S. intelligence warns*. Retrieved from New York Times: https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/russia-ukraine-invasion/2021/12/03/98a3760e-546b-11ec-8769-2f4ecdf7a2ad_story.html
- Teslova, E. (2020). *Russia plans to continue its 'operation' in Ukraine till achieving all goals*. Retrieved from <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/russia-ukraine-war/russia-plans-to-continue-its-operation-in-ukraine-till-achieving-all-goals/2630593>
- Tham, N. (2022). *IAEA chief expects to return to Ukraine 'soon' for nuclear plant talks*. CNBC, News . CNBC. Retrieved from <https://www.cnbc.com/2022/10/19/russia-ukraine-war-updates.html>
- (2018). *The Kerch Strait incident*. IISS, The International Institute for Strategic Studies. London: IISS. Retrieved from <https://www.iiss.org/publications/strategic-comments/2018/the-kerch-strait-incident>
- Time. (26 April 2022). *Go Inside the Frozen Trenches of Eastern Ukraine*. (O. Lauren, Ed.) Retrieved from <https://time.com/3715642/ukraine-russia-trenches-photos/>
- Tsvetkova, M. (n.d.). *Ceasefire brings limited respite for east Ukrainians*. Information Telegraph Agency of Russia. Retrieved from <https://web.archive.org/web/20150725132924/http://www.euronews.com/newswires/3041823-ceasefire-brings-limited-respite-for-east-ukrainians/>
- Ziegler, C. E. (2022). A CRISIS OF DIVERGING. *Texas Natinal security review*, 4(1), 24. Retrieved from <https://tnsr.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/TNSR-Vol-4-Issue-1-Ziegler.pdf>