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<b>Article:</b>	<b>Afghan's Settlements, Terrorism, and Internal Security Nexus: Correlation Analysis of Pakistan</b>
<b>Author(s):</b>	Nazir Ullah Director Research Consultant, Jakson Holding Group Islamabad, Pakistan.
	Dr.Naqeeb Hussain Shah Assistant Professor of Social Work and Sociology Department, Kohat University of Science and Technology Kohat, Pakistan.
	Hamid Alam Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, University of Malakand.
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<b>Author(s) Note:</b>	Nazir Ullah is a Director Research Consultant at Jakson Holding Group Islamabad, Pakistan. Correspondence Author's Email: <a href="mailto:nazirkhan730@gmail.com">nazirkhan730@gmail.com</a>
	Dr.Naqeeb Hussain Shah is serving as Assistant Professor at department of Social Work and Sociology, Kohat University of Science and Technology Kohat, Pakistan. Email: <a href="mailto:naqeebshah@yahoo.com">naqeebshah@yahoo.com</a>
	Hamid Alam, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, University of Malakand.

### Abstract

The multifarious issue of Afghan refugees' burdens Pakistan's economy and raise serious security concerns. This research provides the need assessment of the Afghan refugees' and discourse on challenges for Pakistan security. In line with it, Afghan refugees are highlighted and investigated to delineate the plans executed by the Pakistan government to protect Afghan refugees. Methodologically, the quantitative method approach used the purposive sampling technique, and the sample size was (N=316). Collected data were analyzed through SPSS V. 21 to explore the relationship between variables. Correlation test and predictions were made through regression analysis. The study's findings revealed a strong negative correlation among basic needs, perception of good strategies, and Pakistan's security problems. Terrorism and Pakistan's security problems have a strong positive correlation. Fulfilling the basic needs of Afghan refugees is more likely to reduce Pakistan's security problems. Finally, it is concluded that peace in Afghan is investable to sustain peace in the entire region of Pakistan. Social support programs indeed extend for Afghan refugees in Pakistan; also provide a roadmap to their resettlement in Afghanistan.

**Keywords:** Afghan peace, terrorism, refugees, Pakistan's security.

## Introduction

Pakistan has hosted millions of Afghan refugees since the Soviet invaded Afghanistan back in the 1980s. After the decade long war, when Soviet withdrew from Afghanistan. It left miseries, hunger, and security unrest. During and after the war, millions of Afghan refugees fled to neighboring countries. Pakistan was courteous enough to accept its Muslim brothers happily. Even though it would burden the State's economy and have put immense pressure on the policymakers of Pakistan (Poya, 2020). Pakistan is also playing an important role to stop the chaos in Afghanistan through Afghan political engagement. Since then, various policy decisions have taken to deal with the Afghan refugees effectively. The long stay of Afghan refugees in Pakistan also developed the notion that they will never return to Afghanistan even after political stability in Afghanistan (Wagner & Khan, 2013).

Pakistan is a nation with a debilitated economy with the burden of circular debts and an unregulated informal economy. It hinders economic stability and development. The damage trickled down in the shape of the high unemployment rate, poverty, and encouragement of low wage jobs in the informal economy. Besides, the increasing population of refugees has substantially affected hygiene and wellbeing issues. Alarmingly, poor and jobless Afghan refugees had incredibly pulled in by the prohibited fear bargainer and fanatic associations (Batool, 2019).

It is estimated that approximately 1.6 million Afghan refugees are settled in Pakistan, and yet most of them are unregistered (Borthakur, 2017). These Afghan refugees are living in Sindh, Baluchistan, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces. Various camps are established for the Afghan refugees, and they are appropriately settled in these specific areas. Similarly, "United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees" has estimated that 1.6 million refugees are living in Pakistan, which is one massive quantity and figure (UNHCR, 2016).

Most of the Afghan refugees in Pakistan are Afghan Pashtuns and Turkmen. A massive number of refugees inhabited in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including 85% Pashtuns. Peshawar is served as a Centre for hosting Afghan refugees; Quetta is the second-largest city suffering from Afghan refugees' problems. Many refugees migrated to the province based on ethnic links. Refugees also live-in designated camps near the Pak-Afghan border. Afghans' sudden arrival has resulted in the shocking of Pakistan's politics, causing unrest and energy crises, unemployment, and strained relations among Pakistan and Afghanistan. Afghan refugees are easy to adopt the local customs and culture of Pakistan. Most of them use Pashto as their first language to communicate with the locals (M. K. Khan, 2009).

## Study Rationale

Research study explains to deliberate upon the importance of Pakistan's security challenges towards Afghan refugees. Then, it also highlighted the issue of the social settlements, terrorism, and Pakistan's security problems in the context of Afghan settlements. In the post-Afghan unrest scenario, Pakistan's role as a host country, U.S. interference, and NATO's role in Afghanistan after 9/11 was also part of the research. Research also pondered upon how the phenomenon of Afghan settlements led to a severe concern for Pakistani security in general. Such as , Borthakur (2017) stated that the refugees might suspiciously involve in illegal acts, terrorism and criminal activities in Pakistan. Precisely, the objective of the study is to provide numerical predictive facts about the security challenges to Pakistan in the context of Afghan refugees' settlements and proxy wars waged by the international actors in Afghanistan.

## Literature Review

The security problems in Pakistan are due to Afghan refugees. It is one of the historical. Certain facts motivated Afghans to migrate to the host countries in south Asia and Europe, such as "Durand Line", "Afghanistan's geographical location", "USSR-Afghan war", "basic needs" right strategy for refugee withdraws and terrorism. This systematic and

empirical study will highlight some historical facts of Afghan refugees and then rationally derived the importance of security theory for this issue. Geopolitical changes in Afghanistan also astound Pakistan's security. Afghanistan is having a never-ending war against terrorism due to international operatives, keeping them unstable for their vested interests. USSR-Afghan war gave the most obvious opportunity to calm people to utilize the Pakistan path for their prosperity. The people of Afghan are close to Pakistan due to the same cultural language in Pakthun areas. This is the reason Pakistan's Pushtuns welcomed the refugees and helped them out to settle down (Hamid, Khan, & Ullah, 2020). Gould identified the most crucial notion that the Afghan war was not just war but a serious security threat for Pakistan. Pakistan's Government attempted to stop the war and utilized various sources but could not make it (Gould & Fitzgerald, 2011).

According to Booth that security is conceptualized in global politics as a phase of conservative thought. Security is a tool which is giving survival to the individual and also to the groups of individuals (Booth, 2007). In other words, however, society is facing much trouble, which converts to larger crises of security (Christie, 2011). In addition, the theory of world security is a perspective of radical international and critical social theory, which is helping a concise framework for understanding the global historical circumstances in the future. These frameworks were adopted to make better policies for the business of security and also to reconstruct cosmopolitan in the future. Thus, world security theory can remove a worse condition of security issues into peace and prosperity for society (Kaltofen, 2013). World security theory is the opposite approach to critical security studies in sociology and international relations. However, the foundation of security studies brings much improvement in the domain of sociology. For instance, the level of peace increased in the ratio of war decreased. The Second World War was a reason to study security from the perspective of strategic studies. The concept of strategic studies is entirely devoted to the military sector (Christie, 2011).

Nevertheless, social, environmental, and economic conditions worsened due to insecurity. Besides this, new security challenges are correlated with risk and threats to sovereign states in the world. International relations play a vital role to combat pity conflicts. These challenges changed the concept of security as a unique and narrow down (Harrington & Lecavalier, 2014). The war in Afghanistan has exceptionally agonizing outcomes for Pakistan. The contribution of terrorism has a significant effect on Pakistan security. From this dread, Pakistan has chosen to send back Afghan refugees to Afghanistan. A great deal of security danger reported to Pakistan. The relationship of basic need, terrorism, perception of good strategies and security problems are found. Consistently, the image of Pakistan security has disturbed due to Afghan refugees (Sarwat, 2018).

### **Pakistan Perception of Good Strategy and Basic Needs for Afghan Refugees**

Mass immersions are depicted by a movement of war in the beginning. Numerous Afghan refugees have banished in the wave of terrorism because it was a massive treat for Pakistan. The link of terrorism was developed, and security problems emerged in the last two decades (K. Khan, Muhammad, Wei, Lu, 2016). The host government looked with a triple choice in providing their necessities, but security concerns impeded. The response of Afghan refugees toward terrorism was not controlled, and a close relationship has found between terrorism and security treat (Johnson & Mason, 2008). Exactly when the lawmaking authority's does work for pariahs' people and the issue of security increase, then outsider could not be accommodated. The governing body will probably react if the number of anti-state actors incapacitates to devastate adjacent limits whenever displaced individuals are linked to security risk and cannot control through a peaceful way. The results revealed that a good strategy could decrease the security problems for Pakistan (Rubin & Rashid, 2008).

According to Mulk, security threats increase, and no one knows who friend or foe is. The right strategies were developed, and explicit improvement was brought in the lives of Afghan refugees. In that case, the relationship between terrorism, basic needs, and security problems were found significant. Thus, security threats are possible if the Afghans refugees are shifted to their home country. The recommendation was put forward to the policymakers that systematic management is needed for Afghan refugees (Mulk, Ali, & Ullah, 2020). Afghan refugees also have economic limitations and a lack of access to education. These limitations push Afghan refugees toward socio-cultural barriers, healthcare illiteracy, and overall affect the level of food security. Afghan refugees proclaimed the basic needs do not fulfil (Khakpour et al., 2019).

Likewise, Fernández-Niño found that food security is a big challenge for Afghan refugees in the host country. Afghan refugees have always fought for their basic needs in the last few decades (Fernández-Niño et al., 2019). The fact of post-migration is also one of the related phenomena to food security, and somehow it is directly or indirectly related to basic needs in the resettlement countries for Afghan refugees (Khakpour et al., 2019). Similarly, the review literature deduced that it is essential to explain the correlation resettlement strategy for Afghan refugees, their socio-economic conditions, basic need, terrorism, and Pakistan's security problems.

### **Ontological Supposition for Security Studies**

The role of securitization theory is very encouraging in security studies because it meliorated the global relations among countries. Cold War has emerged in new security challenges among countries. The security of the countries was on risk, and a new concentration on security problems was highlighted. Similarly, the main point of this debate is very grandiloquent for a security upgrade. More and more, this security concept was widening with the logic of research. Nowadays, research is done on dispute resolution, and military sectors are not considered a useful variable. The concept of security was meaningful and more analyze with full securitization tool (Sethi, 2015).

The reprimand of materialist assumptions about traditional security studies is very optimistic and believes that security threats are objective. It is acrimony truth for securitization theory because many people discourse security independently and discourse flatulent criticism on the security theory. In contrast, many believers understand that security as a procedure of social construction and the other side, every member of the political elite afraid according to their understanding. Furthermore, many security analysts believe that prone cause is due to the survival of human beings. Based on the audience's view, some neutralists have extraordinary confidence in the survival of objects and want to prone all human beings. So, security theory believers are always removed outside of the hurdles democratically. This is also called panic politics in the security theory. Security theories also interest in moving politics and then defining some rules for the game of the future. These are conflict resolution process for bringing political stability (Kauert & Yakubov, 2017).

### **Research Design**

A quantitative research design was applied, and it is to be noted that the descriptive and inferential survey design was used to seek the respondents' opinions for this research. The study design has allowed the researcher to gather information, summarize, present, and interpret it for clarification. All experts, including faculty members of public and private universities of Pakistan (Department of Strategic and Security Studies), media personnel (anchors of different T.V channels), and officials from law and security departments (police and army) were the population of this research study. Similarly, the purposive sampling technique was used and sample size were ( $N=316$ ) to select the representative sample from the population, and G\*Power software (Faul, Erdfelder, Lang, & Buchner, 2007), was used to select the number of respondents.

The research instrument was a close-ended questionnaire. Different literature surveys used a 5-point Likert scale to collect data and considered it the most appropriate instrument. So, this study also relied on a Likert scale. It used “Perception of good Strategies in security studies” from (Krause & Williams, 1996). Then, “basic need satisfaction” (Johnston & Finney, 2010) was adopted to measures basic needs indicators. Thirdly, the scale of (Seabra, Abrantes, & Kastenholz, 2012) about “terrorism” was adopted and (Brumariu, Madigan, Giuseppone, Movahed Abtahi, & Kerns, 2018) “security problems” was used to measure the intensity of security problems. The researchers found that the 5-point Likert scale helped to measure the responses of the participants. There were forty-nine (49) items in the previous literature review, and the same was adopted. Pilot testing was conducted from thirty-two (32) respondents. The selected respondents were also included in the study sample size later on.

### Statistical Analysis

Information accumulation is significant in quantitative data analysis. All the responses were put in the computer and run the (SPSS 21-version) for numeration. It is the pronounced ability of (SPSS) that it breaks the information into parts which are very helpful to conclude based on descriptive and inferential statistic. Cronbach’s alpha was a measure to know the internal consistency of the items an instrument. The relationship among different variables was measured. The repetitive appropriation was utilized to examine the sentiments of the respondents regarding questionnaires. At last, regression analysis and mediation were applied for the prediction of the dilemma. Ethical considerations were followed by the researcher in this empirical study. All the names of the respondents were pseudonyms.

### Major Findings

The data were analyzed in four key steps. Similarly, in the initial step, reliability analysis was done. All measures were computed and used Cronbach’s alpha for internal consistency of the scales, as well as descriptive statistics, were calculated to know the median scores and numbers of items on each scale. Likewise, in the second step, Pearson Product Moment Correlation was enumerated to evaluate the association and relationship between basic needs, perception of a good strategy for Afghan refugees, terrorism, and Pakistan’s security problems. Equivalently, in step three, simultaneous multiple linear regression and hierarchical multiple linear regression was applied to see the prediction of basic needs, perception of a good strategy for Afghan refugees, terrorism, and Pakistan’s security problems. Table.1 delineates descriptive and reliability analyses were carried out for each computation measure of each item in the factor.

Table .1

*Cronbach’s Alpha and Descriptive Statistics of Basic Needs, Perception of Good Strategy for Afghan Refugees, Terrorism and Pakistan’s Security Problems (n=316)*

Scales	<i>K</i>	<i>M(S.D.)</i>	<i>Cut off</i>	<i>α</i>
Perception of Right Strategies	14	11.72(5.33)	12.00	.80
Assessment of Basic Needs	11	18.22(8.51)	13.00	.90
Terrorism	10	17.47(7.76)	19.00	.78
Pakistan’s Security Problems	14	24.25(6.75)	25.00	.68

*Note:* *k* = Number of Items, *α* = Cronbach Alpha Coefficient, *M* = Mean, *SD* = Standard Deviation

Using Pearson product-moment correlation analysis to check the relationship between current study variables, it is also found that there is likely to be a relationship among basic needs, the perception of a good strategy for Afghan refugees, terrorism, and Pakistan’s security problems. For further results, see Table .2.

Table .2  
*Intercorrelation between Basic Needs, Perception of Good Strategy for Afghan Refugees, Terrorism and Pakistan's Security Problems (n=316)*

Variables	2	3	4
1. Assessment of Basic Needs	-.61**	-.58**	-.53
2. Perception of good Strategies	-	-.65**	-.62**
3. Terrorism		-	.74***
4. Pakistan's Security Problems			-

\*p<.05, \*\*p<.01, \*\*\*p<.001

The correlation results among basic needs, perception of a good strategy for Afghan refugees, terrorism, and security problems were carried out. The results revealed a strong negative relationship among basic needs, perception of a good strategy for Afghan refugees, terrorism, and Pakistan's security problems. In comparison, basic needs and perceptions of good strategy are significantly negatively correlated. Furthermore, results also showed that there was a significant negative association found between basic needs and terrorism. The given result also admitted a significant negative relationship between basic needs and s Pakistan's security problems. Occasionally, the results showed a highly negative significant correlation between the perception of good strategy and terrorism. Similarly, the results communicated, whereas there was a highly positive significant relationship between terrorism and Pakistan's security problems. So, there was a highly positive and negative association among these all variables. The analysis process proceeded to simultaneous regression analysis to check the predictive effect of independent variables (gender, age, basic needs, perception of good strategies, terrorism) on the study dependent variable (Pakistan's security problems). Simultaneous regression analysis was conducted to evaluate the prediction of itself model of the Afghan refugee's basic needs, the perception of a good strategy, terrorism and its implication on Pakistan's security problems. For further results (see Table .3).

Table .3

*Simultaneous Multiple Linear Regression Analysis Predicting Basic Needs, Good Strategy for Afghan Refugees, Terrorism and Pakistan's Security Problems (n=316)*

Variable	Pakistan's Security Problems		
	B	S.E.	$\beta$
Constant	21.74***	.97	
Gender	-.42*		
Age	-.05*		
Basic Needs	-.10*	.27	-.02
Perception of Good Strategies	-.16**	.29	.03
Terrorism	.38**	.02	.53
$R^2$	.569		

F

8918.42

\* $p < .05$ , \*\* $p < .01$ , \*\*\* $p < .001$ 

The results indicated that the Afghan refugees' basic needs were found to be significant for security problems. So, as a result, there was a negative direction found, which means an indirect relationship. At the same time, the perception of good strategies was negative significant for Pakistan's security problems. It was justified if decreasing basic needs, then Afghan refugees would commit Pakistan's security problems. Similarly, the relationship between the perception of good strategies and security problems was negative. However, there was also terrorism and Pakistan's security problems, whereas there was a significant positive direction that was found, and the relationship between terrorism and security problems were direct. So far, all the independent variables (gender, age, basic needs, perception of good strategies, terrorism) put together, and the model was not detecting the unique variation for security problems, so the study demand to conduct the hierarchical regression analysis to evaluate the real change in the dependent variable (security problems).

Hierarchical regression analysis was administrated to evaluate the prediction of basic needs for Afghan's refugees, the perception of a good strategy, terrorism, and its implication on Pakistan's security problems. It hypothesized that basic needs, perception of a good strategy for Afghan refugees, terrorism, will predict Pakistan's security problems. For further results, see Table 4.

Table .4

*Hierarchical Multiple Linear Regression Analysis Predicting Basic Needs, Perception of Good Strategy for Afghan Refugees, Terrorism and Pakistan's Security Problems (n=316)*

Predictors	Pakistan's Security Problems				
	$\Delta R^2$	$\beta$	S.E.	B	$\Delta F$
Step 1	.37				440.40
Gender (Control Variable*)		-.42	1.71	-.10	
Step 2	.05				72.27
Age (Control Variables*)		-.05	0.07	-.06	
Step 3	.42				7607.54
Basic Needs		-.23	0.15	.69***	
Perception of good Strategies		-.28	0.13	.12***	
Terrorism		.42			
Total $R^2$	.56**				

Note: Adapted from "Afghan Refugees basic needs, good strategies, terrorism", "Control variable included Gender and Age", \* $p < .05$ , \*\* $p < .01$ , \*\*\* $p < .001$

The results revealed that after controlling other variables, i.e., gender in step one, age interred in step two. Similarly, basic needs, the perception of a good strategy for Afghan refugees, and terrorism are reported in step three. When the variable one in block 1 (gender) has entered, the overall model explains 04 per cent of the variance ( $.04 \times 100$ ). Similarly, in block 2 (age) has been listed, the total model discloses 08 percent of the discrepancy ( $.08 \times 100$ ). Furthermore, after enrolled all the variables in step three, the overall model accounted for how much variance, 56 percent of variance ( $.56 \times 100$ ). Interestingly, when the effects of gender and age are eliminated, 56 per cent change with  $[F(3,313) = 8918.42, p < .001]$  for



Pakistan's security problems. Whereas, basic needs, the perception of a good strategy for Afghan refugees have negative predictors for Pakistan's security problems; however, terrorism was a significant positive predictor for Pakistan's security problems.

### **Discussions**

Wagner and Khan (2013) highlighted the issue of Afghan border for both countries. Initially, Afghan did not accept but, at last, accepted and enhances militancy in Pakistan. There was a cross-border attack between Afghan and Pakistan, so that is why militancy increased, and Pakistan decided to manage and regulate the Pak-Afghan border to remove militancy in both states. Similarly, the proposal of "Durand Line" accepted for recognized the area allocation of the border. The Government of the Taliban and the Karzai have potentially rejected the Durand Line. The issue of insurgent groups was present at that time. The Haqqanis group in Pakistan and the Taliban group in Afghan did not accept the legality of the border. As a result, Tehreek-i-Taliban is also going ahead on the same logic. Furthermore, the results communicated, whereas a highly positive significant relationship was found between terrorism and Pakistan's security problems. Furthermore, the results communicated that there was a highly positive significant relationship between terrorism and Pakistan's security problems.

According to Kronenfeld (2008), that the war of Afghan has excruciating results for Pakistan. The involvement of Mujahedeen has a very negative impact on Pakistan's security. Afghan refugees decided to go to Pakistan from this fear, the border suffered from the war. Many security threats were announced to Pakistan. The bombing attack started daily, which was a negative symbol for Pakistan's security. The findings of the study were in line with the above study. For example, the role of terrorism has created security problems for Pakistan. Similarly, M. K. Khan (2009) justified that Afghan terrorism has a significant challenge for Pakistan after 11 September 2001. The war recently converted to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), and militants committed suicide in different areas of KPK, which was a significant threat for Pakistan's security. These militants warrant domestic insecurity for Pakistan. The study concluded that terrorism has a significant positive relationship with Pakistan's security problems. The ongoing study put forward conclusion that the role of terrorism has sufficiently increased Pakistan's security problems. On the other hand, Fernández-Niño et al. (2019) narrated that food security is a big challenge for Afghan refugees in the host country. Afghan refugees have always fought for their basic needs in the last few decades, and the host country security reputations were also disturbed. The current study results revealed that basic needs affect Pakistan's security problems.

### **Conclusion**

Afghan refugees migrated to Pakistan due to Soviet invasions. Refugees are not one or two, but they are in millions in the host country, Pakistan. Refugees cannot live permanently in host country; it is a temporary phenomenon; they have to resettle to their home country. This movement started after the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. It is a fact that Afghan refugees do not put a burden only on Pakistan's economy but also put pressure on Pakistan's security. And, as a result, the policymaker of Pakistan must look for alternative solutions regarding Afghan refugees. Therefore, economic, and societal conditions could be improved. The phenomenon of terrorism, security problems and Afghan element are contributing to it, which has become a serious concern for a sovereign state of Pakistan. It is commonly believed that Afghan refugees will never go back to Afghanistan. Findings from this study also highlighted that terrorism has a close direct relationship with Pakistan's security problems. As a result, empirical justification concludes that there was a highly significant negative correlation between good strategy, basic needs, and Pakistan's security problems. Perception of good strategy, terrorism, basic needs predict Pakistan's security problems. The mediating variable (terrorism) has at least an effect on the

dependent variable (Pakistan's security problems). The study's hypothesis was accepted and justified that if basic needs, good strategy have decreasing then Pakistan's security problems will also increase.

### **Recommendations**

- Refugees migrated from war-torn areas are more likely experiencing psycho-social trauma. The professional social workers should be appointed in particular areas where Afghans inhibit are living to bring them back to normal. Professional social workers should be responsible for assessing each and counselling Afghan refugees until they enable to contribute to the society positively instead indulging in the anti-state activities or crimes.
- Afghan permanent settlement in Afghanistan is the core issues. Government of Pakistan should negotiate with Afghan Government for resettlement of their citizens to the areas of the Afghanistan where peace prevails. Both states should agree on specific timelines to resettle the Afghan communities back in their land, and their economic support must be extended by the Afghan Government either itself or with the support of the United Nations.

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