

## Journal of Peace, Development and Communication



Volume 05, Issue 2, April-June 2021  
 pISSN: 2663-7898, eISSN: 2663-7901  
 Article DOI: <https://doi.org/10.36968/JPDC-V05-I02-04>  
 Homepage: <https://pdfpk.net/pdf/>  
 Email: [se.jpdc@pdfpk.net](mailto:se.jpdc@pdfpk.net)

<b>Article:</b>	<b>Examining the Phenomena of Militancy and Suicide bombing in Pakistan</b>
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<b>Published:</b>	30 <sup>th</sup> June 2021
<b>Publisher Information:</b>	Journal of Peace, Development and Communication (JPDC)
<b>To Cite this Article:</b>	Gul, S., Asif, H., & Asghar, M. F. (2021). Examining the Phenomena of Militancy and Suicide bombing in Pakistan. <i>Journal of Peace, Development and Communication</i> , 05(02), 36–48. <a href="https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.36968/JPDC-V05-I02-04">https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.36968/JPDC-V05-I02-04</a> .
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**Abstract**

Pakistan has been facing the challenge of militancy since right after 9/11. Militancy means the use of violence for a political or social cause. Militancy exists from centuries and is directly challenged the security issues of any state. In a poor, having weak infrastructure and institutional imbalance state like Pakistan, this security issue become major challenge for system and society. In case of Pakistan religion has significant importance in all social and political aspects. Therefore sectarian roots of militancy are stronger in Pakistan as compare to other states in the world. This research paper is deal with the history of religious militancy in Pakistan with the focus of growing security issues. This paper is also highlight the implementations of government to prevent the issue of militancy.

**Keywords:** Security Issues, Religious Militancy, Challenge Of Militancy, 9/11

## **Introduction**

In the Post-Cold War era and especially since the beginning of 21st century the world has been encountering multidimensional issues that become a genuine danger for people and state security. Terrorism as militancy rose since after the assault of 9 September 2001, which endangered the harmony, strength, and security of the state globally. The current research paper is focused on the history of militancy in Pakistan.

The militant origin in Pakistan can be traced back to different socio-political elements. All the factors are responsible in spreading militancy such as socially deprive, smuggling of drugs, Afghan refugees, exploitation of the religion by some madrasas, training camps as well as external elements such as the powerful international politics.

The beginning of 21st century witnessed the rise of terrorism in more severe form 'militancy' right after the traumatic incidence of 9/11. Since 9/11 Pakistan has been facing terrorism. After the 9/11 incident Pakistan serve as a frontline to counter militancy at national and international level. But its domestic politics also affected badly which create conflicts and issues at home. Pakistan has been the second most effected state by militancy in the world. Militancy is political in nature and the militants want to achieve their political objective by using violence and aggression.

Militants use many tactics like Suicide bombing, target killing, direct attacks etc. to harm the state. But according to the expertise after 9/11 incident militants use the tactic of suicide bombing to achieve their goals in a less costly way. From 2002- 2013 suicide bombing become more prevalent in Pakistan and militants used it as a tool to achieve their political or social objectives. (Ajayi, 2014)

In an Islamic state like Pakistan religion base conflicts are deeply rooted and have long history such as Shia-Sunni conflicts. These conflicts are split in different militants groups. And these groups used suicide attacks as an operational tactic for their objectives.

### **Definition of Militancy:**

The issue of militancy isn't new for the world politics. The word militant was coined in the 15th century and originates from the word "militare," which means "to serve as a soldier." Typically, a militant uses violence as part of an ostensibly anti-oppressive movement.

Militancy is about to utilization of violence and aggression for a political or social mean. An activist is an individual who fight and uses violence for their own cause. These causes are political, religious, and cultural as well as social in nature.

As political scientists characterize militancy as an individual's or a group's aggressive behavior that is holding a violent position while promoting cause or an ideology. These individuals or groups are in a psychologically militant and physically violent attitude.

Today militancy is not a simple but rather a complex phenomenon as the majority of these militants' missions are ambiguous and general in nature. The militants' use of force and brutality leaves no room for compromise. They have contradiction with the true teachings of Islam and a sense of hostility and rejection for other religions and religious groups is core agenda of militant groups. Leadership of militant groups thinks that they are the soldiers of God. That is why, they claim to have the power to make judicial judgements and, as a result, a divine mandate to fight a holy war.

Militants misused the true concept of "Jihad". Historically every state faced it in different form according to the nature of the issue. As Pakistan is a religious state therefore religious or secular conflicts were always there.

Rizvi (2014), a political and defense analyst once said that internal issues of Pakistan are escalating and posing a threat to the country's stability at functional level and also fragment Pakistani society. These issues or conflicts emerged in the shape of religious intolerance, terrorism and militant activities. Terrorism, militancy, and religious bigotry do not appear overnight; they are the outcome of a longtime cycle. State is a wide institution we all have to

work together to ease situation in our homeland. The most significant factor in this regard is intellectual unity and the direction.

### **Religious Militant outfits in Pakistan:**

According to an estimate in 2011, since 2002, Pakistan has had around 239 religious militant organizations working at the federal and regional levels. These militant organizations follow numerous agendas, like societal transformation should be based on their ideologies, implementation of Sharia laws, establishing of caliphate system, achievements for their sectarian goals as well as fulfilment of ideological and strategic targets of Pakistan through militancy. Different religious militant groups emerged in Pakistan on the basis of ideologies.

- Al-Qaeda (AQ)
- Haqqani Network (HQN)
- Jamaatud Daawa (JD)
- HizbutTehrir (HBT)
- Al-Muhajiroon (AM)
- Tehreek e Taliban Pakistan (TTP)
- Jaish e Mohammed (JEM)
- Lashkar e Taiba (LET)
- Al-BadarMujahideen (ABM)
- Harkat-ul-Mujahideen (HUM)
- Sipah e Sahaba (SS)
- Lashkar e Omer (LEO)
- Lashkar e Jhangvi (LEJ)
- Sunni Tehreek (ST)
- Jamaat-e-Ahle-Sunnat (JAS)
- Jamaat e Islami (JI)
- JamiatUlma e Islam (JUI)
- JamiatUlma e Pakistan (JUP)
- JamiatAhl e Hadith (JAH)
- MarkaziJamiatAhl e Hadith (MJA)
- IslamiTehreek (IT) etc.

These militants groups are responsible for creating terror at home and at international level as well (PIPS, 2011).

According to the Global Terrorism Index (2014), Pakistan has been listed as the third most radicalized state in the world.

According to the CRT (2013), the US state department highlight that US government is worried about the rise of militant activities in Pakistan which threaten the religious, social, political and economic conditions of the state.

In Pakistan from 2002-2012 religious militants were used suicide attacks mostly on sacred places like Mosques, madrassas and Imam Bargahs. Militant groups like Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan and Al-Qaeda used violent attacks against the western powers.

After 9/11 first militant attack was held on eighth May 2002 in Karachi. This was a suicide attack conducted by a militant group Al-Qaeda which killed 14 people and injured 40 others. Most of the people belong to French Naval force. A car was bombed near Sheraton hotel in Karachi by the Al-Qaeda militant. This attack was against the French forces in Pakistan. (World news, 2002).

Such type of violent militant attacks not only challenges the social, political and economic conditions of a state but also damage the global image of the state. Militant attacks as well threaten the internal security of the victim country.

### **Connection between militant outfits:**

In present day ages militant organizations are not only connected as well as also sharing their assets, recruits, ideologies and expertise around the globe. For example Al-Qaeda helped Boko Haram radical group with 3 million in 2002 to build up madrassahs in Nigeria. Al-Qaeda also help IS with cash and expertise to establish its organization in Iraq and Syria. After getting harmed by America and Pakistan in Afghanistan and FATA, Al-Qaeda men are present in Somalia. As indicated by the National Security Report 9000-10,000 Al-Qaeda men attempt to make Somalia is a most secure spot for militant organizations. Al Qaeda additionally share its expertise with TTP and Afghan Taliban in Pakistan.

That is the reason militant attacks are almost connected with likeminded individuals all around the world. The act of sharing resources by the militants undermines the internal and external security measurements of Pakistan (Azam, 2018).

### **Suicide Bombing: as a tactic of Militants**

Suicide bombing is a violent attack that is carried out by a self-aware individual who consciously causes his or her own death by thinking of a right purpose of his picked targets. Suicide bombing is used by the terrorist organizations as a tool to achieve maximum destruction.

**Boaz G. (2000)**, International Policy Institute for Counter-Terrorism in Israel Executive Director, defines suicide terrorism as “an operational method in which the very act of the attack is depending upon the death of the perpetrator.”

**Bloom M. (2007)**, Professor of University of Massachusetts, also asserts that “the death of a perpetrator is the precondition for the success of the attack.”

**Pape R. (2005)**, University of Chicago writes that “the attacker does not expect to survive the mission.”

**Pedahzur A. (2006)**, of Haifa University says that the chances for suicide attacker to returning alive are “close to zero”.

In Pakistan first suicide attack occurred on 08 May 2002, only eight months after the 9/11 terrorist attack. Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) held several suicide attacks. Terrorists used strategic tools of suicide attacks because it is more affordable task which gains more advantages. Pakistan faced more than 500 incidents of suicide attacks by the terrorist organizations. The greater part of the attacks was directed on government authorities, government institutions and foreign delegates. As well as public spots like business sectors, shopping centers, colleges were additionally targeted by militants to increase a social or political mean. These assaults are political in nature and create fear in the mind of civilians. Suicide terrorists have been prepared with a fact that 'a suicide assault must be fruitful in one condition if the culprit must kill himself or herself (Mahsud, 2019).

### **History of Suicide Terrorism:**

Terrorists have used suicide bombings since the dawn of mankind. Since old times suicidal tactic was used as a warlike act. In the middle ages there were two sects, the Jewish Sicairis and Islamic Hashishiyun who utilized this sort of strategies. From eighteenth century to twentieth century Muslim community were experienced suicide tactics in India, Philippines and Sumatra. During the World War Two Japanese launched kamikaze attacks. The foundations of modern suicide attacks was trace back to the nineteenth century from the extremist anarchists. Few anarchists utilize the method to destroy themselves with a similar weapon that they used to kill their rulers or monarchs. This doctrine paved the way for present day suicide terror.

Contemporary suicide bombing started in 1981 in Lebanon. However, those suicide attacks that held in 1983 by the militants in Beirut in Lebanon, seeks worldwide attention. First Beirut attack was against US embassy in Beirut that murdered 68 individuals. At that point second assault in Beirut was on October 23, 1983 a truck bomb at a Marine compound in Beirut in Lebanon which result the death of 241 US administration faculties, 220 marines and 21 other

service personnel. These were the deadliest attacks against Multinational powers in Lebanon. These attacks were held by the Shia militant group named as Hezbollah in the result of withdrawal the western powers from Lebanon. Therefore since 1983 suicide terror has been utilized as a strategy by religious militant associations everywhere in the world (Harmon et al., 2018).

Since from the Beirut attack 1983, there have been recorded 300 suicide assaults around the world. These assaults were happened in number of states like Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Lebanon, Yemen, United State, Turkey, Russia and Uzbekistan. In 1980s suicide assaults were 31 in numbers that expanded to 104 in 1990s. From 2002 to 2004 these assaults were reached to 200 around the world(CRT 2013).

In Sri Lanka, the Tamil Tigers (LTTE) is recognized as the most effective and ruthless group which utilized suicide terrorism. From July 1987 to February 2000 there were around 170 suicide assaults in Sri Lanka and India was completed by Tamil Tigers. This is the main association that killed two head of the states. The first was Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who was assassinated by a female suicide attacker in 1991. And in 1993 the second victim of male suicide terrorist was the Sri Lankan President Prendesa.

Suicide bombings killed more than 8 individuals for each assault and harmed more than 21. While non-suicide terrorist attacks, described by the GTD, killed 2 individuals and about 2.5 individuals harmed. Over the time militancy and suicide bombing become the most complex political and social issue that had its significant impact on the nature of the security and the direction of the Pakistani politics(GTD, 2014).

Pakistan has been a survivor of militancy and suicide terrorism and suffers a lot from these traumatic suicide attacks. Militant groups like Tehreek e Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Al Qaeda, Jaish e Mohammed, Lashkar e Taiba, Harkatul Mujahideen, Sipah Sahaba and Lashkar e Omer and so on are liable to utilized suicide terrorism in Pakistan. These activist associations increase insecurity and war like situation in Pakistan. In Pakistan 94% suicide attacks have been taken place after the period of 2006.

From 2007 to 2013 the country witnessed of suicide attacks on every sixth day that increased to each fourth day in 2013. Pervaiz Musharraf was an army chief as well as president, suicide bombers were twice attempt assassination on him. And Benazir was the PM as well as the wife of Asif Ali Zardari, was also assassinated by the suicide bomber. There were 37 suicide attacks conducted during Musharraf era in which 1070 people were killed and 1574 were injured. During Asif Ali Zardari period there were 60 suicide attacks conducted that Pakistan faced.

### **Why suicide attacks has grown?**

The number of suicide attacks was increased for one in 1981 to more than nine hundred in 2007. Suicide attacks have grown for primary reasons.

- Suicide bombing is practically uncontrollable for the security forces to prevent. When a suicide terrorist chooses to kick the bucket for a reason to slaughter others, he is practically unstoppable.
- Suicide assault is more affordable. An effective suicide assault is requires few resources and little expertise and a perpetrator who is eager to convey it. Therefore it is a very much less expensive to direct for the militant organizations as compare to the other terrorist activities, for example, hostage taking which requires greater investment in resources, planning and training.
- Suicide bombing create more publicity and media coverage. Terrorist activities are like oxygen for media. A suicide attack seeks media intentions which help the militant groups to take the points of interest. For instance Hezbollah was an unknown militant

group since before the Beirut suicide attack. After the 1983 Beirut assault this militant group increase worldwide exposure (Horowitz, 2015).

### **Religion: A motivation for militancy and suicide bombing?**

Suicide attacks are considered as most lethal type of terrorism utilized by the militants. As the percentage of suicide attacks have been expanded, researchers connected it as proportional with the rise of religious or secular militancy. As an American political specialist Robert Pape contended that from 2003 a large portion of the suicide attacks were used by militants on common bases. For instance in 2003 the vast majority of the suicide attacks were directed by Tamil Tigers who was the biggest secular separatist group based in Sri Lanka (Pape R. 2005).

In post 9/11 period world have been engaged to create connection between religion and terrorism. Since 2001 religion was used as a weapon by suicide terrorists. In any case, it doesn't mean religion as a sole inspiration for suicide bombing. Militants were prepared for suicide attacks on the base of faith and obligation.

They believe that if they died while killing others they would called as 'martyrs' and after death they would gain immediate entry in heaven rather than hell. They believe that self-sacrifice is considered as an act of virtue which become a cause of their forgiveness. In case of Palestinian-Israel conflict majority of militants suicide attacks were based on this kind of belief(Kiras, 2014).

In an Islamic state like Pakistan religion base conflicts are deeply rooted and have long history such as Shia-Sunni conflicts. These conflicts are split in different militants groups. And these groups used suicide attacks as an operational tactic for their objectives.

### **Research Questions:**

Suicide bombing is tremendous challenge for Pakistan's national security. This research wants to dig out the factors behind the use of suicide bombing. This research revolves around following basic questions.

- How many militant groups used the tactic of suicide bombing?
- What are the tactics used by militant organizations for recruitment?
- What are the different motivational factors behind the spread militancy?
- How suicide bombing in Pakistan effect state apparatus and society as a whole?

### **Research Objectives:**

This study is intended to gain an understanding towards the phenomenon of militancy and suicide bombing in Pakistan and also examine the cause behind the use of suicide bombing by the militants.

In brief the concrete objectives of the study are following:

- To conceptualize and authorized the phenomenon of militancy and suicide bombing in Pakistan.
- To find out the socio-political effects of militancy in Pakistan.
- To dig out the factors and causes of militant activities.
- To define the performance, policies and strategies of the governments to combat militancy and suicide terrorism.
- This research also explains the opinions, attitude and perceptions and socio-economic status of the public due to these terrorist activities.

### **Literature Review:**

Militancy and suicide bombing has a deep historical background but it become more prominent after 11 September 2009. After 9/11 on one hand the world has effected economically and on other hand it suffered by severe security issues as well. Militancy become a growing threat for international peace and security. Suicide bombing become a clear strategic tactic used by militant organizations around the global after 2001 terrorist attack. A huge

literature on suicide bombing is existed and mostly descriptive in nature. Militant groups use this violent act for political, social, religion, cultural or economic purpose as well. Suicide bombing undermine the state stability, challenge the will of government, create fear in public mind, create a level of chaos etc. Therefore academic work over these terrorist activities has been grown from last fifteen to twenty years.

Terrorism is a complex issue, and to understand terrorism one must examine its manifestations, multiple dynamics, causes, and complex consequences.

According to the analysts and various research institutions militancy and suicide bombing has been linked with the security of the states and individuals as well. A militant group is adopt an opposite view against the existing and then act against the others by using of force and aggression(Marshall, 1998).

According to a political and defense analyst, Pakistan is beset by internal strife that jeopardizes the country's ability to function as a cohesive and functional state, as well as the divided society of Pakistan. The state is either incapable or unwilling to provide protection to the individual in some regions of Pakistan like Waziristan and FATA. These ideological extremism, hate and terrorism are the consequence of long time inequality because they do not appear overnight. To save internal security dynamics we have to be cut off the linkage between international players and insurgent groups. State departments should joint hands to save our country from these traumatic activities. Most important thing here is the unity of mind and focus (Rizvi 2013).

Religion may be an effective tool for mobilizing and uniting people, and it has also been used or misused in such capacity in history. Religious movements having extremist agendas arisen in response to historical events throughout history, especially when groups have fear or felt threatened. According to scholars religious extremism arises when a segment of a community opposes and this religious extremism tends individuals towards militant activities. The Middle East is currently dealing with a multitude of crises that are threatening its people's basic living standards and norms, and have sparked fanatical religious retaliation (Global Connection, 2013).

Scholar explains that most of the violent activities are religious, sectarianism, fundamentalism and communalism based in South Asian States. In addition South Asian societies have weak infrastructure and issues related to lack of ideologies, economic disparities, societal inequality and political suppression further complicated the situation and provides space to militant groups to expand their linkages. Writer explains that case of Pakistan is perfectly fit in this sphere because of its political history. As in the past various groups have been stolen the Islamic Narrative to implement their own agenda for their personal benefit which is completely misfits with the heterogeneous society of Pakistan. writer further explain the Zia's regime of Islamization in Pakistan during 1978-1988 facilitate the proliferation of different extremists groups which later exists as militant organizations and misuse Islamic ideologies according to their own narrations. These fundamentalist militant groups later emerged as a major threat for the politics and challenge for the security inside of the state. The author further connects the 1979 Afghan Jihad with Saudi-Iranian involvement in Pakistan in order to incite sectarianism, which shapes extremism in Pakistan (Javaid, 2011).

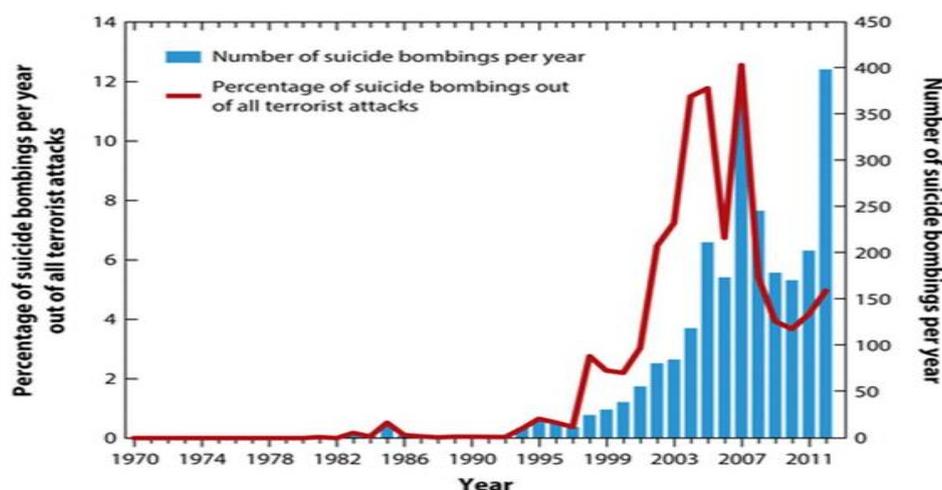
The religious school of thought defines militancy as 'religious extremism' suggests that religious belief is the main motivation behind militant acts. This approach of terrorism found in Pakistan. In Pakistan terrorism is characterized by different terms such as Jihadism, fundamentalism, militants or Islamic extremism. Western political leaders, Western media and some academic scholars are linking the roots of terrorism with Islamic extremism in Pakistan. This school of thought supports the religious extremism theory of suicide bombing.

Scholar supports religious extremism approach of terrorism. In Inside Terrorism author explain that terrorism is caused by religious extremism and fanaticism. He also argued that religious actors make irrational and faith-based choices in order to achieve their goals. In order to gain their cause militant groups rise the slogan of religion. They interpreted Islamic ideologies with their own benefit. Researcher further explain that suicide attacks are used by these so called Islamic militants because they are inexpensive in nature and cause high level of physical and psychological damage. They are successfully reach their target and are difficult to stop. Since 1967, 35 terrorist organizations that have conducted suicide attacks and 31 of these organizations are Muslims(Hoffman 2006).

Writer defines in his book “Islamist radicalization in Europe and the Middle East” that because of the pivotal role of the internet in today's globalized society; extremism as well as radicalism has grown in strength. As young militants have easy access to the internet so they can readily interact and connect with one another, posing a significant threat to the state's security. It is the way by which they are able to globalize their thoughts and ideologies and create instability and weaken the security dynamics of affiliated state and for the whole world as well. Furthermore, the author illustrates how radicalization is linked to a community's identity and its security. Radicalization is a phenomenon of an ideology in which various groups use unlawful and severe violent measures to bring societal change. One of such case studies is the Middle East, in which Islamic missionary have used socio-religious rhetoric to achieve religious and political goals. It should be underlined that these radicals, both as individuals and as members of Al Qaeda, have been regularly engaged in terrorist activities all around the world, posing significant threats to states' internal and external security (Joffe 2013).

Another scholar define in his book “Rise and Spread of Suicide bombing” that suicide bombing is become the most favorite tactic of militants organizations after 9/11. Terrorist attacks are used against United States’ troops and its allies and partners in Afghanistan and Iraq. Researcher explains that suicide attacks always have a strategic end and there is no single reason for militants behind the use of suicide bombing. Suicide attacks result maximum casualties in one attack than other forms of violence used by terrorists, militants, and others(Horowitz, 2015).

### Percentage of Suicide bombings (1970-2011) by Horowitz



 Horowitz MC. 2015.  
Annu. Rev. Polit. Sci. 18:69–84

### Case Study of Pakistan:

After 9/11 attack Pakistan and Afghanistan have experienced severe threat from extremists Islamic groups. United states were successful in overthrowing the Taliban regime from Afghanistan after 9 September 2001 terrorist attack. These Taliban groups were set along with the border areas of Pakistan and reorganized as Haqqani Network and Hizb-e-Islam. These groups were used violence against government, innocent civilians and foreigners including US officials. In Pakistan most of the militant outfits were settle down in the frontier region between Pakistan and Afghanistan known as the FATA.

Pakistan has been a survivor of militancy and suffers a lot from traumatic militant incidents. Militant groups like Al Qaeda, Jaish e Mohammed, Tehreek e Taliban Pakistan, Lashkar e Taiba, SipahSahaba Pakistan, HarkatulMujahideen, Lashkar e Omer and so on are liable to utilized militancy in Pakistan. These activist associations increase insecurity and war like situation in Pakistan.

Religion is the main agenda of militants to seek support between masses. In Pakistan religion has been used as the main weapon by the militant organization to perform their activities. As Pakistan is a religious state therefore religious indoctrination is an important element for militants for the activation of their recruitment cells.

The history of religious militancy is as old as the history of mankind. But after the independence of Pakistan religious militancy were become more prominent within the state. This type of militancy has been scattered the image of Pakistan at national and international level as well.

#### **Policies and strategies of the government:**

The situation in Pakistan becomes complicated due to these terrorist tactics over the time. Since 2001 government of Pakistan and different state departments has been conducting several military operations to counter militant activities and ensure peace and stability in the state.

#### **Legislation, Law Enforcement, and Border Security:**

Pakistan deployed its military in red zones of the state such as Provincially Administered Tribal Areas (PATA) as well as in FATA areas. There are several operations conducted in Pakistan to counter terrorism and its different forms since 2001 such as Operation enduring freedom (OEF), Operation Al Mizan (justice) (2002), OperationKalosha (2004), Operation Silence (2007), Operation Rah e Haq (2007), Operation Sher Dill (2008), Operation Rah e Rast (2009), Operation Rah e Nijat (2009–2010), Operation Koh e Sufaid (2011), Zarb-e-Azb (2014) and Rad ulFasaad (2017) etc. Security forces of state have also conducted several small numbers of military operations in Pakistan to rip up the militant groups (Ahmed, 2014).

Military, paramilitary and regular civilian security forces conducted counter terrorism activities all over the Pakistan. The Intelligence Bureau has nationwide jurisdiction and is coordinate with provincial counterterrorism departments. The Ministry of Interior has more than 10 law enforcement related substances under its administration. The National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) acts as a coordinating body by compiling and confirming information regarding terrorist activities. Pakistan gathered biometric data at land crossings with its International Border Management Security System. Specialists had restricted capacity to distinguish carrying by means of air travel. The Customs Service attempted to enforce anti-money laundering laws and foreign exchange regulations at all major airports by planning with different organizations.(NACTA, 2018)

#### **Conclusion**

This Research has focused on the factors which provoke the militancy in Pakistan and shown that how these terrorist activities effected on people behavior. In order to obtain realistic findings and reliable data, survey questionnaire tool is used as a research methodology. Findings revealed that religious motivation is a strong factors for militant groups behind the use of suicide bombing. Militancy and Suicide bombing is positively correlated with

Religion and Socio-Economic Status (SES) of respondents. Militants used religious motivation as the idea of sacrifice for suicide bombers.

According to the other aspect, many non-formal parties that shown to be involved in these terrorist acts including religious parties, different groups based on their ethnicity, extremists wings of political parties, religious faculty members associated with these groups, lack of law enforcement in state and ineffective administrations also provoke militancy in Pakistan. As a result, the background to the creation of militancy in Pakistan consists of so many continuous crises in security, economic spheres and political, all of which have made the social fabric at breaking point.

Similarly, militancy and suicide bombing both are damaging the society structure. Government should have to take security measures, operational measures, and also protective or anti-terrorist measures. To stop the suicide bomber from hitting the target, new security systems should be implemented and action should be taken.

Increased security measures and the identification of the actor prior to the ability to carry out the action at the target may decrease or even prevent the attack. Another crucial aspect is to mitigate the moral damage caused by these attacks by assisting and strengthening civilians.

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