

The Impact of Violent Conflict on the Agricultural Economy of FATA: A Case Study of Bajaur Agency Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

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ABSTRACT

The beginning of the 21st Century brought with itself new challenges in the form of terrorism and militancy and the attack on World Trade Center opened a new chapter in the modern history. The gloomy atmosphere of such havoc also brought various socio-cultural, economic, political and religious impact in Pakistan. Majority of the scholars consider the issue of 9/11 as an unconventional and psychological warfare, however, it laid-down the foundation of defining and delimiting terrorism linking it primarily to religious, political, personal and economic factors (Ali, 2007). Militancy and terrorism has left various socio-economic, political and psychological impacts on Pakistani community in general and in District Malakand in particular. However, on the agriculture economy of Bajaur, militancy and terrorism have numerous and multiple impact that have drastically influence other sectors of life as well. The current study has been conducted to explore and analyze the nature and extent of impact upon agricultural production, land cultivation, processing, marketing and availability of food items in Union Council Khar of Bajaur Agency. The data was collected from 360 respondents including agriculture related persons i.e. producers, processors, marketers and consumers through personally administered interview schedule including questions related to their personal and demographic characteristics and the various impact on agriculture components. The field information has been classified and analyzed through computer based program SPSS and presented in the form of frequency tables in detail with explanations of the statistical data, where the results of the study indicates that militancy and terrorism have produced serious consequences on the agricultural economy of Bajaur Agency.

KEY WORDS: Militancy, Economy, Agriculture, Production, Cultivation etc.

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

In the wake of globalization, the problem of extremism has moved beyond the boarder of Afghanistan to Pakistan, for example, Kemp (2008) assert that the prevalent massive conflict in Afghanistan is not limited to Afghanistan, rather it has started to spread to Pakistan by disintegrating the tribal areas. It has been observed that the wave of radicalism/extremism has influenced structures in Afghanistan and Pakistan (Dyer, *et al*, 2007; Fair, 2008). In the same situation, Salafist or “jihadi” movement was the reason behind radicalism, extremism or terrorism whereby the prominent organizations working on religious orthodoxy is Al-Qaeda. It is assumed that Al-Qaeda preceded the 9/11 attacks in collaboration with local associates and imitators around the world. Their links to what is left of the original conspiracy was based in Taliban-ruled Afghanistan and the presence of these successor groups is global, including cells within immigrant communities in the West (Hoffman, 1999; Hashmi, 2009).

Iraq is the hub of terrorism related activities carried out by Al Qaeda with some amount of assistance from local terrorist organizations i.e. Sunni-led insurgency whereby foreign fighters who have provided the majority of suicide bombers since the U.S intrusion in 2003. Besides, since 2001, Al-Qaeda is the main force behind the conduction of terrorist operation globally including conducting operations in Indonesia, Morocco, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Turkey, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Kenya, Spain, and Great Britain. It shows that Al-Qaeda has the capacity, will and capability to carry out operations even in well secured states. An important source of unity within this diffused movement is its origin in the anti-Soviet resistance in 1980s Afghanistan. There the links that

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exist today among individuals and different national groups were forged. These connections are based on shared experiences, socialization, training, and indoctrination in camps in Afghanistan and Pakistan, as well as ideological affinity (Fair, 2004; Richardson, 2006; and Khan, 2009). The organization of Al-Qaida adversely affected humanity as well as the infrastructural beauty of different countries especially Pakistan and Afghanistan. The root causes of this terrorists act includes, political interest, personal interest, nepotism, poverty, unemployment etc. (Azam, 2009).

The wave of terrorism and militancy has multifaceted impacts on population across the country whereas a huge number of atrocities and loss of lives has brought changes in the social and psychological aspects of the country. The basic institutions of the country and lives of the people, property, businesses has been at stake for quite long a time and has further weakened the social fabric to large extent (Nadeem & Paracha, 2010). Historically, such aspects has been went through a process of radicalization since 1980's however the situation become worsen due to its brutality as evident from suicide bombing across the country (Bari, 2009). A considerable rise has been there in the last six years in suicidal attacks, bombing etc. by extremist organization leading to many other consequences as well (Abbas, 2007). Studies indicate that the socio-political and security aspects of the Tribal belt (adjacent areas on the Pakistan side of the border with Afghanistan) have been in a constant state of flux since the Afghan Jihad of 1980s (Abbas, 2011). In this regard, Michael (2007) asserted that Militancy and extremism in Pakistan has obviously its roots in Afghanistan, however, in Pakistan, multiple factors are there which include poverty, unemployment, ignorance, economic deprivation, radical ideologies, bad governance, injustice and rigid culture which are triggering factors in crating militancy (Ali, 2010).

There are various factors behind militancy in Pakistan as argued by Khan (2009) that such factors include an easy access to arms and ammunition, bad governance, social injustice, poverty etc. In this regard, Nasir &Hyder (1988) added that people have no access to life facilities, education, basic health facilities, lack of means of communication and proper food which developed a sense neglected and deprivation creating inferiority complex which are psychological aspects of creating militant behavior among population. Other factors are linked with non-fulfillment of the implementation of Islamic Sharia Law which was always been used as a political slogan by government which could a factor creating extremism a whole and in the tribal belt of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in particular (Murphy & Malik, 2009, Hashmi, 2009).

Studies indicate that during the last two decades, the country has received multiple negative impacts due to militancy and war on terror and such impacts are multi-dimensional, i.e., human, socio-cultural, economic and political as well as international (Barro, 2001). However, economically the country has been much influenced by such disputes and according to Ali (2012), militancy has not only decreased agriculture productivity but also have impact upon the lowering of per capita income of the people associated with agriculture.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The attack on World Trade Center turned the focus of humanity to one of the emerging and threatening issue of 21st century i.e. terrorism and militancy. Terrorism and militancy brought chaos into many states including Pakistan where it has significantly affected the socio-economic, political, cultural and religious spheres of life. Majority of the scholars consider the issue of 9/11 as an unconventional and psychological warfare, however, it laid-down the foundation of defining and delimiting terrorism linking it primarily to religious, political, personal and economic factors (Ali, 2007). Concomitantly, such activities brought damage to aspects related to fulfilling the needs of society such as schools, colleges, hospitals, banks, NGOs (working in the area) and to some extent discouraged the government employees to continue their duties and services. In addition, the most important problem related to terrorism is the lost of precious lives. In this regard, according to Rashid (2002), these insurgents have made their own social network in order to achieve their own specific goals based upon the agenda of the so-called *Jihad* and Islamization.

The current study is thus focusing on the impacts of militancy and insurgency on the agriculture productivity and income generation in Bajawar agency district Malakand. Agriculture, which is the main profession of people throughout the country is also the basic source of subsistence to the people of Malakand division in general and that of the rural areas in particular. Bajawar agency also belongs to the poorest agency and the local population has suffered to great extent, where the production through agriculture, its processing mechanism, marketing and distribution and even the consumption pattern of the local community has been destroyed by such terrorism and militancy and even further by the operation launched aftermath. Such militancy and terrorism have consequently again multiple impacts on overall performance of such economic institution. Most of the aspects i.e. the level of production, marketability of such production, the distribution of farming products and consumption such agriculture products and income will be the focus of the study as such material are the important aspects of communal development.

The information indicates that terrorism at first and military operation at the final stage has brought many changes in the social structure as well as relation of the people. The local community has been affected by war and then the operation launched by the government through displacement which was a challenge to the region in general and war affected people in particular. The environment of peace, tranquility and harmony has been converted into a stressful situation which resulted into a complete unrest and strain that have created many psychological problems for the whole of nation. Besides, drastic changes were observed in the social structure i.e. family, religion, education, politics, and economy has to undergone critical and radical changes during the period. In the same context, this study is aimed at identifying the extents, nature and impact of militancy and extremism on the Agriculture Economy of Bajawar, so as the facts could be gathered, made available and utilized during the process of recovery by the local themselves and other Agriculture practitioners as well. Agriculture being the most basic source of subsistence to the local population has suffered to great extent, where the production, processing, marketing and consumption pattern has changed a lot. These changes have consequently affected the overall performance of this basic institution. The new challenges being brought with such modification in overall social structure if not studied scientifically and brought to the surface, may result into losing of an opportunity for further development in the sector. All aspect including the production, marketing and consumption of agriculture needs to be studied thoroughly.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

1. To know about the impacts of militancy and terrorism on land production
2. To know about the impacts of militancy and terrorism on Agriculture products Marketing
3. To explore how militancy and terrorism affected the income level of farmers and consumers

Assumptions Underlying the Current Study

There are two basic assumptions in front of the researchers:

Assumption-1

It is assumed that peace and prosperity of the community is mainly associated with the production, distribution, and consumption related to agriculture economy

Assumption-2

There is a strong association of economic development with internal coherence, religious tolerance, political and religious stability and educational development of the area

METHODOLOGY

According to Bailey (1978) and Naz (2009), methodology refers to a structure and procedural rules whereby a researcher shifts information up and down the ladder of abstraction in order to produce and organize the increased knowledge. The current study uses quantitative and statistical research design to produce logical generalization. According to the 2010 Census Report, the total population of the target union council (KharBajawar) is 49,000 persons. Since male members dominate agriculture activities and economic aspects, therefore such population was the target population, which were 10720 persons only. This study applies snowball sampling techniques for the selection of samples and a total of 360 samples were selected i.e. 90 samples from each producers, processors, consumers and market related people. The sample frame has been given below:

Category	Sample Size	Sample Procedure
Producers	90	Snowball
Processors	90	
Marketers	90	
Consumers	90	
Total	360	

The primary data was collected through structured interview schedule in a face to face situation with the respondents. The collected information was passed through SPSS and presented in the form of tables and explanation.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Age of the Respondents

Age and aging of a person is linked with his or her socio-economic and familial development. However, aging according to Gorman (1999) is a physical and biological phenomenon usually occurs with the passage of time

in natural way and is out of human control. Age of a person again brings with it considerable changes i.e. in the physical, psychological, and socio-cultural growth of a person (Neuhaus, 1982). Similarly, Khan (2010) argues that the age wise distribution of field participants in a given research domain is an integral part of the research study and thus provides authentic and augmented analysis of the issue under study. The opinion of people regarding different aspects of life i.e. trends, values, social issues, social and political aspects of life and other many spheres of life differs among various age groups. When asking respondents about their age, ideally, a researcher should ask them to fill in their age (expressed as a number of years) or their birthday. As such one have (can calculate) for each respondent a value (in number of years) which researcher can use as a continuous variable in the analysis. Keeping the importance of age as a pivotal factor for analysis, the age group were selected from the various categories who have been prone to the impact of militancy and serious consequences in relation to the agriculture productivity as well. The field information of the various age groups has been categorized in the following table:

Table: 1: Age of the Respondents

Categories	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent	Mean	Median	Mode
21-30	65	18.1	18.1	18.1	2.56	3.00	3.00
31-40	97	26.9	26.9	45.0			
41-50	128	35.6	35.6	80.6			
51-60	70	19.4	19.4	100.0			
Total	360	100.0	100.0				

Responses collected regarding the age is analyzed and presented in the table shows that the findings of the information collected through structured interview schedule with majority 35.6 % of respondents in the age brackets of 41-50, followed by 26.9% in the age bracket of 31-40, 19.4% in the age of 51-60 while rest of 18.1% in the age range of 21-30. Thus, most of the respondents were found in the upper age limit i.e. 41-50 years and such age is the age of wisdom and experience that also support the given information.

Nature of Impacts of Militancy and Terrorism on respondents

The gloomy atmosphere of the militancy brought various socio-cultural, economic, political and religious impact in Pakistan. Majority of the scholars consider the issue of 9/11 as an unconventional and psychological warfare, however, it laid-down the foundation of defining and delimiting terrorism linking it primarily to religious, political, personal and economic factors (Ali, et al; 2013). Consequently, such activities brought damages to agricultural productivity and discouraged people to perform duties and services. It is thus evident that attacks and wars are frequent events related to terrorism leading to loss of property (cultivable and non cultivable land), crops, housing as well as death of live stock. Further, many of the citizens lost their lives while the lives of living people became miserable (2002). The field information also supports the nature and extent of impact of militancy and terrorism on local agriculture economy. The statistical information in the following table portrays the views of the farmers as to whether they have received an impact or not and if received then to what extent (see table-2 below):

Table No 2: Nature of impacts of militancy and terrorism on respondents

Categories	F	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent	Mean	Median	Mode
Loss of family member	7	1.9	1.9	1.9	5.00	6.00	6.00
Loss of house	18	5.0	5.0	6.9			
Loss of property	18	5.0	5.0	11.9			
Loss of cash	87	24.2	24.2	36.1			
Loss of livestock	25	6.9	6.9	43.1			
Loss of crop	205	56.9	56.9	100.0			
Total	360	100.0	100.0				

Source: field data.

Since the respondents were selected on the basis of snowballing approach, hence all the respondents were those who had received an impact due to the militancy and terrorism crises in the locality. The data shows a clear impact in terms of loss of crop which is the highest with 56.9% responses in the total sample data. In the given table, a sizable number of respondents 24.2% have a loss of livestock, 5% have a loss of houses and cash while 1.9% claimed to have lost a family members as well. Thus, the information demonstrates that militancy and terrorism have direct impact on the agricultural economy i.e. crops, livestock, property and even on household as well.

Nature of Response towards the Effects or Losses Received

While having data on the number of respondents affected by militancy, the information to measure the nature and extent of effects has been analyzed from the field data. The nature of the response would further determine the characteristic and performance of the local agriculture sector in the locality. The responses of farmers in the given table indicate what resulted the militancy havoc towards the effects on farmers. The information is based on the elements to disclose the fact i.e. leaving the locale for an extended time, for instance could have a far different response than “remaining at home” response. The nature and extent of the response is triangulated in the following questions.

Table No 3: Nature of response of the affected to the losses received

Categories	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent	Mean	Median	Mode
Left the area	237	65.8	65.8	100.0	1.65	2.00	2.00
Stayed at home	123	34.2	34.2	34.2			
Total	360	100.0	100.0				

Source: field data.

The given table reveals that migration of respondents occurs with a higher ratio of 65.8 %, followed by stay at home with 34.2 % responses obtained from the information. Further, the respondents stayed at home reported positive impacts to their economy (8.1%) as compared to 57.8% responses in favor of negative impacts. Thus, 18.9 % of the respondents revealed that they had received no impacts while 15.3% did not know about any impact.

Gross Income of the Respondents Before Crises

Economic as a field of knowledge is related to the study income, production, distributions and even consumption and related services to it (Campton, 2002). Similarly, it refers to how people choose to allocate their scarce resources in order to produce various commodities for distribution to be consumed in the social system (Kornblum, 2005). Economic system in any society is related to the survival mechanism that depends on jobs and income, nature of markets, public policies that involve governments in economic affairs, worker management relations and even the related services to such system. In the study undertaken, particularly the relationship between militancy and terrorism with the economic consequences or effects have been analyzed with respect to the agriculture economy i.e. changes in the income level of the respondents, pre and post crises situation etc. The data shows a clear decrease in the income output from agriculture productivity. The data in this regard has been presented in the following table (see-table-4).

Table no 4: Gross Income Before Crises.

Categories	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent	Mean	Median	Mode
1000-10000	25	6.9	6.9	6.9	2.43	2.00	2.00
11000-20000	183	50.8	50.8	57.8			
21000-30000	136	37.8	37.8	95.6			
31000-40000	7	1.9	1.9	97.5			
41000-50000	5	1.4	1.4	98.9			
50000-70000	2	0.6	0.6	99.4			
>70000	2	0.6	0.6	100			
Total	360	100	100				

The analysis thus indicates that in the average income of 6.9% farmers, there has been an impact of 1000-10,000, and 50.8% farmers in the range of 11,000 – 20,000, which is the most significant change in the productivity of the farmers in the area. Besides, 37.8% farmers in the income range of 21,000-30,000 Rupees, which is the second highest ratio in the area. Due to decrease in the income level, the farmers have lost their cropping strength, which is the reason for their low quantity and quality of inputs and thus increases their vulnerability as a result.

Impact of the Response towards Militancy

This is true to a greater extent that FATA has been the center of militancy not only in Pakistan but in the entire region. It is true that the Afghan government and the international community is blaming Pakistan for

providing support to militants in its tribal belt and even the Pakistani government believes that the area has multiple groups to support violent suicidal inclinations and attacks. However, there are multiple factors behind militancy and terrorism in the region but still such wave of insurgency has multiple impacts on the socio economic lives of the people in the locality (Orakzi, 2009). The impacts of militancy has been given and described in the following table (see table-5 below).

Table No 5: Impact of the Response towards Militancy

Categories	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent	Mean	Median	Mode
Positive	29	8.1	8.1	8.1	2.41	2.00	2.00
Negative	208	57.8	57.8	65.8			
No impact	68	18.9	18.9	84.7			
Don't Know	55	15.3	15.3	100.0			
Total	360	100.0	100.0				

Source: field data.

The data in the table have shown that majority of the people that are 208(57%) have observed the negative impact of militancy while 29(8%) were of the positive view and 68(18%) have observed no such impacts. In the given table, 55(15%) of the respondents have their views about do not know regarding the impacts. In this context, the impacts of the militancy were found overt on the people of the area.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The war on terrorism is a kind of massive assault that which has brought enormous crisis in South Asian countries through the adverse impacts on their social, economic, political and physical infrastructure. Pakistani state has suffered excessively on the basis of social, economic, infrastructural and human cost due to terrorism. Resultantly, the country is declared as the dangerous place and is in-line with countries like Iraq and Afghanistan with regard to internal order. Since 2001 and onward to 2009, the country confronted severe bloodshed and havoc in the form of terrorist attacks and suicide bombings consequently, such activities brought damage to schools, colleges, hospitals, banks, infrastructure, discouraged the government employees to continue their duties and services. However, Bajawar agency in particular and Malakand Division in general remained under a massive and severe wave of extremism, militancy and terrorism for more than 11 consecutive years. The destruction of infrastructure, particularly the agricultural economy remains very high and crops were destroyed more severely. The people economy was adversely affected in forms of loss of their property, destruction in fields, income level as well as increase in poverty as well. The data collected and analyzed presented a clearer picture of the changed situation which has resulted due to the wave of militancy and terrorism in the area. The researcher has reached the conclusion that the militancy and terrorism crises had left the local agriculture economy with numerous impacts. The impacts were short term though, it added to the miseries of the local people already under the effects of crises. The findings reveled a direct impact to majority of the farmers, reduction in the supply and quality of inputs, ill functioning of the market, increase in prices and thus lower productivity and income for the farmers. The degree and nature of the negative impact to the agriculture economy varied however, an average number of farmers, processors, marketer and consumers reported almost similar trend of the impacts. The argument to this conclusion is that in the changed situation with absence of peace and tranquility, the agriculture sector had gone through a tough time with reduced productivity and economic return to the farmers. Findings revealed that the supply of commodities, number of traders and quality of commodities decreased while the prices and competition in the market increased sizably.

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