

INTERNAL VULNERABILITIES TO PAKISTAN'S SECURITY

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ABSTRACT. Pakistan has become a terror stricken, crisis-ridden and a destabilized polity in recent times. It is passing through one of the most critical junctures of its history where internal security challenges are haunting it like a curse. The multiple challenges which the country is facing nowadays are ranging from crisis of individuality to governance, from insecurity to collapsing state of economy. The apparent insecurity and instability in the country owes itself to these 'multiplities' of crisis. This paper, through descriptive methodology, attempts to unleash the vulnerabilities which the country is facing internally and are needed to be measured up to avoid the catastrophe of becoming a failed state. The purpose of our work is to highlight the problems in Pakistan, which are weakening the country and suggests remedies to those.

Keywords: Security, threat, extremism, instability.

1. **Introduction.** Vulnerabilities of any country can either be on external or internal fronts. Pakistan, since its emergence, has remained vulnerable due to its geographic location and ideological strife which it inherited as an aftermath of the partition in 1947. Pakistan was created on the basis of an ideology and this ideology brought together the Muslims of the subcontinent on a focal point. Some others argue that the creation of Pakistan was on the basis of to win a place for the Muslims of the subcontinent from the British where they can live a better life.

These people (involved in struggle for a separate country) were from diverse linguistic, cultural and social backgrounds. Later, the ideology of creation on the basis of Islam was deliberately used to add fire to the emotional character of the people.

The internal security environment was shaped in these conditions and evolved into a jigsaw of factors playing to create the overall mosaic. In addition, the global and regional environment coupled with the economic, social, religious and psychological factors had played an important role in shaping Pakistan's internal security environment (Jalal, 1990). These factors demand an in depth study to reach on any viable suggestions towards tackling the internal security issue. Due to the unstable political governments, poor economic conditions, ethnic violence and religious extremism, history witnessed the debacle of East Pakistan in 1971. Pakistan again faces the same challenges. The internal weaknesses and differences have to be identified to overcome the vulnerabilities for a safe and existent Pakistan.

The basic factors which shape the internal security environment of the country are diverse and have deep roots in history and the ideological evolution of thinking pattern of the masses. These factors are basic, however number of catalysts also work in conjunction with these to add up to the adverse situation. These are the economic and social factors. The internal security situation is shaped through a combined effect of each of the factors which are discussed in this paper. All of these factors contribute to each other and the net result is the deteriorating internal situation in the country.

2. Problems in the Country

2.1. Political Situation. Constitution with a consolidated political setup has direct bearing on the internal situation of a country. It can either be the vulnerability or strength of a nation. Pakistan had been plagued with a dearth of political leadership (Talbot, 1999). The situation provided the opportunity to the selfish and insincere elements to dwell and play with the people. Due to the Lack of political will to establish the writ of the government, no political direction and aim has ever been set for the country to run the country on the terms of vision. The political structure has always been high jacked by the feudal lords for personal gains. The national wealth and resources are in rare quantity and still a special class (perhaps better described as a blessed class in the country) uses it for their own interest. In Pakistan, there is ultimate under development of the human resource and lack of education, resultant unemployment and the frustration of the youth.

2.2. Economic Situation. The country has been retrieved from a point of bankruptcy by the government. However, a lot has to be done in this facet. The constitution is a binding factor for different facets but it will be strengthened by a strong economy. In fact, it would not be unreasonable to argue that economic factor is the most important factor in the overall situation. Economic disparity and the segmentation of the society in haves and have-nots create an environment where anti-social and fissiparous ideas can ferment. The economically strong nations in the world are not facing such internal problems probably due to the economically satisfied masses. Economy is the cornerstone on which the edifice of internal situation is built.

The poor economic performance in comparison to the world has been the major factor in the deteriorating internal situation. Poverty and unemployment gives birth to frustration and the dissidents exploit this to cause chaos as it is happening in case of widespread extremist outfits where majority are using religion as a cover to satisfy their economic deprivations. The birth of many crimes is mainly due to the poverty and illiteracy of the people. When they cannot afford the expenses of living in a society they start indulging themselves in the activities like suicide bombing, target killing, and kidnapping etc. so that they can at least lead a life to have their needs fulfilled.

2.3. Religious Extremism. Each country has its population with different clans, observing different religious values. The same has direct effects on the internal situation of the country. The religious fervor of the nation is the strength of the national ideology. This, however, has been misdirected and shaped into a menace over the years in Pakistan. Religion has neither been understood properly nor interpreted appropriately by the so called 'Ulema' and the "Maulvis". These people have disoriented the religious fervor towards terrorism, which has subsequently become as an instrument of destabilizing the country.

The symbol of being an ideological state has been debauched by the extremist thought tagged with the great religion of Islam. The amount of irreparable damage that has been caused to both the religion and the ideology of the country will take a long time to recover. During the Zia's era, the religion was mainly used as a tool for getting maximum number of seats in the government and to manipulate the masses (Talbot, 1998). The biggest sectarian party Lashkari Jhangvi was created in his regime which had a big hand in creating hatred between different sectarian groups of the Muslims. On opposition of this group, one other group was formed that was Sippah-e-Mohammad that supported the Shia community. Numbers of bomb blasts have increased since those days. Perhaps it could be better termed as 'watering the roots of terrorism' in the country.

2.4. Terrorism. Pakistan being the front line state on war against terrorism has been affected by the spillover of terrorists from Afghanistan and settling in the border areas of Pakistan. This has deteriorated the situation across the country especially in the area of FATA, KPK and Baluchistan.

Once the synergic effect of the above factors was demonstrated in the wake of the national redirection undertaken in the recent years, it resulted in yet another national demon of terrorism. The unemployed poverty stricken people were exploited by the dissidents to their advantage and terrorism took roots in the country. This factor in the current situation is the major player in retarding our economic growth. The establishment of terrorist groups such as Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan and Lashkar e Jhangvi areis surging challenges on internal front and destabilizing the political rule. These militant organizations usually hire the people who are incapable of earning their living, illiterate and kids from the madrassas for training them for suicide bombing (Abbas, 2004).

2.5. Population Growth. The population boom is another factor which is contributing towards the overall internal situation. Mismanagement of the national resources and the ever increasing needs of the growing

population are also contributing to all the previous factors. Poor planning and lack of management increased with the increase in population. The biggest factor in the population growth is also because of the misinterpretation of the religion and the illiteracy which has assured the common men that stopping the growth of population is unethical and un-Islamic.

2.6. Crumbling Education System. A very low literacy rate has contributed to poor management of the human resource and thus Pakistan as a nation has been unable to produce quality value added human resource. The real slow down has occurred in Pakistan during the last twenty to twenty five years. The percentage of the 15-plus age set receiving tertiary education in Pakistan improved from only 2.4 per cent in 1990 to 5.5 per cent in 2010 (Pakistan Economic Survey 2009-2010). This lack of education has contributed and still contributing to the overall sit in all the forms as discussed above. Illiteracy gives birth to unemployment and this in turn nurtures poor economic growth, which results in the use of unfair means to gain economic stability, and the end result; is a poverty ridden society diseased by terrorism and religious extremism.

2.7. Ethnic Problems. Pakhtoonistan, Sindhudesh and Saraikistan are the byproducts of the politics of ethnicity in Pakistan. The major clashes in Karachi are always between the Mohajirs and Pakhtoons similarly the Sindhis think that the Indian Mohajirs have snatched their rights from them as after partition a big chunk of people migrated from India and majority of whom were well-educated. They came to Pakistan and they were appointed on higher posts where the Sindhis were suppressed in the education field and resultantly remained backward (Malik, 2010).

2.8. Political Dimensions. Pakistan has always wished for good governance. Approximately all political parties proclaim to bring change in the governance of the country but hardly any party could fulfill its words. The essential characteristics that ensure good governance are consensus, participation, transparency and accountability were absent in the efforts of every government i.e. civil or military rule in Pakistan. The factors behind failure in achieving good governance include corruption, institutional deficiencies, deficient rule of law, etc.

2.9. Leadership Vacuum

From the time of emergence of Pakistan as a nation-state, after the death of the Quaid-i-Azam, a leadership vacuum was created which could not be filled. The major reason was that the All India Muslim League was completely clear in the aim of creating Pakistan but it had no idea what they were going to do or how they were going to lead the country in which terms and conditions. Keeping aside the issues of the common man, the ruling class of Pakistan who generally belong to the influential elite class of the social order, gives priority to giving protection to the benefits of the small wealthy class.

2.10. Military Regimes. Majority setbacks in the political history of Pakistan were frequent martial laws. This immature political scene is the basic outcome of that. The military rulers always thought of the civilian political leaders as “good for nothing” and they always intervened in the political affair ending up in either marshal law or emergency (Ali, 2010).

2.11. Insurgencies/Riots. Military regimes led to unrest in the country which was also exploited by the regional forces. One unit, Linguistic riots, creation of Bangladesh and Baluchistan insurgency are the most prominent examples. Serious troubles have erupted in the province of Baluchistan since the assassination of the local leadership (Selig, 2006). Pressure for independence is growing in this region bordering Iran and Afghanistan, which challenges Pakistan’s authority.

2.12. Inter Provincial Disharmony. Different actions by the political as well as military Governments led to inter provincial disharmony. One of the major causes of instability in Pakistan has been the disproportionate and unequal resource-distribution among the provinces (Burki, 2010). Sub-nationalist responses such as demands for a Seraiki province (southern Punjab), Baloch nationalist movements and the recent protests for the Hazara province has been the result of the economic inequities that have strengthen anti-Islamabad sentiment.

2.13. Instability in FATA. FATA consist of six smaller frontier regions in the north-west of Pakistan and a group of seven tribal agencies and with population of approximately 4 million. The area of seven agencies is

administered under the 19th century colonial Frontier Crimes Regulations [FCR]. The authority of the Supreme Court and the High Courts of Pakistan and the organizations guaranteeing basic rights to the people of Pakistan have not been extended to the tribal areas, and the President head of Pakistan legislates and makes verdict about the region. The position of the FATA as a tribal area has been a main structural cause of insecurity and instability in Pakistan, as even prior to the Afghan conflict, criminals from other parts of the country would flee for asylum. Since Pashtuns have a cultural custom of giving security to their guests even at the price of their lives, the tribal belt has been serving as the home for the terrorists of the worldwide.

2.14. Socio-economic Factor. The two factors of social instability in Pakistan, particularly in rural areas, are poverty and illiteracy. This has caused an increase in suicide rate incidents and a growing trend of radicalization in the society. Pakistan with the population of over 180 million requires a strengthened economy. Weak and frequently changing political governments could not perform well in the socio-economic factor which resulted in annual Per capita income of about \$ 550. Foreign debt of over \$ 50 Billion, 35% population living below the poverty line and striving for two end meals, Literacy rate of below 60%, lack of basic civic facilities for half the population and religious extremism are likely to cause the state bleed in future.

2.15. Implications on the Internal Environment on Security. Having seen the factors shaping the internal environment, I must make clear the implications of the above-discussed situation on national level. The internal security environment has following effects on the security environment:

The factors shaping Pakistan's internal security environment have driven a deep wedge in the national unity. The fissiparous agents have used the situation for their gains and have created a situation where inter provincial rivalry has taken roots. Basic national issues like water management, distribution of resources and linguistic disparities have been aired as the contentious issues amongst the provinces. This is a major threat to national integration.

2.16. Exterior Maneuvers. The poor internal security situation has provided our adversaries with a golden opportunity to exploit the situation and carry out terrorist activities and launch exterior maneuvers in cultural, diplomatic and economic spheres. The adversaries are playing their game while we remain embroiled in our internal feuds.

The internal situation marred with terrorism, extremism and instability is the major factor which is keeping the investors from coming to this country. The internal situation if stabilized would attract a large amount of FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) and help generate economic activity to our advantage.

2.17. Ideological Disintegration. The basic idea of 'Two Nation Theory' on which Pakistan was created will be negated if the inter-provincial problems keep cropping up. The ideology is the centre of gravity of this nation. The very legitimacy of our existence is being put at stake due to this poor internal situation.

The implications of the internal security situation dictate that the problem is of paramount importance. The poor internal security situation is the combined produce of all those factors which have been enumerated above. These facets must be improved to strengthen Pakistan. Otherwise, the fate will be unimaginable and unspeakable. The suggested measures cannot be all encompassing unless implemented under a unified strategy at the national level. The entire process has to be initiated in a logical manner. We have a nation to build. The major irritants in the internal security situation can be removed by undertaking the following:

3. Solution to out the Country from the Crises.

Education, Literacy and Technical Knowledge. First and the most important step in the improvement of the internal situation is to educate the masses. This must be done with the top priority as we have been giving to the nuclear or missile program. The thrust lines should be:

Pakistan and its ideology should be the basis of all education as a standard theme. Islamic education should be a better chunk of the curriculum. The traditional education system where Arabic and Persian were taught to all has been done away with. Just one generation ago it was impossible to imagine anyone not knowing the basic Islamic fundamentals and not having the education to understand and interpret the Quran. This should be the basic theme of Islamic education. All students should be able to understand and interpret Quran at their own by the time they graduate. Let us bring the religion out of the hegemony of the clergy. Technical education with value added degrees must be incorporated in the basic education. IT, computers, telephony and media should be part of the mandatory curriculum. Free education should be provided to all class of people by

the government till Masters. Easy to access training/ education facilities for all should be provided so everyone can have easy access to jobs as well.

3.1. Political Restructuring. The political restructuring is already underway. Devolution of power and the continuity of the democratic process are important. The system must be seen through to its logical ultimate shape in a ruthless manner. Feudalism must be curbed and uprooted. The military should not be influencing in political scene apart from engaging in the dialogue on National Security Council forum. Institutionalizing the political process through the democracy at the grass route level will serve the cause. More rights to the provinces should be given through NFC award to improve inter provincial harmony.

3.2. Human Resource Development. Human recourse available with Pakistan is the vital asset of this nation. We must develop it to compete in the international and domestic market. Development of human skills and skilled labor will be the first step in the direction. With the development of the education system the value added technical human recourse can be exported and used at home. Pakistan population is growing day by day if the human population is used in human resource development the economy of Pakistan can readily boost.

3.3. Industrial Development. The industrial base has to be broadened to absorb the skilled manpower and to reduce the unemployment. This has to be done in conjunction with the fight against terrorism to attract the FDIs. Government should encourage new investors in the market to invest more and more, with greater number of industries more people can be employed and more national income can be obtained.

3.4. Combating Terrorism. The most disturbing factor is terrorism. This is not only destroying the internal security situation but also driving away economic activity from the country. The war on terrorism is on and we must clear ourselves of this curse in this opportune time. Pakistan has been an important factor for the external sources in the fight again terrorism.

Religious extremism will be curbed with better religious education. Extremist elements should be pacified through active engagement at intellectual level. The religious education as discussed earlier will play a vital role in this regard. By following the true teachings of Islam, the religious extremism can be eliminated.

3.5. Population Control and Management. If Bangladesh can do it, so can we. The population boom has to be tamed to either conform to our resources or to contribute towards resource generation. A combination of the both will be a better option. Every year more than one million people commit suicide due to poverty and economic hardships (Express Tribune Report, 2010).

3.6. Inter-Provincial Harmony. This aspect is very important. All provinces must be brought on common grounds on national issues. The previous suggestions will help in shaping the environment favorable for provincial harmony. The national interests must be pursued and the provinces must be included in the bounty. The contentious issues be debated and properly propagated in the media towards national interests. After the conditioning these must be implemented to the benefit of all.

3.7. Development of Media. Media must be developed to play its positive role in building nation opinion and consensus. The power of media must be utilised to the optimum. Media should be broadcasting such material that can cause awareness in people and they can raise their voice in a positive way again the corruption, rigging in elections, for their legal right that they are deprived of.

3.8. Civic Facilities. Government should improve Health facilities including free health care. Thousands of people die every year due to lack of the medical facilities in their area.

3.9. Resurrecting Judicial System. Easy and just solution of all cases at police and judiciary level should be given. The rule of the law should be the same for everyone otherwise the rich will be always in power without any check on them and the poor will never rise their voice against the injustice.

4. Conclusion. The internal environment cannot be changed overnight. A progressive attempt has to be made towards the ultimate aim of a peaceful internal situation. The recommended measures have been set in a logical manner of priority. Each will lead to the other and the end result will be a safer internal situation. Our

own inability to have peace in the country is creating collateral effect on all other facets of national development. We are making progress but we can enhance it many folds by creating a suitable internal environment.

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