
**INTOLERANCE AMONG YOUTH AND ITS IMPACTS ON PAKISTANI
SOCIETY: SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF URBAN SINDH**

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ABSTRACT

Currently, Pakistani society is in the phase of paradigm shift. It is encountering changes in cultural norms, values and social fabric. Further it is viewed that the manifest acts of jealousy, revenge, racism, social injustice, and frustration in the society are common. Violent, aggressive and intolerant behaviour is frequently observed and experience on the streets, roads, markets, offices and other common places. (Mushtaq. M, Kiyani, M.M., 2013). While moving around in different areas, places or cities of country, the youth can be found on the streets with different aggressive behaviours. That shows the level of increased intolerance. It raises various questions about the causes, correlates and consequences.

The present study is focused on Karachi city as research universe. Researcher made efforts to find out correlations of increasing intolerance level among the youth of urban Sindh. Explanatory and exploratory research approaches have been performed. The Qualitative research method was applied. Major source of data collection were five focus group discussions with different stakeholders and five in-depth interviews. The research answered the following research questions. (1) What is relationship between political, religious and socio-economic factors with intolerance among youth living in urban areas of Pakistan? (2) What is the role of electronic, print and social media for promotion of intolerance among youth in urban areas of Pakistan? (3) How can we control/manage the intolerance among youth of urban areas of the country?

The results explored that urban society is suffering from high level of failures of social institutions, therefore existing push and pull factors leading the urban youth towards increased intolerance level. According to results unemployment, religious extremism, ethnicity, and political relationships are major causes of intolerance among youth in urban areas and play role as push factors. On another hand Print, electronic and social media are plying their part as pull factors towards increasing intolerance level among youth in urban areas of Sindh as well as Pakistan. This finding will be helpful to understand the problem of violence, aggression and crime in our society. The paper advocates that preventative measures should be taken to handle these critical issues.

Keywords: Intolerance; Social injustice; Cultural Norms, Aggression.

INTRODUCTION

Pakistani society is encountering changes in cultural norms, values and standards. The manifest acts of jealousy, revenge, racism, social injustice, and frustration in the society are at their peak. Violent, aggressive and intolerant behaviour is frequently observed and experienced on the streets, roads and other common places (Mushtaq. M, Kiyani, M.M., 2013). While moving in different areas, places or cities of country, youth can be found on the streets with different aggressive behaviours like fighting, political grouping in educational institutions, quarrels among passengers in trains, busses, arguments and scuffling while driving or traffic incidents on roads; even youth seen fighting just for nothing. It can be observed that educational institutions like Madrasas are increasing the violent behaviour (Winthrop & Graff, 2010). Militant extremism is serious issue of Pakistani society (Majeed & Hashmi, 2014; Winthrop & Graff, 2010). All of above behaviours by youth shows the level of increased intolerance, and raises many questions about its causes, correlates and consequences.

Youths are core of any nation. But when whole of the nation experiences violence, war, mismanagement, corruption, religious extremism and divided among sects, sub-sects, ethnic groups, casts. (Sattar, N., 2011), (Masud, Ahmed, Choudhury, & Mostafa, 2013; Yusuf, 2011) what could be expected of them? Unfortunately Pakistan is defined as failure state by some scholars, economists, international community, or even national institutions (Masud, M.H., *et.al.*, 2013). These circumstances lead youth away from national ideology, positive mobilization, constructive thinking and global competition, and push them towards violence, aggression, extremism, and intolerant behaviour. Aggression increases among youth in their attempt to change the system, and failure of expected results converts in intolerance.

Modern technology has change the way of expressions and reactions, thus we can find the intolerant behaviour of youth through social media against anomalies of public and private sector leaders as well as institutions. Analyzing the whole situation, it is observed that society fails to fill the gap between traditional culture and modern global development, which leads towards self-destruction and increasing Intolerance among youth. It is easily assessable that youth is more diverted towards revenge than tolerance. Media, religion, literacy, cultural elements, socioeconomic imbalance and society itself may be counted among possible factors.

Sindh is under pressures of cultures from other provinces of Pakistan, and influences of international culture of negative behaviours

through internet, print and electronic media, religious extremism, from Afghanistan and Northern Areas through religious movements and fluctuating population growth. All above factors damage the cultural reflection of thousands of years of Indus civilization and of Sindhi society. Its' core positive behaviours, non-extremist views, and softness of national behaviour are damaged, therefore, in Sindhi society in general and in youth specifically, growing aggressive behaviour and level of intolerance is increasing.

Youth being prominent segment of society may play vital role for development of country, but due to enormous reasons this segment is facing socio-psychological problems and Intolerance is most hazardous behaviour among youth. Pakistani society is based on different dominant factors like emotional relationship with language, territory, provinces, ethnicity, religion etc., which determines very much the behaviour of youth. Sindh, being an important segment of country, have its own culture, society and behaviours, having its roots in the oldest Indus civilization in the shape of Mohen-jo-Daro, carried out through the centuries to current soft, loving, secular, rural society. On another hand Sindh province have strong industrial and Post-Industrial society in its urban areas like Karachi and Hyderabad. Consequently, youth of Sindh bears both of rural and urban characteristics, secular and religious concepts, aggressive and polite behaviours, extreme level of feudal system in rural areas and high level of corporate system in urban areas. Results of this study will play major role to find out the causes and consequences of this situation, which is very much vital for policy makers.

To find out the answers of above situation this research was conducted on the following objectives:

1. To find out correlation of intolerance with socio-economic, political, and religious factors among the youth in urban Sindh.
2. To find out the role of electronic, print and social media for intolerance among the youth of Sindh.
3. To suggest ways of helping the youth of our nation and curbing the menace of intolerance.

Moreover the research was conducted to answer the following research questions:

1. What is relationship between political, religious and socio-economic factors with intolerance among youth living in urban areas of Pakistan?
2. What is the role of electronic, print and social media for promotion of intolerance among youth in urban areas of Pakistan?

3. How can we control/manage the intolerance among youth of urban areas of the country?

BRIEF LITERATURE REVIEW

In Pakistan intolerance and extremism of all kinds like social, sectarian and religious seems to have taken hold over the society in large; this can be witnessed, for example, by the increasing number of target killings. This was the significant finding by a recent study of Syeda Rakhsanda and Dr. Ahmed Saeed (2014). They further elaborated through research among youth of different national universities that denial of basic human needs like education, jobs, food and security are among the basic causes behind intolerance among youth. Radicalism, among youth in Pakistan, was found to be another form of extremism in a study done by Moeed Yousuf and Arsala Jawaaid (2014). They found that there are two prominent determinants of radicalization among Pakistani youth i.e. education and socio-economic deprivation. They also emphasized the role of state as driver of militancy and intolerance. This study also criticized the national policies and international interference. They further, identified the factors behind intolerance like bad governance and corruption.

Exploring the factors causing aggression and violence among students and its impact on social attitudes (Mushtaq, M. & Munir, M.K., 2013) were the objectives of the research focusing on intolerant behaviour in Pakistani society. The study found that youth displaying aggressive behaviour at common places like roads and streets. The study found that intolerance is most serious social problem of Pakistani youth nowadays. According to study, terrible acts of violence shaking the public confidence in various cities is routine phenomenon, that is caused by revenge, jealousy, and race for material attainment or absence of social justice and frustration. The study further revealed that Pakistani culture has its assortment that shows more revenge than tolerance. Due to its male dominant characteristics in society it is highly aggressive. Youth throughout their life experience violence around them rather than care, love and guidance. Another research journal of American Psychological Association, published a research in Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology, titled as, "Physiological Arousal, Distress Tolerance, and Social Problem Solving, Deficits among Adolescent Self- Injurers' by (Matthew K. Nock and Wendy Berry Mendes, 2008). As a significant study by researchers this research elaborated the extreme level of intolerance due to stressful events of life in which youth decided to do self-injuries. The sample size included 92 youth; out this 62 were with

self-injurious behaviour and 30 with non-injurious, with controlled variables of age, sex and race. Study reveals that youth, who were engaged in self-injuries, have deficits in social problem solving skills. This approves the model of (Nock & Prinstein, 2004); study which also shows that they have decreased ability to tolerate distress and persist, the study also provides evidence of physiological hyper arousal behaviour during stressful event among youth.

Study by Allison Harell (2008), of McGill University, is comparative example for situation here in Asian culture and society with European society. This study was presented at Canadian Political Science Annual meeting, with title, 'Social Diversity and the Development of Political Tolerance' Young people were the focus of study about their attitudes on political speeches and their tolerance. The study revealed that racial and ethnic diversity increases the political intolerance, study diagnoses that racial and ethnic diversity is major reason for development of multicultural forms of tolerance among young generation; study also shows the importance of literature on political tolerance.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

To achieve objectives of study and answer the research questions explanatory as well as exploratory research has been performed. Applying the Qualitative methods Five Focus Group Discussions with different stakeholders and Five In-depth interviews were the major source of data collection. Karachi city was the research universe of the study, being a major urban area of Sindh as well as Pakistan. Respondents were selected from university students of three major public universities i.e. University of Karachi, NED Engineering University and Dow Medical University Karachi and one Private Hamdard University Karachi, moreover few youth from working class i.e. shopkeepers and workers of mobile markets were included in FGD's to get view point of youth who could not complete their education, gender ratio were maintained among participants from university students. In-Depth interviews were conducted with religious leaders, political leaders, one female District level officer of Social Welfare Department, correspondent of electronic media and psychologist. Majority of IDI's respondents were married with young children therefore they also shared their experiences as parents. Data was analyzed according to standard qualitative data analysis procedures.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

As the study was conducted to made efforts to find out correlations of increasing intolerance level among the youth of urban Sindh.

Discussions, interviews experiences, observations and viewpoints of different stakeholders were analyzed. Collected results through data analysis of FGD's and IDI are presented here and arranged in the shape of answers of major research questions. Participants took keen interest in threadbare discussion and at some stages probing questions were also asked to get better results.

What is relationship between political, religious and socio-economic factors with intolerance among youth living in urban areas of Pakistan?

This research question was most important question and highly discussed among participants of all groups and Interviews. Most of participants were agreed on position that Political and Religious affiliations are playing role as basic motivations for changing behaviour among youth. According to participants political and religious affiliations of people changed the cultural norms and values of society, moreover these affiliations are driving youth in specific and society in general towards emotional behaviours and increasing Intolerance. Participants discussed the major differences of social behaviours among urban and rural society and majority of participants were agreed on statement that urban society is more rigid, complicated, aggressive and emotional. Here social bonds, social values, care, respect of elders and love with Youngers are in fading now-a-days.

Participants of IDI's discussed that role of family as social institution is ending and parents are not playing their ideal role, overall controlling and motivational role of society is also weakening therefore individualism is increasing and collectivism among urban society is declining. According to participants Ego among majority of youth is at its peak therefore their tolerance level is very low, society is constructing new standards of respect and social status where people are known and respected for their power, money, relationship, vehicles they have, bungalows they have and even their aggressive behaviour with others. Discussing on the major reasons of Intolerance among youth in urban Sindh, religious affiliations and sentimental behaviour was on the top list of causes, political activities and issues were at second level as causes of intolerance among youth. Economic status was also discussed as major cause of intolerance among youth and various examples were given by participants where young boys of upper class urban families committed suicides, murders, and fights and kidnapped peoples only because of their increased Intolerance level.

One of the participants was giving importance to generation gap in this situation according to her point of view. Young generation have no realization about social values. Youth group in urban areas is isolated from parents therefore they could not learn and attach with our social norms, moral obligations hence aggressiveness or intolerance on petty issues is normal for them.

According to FGD's we cannot generalize the situation for whole population of Karachi or Pakistan that intolerance is increasing however it revealed that intolerance varies from family to family and class to class. It was also discussed that lack of forgiveness and frustration also caused by failure of government system, lawlessness and due order less society.

What is the role of electronic, print and social media for promotion of intolerance among youth in urban areas of Pakistan?

While discussing on the role of electronic, print and social media that increasing Intolerance among youth of urban Sindh and Pakistan, respondents took keen interest and probes various aspects of media which are affecting behaviours of people in general and youth in specific. According to participants currently huge level of development in information technology and electronic media picture of society and human behaviour is changed. Youth are following their ideal characters of films, dramas, animated movies, cartoons and even different types of video games specially which are developed on fighting, wars and car driving animations. According to participants social media has also engaged the youth in different applications of it and this can cause of their failure in life, increased frustration and aggressiveness. One participant discussed the rapid sharing of information on issues that causes early reactions and motivate the youth towards intolerance, moreover through Facebook, WhatsApp and other applications various religious, political, extremists, and international opponents share thousands of posts to get their petty benefits and change the behaviour of youth towards aggressiveness and increases their intolerance even on non-issues. Increased clashes in Baluchistan, Karachi and KPK are live examples of this. Sectarian and sub-sectarian conflicts and increased intolerance on these issues are also enhanced by negative role of social media. Majority of FGD's and results of IDI's concluded that all forms of media are playing basic role in increasing intolerance among youth in specific and society in general.

How can we control/manage the intolerance among youth of urban areas of the country?

Discussing on the solutions and control over increasing intolerance level among youth of urban areas of Sindh and Pakistan participants of discussion and interviews were agreed that, causes and consequences of intolerance among youth are different in all provinces of Pakistan according to their dynamics. Problems related to youth of Baluchistan are entirely different than youth of Punjab, and problems of youth related to economically sound families are different than those belonging to poor families. In this way problem of youth on basis of gender or rural and urban are entirely different, causes on ethnicity and language are different in nature. According to participants it will be very inappropriate to describe the increasing intolerance problems of youth in general terms; we have to probably place and solve them in appropriate categories or ways. Therefore, while attempting to solve the increasing intolerance among youth, Government, NGO's, Universities and intellectuals, parents and other stakeholders have to work according to nature and causes of increasing intolerance. At micro and macro level, appropriate reforms in social institutions are important, failure of family as social institution must be revived, control over religious extremism and positive development political system and institution are only ways to control increasing intolerance among youth. Control over sharing of false and violent material through social media by Government agencies can play an important role. It was also discussed that urban society of Pakistan is very much complicated and media is easy way for entertainment of youth therefore they are captured in negative aspects of social media, Government should also develop alternate ways for entertainment of young generation in the shape of parks, sports and games to overcome the situation.

CONCLUSION

Analyzing the results and discussions following major results have been concluded:

- I. Intolerance among youth is a complex and changing phenomenon in our society which is expressed in different ways on different occasions.
- II. Urban society is suffering from high level of failures of social institutions and existing push and pull factors are leading urban youth towards increased intolerance level.
- III. Media is easy way for entertainment of youth they are captured in negative aspects of social media.

- IV. Unemployment, religious extremism, ethnicity, political relationships are major causes of increasing intolerance among youth in urban areas and play role as push factors.
- V. Print, electronic and social media are plying their part as pull factors towards increasing intolerance level among youth in urban areas of Sindh as well as Pakistan.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- I. While attempting to solve the increasing intolerance among youth, Government, NGO's, Universities, intellectuals, parents and other stakeholders have to play their role according to nature and causes of increasing intolerance.
- II. Appropriate reforms in social institutions are important, failure of family as social institution must be revived.
- III. Control over religious extremism and positive development political system and institution are only ways to control increasing intolerance among youth.
- IV. Government should develop alternate ways for entertainment of young generation in the shape of parks, sports and games etc.

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