Grassroots

TERRORISM AT SEA:
MARITIME SECURITY CHALLENGES IN SOUTH ASIA

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ABSTRACT

Indian Ocean is an important trade route and a key international sea – lanes of communication in the present century. The major objectives of this research paper are to analyze the security and other challenges in Indian Ocean. In this research paper the qualitative and descriptive research methodology will be applied. The geo-economic and political approach will be applied to gauge the challenges of Indian Ocean and their counter remedies. Indian Ocean is also important due to geo-strategic location. There is always issue of maritime security is always there due to the presence of various checkpoints of straits of Hormuz, the Bab-el-Mandeb and Indonesian straits etc. There are many challenges confronted in Indian Ocean such as piracy, environmental hazards and arms, human and drugs *smuggling. There is a need to chalk out the joint strategy to provide security and counter terrorism and other maritime crimes in Indian Ocean.*

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Keywords: Indian Ocean, Maritime Challenges, Collective Security Strategy.

INTRODUCTION

Whoever controls the Indian Ocean, that nation has conquered the Asia. The ocean is the main route in the 21st century for trade energy and water" - Alfred Thayer Mahan (Azhar Ahmed, 2010:52).

The sea is considered as the symbol of calmness, peace and security. The sea-faring is not safe due to advancement in the technology. The Sea challenges are enhanced due to rapid trade. The access to open sea provides the extensive opportunities to prosper and promote the national interests. The major trade is taking place through Indian Ocean. "The realm of maritime security includes inter-state territorial disputes, political instabilities, transnational armies such as maritime terrorism, piracy, man's smuggling, drugs and trafficking, smuggling, and environmental degradations" (Sunday *Observer*, 2010:5).

Indian Ocean is an important strategic route and sea-lane of communication in the modern times. The different sea crimes like piracy and maritime terrorism are proliferating day by day in Indian Ocean. Indian Ocean is highly important geo-strategically, and it is the hub of commercial and trade activities. The 40% of the global transit trade takes place through the Indian Ocean. The human smuggling and drug trafficking is increasing day by day (Commander B.K.Verma, 2009:123).

The Indian Ocean is an important international commercial route. It is the route through which almost half of world's container ships and two-third of world's shipments pass from here. There is a need to chalk out maritime strategy to promote international peace and security. There should be territorial integrity, security from crimes, security of resources and environment.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Crdr P.K. Ghosh (2008:12) has gone through this research work Maritime security challenges in South Asia and the India Ocean: Strategic Response". The Indian Ocean is the birthplace of maritime civilization was the common route of the European nations during colonial era. There are so many choke points in Indian Ocean which carries the pivotal importance: straits of Hormuz, straits of Malacca, Lambok and Sundae straits etc. This is the major route of energy flow of various littoral states.

The author has critically assessed the Maritime challenges in Indian Ocean i.e. human trafficking, terrorism, narcotics dealings and piracy issues. The future of the Law of the Sea will deal with offshore energy development, natural resources management and environmental issues etc. (Hasham Bin Saddique, 2012:235).

David Michel and Russell Sticker (2006:456) states that the security issues, trade, commercial whaling's and environmental hazards will shape the Indian Ocean a viable route, and compel the decision-makers and stakeholder to frame the policy.

The Indian Ocean is a key strategic point of international politics. Its significance is increasing day by day due to modern route of shipment, energy reserves and natural resources etc. The various littoral nations i.e. India, Indonesia and South Africa, regional actors and global players are transforming Indian Ocean major cross roads for security, issue of governance and maritime policy etc. The linkage of Indian Ocean is highly developed due to trade proliferation, investment and people's interaction. The piracy cases are frequently increasing day by day in Indian Ocean" (Ibid).

Rear Admiral Khan & Hasham Bin Saddique (2012:235), the 95% of Pakistan's trade and other major requirements of its imports takes place through Indian Ocean. The perpetual flow of energy resources is essential for the well-being of Pakistan's economy and it also augment the significance of Strait of Hormuz. This area is an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), with continental shelf extending further 50,000 sq km. This area is rich in fishery and sea-bed resources. Pakistan is highly interested to secure this area in order to fulfil its interests. The Gawadar and Makran coast are very important due to their geo-strategic position. Gawadar is an important trade route and path for investment and commercial whaling's etc. In a new emerging scenario, the Indian Ocean can play more dynamic role for Pakistan (Commander B.K. Verma, 2009:333).

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES
i) To highlight those maritime security challenges which are disrupting the littoral activities in the region?
ii) To suggest the viable response and practicable strategies to confront these maritime challenges.
iii) To focus upon the significance of Indian Ocean as an important trade route, and it is essential to take the safety measures to give protection to the traders.

RESEARCH METHODS
The descriptive and qualitative research methodology will be applied in this research work. The geographic-economic approach will be applied to assess the geo-strategic significance of Indian Ocean.

DATA ANALYSIS PROCEDURE
Data Collection: The data for this research paper is collected from different sources i.e. books, journals, reports, newspapers, documentaries and news channels etc.

Data Preparation: The data was prepared from studying various books, magazines and newspapers articles. I had made notes by structuring of a research paper. I have divided the paper in different segments. The data is collected to fill these components.

Data Exploration: The notes were studied and relevant pointed were jolted down in order to incorporate them in research paper. The important themes and inferences were highlighted.

Data Reduction: The data reduction stage plays a significant role in coding of the data. In this study, the Neuman's model for data coding

are: Sorting and classifying, Open coding, Axial Coding, Selection Coding, Interpreting and Elaborating.

Data Interpretation: In this stage the data were interpreted under themes. The different themes were elaborated according to the research requirement.

GEOGRAPHY OF INDIAN OCEAN:

Indian Ocean is the largest in the world by covering 20% part of earth. Geographically, the Indian Ocean is located on the North side of Indian sub-continent and Arabian Peninsula and on the West by Eastern Africa and on the East by Indo-China Sunda Island and Australia and on the South by the Southern Ocean. The Indian Ocean is given this name due to location of India (Trelleborg, n.d.:567).

HISTORY OF INDIAN OCEAN

Indian Ocean was considered the commercial hub of trade activities in colonial era. In the 15th century, the European powers used this naval power for the trading purpose. At the end of 18th century, British Government kept the control upon the Indian Ocean, and this was transformed in to British lake, and was controlled by British. "After the world war second, when Britishers left this place and world was transformed in to the bi-polar world, the rivalry was started between America and USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics). The super powers had established their basis in the Indian Ocean and the process of militarization was started. The United Nations called the Indian Ocean as the zone of peace" (Ellen Laipson and Amit Pandya, 2011:432). During the cold war era, there was change in trend that the geo-strategic factor was considered as a major yardstick to measure the trade and economics

During this period, the sea-borne trade was born and promoted, and in result of this the maritime security challenges have been emerged in Indian Ocean.

INDIAN OCEAN: A FOCAL POINT OF TRADE AND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

Indian Ocean is an economic and a strategic reality. It is an important route of raw material and oil market. "Each day 10.3 million Barrels of oil passes through "Malacca, and while from Hormuz, 15.5 Million Barrels of oil flows through it daily" (Kamlesh K. Agnihotri, 2016:123, 345). The 90% of Indian foreign aid takes place through this

route. The 66% of world's oil, 33% of the world's bulk cargo, 50% of the world's container shipment also takes place through this route.

The closure of these choke points, different countries of world will suffer. If a Malacca strait is closed, then Malaysia, Vietnam and Thailand trade and commercial supply will suffer. If the Sunda strait is closed, then Suez Canal, Egypt, Turkey, Greece and North African trade activities and their vessels will suffer. The closure of Lambok straits will leads towards the disruption of trade activities of China, Japan and Korea. "From the Persian Gulf, the sea-lanes transits through the Indian ocean almost hugging the Indian coast towards the straits of Malacca. Malacca is the busiest maritime strait within over 600 vessels transiting through it every day. Each day, about 10.3 million barrels of petroleum products are carried through the straits of Malacca" (Waheed Anjum, n.d.:55).

MARITIME SECURITY CHALLENGES

There are multiple traditional and non-traditional challenges confronted on Indian Ocean to the different nations. The different incidents have been occurred due to poor management and non-surveillance. "It is essential for all the countries to comply with the principles of International Law to pursue maritime interests and to ensure the security of passage. The maritime security challenges are multi-dimensional by involving the non-traditional security threats. As the concept of globalization is developed, the role of non-state actors has been increased. The role of non-state actors is a potential threat to the security of Indian Ocean" (Robert D. Kaplan, 2010:45). "There are multiple threats confronted in Indian Ocean. There are two types of factors involved in creating threats: external and internal factors. The external factor includes piracy and terrorism, and other internal factors are drug-smuggling, human trafficking and gun-running etc." (Qamar Fatima and Asma Jamshed, 2011:289).

The multiple challenges are as follows:

PIRACY

"Piracy is an old and common crime in the Indian Ocean. The traditional Asian piracy involved the stealing of the valuables from ships and issues of violence. According to International chambers of commerce, almost every year 300 incidents of piracy takes place in Indian Ocean. In these incidents most of crew members are killed and they are turned hostages" (Sam Bateman, Anthony Bergin and Russell Trood, 2009:543). The piracy cases of kidnapping for ransom are very much

common in Malacca straits. The straits of Malacca and Singapore are very much popular among pirates. Pirates are like shark and they suddenly attack upon ships. There are top three piracies common in this region: South East Asia, South Asia and East African coast. The acts of piracy are increasing day by day. Most of the ships are robbed by terrorist's organization. Most of pirates attacks are reported in Bangladesh, Indonesia and Philippine.

DRUG-TRAFFICKING

The issue of drug-trafficking is very common in Indian Ocean and different types of drugs and narcotics are smuggled through this path. There is an established drug network in Indian Ocean. The high-volume of drug-trafficking takes place from Afghanistan via Pakistan and Iran. "Three types of illegal narcotics trafficking take place in the Indian ocean: heroine, amphetamine-types stimulants and cannabis. The major flow is from Afghanistan to Pakistan, Iran and towards Europe and USA" (Ahsan-ur-Rahman Khan, n.d. 23, 45, 65).

HUMAN SMUGGLING

The human beings are illegally smuggled within SAARC region. It is the common route of human smuggling. The men and women are intimated or enticed for sexual and commercial purposes. The fake marriages are common on this basis of human trafficking takes place. The young girls are sold on the brothels to adopt such type of profession and their life is ruined. Even they cannot escape from such a trap.

ARMS SMUGGLING

Arms smuggling is very much common in Indian Ocean. It is an easiest way regarding the transfer of weapons without legal notice. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Ealem (LTTE) has also adopted the network for gun-running.

MARITIME TERRORISM

The Maritime terrorism is one of the formidable challenges of Indian Ocean confronted to various ships. The different terrorist's groups are involved in terrorist's activities. The South Asian region is the hub of the terrorists' activities. The LTTE is an organized terrorist which has established naval basis in Indian Ocean is highly involved in these types of activities in Golden triangle area. LTTE is called as 'Sea Tigers', 'Black Sea Tigers'. The lucrative narcotics trade is conducted from

Golden crescent involving Afghanisan, Pakistan and Iran and through Golden Triangle including Thailand, Laos and Myanamar. They are involved in suicide bombing to disrupt the naval activities. They had targeted the oil, gas terminal, because it is a very lucrative business. They have also hijacked several ships.

LACK OF MARITIME BOUNDARIES

There is no clear-cut maritime boundary in Indian Ocean. There is always an issue of ownership of natural resources, sea-bed and water column in the Indian Ocean.

ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

The Environmental hazards are of the great concern. These are called as non-traditional security threats. It includes, climatic change, Tsunami, rising sea-level, cyclone, floods and over-fishing. These challenges are highly lethal for coastal areas. The South East Asian countries which are situated across Indian Ocean face the intensity of these dangers i.e. floods etc.

CLIMATIC CHANGE

The climatic change is one of the noticeable issues of the Indian Ocean. The Indian Ocean is highly exposed to the climate change. The poor people residing across the coastal areas are highly vulnerable to climatic change. Most of countries face the rough weather across the coastal belt. The climate change creates the issues of loss of biodiversity which have negative economic impacts on the development in the region. Due to the issue of global warming, there is possibility of storms, tropical cyclone, increase of temperature at sea-level and the acidification is increased on the Sea surface etc. These climatic changes are big threat to the livelihood of people, health and welfare activities of those who are living across coastal areas. Their infrastructure is ruined. The standing water creates water logging and salinity which is called as "land cancer".

RISING-SEA-LEVEL

The countries which are situated across the Indian Ocean, they greatly suffer due to the rise of Sea-level. "The findings of Intergovernmental Panel on Climatic Change said that Sea-level has risen from 1.8 mm yearly within 40 years. In this decade from 2010-2020, the sea-level is increased to 3.1 mm each year. It is an apprehension that the Sea-level will rise 18-59 cm by 2100" (*Ibid*). In the River Ganges, Brahmaputra and Indus River, there is an issue of floods that plays havoc

with human lives. According to the latest studies, the melting water from Greenland and Antarctic ice glaciers contributes towards the rise of Sea-level. The Indonesia and Maldives will lose their thousands of their Islands due to rising-level of water.

TSUNAMI AND CYCLONE

The issue of Tsunami and cyclone are one of the formidable challenges of Indian Ocean. These types of phenomenon are common in monsoon season. These tropical cyclones are going to increase the intensity of Indian Ocean. The population residing across the coastal areas is prone to the dangers of Tsunami disaster. According to the analysis, 8 out of 20 most vulnerable coastal cities (Mumbai, Decca and Calcutta etc.) will face severe consequences due to the issue of climate change in 2070. In 2007, 2010 and 2011 cyclones of great powers were recorded.

DUMPING OF NUCLEAR WASTES

The states have to attain nuclear capability for the sake of self-preservation and integrity. The environmental hazards have been increased as the nuclear wastes are dumped in various coasts of Africa. The Indian Ocean is surrounded by nuclear weapon free zone, and it is becoming a nuclear ocean. When Tsunami hit the Indian Ocean, , a large number of nuclear wastes were expelled out it.

MARITIME NATURAL HAZARDS

In Indian Ocean multiple natural hazards are confronted. These challenges are climatic changes, droughts, earthquake, floods, tidal surges, tsunami and other hydrological issues etc. This ocean is called as 'World Hazard Belt'.

POLLUTION

The pollution is most serious issue of the Indian Ocean and it consists of 10 million square km of this ocean. This pollution has negative impacts upon marine life and climatic issues. There is a huge cloud of air pollution over the Indian Ocean. There is a huge brownish haze layer all over the Indian Ocean. During heavy rainfall and flooding the level of pollution in Indian Ocean is increased. This haze is produced in result of burned fuels. In this haze, there is a presence of aerosols, sots, nitrates and other mineral dusts. The Ganges River contributes major amount of pollution in Indian Ocean, because it provides the large amount of fish to India. Another reason, the large number of dead bodies is cremated and their ashes and bones are thrown in Ganges water and it leaded towards enhancing pollution in this Indian Ocean.

STRATEGIES FOR COUNTERING THE MARITIME SECURITY CHALLENGES

There is a great need to chalk out such a strategy at regional and international level to combat maritime challenge in Indian Ocean. It is essential that the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) should adopt the joint strategy for the maritime security of Indian Ocean. The Indian Ocean Marine Affairs Cooperation (IOMAC) should adopt the collective maritime security agenda to control the crimes emerging in Indian Ocean. The maritime security of South Asian region is directly linked with the maritime security of the Indian Ocean in a structurally different framework in which geo-economic is pre-eminent rather than geo-politics. The South Asia is becoming a trans-oceanic community through the naval bonding. As far as Indian Ocean maritime security issues are concerned and it is not possible without the adoption of mutual cooperation and joint action.

U.N. GLOBAL COUNTER-TERRORISM STRATEGY

UN has chalked out a global strategy for countering the maritime terrorism. There is a need to adapt to national, regional and International Strategy to combat terrorism. The four pronged Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy to combat the terrorism:

- To address those factors which are spreading terrorism,
- To combat terrorism,
- To build potential to prevent terrorism and involvement of United Nations in this regard,
- To take steps to respect the human rights and rule of law (*Ibid*).

IORA: Moving from Australia to Indonesia: The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) should provide such type of platform for the promotion of collective naval interests. These associations made their possible efforts to make Indian Ocean very secure, stable and prosperous. The regional navies should combine adopt a common strategy to address security issues.

The Maritime Security of SAARC Countries: The SAARC countries have adopted the joint approach to face the maritime challenges. These countries realize that the coastline is extends to 7,500 km and the imperative need to enhance the maritime and coastal security. The SAARC countries should combine adopts the monitoring and surveillance on Indian Ocean.

Joint Patrolling in the Region: All the countries should adopt such a policy to keep their surveillance by monitoring the region of Indian

Ocean. All countries should fully comply to provide their navy for monitoring process and counter Sea-crimes.

Intelligence Sharing: The South Asian countries are apprehending various types of threats emerging in the Indian Ocean, and there is a need of maritime navigation. The development of modern methods and technology i.e. ballistic Missile, air defense, transportation and command communication enable to detect the various types of crimes in Indian ocean.

Maritime Surveillance: The regular maritime surveillance is essential in the Indian Ocean to control the crimes. The Indian navy has launched the "Indian maritime surveillance aircraft" on Exclusive Economic Zone to control piracy. The Anti-piracy cooperation team is launched for regular monitoring in Indian Ocean.

Cooperative Maritime Engagement: UN General Assembly introduced a proposal to make Indian Ocean Zone of Peace (IOZOP). Malaysia declared that this Indian Ocean should be Zone of Peace Freedom and Neutrality (ZOPFAN).

Long-Range Identification of Tracking Ships: The long-range ships should be tracked from the large distance in order to detect the pirates from the long distance. The visibility of pirate ships can ensure the maritime security.

To Enhance the Regional Cooperation: The most viable strategy to make Indian Ocean safe by promoting the regional cooperation among the countries to launch their mutual efforts.

Improvement in Risk Assessment and Reduction: There is scheme for future in order to avoid the risks that South West Indian Ocean Risk Assessment and Financing Initiative for Risk Transfer Mechanism hosted by the Indian Ocean Commission. The Indian Ocean Risk Assessment can address the vulnerability from various catastrophes such as cyclone, floods, earthquake and tsunamis. These issues are due to climatic change, population proliferation and over industrialization.

Wider Information: The remote distant information should be installed on Indian Ocean, which should provide the up-to-date information about all incoming and outgoing ships.

Regional Cooperation for Maritime Research: The maritime security should be enhanced by rendering maximum cooperation. The regional actors should establish their coastal guards and national agencies to monitor the area of Indian Ocean.

Intelligence and Security Cooperation: The efficient and security coordination network should be established among various countries of South Asia for the security of Indian Ocean.

MY RECOMMENDED ORIGINAL SOLUTION

The naval activism plays a key role in countering the maritime challenges in Indian Ocean. The monitoring team should be informed about all the activities of various ships and sea-fairies. All the ships should be controlled and proper license should be issued to them. There is a need to chalk out such type of strategy to make Indian Ocean as a sustainable zone of Commerce, security, energy and peace by countering all types of possible threats. The SAARC organization and Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) are looking for a strategy for the sake of political and security issues and common interests.

FINDINGS or RESULTS

- The Indian Ocean is geo-strategically a very important naval route, and the world's major trade and oil supply is taking place through this route.
- There are so many issues in Indian Ocean; illegal smuggling, human trafficking, narcotics dealing and water pollution.
- The different regional and international organization are chalking out various types of strategies that how they going to counter crimes in Indian Ocean, and make it as safest path for various countries.

CONCLUSION

Nobody can undermine the significance of water in 21st century. The Indian Ocean is an important route for trade and commercial activities. There are enormous Traditional and non-traditional security threats confronted to many countries in Indian Ocean: human trafficking, piracy, narcotics illegal smuggling, terrorism, pollution, rising level of Sea and climatic change etc. In the present age of globalization, the involvement of the nations is highly increasing in Indian Ocean. Today, Indian Ocean is more important than any other ocean; Atlantic Ocean and Pacific Ocean etc. There is urgent need of the involvement of the regional actors, that they should adopt the joint strategy to make Indian Ocean safe route. They should involve the United Nations team that they should do patrolling and combat terrorism and piracy cases.

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