IMAGE OF WAR ON TERRORISM INTO THE MINDS OF PAKISTANI PEOPLE

Ghulam Safdar[1]
Dr. Abdul Wajid Khan[2]
Atif Ashraf[3]

Abstract

In this present age, Pakistan is facing so many challenges. Terrorism is one of the major challenges. After 9/11 attacks, the political and administrative situation changed rapidly. According to former US president George W Bush War on Terror, is the common term for the military, legal, political, and ideological conflict against Islamic terrorism. The study has investigated how Pakistani people think about image of military operation, militants, terrorist activities and government's policy regarding the war. This article describe the theme of Pakistani people that what do they think on "war on terror". For this purpose, a survey is conducted in Lahore to know about the thinking of people about war on terror.

Keywords: *War on Terror, Pakistani People, Print Media*

Introduction

This study has been designed to investigate perception of Pakistani audience on the war on terror in Pakistan. The study has investigated how Pakistani people think about image of military operation, militants, terrorist activities and government's policy regarding the war. According to former US president George W Bush War on Terror, is the common term for the military, legal, political, and ideological conflict against Islamic terrorism. The war was started by the US in

[1] Ph.D (Scholar), Department of Media Studies, The Islamia University of Bahawalpur
[2] Ph.D (Pak), Post-Doc (U.K), Assistant Professor, Department of Media Studies, The Islamia University of Bahawalpur
[3] Ph.D Scholar, Department of Media Studies, The Islamia University of Bahawalpur

response to the September 11, 2001 attacks on World Trade Centre. Objectives of the war are clear from Bush address to Nation as he said that the purpose of the war is to secure America, break up terror cells and disrupt the activities of the international network of terrorist organizations under the umbrella of al-Qaeda (Bush, 2003). After the US invasion in Afghanistan, the-then government in Pakistan decided to cooperate US and provided it logistic support. Pakistan had to face the reaction as militants from Afghanistan began to take refuge in Pakistan after the Afghan invasion. Pakistan was under pressure by the US and its NATO allies to take actions against the militants who have developed "safe heavens" in Pakistan's tribal areas. In 2004 the Pakistani Army launched a campaign in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas of Pakistan's Waziristan region, sending in 80,000 troops to eradicate Taliban forces (DNA, 2006). Thus Pakistan became a key allay of America in fighting the war on terror and has been cooperating the world community in defeating the menace. But the policy of jumping into the "war on terror" divided the Pakistani society (Ahmad, 2007). Opponents of the war say that this is American war that has been imposed on Islamabad. While the proponents of the war argue that if the menace of terrorism could not be eliminated from the restive areas it can be spread all over the country. The war was started to capture Osama bin Laden but now Osama is dead but the war is still alive.

War on Terror in Pakistan
After the 9/11 attacks, the then Pakistani President General Pervaiz Musharraf decided to support American efforts against terrorism because was too much under pressure by America and International Community to stand by America as Musharraf recalled the pressure in his interview in 2006 with "60 minutes". Musharraf said that after terrorists struck the United States on September 11, 2001, then-Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage told Pakistan's intelligence director the America would bomb Pakistan if it didn't help and be prepared for "stone age" if you don't act. Pakistan arrested major al Qaeda suspects like Zayn al-Abidn Muhammed Hasayn Abu Zubaydah, Ramzi Binalshibh, and Khalid Shaikh Mohammed in connection with the "war on terror". As war on terror was initiated after 9/11 attacks and it was previously known as American-led war against terrorism. After the US invasion in Afghanistan, the-then government in Pakistan decided to cooperate the US in the war and provided it logistic support and in response Pakistan had to face the reaction as militants from Afghanistan began to take refuge in Pakistan.

Pakistan was under pressure by the US and its NATO allies to take actions against the militants who have developed "safe heavens" in Pakistan's tribal areas. The

presence of foreign elements taken refuge in Pakistan had also been recognized by Musharraf.

In 2004 the Pakistani Army launched a campaign in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas of Pakistan's Waziristan region, sending in 80,000 troops (DNA, 2006). The goal of military operation was to eradicate the al-Qaeda and Taliban forces in the region (DNA, 2006). Thus Pakistan became a key allay of America in fighting the war on terror and has been cooperating the world community in defeating the menace. The "War on Terror" which was linked with war against al Qaeda and Taliban (or its allies) by President Bush was now in Pakistan as Pak Army was there to defeat Al Qaeda and Taliban. President Musharraf frequently voiced presence of Pakistan foreigners in Pakistan's bordering areas with Afghanistan and justified military action against militants on the ground that extremists and foreign elements are linked to Taliban and al Qaeda and the must be death with strong hand. (CNN, 2007).

President Asif Ali Zardari in his column in The Washington Post on January, 28, 2009, owned the war on terror and also vowed to defeat Al Qaeda and Taliban. He wrote, "Unlike in the 1980s, we are surrogates for no one. With all due respect, we need no lectures on our commitment. This is our war. It is our children and wives who are dying", (Zardari, 2009).

Pakistan has so far launched operation in Swat and the tribal areas and since then Pakistan has lost more soldiers than that US and NATO together in Afghanistan. As President Zardari said, "In this war Pakistan has lost more soldiers in war against terror than the coalition forces put together in Afghanistan." (Zardari, 2008). The Fatalities in Terrorist Violence in Pakistan during 2003-2008 rose to 13648 in which 5282 are civilians, 1833 security personnel and 6305 are insurgents. The Year 2008 saw relatively maximum number of terror-related casualties i.e. 6593 in Pakistan (SATP report, 2008).

The economic loss of Pakistan reaches to 35 billion dollars in the "war on terror" as declared by foreign minister Shah Mehmood Quresh. (Qureshi, 2009).

War Narratives: Framing Our Understanding of the War on Terror hypothesized that American working for the US administration and the administration's closeness to the war on terror would strongly influence the individual's own war narrative. However, the researchers did not find clear and distinct state of war narratives among the different groups of administrators. They divided their sample in two groups and found that first group was of the view that that just

getting rid of Osama Bin Laden would not allow their lives to return to normal they should not let the enemy disrupt their lives. The other group was concerned with being vigilant and making changes in their way of life in order to fight the war on terror (Ryan, Michael, 2004).

Statement of the problem

War on terror has dominated Pakistan's politics. Tackling militancy with negotiations or operation has been a hot debate. This war has largely affected the Pakistani society. There is an operation and retaliation from both sides. People are being affected killed. Foreign policy of the government regarding the war is also a question mark. People have different opinion regarding the militants against whom the war is being fought. It is becoming an unpopular war as opposition leaders are against the use the force (Ahmad, 2007).

So war on terror is a very complex term to define. People take information from media and develop perception on the basis of the information provided by the media. This study only focuses on audience perception. It deals with public opinion on the war on terror.

Significance of the Study

The study will help in assessing opinion of public on an important issue of the time war on terror. What do people think about the government dealing with the menace of terrorism? In their opinion, Taliban are enemy or not. What are the ways to bring peace into the minds of people and "Is the military operation is justified?" People's perception will be measured. Reason to select the issue, war on terror, is because law and order and lawlessness are major problem of Pakistan. Pakistani audience is in state of fear because of routine bomb blasts. Public wants to get rid of this menace and their opinion in this regard is valuable.

Research Problem

The study, "Image Of "War On Terrorism" Into The Minds Of Pakistani People" is basically aims at determining audience thought on the "war on terror" being fought within the boundaries of Pakistan. How public perceive the "war on terror" a war that includes three parties i.e. Militants (Taliban, al-Qaeda, foreign elements extremists etc.), Security Forces of Pakistan and the United States of America.

Objectives of the study

- To know about the people's interest in government activities regarding war on terror.
- To know about the policy of government against war on terror.

- To know about the relationship between Pakistan and America regarding war on terror.
- To know about the media coverage about war on terror.
- To know about the thinking of peoples about war on terror.

Literature Review

Umbreen (2011) discussed in her article entitled "war on terror: Pakistan's apprehensions" that Pakistan become the front line state in against war on terror after the incident of 9/11. In this process, Pakistan faced crucial problems. It is the general perception in public and even in government of Pakistan that whenever the US war on terror is over, Pakistan will be alone to deal with after effects of war. US interest in Pakistan will be decreased and Pakistan will lose its statues of front line state. Initially war on terror was limited to Afghanistan, but now it is spread in Pakistan. Militants had entered in Pakistan as refuge from Afghanistan due to the ongoing war there. These militants creating serious security problems even leading to military operation against them. Suicide attacks in the country have make society terrorized. Now Taliban and Al-Qaida militants have merged to many local religious militants groups. Now after the more than decade of war against terror, thousands of innocents people have loses their life against this blind war. Wirsing (2008) in this horrible condition, Pakistan is need to be courage and world should understand its current situation and should fully support and help in overcoming the problems. US should also understand the condition of Pakistan as facing competition in the region and political situation should be keep in mind against war on terror. Saeed, Rahid, Rehman, Mobin & Ahmad (2012) argued in their article "Tackling terrorism in Pakistan." That terrorism has become terrible for the whole world since when terrorism has taken the form of suicide attacks. This is such situation that cannot be done with force. It is the motivation to blast him or herself and can cause large mass destruction. Rabbi (2012) stated in his article entitled "war against terrorism and its repercussions for Pakistan" that Pakistan cooperation with US against war on terror has many long term and short term repercussions. In this way Pakistan get help to overcome sanctions, promote economic and military assistance and to terminate its international isolation. Not only this, Pakistan also succeeded to restore its membership of commonwealth which was suspended in 1999. In spite of this, Pakistan also suffered immeasurable loss in the war against terror. Military operation inside the country and counter terrorism against terrorists caused institutional instability and raised economic and social problems for the society. In a study, focusing on the 2004 U.S. presidential election, Golan et al. (2004) hypothesized that the salience of attributes in political advertisements would be positively related to the salience of issues in public opinion. Badshah, Rehman,

Khan & Faiz (2012) stated in their article "war on terrorism and its impacts on the socio-political structure of Pakhtoon society of Pakistan" that war against terror has seriously affected the Pakhtoon society especially in the term of socio-economic. Usually Pakhtoon shelter the militants that caused of problems for Pakhtoon. If they not do so, they killed by the militants.

Research Question
1. Do US cooperation is the reason of terrorism in Pakistan?
2. Does government should conduct peace talk with Taliban?
3. Does the audience think war on terror is "our war"?
4. Do foreign hands are involved in terrorism in Pakistan?

Hypotheses
H1: It is more likely that for citizens, War on Terror is not a Pakistani War.
H2: It is more likely that government should cooperate US to eradicate terrorism in the country.

Research Methodology
The researchers used survey techniques for data collection and deals with attitude and behavior of persons by adopting this procedure. So this technique was found suitable to asses' public opinion about the issue of the study covered by the media.

Area of Study
The present study was conducted in Lahore. Lahore is the second largest city of Pakistan and having the second largest newspaper readership also according to Gallup survey, 2009. People from all walks of life form different parts of the country are settled here for employment, studies etc. The city has a population of more than 6.5 million according to census of 2008 and administratively it is divided in towns and Union Councils. There are 9 towns and one cantonment in the city. These towns are Ravi Town, Shalimar Town, Wagah Town, Aziz Bhatti Town, Data Gunj Bakhsh Town, Gulberg Town, Samanabad Town, Iqbal Town, Nishtar Town.

Sampling Size
All the newspaper readers in Lahore were population of the study and sample of 500 in Lahore were sample of the study because the researchers intend to measure the image of war on terror into minds of people who have made up their minds after exposing to media coverage. Different approach of the media analyzed differently.

Data Interpretations
Table 1: Getting Information regarding war on terror

Sr. No.	Question	Print Media	Electronic Media	Talk with each other	Any other mean	Total
1	From where do you get information regarding war on terror?	38.0%	56.0%	3.3%	2.7%	100%

The above table shows about the source of getting information regarding war on terror. 38.0% respondents argued that they get information from print media while 56.0% respondents said that they get information regarding war on terror from electronic media. On the other hand, 3.3% respondents said the they get information by getting talk with friends and 2.7% respondents argued that they get information any other means like radio, FM etc.

Table 2: People Support against war on terror

Sr. No.	Question	Military Operation	Talks with Taliban	US Cooperation	Other	Total
1	Which government would you support in war on terror?	34.0%	41.3%	19.3%	5.3%	100%

The table shows the results about the people perception about war on terror. 43.0% respondents support military operation against terrorist while 41.3% respondents said government should do peace talk with Taliban. On the other hand, 19.3% respondents argued that US cooperation is necessary against war on terror whereas 5.3% respondents argued that there should make any other way to handle this situation.

Table 3: Who are Taliban?

Sr. No.	Question	Pakistan's Enemy	Danger for Survival	Pakistanis	Others	Total
1	What do you think who are Taliban and other militants?	46.7%	26.0%	22.7%	4.6%	100%

In answer of question "What do you think who are Taliban and other militants?" 46.7% respondents said that they are enemies of Pakistan, 26.0% respondents said that Taliban are danger for survival. On the other hand, 22.7% respondents argued that Taliban are Pakistani whereas according to the 4.6% respondents, Taliban are other than above categories.

Table 4: Who is responsible for terrorism in Pakistan

Sr. No.	Question	Taliban	Govt. Policy	Foreign Hand	Others	Total
1	In your opinion, who is responsible for terrorism in Pakistan?	19.3%	36.0%	43.3%	1.4%	100%

About who is responsible for terrorism in Pakistan, 19.3% respondents said that Taliban himself are responsible, 36.0% respondents argued that government policies are responsible for terrorism in Pakistan. On the other 43.3% respondents said foreign hands are involves in terrorism in Pakistan, whereas 1.4% respondents said that there are some other factors that are responsible for terrorism in Pakistan.

Table 5: Reasons of Terrorism in Pakistan

Sr. No.	Question	Taliban's Retaliation	US Cooperation	Extremism	Others	Total
1	What is reason of terrorism in the country?	34.7%	43.9%	16.7%	4.7%	100%

About the reasons of terrorism, 34.7% respondents said that Taliban's retaliation is the major reason of terrorism, 43.9% respondents said that Pakistan's cooperation is the major reason of terrorism. On the other hand, 16.7% respondents argued that extremism is the reason of terrorism whereas, 4.7% respondents argued that there are some other factors who are major reasons of terrorism in the country.

Table 6: What about war on terror

Sr. No.	Question	War for Pakistan survival	Pakistan's own war	Imposed war on Pakistan	US war	Total
1	How do you see the war on terror?	20.3%	24.3%	46.7%	8.7%	100%

The table shows that 20.3% respondents argued that it is war for Pakistan survival. 24.3% respondent said that its Pakistan's own war. On the other hand, 46.7% respondents said that foreign enemies imposed war on Pakistan to make it weak whereas 8.7% respondents said that it is US war.

Table 7: Pak. US relationship

Sr. No.	Question	Pak should cooperate with US	US air is encouraging	US is responsible for terrorism in Pakistan	Pak should not stand by US	Total
1	How do you see Pak. US relations on the war?	12.7%	14.3%	39.7%	33.3%	100%

According to the gathered data, 12.7% respondents said that Pakistan should cooperate US. 14.3% respondents said US air is encouraging. On the other hand, 39.7% respondents argued that US is responsible for terrorism in Pakistan. Whereas 33.3% respondents said that Pakistan should not stand by US.

Table 8: People's perception about US.

Sr. No.	Question	Friend	Enemy	Don't Know	Others	Total
1	What do you think about US?	8.0%	72.7%	18.0%	1.3%	100%

According to the gathered data, People's perception about US that 8.0% respondents said that US is our friend country. 72.7% respondents argued that US is our enemy country. 18.0% respondents said that they don't know that US is our friend or enemy whereas 1.3% respondents others category.

Table 9: US demand of Do more.

Sr. No.	Question	Yes	No	Don't Know	Total
1	Do you think that US demand of Do more should be ignored?	20.7%	28.7%	50.6%	100%

According to the gathered data, 20.7% respondents said that "YES" demand of US about do more should be ignored. 28.7% respondents said "NO" US demand should not be ignored. Whereas 50.6% respondents argued that they don't know about this.

Table 10: Drone Attacks.

Sr. No.	Question	Yes	No	Don't Know	Total
1	Do you think use of the drone attacks is legitimate in war on terror in Pakistan?	12.0%	65..3%	22.7%	100%

The above table is about drone attacks. According to the gathered data, 12.0% respondents argued that "Yes" drone attacks are legal against war on terror. 65.3% respondents said that "NO" drone attacks are not legal against war on terror. Whereas 22.7% respondents argued that they don't know about this situation.

Table 11: Drone Attacks.

Sr. No.	Question	Yes	No	Don't Know	Total
1	Are the Taliban militants enemies of Pakistan?	39.5%	26.8%	33.8%	100%

About the question "Are the Taliban militants enemies of Pakistan?" the results shows that 39.5% argued that "YES" Taliban militants are enemies of Pakistan. 26.8% respondents said that "NO" Taliban militants are not enemies of Pakistan. Whereas 33.8% respondents said that they don't know about this question.

Table 11: Peace talk with Taliban.

Sr. No.	Question	Yes	No	Don't Know	Total
1	Should the government conduct peace talks with militants to resolve peace?	44.8%	28.6%	26.6%	100%

In the answer of the statement "Should government conduct peace talk with militants to resolve peace?" 44.8% respondents said "YES" government should do peace talk. On the other hand 28.6% respondents argued "NO" government should not do peace talk with militants whereas 26.6% respondents said that they don't know about the answer of this question.

Table 12: Military Operation against Taliban.

Sr. No.	Question	Yes	No	To Some Extent	Not at all	Total
1	To what extent do you agree that in case of failure of peace talk government should launch military operation against Taliban?	30.1%	17.3%	37.3%	15.3%	100%

According to the gathered data, 30.1% respondents said "YES" there should be military operation against Taliban. 17.3% respondents argued "NO" military operations against Taliban should not be launched. 37.3% respondents argued that

they don't know about this situation whereas 15.3% respondents argued military operation should not be launched against Taliban at any cost.

Table 13: Peace treaty with Taliban.

Sr. No.	Question	Yes	No	To Some Extent	Not at all	Total
1	Do you think that peace treaty with militants can solve the terrorism problem?	35.4%	21.1%	35.4%	8.1%	100%

In the response of the statement, 35.4% respondents said "YES" peace treaty is solution to create peace. 21.1% respondents argued "NO" peace treaty is not solution of terrorism problem. 35.4% respondents argued peace treaty can solve problem but to some extent whereas 8.1% argued that with the peace treaty can never solve the terrorism problem.

Table 14: Should Pakistan cooperate with US in war against terror.

Sr. No.	Question	Yes	No	To Some Extent	Not at all	Total
1	Should Pakistan cooperate with US in war against terror?	12.2%	29.9%	36.1%	21.8%	100%

In the response of statement, 12.2% respondents argued that Pakistan should cooperate US in war against terror. 29.9% respondents said that Pakistani should not cooperate US in war against terror. 36.1% respondents said that Pakistan should cooperate US but to some extent. Whereas 21.8% respondent argued that Pakistan should never cooperate with US in war against terror.

Table 15: War on terror is our war?

Sr. No.	Question	Yes	No	To Some Extent	Not at all	Total
1	Is the war on terror our war?	24.7%	29.3%	9.6%	36.3%	100%

About the statement "Is the war on terror is our war?" 24.7% respondents argued that "YES" it is our war. 29.3% respondents argued that "NO" it is not our war. On the other hand, 9.6% respondents argued that it is our war but to some extent. Whereas 36.3% argued that war on terror is not our war at all.

Discussion
Terrorism is the major problem that is facing Pakistan. The study deal with the perceptions of Pakistani people about war on terror. For getting the information about war on terror, 56.0% respondents argued that electronic media has main role in informing people about war on terror and secondly 38.0% respondents argued that they get information about war on terror through print media. In the answer of people support with government regarding war on terror, majority of respondents 41.3% argued that government should talk with Taliban and 34.0% respondent favor military operation against Taliban. Majority of respondents 46.7% respondents said that Taliban and other militants are enemies of Pakistan. In the response of involvement in Talibanization, majority of the respondents 43.3% said that foreign hand are involves in terrorism in Pakistan and 36.0% respondents argued that government should set better policy against terrorism. About the reason of terrorism in the country, majority of respondents 43.9% argued that Pakistan's cooperation is the major reason of terrorism in the country and secondly 34.7% respondents said that Taliban's Retaliation is the reason of terrorism. About how the people think about war on terror, majority of respondents 46.7% said that war is imposed on Pakistan by foreign enemies. About the Pak. US relationship, majority of the respondents 39.7% argued that US is responsible for terrorism in Pakistan and 33.3% respondents said that Pakistan should not stand by US. About the US relation with Pakistan, 72.7% respondents argued that US is enemy of Pakistan. 28.7% respondents argued that US demand for do more should not be accepted. 65.3% respondents argued that drone attacks are illegal and should be stopped. Majority of the respondents 39.5% respondents argued that Taliban are enemy of Pakistan. On the other hand 44.8% respondents argued that government should conduct peace talk with Taliban. In case of failure of peace talk, majority of the respondents 30.1% argued that government should launch military operation against Taliban. 35.4% respondents said that if Taliban and government sign peace treaty then terrorism problem can be solve. About cooperation with US 29.9% respondents argued that Pakistan should not cooperate with US against war on terror and majority of the respondents 29.6% respondents argued that war against terror is not our war.

Conclusion
The study explored the topic image of war on terror in the mind of Pakistani people. From the calculated data from the respondents belong to Lahore and discussion of the study, it is concluded that media plays important role in formation of public opinion regarding any issue. People argued that first of all peace talk is necessary with Taliban to create peace in the country and government and Taliban should sign peace treaty. If peace talk or treaty not

succeeded, then military operation is the only way of this issue. Furthermore, it is also concluded that Taliban and other militants are enemies of Pakistan and supported by the foreign agencies. Majority of the respondents argued that cooperation with US also increased the terrorism activities in the country and majority of the respondents argued that Pakistan should not stand by US against war on terror and US demand of do more should be ignored. Moreover, study is concluded that drone attacks are illegal and should be stopped. US not think about the betterment of Pakistan and only prefer its own interests. Pakistan should clear its policy against war on terror and should review the all points regarding cooperation with US. It is clear from the above calculation based on percentage audience opinion regarding war on terror; respondents think that the war on terror is not a Pakistani war and is imposed on us by foreign agencies.

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