



Terrorism: Threat to Human Security in India

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Abstract: At present, numerous problems are emerging in human life. Some of these problems started with human life and some have just appeared. The problems associated with human security can be categorized as traditional and non-traditional threats. Traditional problems have been resolved time and again but some new and non-traditional problems have not been solved. One such non-traditional problem is terrorism. Terrorism has become a worldwide phenomenon. In fact, It poses a direct danger to human security and survival. Education of human rights is linked to human security. People, including terrorists, need to be aware of their rights, since they, too, have the right to a fair trial under the law. Even the worst enemy in a civilization has human rights. On the other hand, all the legal means are used to bring in those responsible for a crime to justice. When analysing the core causes of violence and security threats, it is found that abuses of basic human rights are consistently overlooked. The best way to human security is to protect and enforce basic human rights. The recent study begins by bringing to light a major issue/problem: how terrorism poses a threat to human security in India, particularly in India's North-East region.

Keywords: Terrorism, Human Security, UNDP, Human Rights, Threat, civilization.

Introduction

“Terrorism is a psychological warfare. Terrorists try to manipulate us and change our behavior by creating fear, uncertainty, and division in society”.

Patrick J. Kennedy

The world, at present, is surrounded by various deadly problems, for instance terrorism, illegal migration, poverty, cyber-crime, environment degradation, ozone layer depletion and so on. One of these burning issues is the threat to human security in the whole universe. Terrorism has become a global problem for human security in these days. This problem has strengthened its grip not only in India but also at an international level. Any rational human being would agree that it is the biggest problem in the world. Terrorism has grabbed the entire world in such a way that even after a million attempts it could not be separated from the root. It has been a recurring theme in the story of humankind. The word “Terrorism” has been derived from the Latin verb ‘ters’ which means to ‘terror’ or state of intense fear and submission to it. In French the word ‘terror’ means ‘shiver’ or ‘shivering’. It includes that conduct creates the fear of terror in the mind of general public or groups. According to the Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences and mentioned by R.K. Gupta, terrorism means, “The approach by which an organised group or a political party strives to achieve its stated goals primarily via the systematic use of violence. Terrorist acts are designed against individuals, agencies, or representatives of authority who are likely to interfere with the group's



goal. Death or destruction are part of his plan, and if he is apprehended, his trial behaviour is usually geared toward speeding up awareness of his teachings rather than earning his freedom." (Gupta, 2002, #)

Our society has a long history of violence. It has been rephrased as a means to an end by humanity. Non-state actors, such as individuals, groups, or organisations, are responsible for terrorism. It is also perpetrated by the state through its apparatuses, which are supposed to keep the society safe and secure. Terrorist activity has increased to the point where it has become a severe threat to the state's security and integrity, public order, social and economic infrastructure, rule of law, and human rights. It goes without saying that terrorism has converted the peaceful and normal existence into highly insecure and fearful one. In fact, it has turned into the greatest violator of human rights. Therefore, it becomes important to study terrorism and violation of human rights in a serious manner. "Terrorism" is a hot topic of the day not for Indians alone but for the world community at large. It cannot be denied that phenomenon of terrorism is centuries old but its dimension changed from the time to time. The word Terrorism is such horrible that no sensible or civilized man dares to hate it. It causes innumerable hardships, injuries, miseries and agonies to peace loving citizens besides putting democratic institutions to ransom and state administrative machinery to naught. Terrorists indulging in terrorism, now-a-days, like to be called militants, with pride kill innocent people, indulge in extortion, kidnapping and rape and above all destroyed the properties of citizens as well as the state (Sehgal, 1996, #).

Terrorism and human security are two completely distinct concepts, however they are linked in some way. Terrorism is unquestionably a threat to human security. The issue of terrorism and violations of human security continues to be a major concern. Terrorism has become a worldwide phenomenon. In fact, it is a direct threat to human security and human existence. Human rights education is linked to human security. People, including terrorists, need to be aware of their rights, since they too have a basic right to a fair trial. Even the worst enemy in a civilization has human rights. On the other hand, all the legal means are used to bring in those responsible for a crime to justice. It is observed that while considering the root causes of violence and threat to security, one thing is constantly neglected that is violations of basic human rights. It would not be inappropriate to mention that the best approach to human security is the guarantee and enforcement of basic human rights. Without human progress for everyone, there can never be human security for anyone. Democracy is also emphasised in the UNDP Development Report 2002. Mark Melloch Brown, UNDP Administrator is quoted in Benedek: "Terrorism feeds on failed states and poor governance as much as failures of national security". The UNDP report presents strong evidence that a trade-off between national stability and personal freedom does not promote development and the same was suggested by the authoritarian regimes (Benedek, 2002).

Meaning and Definition of Terrorism

Terrorism is the harassment and destruction of innocent people. It leads to suicide attack and killing of countless population for no reasons. "Terrorism disturbs the inhabitants, damage infrastructure, cause a decline in economic well-being, bring political instability, and break the social fabric of the society" (Khan, 2013, #). It is not even possible to limit terrorism to any definition. Terrorist acts elicit emotional responses in both victims and perpetrators (those who are harmed by the violence and those who are impacted by the fear). Personal objectives, sympathies, or emotions can all be part of the issues surrounding the concept of terrorism. Time and again, new definitions of terrorism are coined. Individual scientists' or institutions' goals or ambitions may have influenced these definitions. The evaluation of a process or event varies depending on whether one shares a similar viewpoint on a certain topic, technique, or individual, or whether



one is opposed to them. When B. Jenkins concluded, he did so succinctly and accurately: “What is called terrorism thus seems to depend on one’s point of view. So, it depends on the degree of our emotional involvement, whether consciously or subconsciously, which is based on various prerequisites, such as religious, ethnic, cultural or political ones” (Jenkins, 1980:10). Even the government of the United States cannot agree on a single definition. As Alex Schmid points out, determining the line between terrorism and national freedom movement can be tricky at times “one man’s terrorist is another man’s freedom fighter” (Schmid, 2004, #). Terrorism cannot be viewed solely through the lens of violence. It must be viewed primarily through the lens of propaganda. However, violence and propaganda have a lot in common. The goal of violence is to coerce people into changing their behaviour. Propaganda uses persuasion to achieve the same goal (Schmid, 1999, #). particularly for political reasons." It defines a terrorist as someone who uses violence to instil fear for political reasons. Terrorism can be defined as a method in which violence is employed to achieve political goals by inducing a specific effect in a group of individuals. Fear is frequently one of the outcomes of such a technique. (Jenkins, 1975, 1).

Terrorism is defined by the US Department of State as premeditated, politically motivated violence done by subnational groups or clandestine operatives against noncombatant targets. The expired Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act's definition is quite broad and comprehensive.: “Whoever with intent to overawe the Government as by law established or to strike terror in the people or any section of the people or to alienate any section of the people or to adversely affect the harmony amongst different sections of the people does any act or thing by using bombs, dynamite or other explosive substances or inflammable substances or lethal weapons or poisons or noxious gases or other chemicals or by any other substances (whether biological or otherwise) of a hazardous nature in such a manner as to cause, or as is likely to cause, death of, or injuries to, any person or persons or loss of, or damage to, or destruction of, property or disruption of any supplies or services essential to the life of the community, or detains any person and threatens to kill or injure such person in order to compel the Government or any other person to do or abstain from doing any act, commits a terrorist act.” In 2002, the European Union described terrorism as having the “aim of destabilising or destroying the fundamental political, constitutional, economic or social structures of a country” (*About: Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act*, n.d.).

Terrorism has been defined variously by authors and international conventions, but still no universal acceptable definition has come up. According to a 1988 research by the United States Army, there are over a hundred different definitions of the world that have been utilised, but no consensus has been formed on them. The reason for this can be that there are new forms of terrorism everywhere, so one definition can’t be accepted with the consent of everyone. Listed below are several definitions of terrorism:-

“Terrorism is the use or threatened use of force designed to bring about political change”.

- Brain Michel Jenkins

“Terrorism constitutes the illegitimate use of force to achieve a political objective when innocent people are targeted”.

-Walter Laqueur

After Understanding these definitions, we can say that terrorism is used to bring about political change. The resources used in it are illegal. There is also a change in a person or group by threatening them. What happens in the end is the innocent people's death. Terrorism is neither difficult to define nor does it necessitate the use of a definition in order to comprehend it. Traditionally, terrorism was described as “a



covert use of violence directed against a government and was in support of nationalist and internationalist movements and as a means of agitation by a particular section of the society”. Some scholars, therefore, tried to explain terrorism. D.P. Sharma puts it as “the ruthless and merciless act of violence designed to bring the masses into the fold of terrorists” (Sharma, 1992, 1).

Factors Responsible for Origin of Terrorism

The emergence of terrorism can be attributed to a number of circumstances. Some may be genuine, while others may not be. Genuine factors include socioeconomic and political motivation and frustration, regional differences, government involvement in people's religious, social, and personal freedoms, communalism and secessionism, and so forth and other less-genuine reasons for growing of terrorism are illiteracy, increase of population, soft attitude of government towards criminals and economic offences etc. But, it does not mean that these less-genuine reasons are not responsible for emergence of terrorism (Sehgal, 1996, 16). These causes are responsible to lead to frustration, anger and anxiety in the minds of the people and finally this frustration and anger explodes in form of violence in the society. Violence breeds violence (Gupta, 2002, #). There have been millions of "freedom fighters" and "terrorists" in various parts of the world, all of them come from different countries, ethnic groupings, religious views, and philosophical perspectives. Despite their differences, they all have one thing in common: disagreement, unhappiness with the establishment, and state governance. The responsible factors/causes of emergence of terrorism may briefly be classified and discussed as under:

1. Socio-economic factors: - The bulk of the population is affluent and wealthy, hence socio-economic reasons or factors allude to huge economic inequities in which man is exploited by man where the majority consists of the affluent and richer section. They lead a life of luxury. This class exploits weaker sections that are deprived of their basic necessities and become helpless. Such factors contribute towards the growth of an atmosphere which is conducive to promote the ‘terrorism’, “there have been several examples that the political parties and their leaders thrive on creating an atmosphere of hatred between the different groups in society” (Ashok Kumar, 2014, 86). Land reforms are lacking, rural unemployment is high, and landowners exploit landless labourers, among other economic problems. These economic frustrations, along with emotions of tremendous social injustice, have given rise to ideological terrorist groups known as Marxist or Maoist organisations. The causes of terrorism may be diverse. The terrorists generally depend on their own myopic perceptions of the social visions. The socio-economic condition of the particular society affects the crime situation. Unemployment, illiteracy, poverty, wrong policies of Government, accumulation of wealth in few hands, violation of fundamental freedoms. Together they spoil our social environment, which creates political instability and cause terrorism to flourish.
2. Political factor: - It has emerged as an explosive cause for terrorism in recent history. Political frustration means lack of opportunity for political participation to a group in a large pluralistic society. Dr. A.S. Anand in Kumar’s book Dynamics of Global Terrorism says “political ambition of parties, the party leaders and established ideological groups also promote terrorism. With the emergence of democratic system, political aspirations were not allowed in politics or proper participation was not given. So, they feel frustration and promote terrorism” (Ashok Kumar, 2014, 92). In the case of India, it is noticed that many of India’s distinguished leaders are corrupt and they always have greed for power. Violence at the time of election is common in India. Hindu-Muslim



- communal fights, reservations, unemployment are the issues with which the politics of wrong politics is done and its result ultimately forms terrorism. The politicians remain concerned about the vote bank and in this process, they somehow promote terrorism.
3. **Regional Disparities:** - Regional differences are a major factor in the emergence and spread of terrorism. Regional disparities is a highly inflammable cause that serve or exists in many parts of the world and every nation or state has a large number of highly self-aware linguistic, religious, cultural and ethnic groups with significantly concentration of economic infrastructure at selected places either instigated or ignored by government results into regional disparities among the various regions compelling this (the ignored peoples) demands to regional terrorism may be called an open revolt against the government or outside entrepreneurs (Jain, 1995, 100-101). The regional inferiority complex disconnects the people. They become enemies of each other. Then they start to struggle on small issues which become furious and cause terrorism.
 4. **Atmosphere of neighboring countries:** - This is an important part of what is the environment of the other neighboring countries? How are their foreign relations with neighboring countries? What is their internal environment? If there is more internal conflict then the country is in danger for other countries. In the scenario of India, it is the same thing that India's neighboring country Pakistan is also a cause of terrorism in India. Since 1947, the perspective of Pakistan has not been good for India. Three wars have been fought between them. Many terrorist organizations have settled inside Pakistan till today. Pakistan has been telling Kashmir its share, due to which Pakistan send terrorists in India. On the other hand, China also supports Pakistan, because China has had many fights with India. Terrorism has increased due to the refugee problem in Bangladesh. It is meant to say that terrorism also increases due to the neighboring states of the country.
 5. **Ideological Belief System:-** Ideologies are sets of beliefs and value systems upon which programmes, such as social, economic, and political objectives, are based. Extreme interpretations of these beliefs and ideals are common. "Ideologies play a crucial role in terrorist's target selection: it supplies terrorists with an initial motive for action and provides a prism through which they view events and the actions of other people ideology also allows terrorists to justify their violence by displacing the responsibility into either their victims or other actors" (Drake, 1998, 56)

Terrorism and Human Security in India

Terrorism has become a worldwide phenomenon. In fact, it is a direct threat to human security and human existence. People need to understand their rights, which are also the rights of everyone else, including international terrorists, who have a human right to a fair trial. It is a criterion of civilization to handle even one's fiercest opponent in a civilised, humane manner, with respect for human dignity, but also with desire to bring those responsible for a crime to justice using all legal means available. It's easy to overlook the fact that one of the main causes of violence and security risks is a failure to address basic human rights violations. As a result, guaranteeing and enforcing basic human rights is the best method for human security. There can be no universal human security without universal human progress. This is also the message of the United Nations Development Programme's 2002 Development Report, which focuses on democracy. Mark Melloch Brown, UNDP Administrator is quoted in Benedek: "Terrorism feeds on failed states and poor governance as much as failures of national security". The UNDP research provides compelling evidence that authoritarian governments' stated trade-off between national stability and personal liberty does not enhance growth (Benedek, 2002).



The way the global war on terror was launched certainly impeded, if not completely destroyed, the goals of human security. To be sure, one would not be averse to a decision by a State or a group of States to combat terrorism and eliminate the issues it causes around the world. However, the manner in which this conflict has been carried out runs counter to all of humanity's great ideals since the turn of the twenty-first century. Multilateral action, particularly under the auspices of the UN or another regional organisation such as the African Union, is one of the most effective ways to ensuring that human security goals are realised. The war on terror, on the other hand, has largely been waged unilaterally, that is, outside of the UN's collective mandate. When states take unilateral action, it appears that they are left to their own devices to do as they choose. Furthermore, certain essential human rights and norms have been violated as a result of the war on terror, including the right to a fair trial and the right not to be arbitrarily imprisoned or detained. What we've seen is the implementation of the so-called rendition policy, in which terror suspects are transported from one country to another, frequently outside of the reach of the law. This is one of the things that human security sought to prevent, that is, basic violations of people's freedoms (*Human Security and Challenges for the 21 Century*, n.d.)

There are lots of threat for human security like starvation, unemployment, environmental degradation, natural disasters, political repression, human rights abuses etc. but Terrorism is a major threat for Human Security. Terrorism has many dangerous effects on human security. Which are mentioned below:-

- I. Political Effects: - Terrorism has far-reaching and severe consequences for a country's political condition. Normal political activities have come to a halt and have been severely interrupted. It produces instability, hindrances to the growth of democratic functioning of administration and democratic institutions also come under heavy strain. "The administrators find it difficult to fulfill their duty freely and quite often development funds are used to the fuller advantages of the society. The routine works come under strain and the facilitating services revolved to the society get utterly disrupted" (Kumar, 2014, 93). Political violence affects developing Asian countries far more than developed Asian countries, implying that development mitigates the impact of terrorism and conflicts. Political violence, predictably, has a negative impact on investment while increasing government spending. Terrorism and wars on a global scale have a significant impact on government spending, with internal and external conflicts having the greatest impact (GAIBULLOEV & SANDLER, 2009, 3) Terrorism creates instability in politics and this instability creates a great danger to the human security of the people. In India, terrorism started only after India's independence. And then after that to terrorize India's politics, terrorism did all that which it should not have done. First Indira Gandhi was murdered, and then the assassination of her son and former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi is an indication that terrorism has greatly influenced India's politics. The most affected states are Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and North-Eastern states.
- II. Economic Effect: - Terrorism can have a short-term impact on economic growth through a variety of methods. As a result of such attacks, investors may be hesitant to invest and foreign direct investment may be diverted (FDI). FDI is a significant source of savings for developing countries. Terrorism campaigns result in increased government spending on both defensive and aggressive attempts to apprehend terrorists and their assets. More security spending by the government may drown out more growth-enhancing public and private initiatives. In developing countries, public investment in the form of social overhead capital (e.g., canals, highways, and bridges) is especially



vital for boosting growth. Terrorism also stymies progress by increasing the cost of doing company through higher wages, higher insurance premiums, and increased security costs. These greater expenses lead to lower profitability and, as a result, lower returns on investment. Terrorist attacks can also cause infrastructure to be destroyed, causing commercial disruption (Gaibulloev and Sandler, 2009, 4).

- III. Social Effects: - People's social activities are also disrupted by terrorism. Hundreds of educational institutions have been demolished or have remained closed as a result of fear and uncertainty, and these institutions barely undertake any significant work. The development of social culture is being hampered by a number of factors. (Chattoraji, 2005, 19). Due to this tension, the people of the society become hostile towards each other. And this disgust becomes again reflected in violence. Terrorism is the only reason to break the social fabric and fulfill its plans. Human beings are an important part of society, when there is a crisis in social fabric, it also creates a crisis for human security.
- IV. Religious effects: Today's time terrorism is being extended in the name of religion. No religion teaches violence or terror. But people of some radical thoughts flare people by changing the definition of religion. Some illiterate or dissatisfied people come in their misdeeds and become terrorists. These people are very fanatical and enemies of humanity. These people spread terrorism in the name of Jihad and it becomes a threat to human security.

Terrorist activities can take many different forms and are considered serious violations of human rights. Innocent people have been killed, bombs have been detonated, rape, intimidation, and torture have all been used. All of them are serious abuses of human rights. Terrorism has affected the entire world in many ways these days. Even the perpetrators of terrorism seems to have fallen prey to terrorism. Owing to the magnitude of terrorism, the Supreme Court of India has treated terrorism as the peacetime equivalent of war crimes. The basic democracy, for example, is one of the pillars of a contemporary state. Terrorism threatens state security, the rule of law, sovereignty and integrity, as well as basic human rights. It has a disproportionate impact on communities and is corrosive of the very fabric of society. The fundamental premises of human rights are being shaken due to the terrorism. Apart from the threat to security, stability, national integration of the country, various other human rights threats are posed by the terrorists, including freedom of expression, freedom to from associations; threat to human rights in the form of torture; threat to economic, social, culture, and religious right (Pasayat, 2010). Terrorists pose the greatest threat to the most fundamental of all human rights: the right to life and personal liberty. Murders, rapes, and bombings are all on the rise. Attacks on democratic institutions are used to scare citizens and undermine the government's and law enforcement organisations' legitimacy. "The world has witnessed various terror attacks, including 9/11, the attack on Parliament in India, and the Mumbai attacks of 2008. Terrorist activities have claimed more than 50,000 lives during the last 15 years or so. The grievously wounded, permanently maimed or handicapped constitute a further half million people, who are permanent living victims of terrorism" (Sandhu, 2012, 72)

Terrorism is spreading day by day in different forms and different areas. Therefore, there may not be the same factors of emergence in different parts of the world. There has also been a problem that no universal definition of terrorism has been accepted till now. Human security has been an intrinsic aspect of societies all over the world since the dawn of civilization. Following the end of the Cold War, new global security crises arose, posing some of the greatest difficulties the international community has ever faced.



In India and South Asia, however, a more recent calamity drove acceptance of the human security concept: the late 1990s financial crisis. Inter-state tensions over refugees and illegal migration were worsened by the crisis, which also exacerbated poverty, delayed regional development programmes, caused widespread political instability, and escalated inter-state tensions over refugees and illegal migration. It also emphasised the importance of effective administration and the importance of providing social safety nets for the disadvantaged. Human security was brought into emphasis for the first time. The countries of the area discovered that pursuing human security through economic growth and political stability without regard for human rights and political engagement is useless.

Other external and domestic causes, such as the trafficking of illegal drugs, arms, and people; terrorism; environmental degradation; armed political struggle; internal unrest; and transnational organised crime, are all threats to India's human security as globalisation accelerates. These forces are too powerful for any single country to combat on its own. In the last decade, the majority of political crises, internal conflicts, dysfunctional development processes, and human rights violations have happened in countries where organised crime has wreaked havoc on communities and economies. Corruption, financial fraud, human trafficking, and money laundering, all perpetrated by cross-border gangs and extraordinarily aggressive and well-organized global predators, have broken civil society's traditional fabric, jeopardising development and peace processes.

At the moment, such risks must be addressed in the context of failed or failing nations, where human security is at risk. The international community's efforts to improve international peace and security must prioritise the growth and potential growth of failed states. Due to a lack of internal regulation or a weak rule of law, organised criminal gangs have a variety of chances. As a result, corruption emerges, and the rule of law deteriorates. The safety of humans is now in peril. The law should encourage accountability and transparency in decision-making, as well as predictability in the political process.

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