

## **Impact of Terrorism on Students' Participation in Co-Curricular Activities of Secondary School Students in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*The study aimed at identifying the terrorism's impact on the co-curricular activities of secondary school students in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The study was significant because Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is the worst terrorism affected province. The major objective of the study was to examine the impact of terrorism on students' participation in co-curricular activities of secondary school students in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Pakistan. To achieve this objective it was assumed that terrorism has impact on the co-curricular activities of secondary school students in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. For this purpose five hundred and sixty secondary school students their parents, and 112 class teachers were selected from 56 schools (28 public and 28 private) of 7 districts but due to sensitive nature of study the sample was refined to 450 students their parents and 100 class teachers which made the sample size to be 1000. In order to collect the data, questionnaire with 5-point Likert scale was used as tool. Chi square test was used as statistical instrument. It was found agreed that co-curricular activities are affected by terrorism. Parents forbade their children to participate in co-curricular activities. It was concluded fear among the students due to terrorism affected the students' participation in the co-curricular activities. The study suggested that co-curricular activities should be held in secure environment and students should be encouraged to participate in such healthy competitions to keep them away from boosted terrorism. .*

**Keywords:** Terrorism, secondary school, co-curricular activities, students' participation

### **INTRODUCTION**

Terrorism is any act intended to cause death or serious bodily harm to civilians or non-combatants with the purpose of intimidating a population or compelling a government or an international organization to do or to abstain from doing any act. (UN Security Council, 2004)

Terrorism is a phenomenon in which fearful situation is created by a group of people that view themselves as victimized by some notable historical wrong. Terrorism is the act of creating extreme or intense fear. (Zalman, 2007)

All of co-curricular activities affect the children's' academics. The students who play games, watch television, and participate in services for community, improve performance in the academics. (Stephens & Schaben, 2002)

Participation in co-curricular activities is linked with improvement in grades. Motivation towards education leads to reduction in students' absentees. Participation in co-curricular activities improves achievement of the students. Inter school competition increases social and developmental links among students, schools and parents which benefits positively in the students achievement. (Broh, 2002)

Learning occurs when permanent change is experienced in ones' knowledge or behavior. It is acquiring new, or modifying and reinforcing existing, knowledge behaviors and skills. This can be planned or involuntary, for good or for bad, correct or incorrect and conscious or unconscious. While in the development state, cognitive performance and processing is changed. Learning produces changes in the organism and the changes produced are relatively permanent. It may be goal oriented and may be aided by motivation. Motivation is one of the essential conditions of learning. It is an interest. Learning is directly related to our curiosity in learning. Learning is not compulsory; it is contextual. It does not happen all at once, but builds upon and is shaped by what we already know. Motivation and fear are often related in real life. If you feel great fear you are motivated to escape although you may stay and fight (Brown, 2009).

Behavior is our activities towards the other. It is action or reaction of someone against any external or internal motivation, response to stimuli is involuntary and humans are capable of making responses. A stimulus is any phenomenon that directly controls the activity or growth of a living organism. Behavior is the response to what is sensed. Like aggression, anxiety, inflated extraction, loss of motor activities could be responses for any action. Children can be easily troubled and become behaviorally rash to apparent terrorization. (Renold, 2006)

Teenagers are kidnapped while on their way to school or work, or plucked from a madrassa where they have been studying, and sent to one of a number of training centers in areas under terrorists' control. The children of the poor are usually more vulnerable to abduction and training as suicide bombers. Poor parents lack the resources to pay a ransom to free their child. And teenagers from impoverished homes are more emotionally vulnerable to the terrorists' brainwashing because they have little hope for a good life (Siddique, 2008).

## **OBJECTIVE FOR THE STUDY**

The study focused to examine the impact of terrorism on students' participation in co-curricular activities of secondary school students in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Pakistan.

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

All the 634,855 secondary school students, their parents and class teachers of 2545 secondary/higher secondary school constituted the population for the study. Seven districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including, Peshawar, Kohat, Bannu, Nowshera, Malakand, Swat and Abbottabad were selected among 25 districts through systematic random sampling. Fifty six secondary/higher secondary school 8 (4 public,4 private) from each district including 2 from urban and 2 from rural areas were randomly selected .Ten students(5 form 9<sup>th</sup> class and 5 from 10<sup>th</sup> class) with educated parents were selected by purposively but due to sensitive nature of the study the sample was refined to 450, their parents and 100 class teachers, which makes the sample size 1000.

Questionnaire with 5 points scale (Likert scale) was used as tool to get responses from the respondents which contains the options of 1) Strongly disagreed 2) Disagreed 3) Undecided 4) Agreed 5) Strongly agreed. Data were collected from 7 districts including Peshawar, Kohat, Bannu, Nowshera, Malakand, Swat and Abbottabad. Researcher personally visited the schools to develop rapport among respondents. *Chi square* is used to analyze the data.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

The collected data were arranged in tabular form as given below:

**Table 1. Co-curricular activities are affected by terrorism**

Type of Respondents	Response Frequency						Mean	$\chi^2$
	SDA	DA	UD	A	SA	Total		
Teachers	5	17	15	48	15	100	3.60	30.83
	(5.00)	(17.00)	(15.00)	(48.00)	(15.00)	(100)		
Students	32	45	63	184	126	450		
	(7.11)	(10.00)	(14.00)	(40.89)	(28.00)	(100)		
Parents	17	71	83	203	76	450		
	(3.78)	(15.78)	(18.44)	(45.11)	(16.89)	(100)		
Total	54	133	161	435	217	1000		
	(5.4)	(13.3)	(16.1)	(43.5)	(21.7)	(100)		

Table 1 indicates that majority of respondents (about 65 percent) agreed that co-curricular activities were affected by terrorism. Bar chart and mean score of 3.60 supported the above statement. The  $\chi^2$  value of 30.83 was found greater than table value. Hence, the statement, “Co-curricular activities are affected by terrorism”, was accepted.

**Table 2. School looks to be a jail due to security measures taken by school authorities**

Type of Respondents	Response Frequency						Mean	$\chi^2$
	SDA	DA	UD	A	SA	Total		
Teachers	0	16	2	51	31	100	3.83	49.26
	(-)	(16.00)	(2.00)	(51.00)	(31.00)	(100)		
Students	31	30	73	205	111	450		
	(6.89)	(6.67)	(16.22)	(45.56)	(24.67)	(100)		
Parents	20	28	54	267	81	450		
	(4.44)	(6.22)	(12.00)	(59.33)	(18.00)	(100)		
Total	51	74	129	523	223	1000		
	(5.1)	(7.4)	(1.9)	(52.3)	(22.3)	(100)		

Table 2 shows that majority of respondents (about 75 percent) were found agreed that school looked to be a jail due to security measures taken by school authorities. The  $\chi^2$  value 49.26 was greater than table value, therefore, the caption statement, “School looks to be a jail due to security measures taken by school authorities” was accepted. The bar chart and mean score of 3.83 also supported the statement.

**Table 3. Teachers Parents meetings are discouraged due to terrorism**

Type of Respondents	Response Frequency						Mean	$\chi^2$
	SDA	DA	UD	A	SA	Total		
Teachers	4	18	9	48	21	100	3.75	23.26
	(4.00)	(18.00)	(9.00)	(48.00)	(21.00)	(100)		
Students	18	45	49	189	149	450		
	(4.00)	(10.00)	(10.89)	(42.00)	(33.11)	(100)		
Parents	9	73	55	209	104	450		
	(2.00)	(16.22)	(12.22)	(46.44)	(23.11)	(100)		
Total	31	136	113	446	274	1000		
	(3.1)	(13.6)	(11.3)	(44.6)	(27.4)	(100)		

Table 3 shows that majority of respondents (about 72 percent) agreed that “Teachers Parents meeting were discouraged due to terrorism”. Bar chart and mean score endorsed the above statement. The  $\chi^2$  value of 23.26 was greater than table value. Therefore, the caption statement was accepted.

**Table 4. Parents forbade their children to participate in co-curricular activities**

Type of Respondents	Response Frequency						Mean	$\chi^2$
	SDA	DA	UD	A	SA	Total		
Teachers	4	10	10	58	18	100	3.83	12.63
	(4.00)	(10.00)	(10.00)	(58.00)	(18.00)	(100)		
Students	30	30	48	210	132	450		
	(6.67)	(6.67)	(10.67)	(46.67)	(29.33)	(100)		
Parents	18	28	59	224	121	450		
	(4.00)	(6.22)	(13.11)	(49.78)	(26.89)	(100)		
Total	52	68	117	492	271	1000		
	(5.2)	(6.8)	(11.7)	(49.2)	(27.1)	(100)		

Table 4 shows that majority of respondents (about 76 percent) were found agreed that parents forbade their children to participate in co-curricular activities. Bar chart and mean score supported the statement, “parents forbade their children to participate in co-curricular activities”.

**Table 5. Sports activities/meena bazaars are suspended due to terrorism**

<i>Type of Respondents</i>	<i>Response Frequency</i>						<i>Mean</i>	$\chi^2$
	<i>SDA</i>	<i>DA</i>	<i>UD</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Total</i>		
Teachers	3 (3.00)	24 (24.00)	7 (7.00)	49 (49.00)	17 (17.00)	100 (100)	3.48	33.81
Students	54 (12.00)	42 (9.33)	84 (18.67)	176 (39.11)	94 (20.89)	450 (100)		
Parents	44 (9.78)	53 (11.78)	95 (21.11)	179 (39.78)	79 (17.56)	450 (100)		
Total	101 (10.1)	119 (11.9)	186 (18.6)	404 (40.4)	190 (19.0)	1000 (100)		

Table 5 shows that majority of respondents (about 59 percent) agreed that sports activities/meena bazaars were suspended due to terrorism. Bar chart and mean score of 3.48 endorsed the above statement. The  $\chi^2$  value of 33.81 was found greater than table value, therefore, the statement, “sports activities/meena bazaars were suspended due to terrorism “, was accepted.

**Table 6. Students remain absent on sports day due to terrorism**

<i>Type of Respondents</i>	<i>Response Frequency</i>						<i>Mean</i>	$\chi^2$
	<i>SDA</i>	<i>DA</i>	<i>UD</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Total</i>		
Teachers	2 (2.00)	19 (19.00)	6 (6.00)	55 (55.00)	18 (18.00)	100 (100)	3.74	43.37
Students	23 (5.11)	36 (8.00)	81 (18.00)	185 (41.11)	125 (27.78)	450 (100)		
Parents	19 (4.22)	23 (5.11)	86 (19.11)	230 (51.11)	92 (20.44)	450 (100)		
Total	44 (4.4)	78 (7.8)	173 (17.3)	470 (47.0)	235 (23.5)	1000 (100)		

Table 6 shows that majority of respondents (above 71 percent) agreed that students remained absent on sports day due to terrorism. Bar chart and mean score of 3.74 favored the above

statement. The  $\chi^2$  value of 43.37 was found greater than table value. Hence, the statement, “students remained absent on sports day due to terrorism”, was accepted.

**Table 7. Co-curricular activities are held in much restricted way due to terrorism**

Type of Respondents	Response Frequency						Mean	$\chi^2$
	SDA	DA	UD	A	SA	Total		
Teachers	3	15	8	54	20	100	3.83	27.98
	(3)	(15)	(8)	(54)	(20)	(100)		
Students	24	35	87	139	165	450		
	(5.33)	(7.78)	(19.33)	(30.89)	(36.67)	(100)		
Parents	32	71	80	127	140	450		
	(7.11)	(15.78)	(17.78)	(28.22)	(31.11)	(100)		
Total	59	121	175	320	325	1000		
	(5.9)	(12.1)	(17.5)	(32.0)	(32.5)	(100)		

Table 7 shows that majority of respondents (about 65 percent) agreed that co-curricular activities were held in much restricted way. Bar chart and mean score of 3.83 favored the statement. The  $\chi^2$  value of 27.98 was found greater than table value, therefore, the statement, “Co-curricular activities are held in much restricted way due to terrorism”, was accepted.

**Table 8. Students feel insecure to participate in co-curricular activities**

Type of Respondents	Response Frequency						Mean	$\chi^2$
	SDA	DA	UD	A	SA	Total		
Teachers	8	8	17	44	23	100	3.77	30.76
	(8.00)	(8.00)	(17.00)	(44.00)	(23.00)	(100)		
Students	30	42	48	139	191	450		
	(6.67)	(9.33)	(10.67)	(30.89)	(42.44)	(100)		
Parents	25	60	54	180	131	450		
	(5.56)	(13.33)	(12.00)	(40.00)	(29.11)	(100)		
Total	63	110	119	363	345	1000		
	(6.3)	(11.0)	(11.9)	(36.3)	(34.5)	(100)		

Table 8 shows that majority of respondents (about 71 percent) agreed that students felt insecure to participate in co-curricular activities. Bar chart and mean score endorsed the caption statement. The  $\chi^2$  value of 30.76 was found greater than table value. Hence, the statement, "Students feel insecure to participate in co-curricular activities", was accepted to be true.

## **DISCUSSION**

Co-curricular activities were adversely affected by the terrorism and the parents were not willing to allow their wards to participate in co-curricular activities. At the same time about 74 percent respondents expressed their opinion that school looked to be a jail due to extraordinary security measures taken by school authorities. Teacher Parent meetings are discouraged due to insecure situation. The parents were found reluctant to allow their children to go to meena bazaars and take part in sports events and the students remained absent on sports day because the students felt insecure to participate in co-curricular activities.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

Based on review and results the conclusion are:

1. Respondents of the study were opined in majority that parents forbade their children to take part in co-curricular activities and funerals or processions due to insecure situation.
2. Most of the respondents were found agreed that the school seemed like jail due to precautionary steps taken by school administration.
3. Majority of the respondents were of the view that Students feel insecure to participate in co-curricular activities.
4. Most of the respondents were of the opinion that students remain absent on sports day due to terrorism.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Keeping the view the results, discussion and conclusions , the recommendations are:

1. Precautionary measures create fear among students and the schools seem like a jail, therefore, measures should be taken very carefully and students should be briefed that all the measures are being taken for their safety and they should not feel fear from such steps. Lectures should be arranged to encourage the students to continue their studies.
2. Sports days, meena bazar, book fairs should be encouraged under the supervision of school administration for which proper security steps should be taken.
3. Parent teachers meeting should be held regularly to strengthen the link between them for the students' betterment.

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