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Liaison of Terrorism and Poverty: Issues, Challenges and Policy Implications

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Abstract

Poverty is the condition of unavailability of basic human needs like cloth, shelter, food and clean drinking water etc. There is no universal definition of poverty. Every country/nation has developed its own definition of poverty. Similarly, the causes of poverty also vary from nation to nation and region to region within the globe. The paper has an objective to find out the relationship between terrorism and poverty in Federally Administrated Tribal Areas (FATA) of Pakistan. Study also digs out the root causes of poverty in these areas. It also analyzes the policies of government to reduce poverty in tribal areas. Why some policies failed and did not bring the fruitful results? What are the ground realities and what should be done more to uplift the living standard of the people living in FATA. At the end some policy implications are also given.

Keywords: Poverty; Terrorism; Income; FATA-Pakistan

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1. Introduction

Poverty is a condition; in which there is a lack of minimum required level of basic needs even life is at risk sometimes. Poverty can also be defined as a situation with insufficiency of required components of better quality of life. It has the following categories of poverty arbitrary lines:-

- Extreme/absolute poverty in which per capita income is less than one US dollar.
- Extent poverty in which per capita income is equal to one US dollar.
- Comparative poverty refers the situation of a person getting income more than 1 US dollar but less than 2 US dollars per day.

Poverty states a condition of the person who cannot get minimum level of calories or basic necessities of life and lives in an undesirable condition. There are several types of poverty; however World Bank has marked the line of poverty in a following way:

Poverty line is a minimum level of income, necessary to meet basic needs. This minimum level is called poverty line. As per World Bank's report a person who is earning or receiving 1.25 US \$ per day, is called to be living on poverty line. However Poverty line varies from country to country according to its development, norms and values of that particular country.

Causes of the poverty are poor government policies, corruption, political instability, economic devastation, lack of education and health facilities, obliterated agricultural system, raising inflation, unemployment and overpopulation etc. In rural areas of Pakistan, a lack of education, landlessness, unemployment and overpopulation have become the most prominent causes of poverty [1]. In tribal areas growing waves of terrorism, militancy and religious extremism have aggravated the socio-economic conditions of the residents and resultantly causing poverty. To find out the major causes of poverty in FATA, Bajaur Agency is selected as a sample.

2. Background of Bajaur Agency (FATA)

Bajaur Agency is situated towards the north west of Pakistan. It consists of about 850,000 population about 80% people of the area are engaged with Agriculture. it is divided in two divisions i.e Nawagai & Khar. Nawagai division consists of Tehsil Chamarkand, Nawagai & Mamond while Khar division consists of Tehsil khar, Salarzai, Utmankhel & Barrang. Nawagai division in whole, while in khar division tehsil salarzai is the most affected areas during the war on terror where thousands of people have lost their houses, properties; Businesses & Lives as these areas were covered by terrorist groups & then Pakistan army started operation against them. Some people migrated to other regions of the country for the safety of their lives & their children bright future, but those who remained in the areas they have no source of business, health, & education [2]. Due to operation the political administration & Pakistan Army banned on fertilizers as they are saying that terrorists are using it in explosion materials. The existed infrastructure has been damaged due to war. Some organizations extended their support to these areas, but due to poverty & unavailability of job opportunities people are worried that what

they will do, as they have no proper source of income, how they can feed their families, as they have lost infrastructure, irrigation system, hospitals, schools & electric systems [3]. Some of the displaced families of tribal areas have been able to adjust their selves in other areas of the country, but most of them remained in the area and spend their lives hand to mouth [4]. Terrorism not only causes poverty but also affecting mental development of child and youth. If opportunities are being provided then youth from tribal areas can positively participate in the economic growth of the country [5].

Table. No.1: Demographic Profile of Bajaur Agency

Name of village	No. of HH	Total Population	No of male	No. of female
1) Dherakai	65	520	255	265
2) Zyarat korona	60	480	235	245
3) Ghal salay	60	480	235	245
4) Wanday	62	496	242	254
5) Kandaro	30	240	118	122
6) Redawno	70	560	274	286

Source= (Initiative for Development & Empowerment) IDEA

During the survey it is found that majority of male community members of these villages are engaged with Agriculture, labor, business & livestock while female community members are engaged with live stock, handicraft work, tailoring, kitchen and gardening.

3. Materials and methods

3.1 Objectives

- To find out the root causes of poverty in Federally Administrated Tribal Areas.
- To know the current status of poverty in Federally Administrated Tribal Areas.
- To give suitable recommendation to curtail poverty in these areas.

3.2 Hypothesis

H₀: Terrorism does not cause poverty.

H₁: Terrorism causes poverty.

H₀: Terrorism does not influence the income of the natives.

H₂: Terrorism critically influences the income of the natives.

3.3 Methodology

This is a primary research based on survey. Bajur Agency was selected as a sample. Interviews were conducted through a questionnaire to know the income and living standards of the people. Moreover focus group discussions were also conducted to know the views of the people regarding the phenomena of poverty. People were asked about their income before and after the rise of militancy, and paired t-test was used for the analysis of collected data.

3.4 Sample

Total 135 families were randomly selected as a sample. Out of them 9 families did not give satisfactory response and gave ambiguous answers therefore they were ignored in descriptive analysis. Remaining 126 families were taken as total sample.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1 Descriptive Results

4.1.1 Income

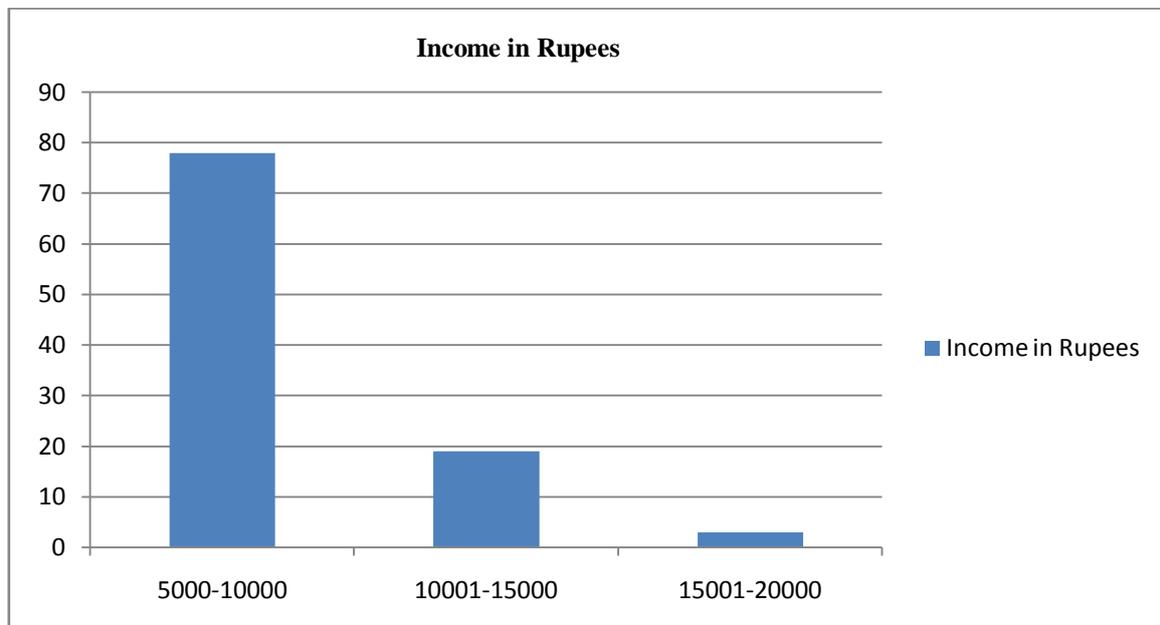


Figure No 1: Income Level.

Source: Researcher's own calculations on the basis of field data

Income from all form and non form source was asked and it is found that minimum income of the people was 5000 rupees while maximum was 20,000 rupees per month. 78 % people were earning 5,000 to 10,000 rupees per month. According to the labor wage policy of Pakistan minimum wage announced by the government is 9,000 rupees per month. But in tribal areas labour class is exploited because of lack of opportunities and unemployment due to terrorism. 19% people have the total income up till 15,000 while only 3% are earning 15001 to 20,000 rupees. Figure No 1 shows the results.

4.1.2 Education

Education of the head of household (earner) was asked during the survey. It is found that the education of the people lies between illiteracy to matriculation.

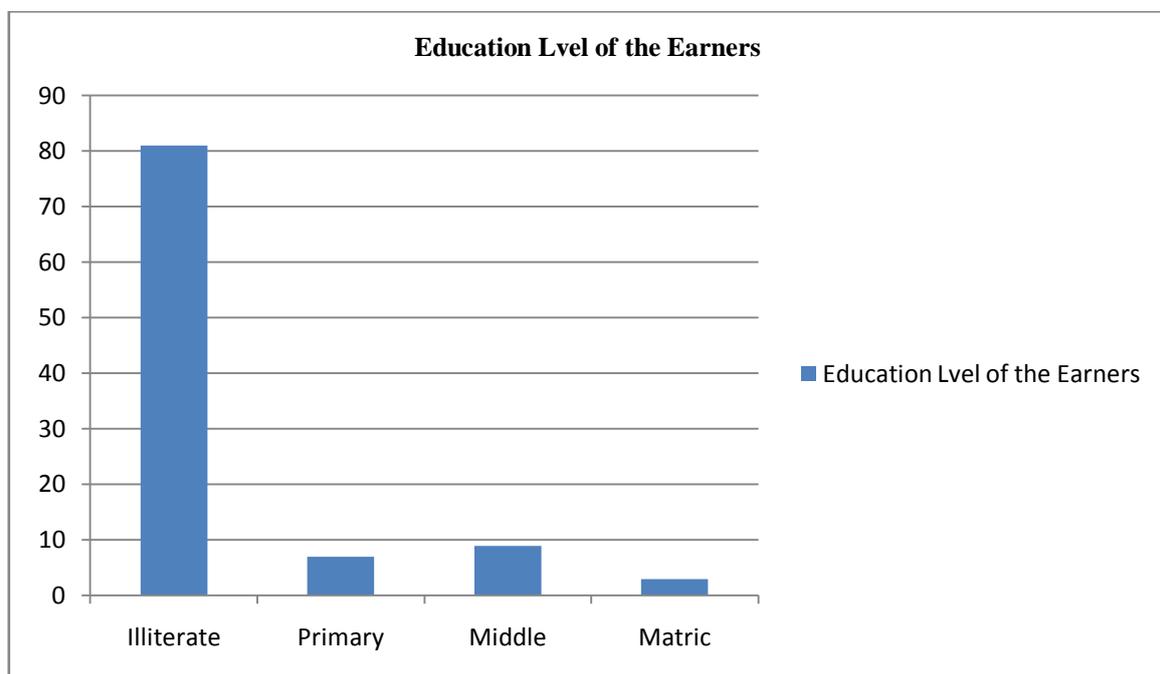


Figure No 2: Education Level

Source: Researcher's own calculations on the basis of field data

Education is considered the key of success. But terrorist attacks have damaged the schools and other infrastructure in the tribal areas. Girl's schools which were already less in numbers were targeted by the terrorist and destroyed. Due to which education level in these areas is very low which causes poverty. The above figure shows that 81% people are illiterate, 7% have primary education, 9% are middle while only 3 % people did the matriculation. Figure No 2 shows the results.

4.1.3 Family Size or Size of Household

Family size is also an important characteristic which affect the income of the household.

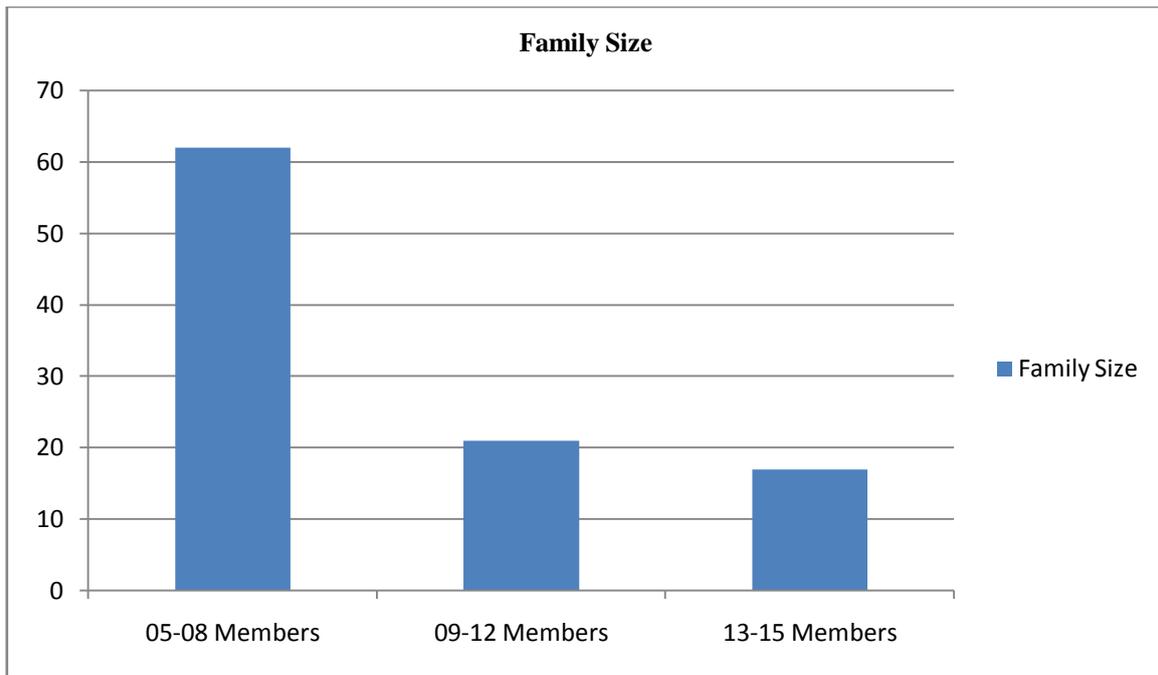


Figure No 3: Family Size

Source: Researcher's own calculations on the basis of field data

In tribal areas large family sizes also increased poverty. People living in tribal areas preferred the large family sizes as they considered it as a sign of power in the society. It added in poverty because most of the families are dependent upon one earner. It is found that 62% interviewers have 05-08 members, 21% have 09-12 members while rest of 17% have 13-15 family members. Figure No 3 shows the results.

4.1.4 Number of Earners

Number of earners in a family was asked and it is found that 62% families are dependent upon one earner, 28% have two earners while 6% families were dependent upon three earners. As most of the families were dependent upon one earner it also increases poverty. Moreover it was also found that most of the people were doing pity jobs. Figure No 4 shows the results.

4.1.5 Causes of Poverty

Causes of poverty were asked to the sample population and following answers were found. 87 % people answered that the terrorism is the major cause of poverty, 6% said that illiteracy is the cause. 2 % replied that weak government policies are causing poverty, 3% answered that lack of opportunities is the main cause while rest of 2 % give some other reasons instead of these categories. Figure No 5 shows the results.

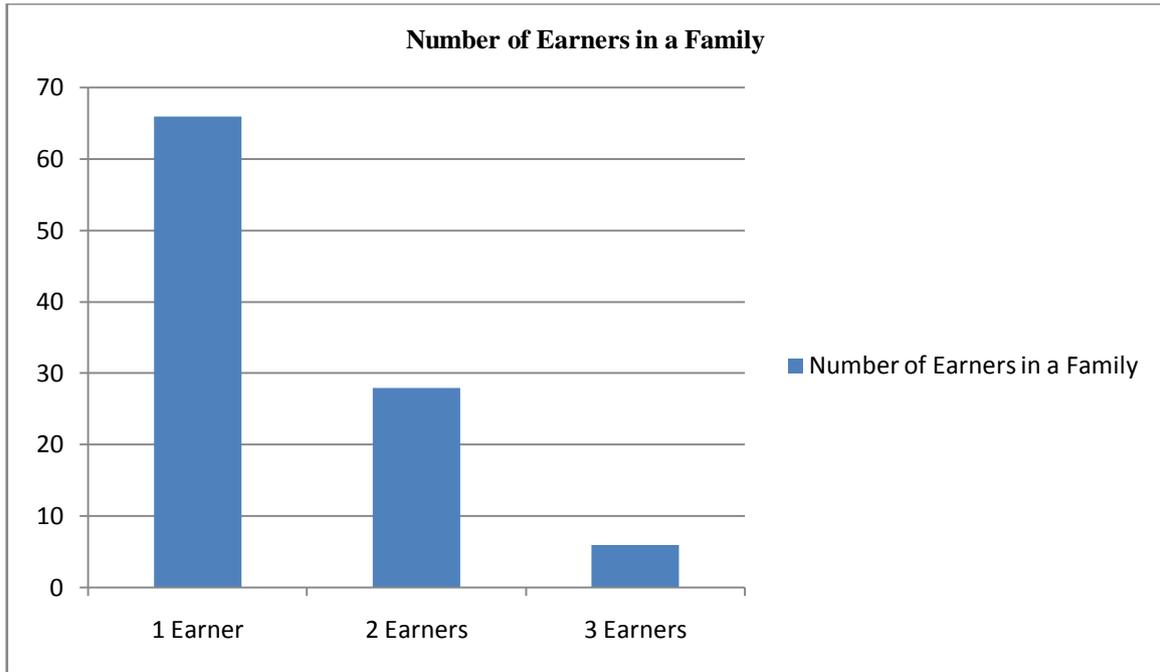


Figure No 4: Number of Earners

Source: Researcher's own calculations on the basis of field data

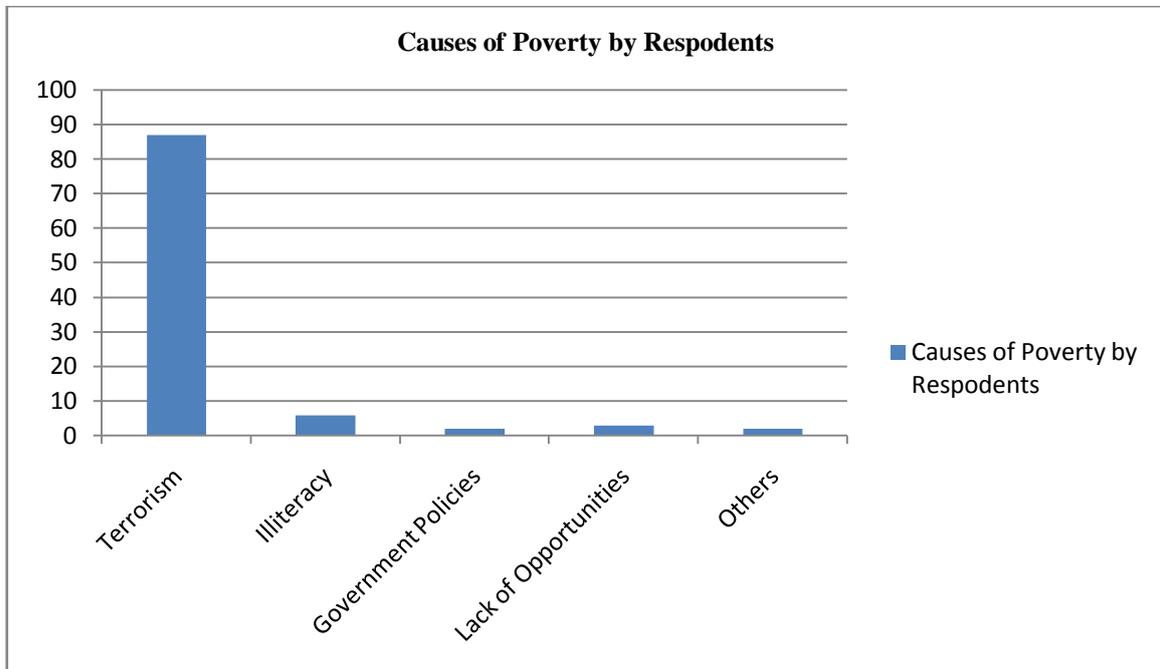


Figure No. 5: Causes of Poverty

Source: Researcher's own calculations on the basis of field data

4.2 Empirical Results

4.2.1 Results of Paired Sample t-test

Paired sample t-test was also used to find out the difference of income before and after terrorism. Following results are found.

Table No.1: Result of t-test

	Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference		t	d.f	Sig.(2-tailed)
		Lower	Upper			
		Pre-terrorism Income & Post-terrorism Income	5.237			

Table No 2: Sample Correlation

	Pre-terrorism Income & Post-terrorism Income	126	.917	.000

Table No.1 shows that the mean difference is found 5.237 which indicate that income of the people is highly affected due to terrorism. The value of t-test is found 38.241 and it is significant at 5% level of significance. Correlation result is also found significant. More over mean of income before terrorism is found 16.567 and mean of income after the raise of militancy and terrorism is found 11.330. It shows that average income of the people has declined after the raise of militancy in the region.

5. Analysis & Discussion

Illiteracy, government policies and lack of opportunities all are the causes of poverty but the major cause of poverty is terrorism. Because terrorism is the root cause which gives birth to the other problems.

Terrorism↑, Illiteracy↑, Poverty↑ (Terrorism destroyed the schools and infrastructure)

Terrorism↑, Investment↓, Poverty↑ (Lack of opportunities)

Terrorism↑, Policy Fails, Poverty↑ (Due to terrorism policy results could not be obtained)

Terrorism ↑ Tourism↓, Poverty↑ (Income of the individuals and whole economy adversely affected)

Terrorism ↑ Budget Deficit↑, Poverty↑ (Economic cost of terrorism affect the economy)

6. Conclusion and Suggestions

It is concluded that terrorism is the major cause of poverty in tribal areas. Empirical results also conclude that terrorism has affected the income of the people. And low income is also a major cause of poverty and other social crimes. Projects and policies of governments regarding poverty reduction have failed; as project are closed before the completion and required results could not be attained. Following suggestions may be helpful for the eradication of poverty in tribal areas.

- Government may start some capacity building programs for local communities.
- Technical skills may also be provided to the people to increase income.
- Umadin of Qabail (Community notables & influentials) may be convinced by the government officials for negotiation regarding peace building.
- Some government projects may be started in partnership with the local community.
- Awareness raising seminars and campaigns may be started with the consent of Umadin of Qabails.
- Credit schemes and income support programs may be started for the well being of the community.

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