

CHAPTER: 5

CONCLUSION

There are many dimensions and reasons behind the Kashmir conflict. This study focuses on the impact of India-Pakistan relations on development, peace process and conflict in Kashmir.

(1) Reason behind the less development and poverty in Kashmir

In the period 2000 to 2016, despite receiving 10% of the total central funds with only 1% of the total population of India, Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Union Territories of Ladakh scored 59 and got bottom position in the India State SDG Index 2019-20.¹²⁷

Peace is the precondition of development and there are two types of conflicts in Kashmir. One is conflict over Kashmir and another is conflicts in Kashmir. Political instability, Pakistan sponsored terrorism and extremism, way of Govt. of India and Govt. of Kashmir to mitigate security threats (Lockdown, shut down of Internet, Ignorance of Nontraditional security threats, robbing of Election in 1987 etc.).

However there have been some positive changes in the 'Modi era' like changes in Article 370, assertive foreign policy regarding Pakistan, emphasis on border management and security reforms etc.

¹²⁷ Raghavan, S. (2016, July 24). *The Hindu*. Retrieved December 18, 2021, from The Hindu: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/JampK-gets-10-of-Central-funds-with-only-1-of-population/article14506264.ece>

(1.1) Pakistan sponsored Terrorism.

More than 32 terrorist organizations were active in Kashmir. Now only three major terrorist organizations named Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed mark their presence in Kashmir. All of the above are Pakistan sponsored and based in PoK or Pakistan.

Terrorist activities in Kashmir for the last 4 decades have hampered the ease of doing business. National security is the first priority of the government therefore it becomes the compulsion of the government to maintain national security. Lockdown, curfew and other traditional security measures are implemented to reduce national security threats and maintain National security. This also affects the development works adversely.

Terrorism not only affects economic activities in Kashmir but also increases our security expenditure. The money which is being used for security, would have been used for development works had terrorism not been a problem.

(1.2) Political Instability in Kashmir

The regime changed 30 times in Kashmir in the period from 1948 to 2019. The political instability made it difficult to fight extremists and terrorism in the Kashmir region. It also affects development activities and peace building activities in Kashmir.

The alteration in Article 370 and the subsequent bifurcation of the state into the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh reduce political instability and increase the government's accountability for mitigating traditional and non-traditional security threats from Kashmir.

(1.3) Corruption

According to the report of Center for Media Studies, Jammu and Kashmir was the most corrupt state in 2017. Corruption adversely affects growth and inclusion. Some corruption cases like fake arms license case can pose a security threat to Kashmir as well as India. According to the CAG report for the financial year 2015-16, there are "serious financial irregularities" in the state.¹²⁸

(1.4) Less FDI

According to Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), the union territory has attracted Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) equity inflows worth US\$ 6 million during the period April 2000 to June 2019.¹²⁹

According to RBI, the Ease of Doing Business Index rank of Jammu and Kashmir is improving significantly. It was 29 in 2015, 31 in 2016, 22 in 2017 and 21 in 2019¹³⁰. But the number of conflicts, terrorist activities by Pakistan-sponsored terrorist organizations and CFA violations by Pakistan also increased significantly from 2014 to 2019.

Although low availability of capital and foreign direct investment is one of the reasons for low economic growth, capital formation and FDI in Kashmir can be attracted by reducing the traditional security threat and establishing peace in Kashmir.

¹²⁸ Ibid

¹²⁹ FDI India. (2021, December 17). *JAMMU AND KASHMIR*. Retrieved December 18, 2021, from FDI India: <https://www.fdi.finance/states/jammu-and-kashmir>

¹³⁰ Reserve Bank of India. (2020, October 13). *State-wise Ease of Doing Business Rank*. Retrieved December 10, 2021, from Reserve Bank of India: <https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/PublicationsView.aspx?id=20117>

Therefore the main reason for low development is conflict and terrorist activities in Kashmir.

(2) Effect of India-Pakistan relations on development and peace process in Kashmir

The idea of Pakistan was based on the theocracy of Islam. India rejects the idea of Pakistan but accepts the tragic Partition. Kashmir has about 67% Muslim population. According to Pakistan, Kashmir should be a part of Pakistan as Kashmir has Muslim majority population. However the idea of Pakistan failed after the partition of Pakistan in 1972.

In 1947, Pakistan invaded Kashmir and Raja Hari Singh signed a memorandum of accession with India. The Indian Army started evacuating the infiltrators. The United Nations arranged ceasefire and defacto border between two countries. In the process, Pakistan illegally annexed about 78,000 square kilometres of Kashmir.

Pakistan tried to annex Indian-administered Kashmir again in 1965 and 1972, but failed in its path. After the end of the Cold War, Pakistan moved the Mujahideen from Afghanistan to Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir. Taking advantage of the internal political instability of 1987, Pakistan launched a shadow war of terrorism against India. In 1999, Pakistan again tried to capture strategic locations in Kargil and Dras, but again the Indian Armed Forces crushed the Pakistan Army. After losing four wars, Pakistan promotes terrorism and literal interprets Jihad in Kashmir against India. In the initial days, militancy was concentrated in the Kashmir Valley. Later, due to the effort of the security forces it was shifted to the border area of South Kashmir.

Since partition, India-Pakistan relations affect the conflict over Kashmir. Due to the conflict over Kashmir and Pakistan's policy of promoting terrorism and extremism, conflict started and destroyed the peace in Kashmir.

Pakistan sponsored terrorism effects economy adversely in two ways, first is high expenditure on traditional security. Second is adverse effect of conflicts on ease of doing business, because it is security compulsion of India to use security instruments like UAPA, AFSPA, lockdown, curfew etc. It also creates Non-traditional security threats and encourages local people to join terrorists and extremist outfits. Another reason to join outfits by local people is literal interpreting of jihad by so called self proclaimed Islamic scholars.

In the third phase of the conflict, terrorist organizations recruit local people and upon the killing of local terrorists by security forces, they portray the killed terrorist's death as a sacrifice for Kashmir's autonomy and jihad. It also encourages quasi violent activities against the security forces.

(3) Effects of less development on India-Pakistan relations and the peace process in Kashmir.

Less development affects peace building and poses non-traditional security threats in Kashmir. Non-traditional security threats trigger traditional security threats by forming the basis for the cultivation of terrorism and extremism. Pakistan is taking advantage of this since 1987.

However the conflict between India and Pakistan is more ideological rather than a territorial dispute. The root cause of the conflicts can be traced to the false ideology of

Pakistan (The idea of a religious Islamic nation which was falsified in 1972 during the partition of Pakistan and the liberation of Bangladesh).

(4) Reasons for the survival of terrorism in Kashmir for four decades.

After defeated in four wars Pakistan stated shadow war of terrorism. There are three phases of conflict and terrorism in Kashmir. First phase 1989 to 2002: In initial stage of the first phase the movement was secular and led by the Jammu and Kashmir liberation front. Later on, due to political instability and Pakistan sponsorship, the movement ranged from secular to Islamic extremist.

Most of the terrorists during this period were foreign Mujahideen. They were shifted from Afghanistan to Pakistan Occupied Kashmir by Pakistan after the end of the Cold War. The terrorist organizations were successful in recruiting only a few underprivileged and underdeveloped local people of Kashmir. The focus of terrorist organizations was the Kashmir Valley.

In second Phase from 2003 to 2012: Violence declined steadily from 2003 to 2012, reaching an all-time low. International support for Pakistan declined and terrorist activities declined. The reason behind the above was intelligence reform and border management initiatives taken by India. India increased the deployment of security forces in the Valley. Therefore the terrorist activities shifted from the valley to the border area of South Kashmir.

Dig 5.1: System of Conflict in Kashmir



Source: Drawn by Author.

Fig 5.1 shows that, there are two reasons behind the trigger of conflict within Kashmir. one is ideological conflict between India-Pakistan over Kashmir (i.e Pakistan is created on the basis of Islamic theocracy and majority population of Kashmir practicing Islamic religion therefore Pakistan seeking the merger of Kashmir with Pakistan but India rejected the Pakistan's idea) and after failing to occupy Kashmir in four wars, Pakistan started shadow war of terrorism against India and started to sponsor terrorism and extremism against India. Second is political instability in Kashmir. The regime changed 30 times in Kashmir in the period from 1948 to 2019.

Conflict in Kashmir adversely affects the peace process and developmental activities as peace is a precondition of development. Due to the security compulsion, the Indian government deployed a large number of security forces in Kashmir and used security equipment like AFSPA and UAPA. Frequent CASOs, Bandhs, Economic shortages, low education and other non-traditional security threats make the land prone to the cultivation of terrorism and extremism. Pakistan takes this as an opportunity and starts spreading lateral Jihad and inciting local people to join militancy. It acts like feedback in the above system. The above system helps terrorism to survive in the first and second stages.

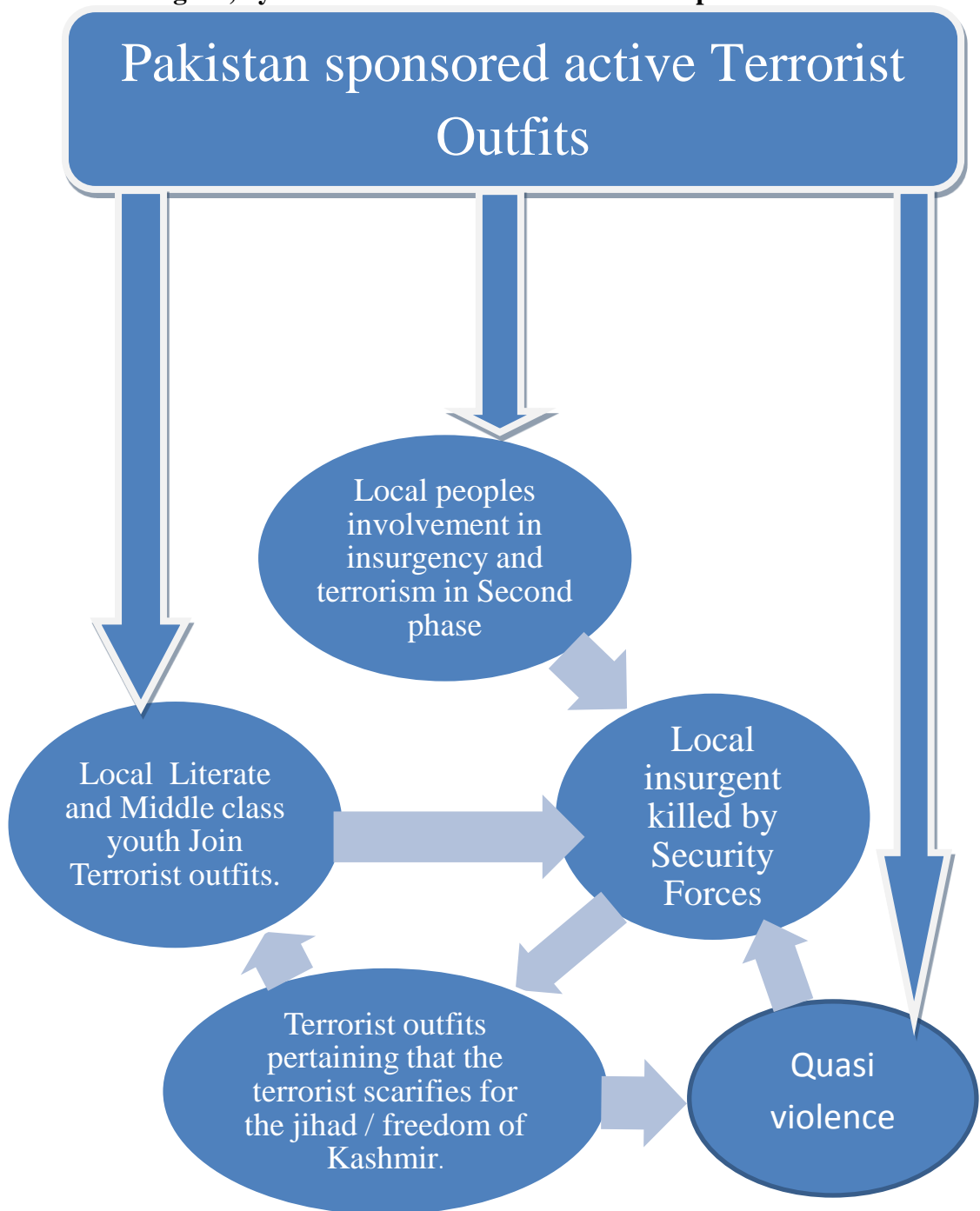
In Third phase (2012 Onwards), terrorism and extremism shifts to south Kashmir. Now middle class highly educated Kashmir youth started to join terrorism. Quasi violent activities come into the notice frequently. There is different system than first and second phase. In this phase Terrorist outfits are getting public support.

This phase is more dangerous than the previous two phases as intelligence collection and counter intelligence is difficult while local literate youth support terrorist organizations. Terrorist activities and killings again increased. This adversely affect developmental and peace building activities.

Now outfits are succeeding in gaining the support of masses. Quasi violence activities during the funeral of terrorists, recruitment of local people to the terrorist outfits is increasing significantly. However recruitment of local people to terrorist outfits decreased after the amendment in article 370 and bifurcation of state in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir and UT of Ladakh. Double lockdown and increase of

concentration of security forces in Kashmir is another reasons for the decrease of insurgency.

Fig 5.2, System of terrorism survival in Third phase.



Source: Drawn by Author.

Fig. 5.2 shows that,

- 1) Pakistan sponsors terrorism and accelerates the cycle of Terrorism.
- 2) The local people of Kashmir joined the organizations in the first and second phases.
- 3) Local Terrorist killed by security forces.
- 4) Terrorist outfits and extremists try to portray that terrorists killed by security forces sacrifice for jihad and freedom of Kashmir and mislead local people to join terrorist organizations.
- 5) Quasi violence activities launched by Pakistan sponsored insurgents and terrorism on the occasion of funeral of terrorists and during operations by security forces.
- 6) Insurgents involved in quasi-violent activities were killed by the security forces.
- 7) Terrorists again portray that insurgent killed by security forces is sacrifice for jihad and freedom of Kashmir and mislead the local people to join terrorist organisations.
- 8) As a result local people are joining terrorist organizations and getting killed by security forces and this vicious circle is triggered again.

Above mentioned two types of vicious cycle is the reason behind the survival of terrorist activities in Kashmir since last four decades.

(5) Possible solution to Eradicate Terrorism and Conflict.

(5.1) Settlement of territorial dispute between India and Pakistan is time taking process because there is no political stability in Pakistan. Army of Pakistan does not

report to democratic elected government. India has to make its own security system strong.

(5.1.2) Integrated counter insurgency and Anti-terrorist Cell: For avoiding lack of coordination and cooperation between agencies there should be integrated anti-terrorist cell to mitigate traditional as well as non traditional security threat simultaneously. This cell should consist of civilian officials and officers, Central Armed Police Forces, Jammu and Kashmir Police, Indian armed forces and intelligence agencies etc.

(5.1.3) An organization on the line of special service bureau should be established to promote patriotism and countering literal Jihad.

(5.2) Traditional security threats and Non-Traditional security threats should be eliminated simultaneously.

(5.3) Participation of local people in government, Empowerment of local self government and abolition of corruption etc.

The root cause of the Kashmir conflict can be traced to the tragic partition of India and the idea of Pakistan. After four attempts to forcibly annex Kashmir, Pakistan launched a shadow war of terrorism. Political instability and Nontraditional security threats have created fertile ground for the cultivation of terrorism. Terrorism and extremism create conflict within Kashmir and affect the development of Kashmir adversely. There have been several attempts by India to resolve the conflict over Kashmir but Pakistan's policy of sponsoring terrorism and attempts to challenge India's sovereignty over Kashmir always renders India's effort inactive. It may take time to improve relations between India and Pakistan. Till the time the relations

between India and Pakistan do not improve, India will have to strengthen its security arrangements to eradicate Pakistan-sponsored terrorism and extremism.