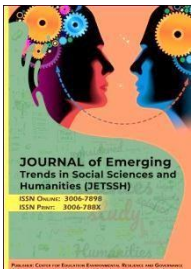
A double blind peer-reviewed journal
Journal Of Emerging Trends In Social Sciences And Humanities

ISSN Online: 3006-7898
ISSN Print: 3006-788X



Non-Traditional Security Challenges to Pakistan's Foreign Policy

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ARTICLE INFO

Keywords:
cybersecurity, nuclear, neighbor alliances, Pakistan, Foreign policy

Vol:01 No:04 2024
Page Range: 1-9

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ABSTRACT

Non-Traditional Security challenges can be defined as, ―those uncommon challenges which pose direct or indirect threat to existence of the state and welfare of the people.‖ The first most important threat to Pakistan's Foreign Policy is Cyber Security. The challenge of cyber security is most important due to Nuclear Weapons capability of Pakistan. Multilateral cooperation among states is necessary. Above-described problems are not only confronted by Pakistan but the whole world community is facing these challenges. Pakistan should join hands with the world community to fix these challenges. Secondly Pakistan cannot fix any issue internal or external without making its house in order. If we want to fix challenges, then we will have to make our house in order. In this regard economic prosperity and political instability is the key to resolve all the issues. This will lead not only towards better and comprehensive understanding of the issue but also continuation of the policies to fix these challenges.

Introduction:

Pakistan's Foreign Policy since 1947, was marked by turbulent neighbors to shifting of alliances with international powers and alignment with Muslim world to finding its ways for combating financial instability. 21st century brought many other challenges for Pakistan's Foreign Policy due to changing global scenario. On other side of the picture Pakistan has to face many Non-Traditional Challenges to its Foreign Policy.

International community has reservations that week protective measure can lead to handing over of these nuclear weapons to terrorists. The second important challenge is Climate Change. This climate change is adversely affecting our internal infrastructure through floods, displacement of large portion of population. This leads towards borrowing of funds from international community to tackle the issue which directly effects our foreign policy. Population Explosion is the third most important challenge faced by Pakistan's Foreign Policy. Pakistan's population has increased at an alarming rate directly resulting in poverty and unemployment. Increasing poverty and unemployment has resulted into shifting of a large number of people from Pakistan to other world countries for labor and jobs. Pakistan has to consider the interests

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of these people while formulating its foreign policy as we receive a large portion of remittances from these overseas Pakistanis. Last but not least is the water crises. Water crises has directly affected our relations with India. Water scarcity is another aspect of water crises which has impacted Pakistan‘s agriculture and energy sector as well.

Literature Review

Mr. Ahmad Raza has clearly said in his article that, _Non-Traditional Security Threats‘ have generally been accorded less priority while comparing them with the _Traditional Security Threats‘. (Raza A. , 2023). He has further observed in his article that this negligence on the part of states to cope with these non-traditional security challenges has deteriorated and posed substantial threats to the security of the states. The history of Pakistan has witnessed a legacy of these non-traditional security threats. This incapability of the state has led Pakistan to the deteriorated conditions finally exposing to the danger of existence. These deteriorated conditions and exposition to danger of existence has created many challenges for Pakistan at the foreign policy front as well. The founder of Pakistan and father of the nation Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah had rightly said that, ―The weak and defenseless, in this imperfect world, invite aggression from others.‖ (Cheema, 2023). Mr. Pervaiz Iqbal Cheema in his paper while quoting Mr. Jinnah has talked about week states level of insecurity at the hands of powerful states. These non-traditional threats have made states further vulnerable to be threatened. Though with the passage of time Pakistan has attained plenty of measures and capabilities to tackle the traditional threats but the non-traditional sphere remains unaddressed.

The history of non-traditional security threats is as long as the history of Pakistan itself. The non-traditional threats range from water crises to population explosion and natural catastrophe to the phenomenon of 21st century the cyber security. Some or the other way these threats have not only challenged Pakistan‘s existence but have always been an obstacle for an independent foreign policy.

The history of Pakistan is marked with non-traditional security threats which has hampered not only economic growth of Pakistan but also effected its position to act as an independent state to pursue its foreign policy. Among these non-traditional security threats, the most important is population explosion. At the time of establishment of Pakistan, the total population of the country was 32.5 million. This increase in populations was marked by approximately with an increase of 2% annually. This sharp increase of the population has led towards 220 million population in 2023. These are alarming figures which have directly or indirectly effected the growth and development of the country. Pakistan failed to chart out a strategy to cope with this issue of population explosion which resulted into unemployment and poverty. This unemployment and poverty led towards brain drain and export of labor into other world states in search of jobs etc. these conditions forced Pakistan to jeopardize its foreign policy strategies to safeguards the rights and job securities of these overseas Pakistanis.

Natural catastrophes have also affected Pakistan‘s ability to pursue a foreign policy without jeopardizing its interest. History of Pakistan is characterized by natural catastrophes such as earthquakes and floods. According to Federal Flood Commission, the country has witnessed 28 major floods in its seventy-five-year history. Since 1950 floods in Pakistan have caused humongous devastation to lives, livelihood, and land, along with the country's economy. (Raza M. , 2022) these floods also contributed loss of infrastructure as well. World community made exceptional efforts for rehabilitation of flood affectee but impacts of these floods on economy of Pakistan were heavy. Earthquakes has also affected country‘s economy and infrastructure along heavy human loss. According to a report, it is estimated that more than 780,000 buildings were either destroyed or damaged beyond repair, and many more were rendered unusable for extended periods of time. Out of these, approximately 17,000 school buildings and most major hospitals close to the epicenter were destroyed or severely damaged. (Saif Hussain, 2005)

Water Crises is another is another non-traditional security threat Pakistan is facing since its establishment in 1947. John F. Kennedy has rightly said that, ―Anyone who can solve the

problems of water will be worthy of two noble prizes - one for peace and one for science.‖ (Maqbool, Water Crisis in Pakistan: Manifestation, Causes and the Way Forward, 2022). Pakistan is among the top countries which are vulnerable to water crises in 21st century. The issue of water crises is caused by mainly due to increased population and unplanned urbanization, poor water management and the issue of climate change. Its very much astonishing that ―after 70 years of its establishment, Pakistan made its first ever water policy in 2018.‖ (Maqbool, Water Crisis in Pakistan: Manifestation, Causes and the Way Forward, 2022, p. 06). The issue of water crises has created problems for the state of Pakistan not only at national but international level as well. We have a long history of water disputes with India which were resolved through Indus Water Treaty 1960 with the involvement of World Bank. But the agreement could not sustain the solution and still Pakistan objections upon construction of dams upon the river Jhelum etc. internally there is not consensus among provinces of Pakistan upon construction of dams and distribution of water through water channels. These issues are hampering Pakistan's position to assert its internal and foreign policy.

Another non-traditional security threat is Climate Change. The issue of climate change is of prime importance to the state of Pakistan. Climate change is an international phenomenon and has implications for the whole world community. In Pakistan its severity has increased during last two decades directly leading towards extreme weather, severe variation in temperature resulting into floods and unexpected and more than usual rains ects. According to the report of Asian Development Bank, ―The 2010 flood killed 1,600 people and caused around $10 billion in damage. The 2015 Karachi heat wave led to the death of more than 1,200 people.‖ (Zaman, 2017). Pakistan has formulated its first ever climate control policy in 2022 which provides a road map for measure to tackle this issue and join hands with the international community to fight climate change. At present this has become major challenge for the state of Pakistan in respect of its foreign policy.

The 21st century era is marked by many traditional and non-traditions security challenges for the states. Among all the cyber security is one of the most important challenges states are facing nowadays. Unlike many other challenges cyber security is also haunting Pakistan at national and international level. Being a nuclear states and hacking of our sensitive data can lead towards diverse effects not only for Pakistan but the world community as well.

Theoretical Framework

The issue of security is very much important in the field of international relation. There exist many theories to study this complex phenomenon. The issue of security is the central point in establishing relations among states. The topic under discussion suggests a comprehensive analysis of the security threats faced by state of Pakistan. The traditional security challenges are often discussed but our focus is to study the non-traditional security challenges faced by Pakistan. Therefore, it is necessary to opt for theory that may comprehensively study all the aspects of non-traditional security challenges faced by Pakistan.

During 90s the Copenhagen School of Studies introduced the term Securitization. In 1993 Ole Weaver coined the term ―Securitization‖ which with the passage of time became most commonly used theory to discuss the security issues among the states under the umbrella of foreign policy. The theory of Securitization upholds that any issue can achieve prime importance if it is associated with security. These issues require urgent solution. In short, by labeling something as ―security‖ an issue is dramatized as an issue of supreme priority. According to Munster in his article said that, ―The Copenhagen school originally studies the dynamics of security across five different, nonexclusive sectors—military, political, societal, economic, and environmental—although later analyses of securitization have sought to expand the number of sectors.‖ (Munster, 2012)

Critical Analysis of Non-Traditional Security Challenges to Pakistan's Foreign Policy

The domain of foreign policy for the states has always been very much challenging. This is due to complex nature of independence, dependence and interdependence of states upon each other. The soul objective of states to decide their foreign policy revolves around their national interest. Each states formulates its foreign policy with the purpose to protect its national interest. In terms of relations among states the term national interest can be defined as, ―the interest of the nation.‖ This interest can be in terms of security, stability and prosperity. States establish relations with each other so that they could become secure, stable and prosper.

In this process of establishing relations with each other many factors internal and external play their role. Among these factors few become challenges which create hurdles for the states to pursue their foreign policy. Economy, defense, and political orientation of state are traditional challenges which play their role to determine the foreign policy of a state. But since few decades few non-traditional security challenges have also developed which impact the foreign policy of a state.

Pakistan since its establishment has witnessed a very complex situations in terms of foreign policy domain. These situations have always served as challenges to the foreign policy of Pakistan. These challenges range from week defense to worst economic conditions and hostile neighbors to hereditary problem like Kashmir dispute etc. Worst economic conditions forced Pakistan to get engaged with international monetary instituitons for lending. Week defense and presence of a hostile neighbor India forced newly born state of Pakistan to join military pacts SEATO and CENTO. Therefore, most of the period of Pakistan's history remained security and economy centric. But the 21st century brought with itself new challenges which were not traditional in nature rathe these challenges were non-traditional.

Cyber Security

The issue of cyber security is one of the most important non-traditional security challenges for Pakistan. We better know that 21st century is considered as the century of information and technology. These new way of information and technology has converted the work into global village. This globalization has resulted into many benefits for the world community along few drawbacks. Amongst all these drawbacks cyber security is the most important. The term cyber security is defined by Computer Information System Company as, ―any technology, measure or practice for preventing cyber-attacks or mitigating their impact. Cyber security aims to protect individuals' and organizations' systems, applications, computing devices, sensitive data and financial assets against simple and annoying computer viruses, sophisticated and costly ransomware attacks, and everything in between.‖ (IBM). Basically, we can say that cyber security is the security of cyber space which is a domain of the war.

Pakistan is a nuclear state and the world community in recent past has been over conscious about security of our nuclear weapons. The world community had an assumption that Pakistan's nuclear weapons can go in the hands of terrorists or the non-state actors who can use these weapons against the world community. For a long time, Pakistan had to face the consequences of this assumption. Pakistan had to face international restrictions in this regard as well. All this was perceived due to week cyber security system of Pakistan. Apart from this perspective cyber security has another view that is directly related with public through the initiation of E-services by the government of Pakistan. These e-services domain has left another space for the cyber security initiatives.

The issue of nuclear weapons misuse is taken up very seriously by Pakistan. The authorities have established a specialized National Command and Control System for the security of nuclear weapons. This step has satisfied world community up to maximum level regarding security of Pakistan's nuclear weapons. Moreover, we have also taken measure to tackle the issue of terrorism and non-state actors. Most of the organizations which were labelled as terrorism sponsored have been banned or made dysfunctional. Their sources of donations are also being checked. Just because of these measures Pakistan was succeeded to get out of the

FATF grey list. According to sources of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ―The Financial Action Task Force has decided by consensus that Pakistan has completed all substantial, technical and procedural requirements of both 2018 and 2021 Action Plans. As a result, Pakistan has been taken out of the list of jurisdictions under increased monitoring, with immediate effect. This decision was taken during the FATF Plenary meeting held in Paris, France from 20 -21 October 2022. (Pakistan, 2022).

Secondly Pakistan has not fully transformed its system into e-services. Though few departments and services come under the umbrella of information technology and have transformed their services and data online. Yet the system of manual data and record keeping is also going on. Keeping in view the sensitivity of the issue Pakistan devised its first cyber security policy in 2021. This policy was formulated and announced by Ministry of Information and Technology and Telecommunication in July 2021 under the heading of National Cyber Security Policy 2021. The policy document focusses on the establishment of institutional framework for the protection and sharing of information sytem. The policy document suggests implementation framework through establishment of the institutions as, ―The Central Entity along with its National Computer Emergency Response Team (NCERT) and National Security Operation Center (NSOC).‖ (TELECOMMUNICATION, 2021).

The issues of nuclear weapons security and security of other sensitive data was definitely a challenge for Pakistan‘s foreign policy. For many years these issues have kept state of Pakistan under troubled waters with the world community. But Pakistan‘s strong measures to protect its nuclear weapons and its initiatives to take necessary steps against non-state actors and organizations have developed a confidence among the world community.

Water Crises

Nazam Maqbool has rightly quoted US President John F. Kennedy saying, ‘‘Anyone who can solve the problems of water will be worthy of two noble prizes – one for peace and one for science.‖ (Maqbool, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, 2022). The water crises of Pakistan are as old as the Pakistan itself. Since establishment of Pakistan is facing this issue, but unfortunately our decision makers have not taken it seriously. Osama Rizvi writes in The Diplomat as, ―Pakistan‘s financial crisis is getting much media attention, the water crisis, as most pressing problem, is being ignored.‖ (Rizvi, 2022). Pakistan has been on troubles with its neighbor India on the issue of water apart from other disputes. But we have always ignored this crisis as domestic level. The intensity of this crises can be summed up in the words of Mir Sher Baz Khetran, Pakistan‘s groundwater resources, the last resort of water supply, are severely overdrawn, mainly to supply water for irrigation. If the situation remains unchanged, the whole country may face severe water scarcity by 2025. The situation is strategically more complicated, as Pakistan is the lower riparian country to India and 78 percent of its water inflows from therein.5 Over the last few decades, Pakistan has drastically changed from being a water abundant country to a water-stressed country. With 2.8 percent of the global population, Pakistan accounts for 0.5 percent of global renewable water resources. Worldwide, the country ranks 36th in total renewable water resources. (Khetran, 2023). The above provided facts reveal the sensitivity and intensity of the water crises. The main causes leading towards these crises are rapid population growth, climate change, poor agricultural water management, inefficient water management and water pollution. All these factors are contributing in the intensity of water crises. But this issue of water crises is not domestic problem but our neighboring country India also contribute in the crises. They have built dams on the rivers leading towards Pakistan. The water dispute with India can be traced back to 50s and 60s. this dispute was resolved in 1960 for the time being through World Bank. According to the world bank record of fact sheet, ―The Indus Waters Treaty was signed in 1960 after nine years of negotiations between India and Pakistan with the help of the World Bank, which is also a signatory. The Treaty allocates the Western Rivers (*Indus, Jhelum, Chenab*) to Pakistan and the Eastern Rivers (*Ravi, Beas, Sutlej*) to India. At the same time, the Treaty allows each country certain uses on the rivers allocated to

the other.‖ (Bank, 2023). Despite this agreement there is a disagreement between both states over the issue of water. Pakistan accuses India of continuously violating the treaty by building dams on the western rivers.

This is a serious challenge for Pakistan‘s security as both states have fought wars with each other and always remain in trouble. Such kind of problems can lead towards another crises of war between both states. Pakistan needs an active approach to cope this challenge at domestic and international level. But we observe that Pakistan has failed to assert its point of view Infront of international community. This is a clear sign of our week foreign policy or nonseriousness towards the issue.

This is a challenge for Pakistan‘s foreign policy that we should highlight this issue Infront of international community and make them believe that India is violating the Indus Water Treaty Agreement.

Climate Change

The issue of climate change is of prime importance in 21st century world. It is a global issue having impacts upon social, environmental and developmental activities throughout the world. According to a report, ―Climate change is an established fact and its impacts on water, agriculture, health, biodiversity, forest and socio-economic sectors are quite visible around the globe.‖ (Rasool, 2012). Pakistan has been declared as the 10th most vulnerable country to climate change. Massive and unplanned urbanization, air and water pollution has contributed a lot for the conditions we are facings today. This climate change is contributing towards extreme weathers, unexpected rainfalls, floods and water scarcity.

A major portion of Pakistan‘s population is directly or indirectly connected with agriculture. Climate change has a variety of impacts upon agriculture sector. We have witnessed in Pakistan that floods lead towards destruction of agricultural land and crops which directly leads towards shortage of food and poor economic conditions of the people as well as the state. Moreover, these floods which are direct result of the climate change also lead towards displacement of the people from flood affected areas. This costs huge economic burden for the state. In 2010 heavy floods caused huge human and materialistic damage. According to the assessment report of the Finance Division government of Pakistan, ― The 2010 monsoon flood disaster in Pakistan was massive and unprecedented, killing more than 1,700 persons, affecting over 20 percent of the land area, more than 20 million people, and causing loss of billions of dollars through damages to infrastructure, housing, agriculture and livestock, and other family assets. Essential infrastructure including roads, bridges and markets has been severely damaged and many remain impassable.‖ (Pakistan Floods Impact Assessment, 2011).

Pakistan could not get the exact aid from the world community in the wake of damage caused by heavy floods. However, Pakistan has taken few steps to cope this issue of climate change. Previous government initiated Billion Tree Tsunami Program which left positive impacts and contributed for the balancing of climate. Apart from this Pakistan has also adopted climate control measures as suggested by United Nation Climate Change Conference held in November 2022. Pakistan In this conference Pakistan stressed over aid for those countries which are highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. In 2012 Pakistan introduced its first ever National Climate Change Policy. The policy intends, ―Appropriate measures relating to disaster preparedness, capacity building, institutional strengthening; technology transfer; introduction of the climate change issue in higher education curricula; ensuring environmental compliance through Initial Environmental Examinations (IEE) and Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) in the development process; addressing the issue of deforestation and illegal trade in timber; promoting Clean Development Mechanisms (CDM); and raising Pakistan‘s stance regarding climate change at various international forums, have also been incorporated as important components of the policy.‖ (ClimateChange, 2012).

The conditions of climate change in Pakistan are very alarming. Pakistan needs a comprehensive strategy to handle the issue. Pakistan alone cannot tackle this issue hence it needs

world community‘s help and cooperation. To achieve cooperation and help from world community Pakistan need to reinvigorate its strategies at foreign policy level to convince the world community that climate change is a real danger and Pakistan want to fight but this fight is not possible without help of the international community. Pakistan should take this threat as a challenge at its foreign policy domain. Otherwise, climate change is a very big security threat to the existence of Pakistan.

Natural Catastrophes

The history of Pakistan is amalgamation of natural catastrophes. From the very beginning Pakistan has to face severe floods during 1950s. these floods caused heavy damage to human lives and the infrastructure. For a newly established state of Pakistan, it as a serious threat but Pakistan managed to handle it. Later on, during 70s and 80s worst kind of floods are recorded in Pakistan which heavily damaged infrastructure and lost human live. But among all these the floods of 2012 were of severe kind in terms of their damages. Almost one fifth area of the country was affected by floods and around 20 million people were affected. Millions of people were internally displaced which caused a human dilemma.

Apart from floods Pakistan has also witnessed earthquakes causing heavy losses in terms of human lives and infrastructure. Among all these earthquakes 2008 earthquake was the worst. It was a 7.6 magnitude earthquake on 8 October 2005. In this earthquake around 75000 people lost their lives and thousands of homes, schools, colleges and roads were destroyed.

Such kind of disasters are non-traditional challenges for the states which should be dealt in otherwise they can pose threats to existence of the state. Pakistan at this critical movement needed help from the world community to cope with this challenge caused by nature. Pakistan through international conferences and its contacts with international community did not take along time to manage and tackle the issue.

Population Explosion

Population explosion is another non-traditional threat to the security of Pakistan. At the time of establishment of Pakistan, the population was 32.5 million but in 2022 it has reached at 220 million. It has increased with ratio of 2% annually. These figures are very much alarming. But this increase of population has brought many problems with itself. Increase in population has increased unemployment leading towards poverty. It also has resulted into unplanned urbanization leading towards cutting off the agricultural land which can directly create foods security issues in Pakistan.

Brain drain is direct result of unemployment in the country and Pakistan is among the top countries facing issue of brain drain. Most of our people are working abroad as laborers because they cannot find a job here in Pakistan. According to statistics of Overseas Pakistani Foundation, ―Aapproximately 8.8 million Pakistanis live abroad, with the vast majority (over 4.7 million) residing in the Arab states of the Persian Gulf.‖ (Overseas Pakistanis Foundation, 2023).

Pakistan is among those countries which have such a huge number of overseas populations. Protection of their rights outside Pakistan is indeed a challenge for the foreign policy of Pakistan. Apart from this managing such a huge populations and management of resources and equal opportunities for all is another challenge. All this demands a heavy foreign direct investment which can lead towards creation of new jobs and labor opportunities for the people to eradicate poverty and get rid of the unemployment.

Recommendations

Pakistan is passing through one of the most critical periods of its history. The worst economic conditions, growing inflation, poverty and unemployment coupled with huge debt burden and troubled borders have added fire to the fuel. The country is also suffering from political instability for last two years. In the next month on 08 February 2024 general elections are scheduled. In the wake of all these issues confronting Pakistan best internal and extern policy choices can rescue Pakistan.

In my view short- and long-term policies can better serve to tackle the issues. Following short term policies can lead Pakistan to get out of all these issues being confronted at foreign policy level.

i. The elections should be held as per the schedule so that newly established government could devise its strategy to cope with the issue.
ii. A comprehensive legal framework should be adopted by the government to cover all the non-traditional security challenges at national and international level. This legal framework should be in accordance with the international treaties, agreement and acts. This frame work should not jeopardize the national interest of Pakistan.
iii. Policies should be formulated which covers all the non-traditional security challenges. These policies should be incorporated with rules, regulations and SOPs for handling of these challenges. For example, if a policy is formulated regarding Family Planning to cope the issue of population explosion, then it should be implemented according in true letter and spirit.
iv. Pakistan should develop its infrastructure in accordance with international standards to cope the issue of cyber security and climate change etc.
v. For resolutions of water crises, the metaling of water channels is very important and it should be started immediately so that water does not waste.
vi. Public private partnership should be enhanced to cope the issue of cyber security.

In the long run following measures should be adopted to cope non-traditional security challenges to Pakistan foreign policy.

i. In the long run Pakistan should focus on image building with the help of soft power tools. Pakistan in the international community is considered as an irresponsible state. We should let the world community that we are and always act as a responsible state.
ii. In the wake of cyber security and security of our nuclear weapons safety from non-state actors we should more focus upon security of our nuclear weapons. For this we should act strictly against all kinds of terrorists and banned organizations to stop them from any kind of activity.
iii. A comprehensive strategy should be devised to let the world community know our problems and get support from them for natural catastrophes.
iv. In the long run dams should be built to tackle issue of floods.
v. Dialogue should be started with India to resolve all the long-standing disputes including the issue of water crises. Pakistan should force India through its foreign policy diplomacy to act according to Indus Water Treaty of 1960.
vi. A mechanism of information sharing among all the departments and warning of cyber threats should be established.

Conclusion

Pakistan‘s foreign policy has been troubled due to many traditional and non-traditional challenges. Every challenge brings with itself an opportunity for improvements. Pakistan is world‘s 7th and Muslims World‘s 1st nuclear state. Absolute power brings absolute responsibility. Pakistan should act responsibly. No state in the world can survive alone. Multilateral cooperation among states is necessary. Above-described problems are not only confronted by Pakistan but the whole world community is facing these challenges. Pakistan should join hands with the world community to fix these challenges.

Secondly Pakistan cannot fix any issue internal or external without making its house in order. If we want to fix challenges then we will have to make our house in order. In this regard economic prosperity and political instability is the key to resolve all the issues. This will lead not only towards better and comprehensive understanding of the issue but also continuation of the policies to fix these challenges.

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