The Impacts of the Security Threats on the Social and Academic Activities of the Students.
A Case Study of Punjab University, Lahore, Pakistan

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Abstract:

The aim of the present paper is to investigate the impacts of the security threats on the social and academic activities of the students. The present study has been conducted in the Punjab University, Lahore Pakistan. The paper deals with the social domains of the security threats in particular social settings. This paper emphasis on that how peace is important in the academic institutes to regulate the academic and social activities of the students that has ultimate relation with the social and psychological personality grooming of the students. The security threats have not just limited the social and academic actives of the students in the institute but it has created some uncertainty regarding to their future. The data presented in this paper

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*has been collected by using qualitative anthropological research
techniques.*

Key words: security threats, social activities, academic activities,
Punjab University, Lahore, Pakistan

Introduction:

The peace and social activities are interconnected. Executions
of the social activities in all circumstances are always connected
with peace especially in particular social settings. Present
study has been recently conducted in the Punjab University to
investigate the impacts of security threats on the academic and
social activities of the students in the institute. The main
objective of the study was to know about the perception of the
students toward security threats in particular social settings
and what are their dimensions to measure the importance of
the security in the country. The importance of this study is that
it has recently conducted after the incident of 16/12 in
Peshawar Pakistan, where one hundred and forty four children
have been brutally killed by anti state organization.

        This study will help to execute the national action plan
to overcome such horrible incidents in the future through the
local participation from the bottom level. The importance of the
present study is that it has been conducted in the Punjab
University in which large numbers of the students are enrolled
and it is situated in the capital of the Punjab which one is high
threat city of the Pakistan by the anti state organizations. So
this is very important to know about the perception of the
students at university toward security threats, because it is
mostly claimed by the security agencies that the young people
are used in suicide attacks, so in this sense the opinion of the
students is very useful in this regard.

The social activities in one sense are confined while on the other hand it is very useful thing in the form of the security hazard that has helped to regulate the society. The social activities in the University are not confined but the outside the university students activities have been limited that is very dark side of coin. The academic activities are also associated to the peace. The security threats also have limited the academic activities in the University especially in the form of the group discussion and library studies. The concentration in the classrooms on the lecture also diverted due to security risk. The loose security in the University premises is another major cause of social and mental disturbance among the students.

Methodology:

The qualitative anthropological research methodology has been used to conduct the study. The two main research techniques participant observation and in-depth interviews have been used to collect the data. Different sampling techniques were also used during the research like purposive sampling, random sampling and snow ball sampling. By using these sampling techniques 10 departments have been selected for interviews. The research has been conducted in January 2015.

Results and Discussion:

Society is a compound of the social institutions. All institutions in the society are interconnected. The education is one of the major social institutions. All educational activities are always performed in the particular socio-cultural settings. Education does not just shape only the individuals but it also refine the society in holistic domain. Education has been defined by the different theorist historically but the relation of the education with society always found in slam sense. The present study elaborates the general as well as definite link of the education

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with the lives of individual and also explains the execution of
the educational activities are how much possible in the
particular society. The random samples have been selected from
the ten department of the University to investigate the impact
of the security intimidation on the academic and social
activities on the students.

According to the respondents during the interviews,
academic activities have not bothered by modification of the
academic schedule but it also put extra burden of work that
leads to waste of time. The waste of time further leads to
economic loss as well as proving a cause of mental sickness.
Impacts of the security fear are not just limited to within the
academic premises but their indirectly link to the social
distrust even at the household level. For instance the students
who are enrolled in the University their parents are in the
condition of discomfort until their children reached back to the
houses. According to a respondent Hina from the Education
department of the view that "My *mother said to me that I raise
my hands and pray to Allah until you come back home safe"*

This not only indicates the concern of the parents about
their children but it also proving an agent of social discomfort
in the society. Another visible impact of the security menace is
that it is proving a constant source of fear in the society in
collective manners. Security hazards in the class room during
lecture always alive in the minds of the students but it becomes
so intense after every new incident in the country that students
are not willing to take their classes.

The gender perception is very valuable in this regard.
During an interview of female respondents she of the view that
she is in the constant state of the fear in the class rooms during
lecture after the incident of the 16/12 in Peshawar, While the
perception of the male in this regard was that they feel no panic
in the class rooms during lectures but they feel uneasy to go on
the public places like cafeteria and central library. But some
male students of the view that the only single place in the

University with E-security system is central library, so we can't feel fear to go there.

Another very immense impact of the security threat is that it is proving a source of distress for the parents thus they are not willing to send their children in the academic institutes. So that is very serious challenge for the Government to fulfill the goals of EFA (Education for All) and to improve the literacy rate in the country. The role of faculty in this regard cannot be unnoticed. The faculty members are also affected from this social evil as students. They are suffering due to security threats in one hand while the extra burden of work upon them is a surplus tension in constant way. So their performance is upsetting. They have to perform an extra work as regards the security, for instance to take part in the seminars and they also have responsibility to train the students to cope up with present condition of the security specifically in the academic institutes. The condition of psychologically distress is also suffering by the faculty members and in the constant circumstance of the danger and fear it is not easy for the faculty members to deliver their lecturers in relaxed manners.

The impacts of the security threats are not just confined to scare the academic activities but the social ground in such circumstances is also very broad. The economic activities in the educational institutes have also affected. Business activities have been reduced in the academic institutes comparatively. The students avoid participating in regular activities at the business points. To maintain the security situation in the premises of the University the timings of the canteens have been altered. Due to this change they have now short time to sell their products. During an interview an owner of cafeteria of the view that per day sale has been reduced to half almost due to shuffling in timings and fewer visit of the students at cafeteria.

Security fear has deep rooted impacts on the social structure of the society as well bother the social activities at

educational institutions. The social activities at the University level almost have over. Social activities including social gathering at parties, funfairs and sports galas at university have been ended. The reduction in the social activities has not only limited the extracurricular activities but also left very menus impacts on the bodily health of the students as well as on their mental wellbeing. Such types of forum encourage the students to enhance their physical as well as their mental capabilities.

The lack of social gathering ultimate leads to the social disintegration in the society. But on the other hand some of the respondents of the view that it has also introduced a sense of unity among the members of the society specifically among the students in the educational institutes to fight against this social evil in collective manners. The feminine perspective in this regard is really interesting and encouraging that, they said that they are unite in this crucial time and have courage to fight against this social evil. As a female respondent from the Biotechnology department Iqra Shakir of the that *"We are frightened from the attacks by the anti-state agents but it also encourages us to unite in this time of miser."*

Most of the respondents of the view regarding security in the University were that they are satisfied with the present security measures being introduced by the administrative authorities, but some of the respondents were very conscious about the lope holes in the security particularly due to multiple entrances in the University area. Manual system of the security indicates the carelessness of the administrative authorities in one hand while on the other hand it is big risk regarding to the security of the students in the University territory. There are many flaws in the manual system of security in the University one of more alarming social flaw is that there multiple roles to check the security for instance there is loose system of checking at the entrance by the staff of the university. Another factor is that there is discrimination during the security checking at the

entrance of the university as one of respondent Mahnoor from the Biochemistry department of the view that

> "The students who come to university by autos are strictly checked while the students who use their personals vehicles they are not checked strictly checked at the entrance point that indicates the security lope holes in the University."

Manual security system in the university is also proving a curse for the students to prove their identities. Students of the view that many time in a day we are being identified through the university cards that is proving a permanent source of psychological frustration that we are losing our identity even in our own university due to security threats. Females students of the view that, it is best thing to prove our identity, while we are entering in the University. To prove our identity means that we are being respected by the university. It is also preeminent for us that through this little stab we are going to secure our institute.

The hope holes in the manual security system has provided space for the new security system for instance E-security system. Electronics security is more reliable than that of manual security system, most of the students added. There are many factors that are lagging behind the electronic security system .Major one is lack of resources specifically in terms of finance. The other major reason to implement the electronic system is it will be time consuming because how it is possible to check the security of the large number of the students in very time. It also have a dark back in sense that it provide an opportunity to the students to gather at single entrance of the university that is not free from danger.

The benefits of the electronic system are numerous. According to the students for instance it provides fool proof security to us. The benefit of the electronic security system in social context that it is not providing security but it also eliminating the social discrimination in the university among

the students as well as the staff of the university, this was the view of the female students during the interview. A female student from the science education department, of the view that regarding manual and electronic security system:

> "Manual security system is securing us seventy per cent. If university administration launched the electronic security system it will provide us hundred per cent security."

The security threats cannot be explain in the single domain that it is creating fear in the minds of the students in the educational institutes but it have deep rooted impacts on the lives of the students to socialize their selves in right way, added Hina from the science education department.

Electronics security system in the university in one way assure the fool proof security while on the other hand the tools used in the electronic system are mostly used to control the behavior of the people in exploitative sense. One of respondents from the chemical engineering department of the view that when cameras are installed for the security purpose it will not use only for the security purposes but through these cameras our activities will also captured that means we are indirectly being controlled by these modern techniques and tools. Thus through these up-to-the-minute security devices we will not express our feelings freely that is very menace point for us to groom our personality, because we have always a fear that we are being watched by the cameras.

An argument in the favor of the E-security system by a female student was that such modern devices not provide us only security but it also helps us to regulate our behavior in the academic institutes as well as it leads to follow our socio-religious values of our society. Another interesting aspect of the security issue is that through security fear students at the department level are being unite to fight against this social evil. The conception of the community security system has been emerged. Through community security system students are

organizing the students committees at departmental level as well at university level to overcome on this issue. Students of the view that it will further effortless for us to control over the issue and it will also create a sense of unity among the students at the university level as well as national level.

Conclusion:

Society and the individuals have bilateral relations. Every activity performed in the society it have direct or indirect relation to the lives of the individuals. In the same way all the institutions of the society are interconnected. In the present study the institution which is under discussion is education. Education and peace are the two sides of the same coin. In the way the security threat has disturbed the activities of the students in the academic institutes is not just limited to the individuals who are enrolled in the educational institutes but in the indirect ways it is destroying the society.

Security risks in the educational institutions are not a source of discomfort for the individuals who are in the educational institutions but it is also proving a source of distress for the parents of the students. This social evil is challenge for state administration in one hand while it is also limiting the social activities of the students in the academic institutes. The role of the security agencies is also questionable here that why they being failed to secure the academic institutes? Security threats in the academic institutes are proving a constant source of mental demolition of the students. Students are living constantly living in the condition of the fear and uncertainty.

Different modes of security in the academic institutes are also having multiple factors behind them. Each mode of the security has its own advantages and drawbacks. New tools used in the E-security system are proving a source of curse for the students because it is major hurdle in their ways to express

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their academic or non academic behavior. As security menace a source of destruction while on the other hand it is source of unifying the nation to fight against this social evil. Due to security risks new concepts like social security at the micro level are introducing that is very useful consequence of the security threat.

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