

Causes of People Involvement in Terrorism: A study of Nepal

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ARTICLE DETAILS

Article History

Published Online: 15 April 2019

Keywords

Causes, Involvement, Nepal, People, Terrorism

ABSTRACT

Terrorism is a fear, havoc, violence and terror created by certain groups of interest among the general public. There are different motives of terrorism; it may be political, religious, economic or ideological. The ultimate impact of terrorism is destruction of life, structure and system so it is a global problem. Nepal is one small and peaceful country; the land of Buddha though it has faced internal conflict from some political groups. The main aim of this study was to identify the causative factors of terrorism in Nepal. The study was conducted among the 385 prisoners kept in the jail of major cities like Kathmandu, Pokhara, Chitwan and Surkhet. The quantitative data was collected from the structured questionnaire survey. The data is presented in the tabular form of this study. The quantitative analysis of data shows that the peer pressure, under compulsion, own interest and poverty are the major causative factor which compel the people to involve in terrorist activities. So, Nepal government should such problem in time to save the life of youth as well as to safe the Nation from destruction and fraction.

1. Introduction

Nepal is one of the poor country. People are poorer and without much knowledge of anything, they cannot decide whether their involvement can affect other or not. Such people are much self-centered and prone to affect others. Terrorism is not innate behavior or activities but learned. People who are living in such circumstances or following such type of activities learn those activities. In Nepal, there are various reason to involve in terrorism. These day people follow others because they see others happiness. So they jump on the bandwagon to involve in terrorism. Some people who are living in those circumstances, learn and involve in terrorism. They feel very proud while doing these activities. Some people cannot control their anger and anxiety which result in different sort of terrorist activities. People in Nepal want to show or prove to others. In that case, some people involve on it, to show their presence in society.

Terrorism is as an old concept as human history. The concept of terrorism dates back to combat terrorism against the Romans and the Sicarii in the B. C. 7366 (Dedeoğlu, 2003, p. 315; Kutlu, 2010, p. 16). It targets the social capital of a nation, its cohesion, values and ability to function (Tanielian & Stein, 2006). There are split types of terrorism, what's more each nature need its own cause. Terrorism happens to both poor and rich countries, and in any case of the kind for government. What is most probable is that any assured form of terrorism is the result of a mixture of factors. Including political and economic modernization, deprivation, and class structure (Bjorgo, 2005). The term used by the political science community to refer to these variables are "root causes", either direct or indirect factors that help us understand various incidents of terrorism (Newman, 2006). These day number of terrorist activities are increasing day by day. Evidence reveals that fatalities for incident of terrorism are associated with population growth. Terrorism lives in specific regions with high rates of population growth, poverty that might generate

inequality in income, stress and relative deprivation of people (Coccia, 2018). Terrorism is also fostered by modernization process. In this process, there is economic change, change in communication and lifestyles and new ideas (western ideology). This is socio-economic and demographic cause of terrorism (James A. Robinson, 2006).

In democracy, everybody has freedom but these can also be cause of terrorism due to obligation to civil liberties (Li, 2005). This may cause terrorism production less likely but may increase the probability of terrorist attacks (target country perspective). Terrorism may occur due to politics, policies, structure and ideological views. While political change and instability, it can create vacuums in politics. So terrorist groups use to push their agenda which further may result in violence and crime (Tim Krieger, 2011). When there are groups of different identities, it may lead to conflict between different groups as every citizen doesn't have same view on religion. So this may lead to terrorism in the country. People of Nepal follow with other points of view. So, if there would be different ideology, there may be clash between different groups. Considering the various types of causative factors of terrorism, the study aims to identify the causative factors which compel people to involve in terrorist activities in case of Nepal.

2. Materials and methods

The study was conducted among the prisoners who are in jail of Kathmandu, Pokhara, Surkhet and Chitwan. There were 385 prisoners selected randomly from the jail and collected the data from structured survey questionnaire. The study was based on the descriptive design and quantitative approach. The researcher had consulted with the police office before data collection and with the consent of police office, the prisoners were pre-informed about the objective of study. The collected data were re-checked, and cleaned the non-response error and entered into the SPSS format. The quantitative data are presented in the tabular form and interpretation is done.

3. Result and discussion

The study had discussed on the causative factors which compel these prisoners to involve in terrorist activities. The family background, social and environmental factors may be responsible to determines the future of people so in this concern, the study has presented in the findings in below sections.

1. Causes to involve in terrorism

The other reason of study is to find causes or factors of terrorism in Nepal. For finding so, we had asked several questionnaires to the prisoners to know causes. Any activities that occur in society happens with reason. If there is any

activity that would happen, then it would be done by those who have psychological diseases.

This study includes causes of terrorism in Nepal. It found the underlying and root cause of terrorism in Nepal including other factors. This study has dealt with the different questionnaire about causes to involve in terrorism in Nepal. We asked prisoners about different causes to involve in terrorism in their perspective which is shown in table 1. It was reported that highest percentage (43.2%) of prisoners believed jumping on the bandwagon as main cause to involve in the terrorism followed by compulsion (35.6%), other reasons, with their own interest while only few percentage (3.4%) of population couldn't provide any cause.

Table 1: Causes to involve in terrorism

	Caste					Total
	Dalit	Janjati	Brahamin/ Chhetri	Madhesi	Others	
Own Interest	4.8%	6.4%	11.5%	9.1%	5.9%	8.5%
Under compulsion	38.1%	36.0%	33.8%	36.4%	41.2%	35.6%
Jump on the bandwagon	47.6%	48.8%	38.2%	45.5%	41.2%	43.2%
Other Reasons	4.8%	6.4%	12.1%	9.1%	11.8%	9.3%
Can't say	4.8%	2.4%	4.5%			3.4%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Field Survey, 2019

Janjati were highest in percentage (48.8%) while Brahmin/Chhetri were the lowest (38.2%) who believed jumping on the bandwagon as main cause to involve in terrorism. But for the under compulsion, Dalit were highest (38.1%) and Brahmin/Chhetri were the lowest (33.8%). As discussed earlier, in Nepal, people now get influenced in terror activities from other or with living in such environment. Many people in Nepal are poor and illiterate. These people are bound by society with their own law which prevent them from getting much freedom. So, without much knowledge and freedom, they get involved in such activities with jumping on the bandwagon. They are provided some sort of money or they expect they will get it when involved in terrorism. Some caste feel that they don't have equal right and respect as others. When they have fear or something that make pressure on them, they also get involved in terrorism (Tim Krieger, What causes terrorism?, 2011).

2. Background of Terrorists

By born nobody is terrorist; the time and situation makes the people terrorist. People who are living in those circumstances where terrorist activities keep occurring are

mainly prone to involve in it. There may be bad attitude and keep doing such activities from early time. Though normal people who aren't involved in such activities previously may also involve in these activities because of the situation. Time plays key role in everybody's life. Anyone who cannot control their anger, bad feeling or revenge are also prone to such type of activities in one way or other. Nepal is one of the poor country with high unemployment rate. Those people who cannot fulfill their needs and wants are involved in terrorism as they have nothing to lose. People have high hopes and when these hopes are not fulfilled, people have fear of their prestige. So these causes the terrorism in the society.

In this study, prisoners were asked about different types of background of people that are involved in terrorism in their perspective. Table 2 shows different background of terrorists. It is seen that poor people (40.0%) are mainly involved in terrorism. This is followed by unemployed youth (29.8%), anyone (14.9%), immoral people (10.9%), general public (7.6%) and the least highly ambitious people (3.6%).

Table 2: Background of Terrorists

		Caste					Total
		Dalit	Janjati	Brahamin/ Chhetri	Madhesi	Others	
General public	Count	4	5	8	1	3	21
	%	13.8%	5.7%	6.2%	11.1%	15.0%	7.6%
Poor people	Count	15	32	51	4	8	110
	%	51.7%	36.8%	39.2%	44.4%	40.0%	40.0%
Unemployed youth	Count	9	31	32	4	6	82

	%	31.0%	35.6%	24.6%	44.4%	30.0%	29.8%
Immoral people	Count	3	6	18	2	1	30
	%	10.3%	6.9%	13.8%	22.2%	5.0%	10.9%
High ambitious people	Count	1	4	4	0	1	10
	%	3.4%	4.6%	3.1%	0.0%	5.0%	3.6%
Anyone	Count	2	10	27	0	2	41
	%	6.9%	11.5%	20.8%	0.0%	10.0%	14.9%
Total	Count	29	87	130	9	20	275

Source: Field Survey, 2019

For the background of terrorist, poor people were in highest percentage which in turn has highest percent of Dalit (51.7%) and lowest percent of Janjati (36.8%) in that group. This sequence varies in each group due to different perspective of the prisoners.

Due to high rate of poverty in Nepal, terrorism is rooted within it. Poor structural economic conditions create frustration, which in turn makes violence more likely. They feel that they have nothing to lose. So they risk for their life to get economic upliftment. They see it fast and easy way to get success (Tim Krieger, What causes terrorism?, 2011). Our country also has high rate of unemployment. Many youths are unemployed now. They have different thoughts when they have no job. They also engaged in terrorist activities to get easy job, name and fame. It has also seen from table that there is higher rate of unemployed youth. So, we should be alert about our future because there is lot of unemployment in the country which can cause terrorism. Some sort of people has immoral activities since their childhood because they may have grown in such circumstances. Those immoral people are also problem for future.

Sometime terrorist activities are not planned. Upon some circumstances and situations, anyone can involve in terrorism. One of the prisoners said that he was decent man but there was strong dispute between his family and neighbor. Once his

neighbor attacked his family, he also responded quickly resulting death of one member. Terrorism cannot be eliminated but can be reduced. Global Terrorism Index (GTI) has shown that there was 13% reduction of death caused by terrorism worldwide.

4. Conclusion

The result of this study shows that prisoners reported involvement in terrorist activities without considering its serious effect was the main cause followed by under compulsion, own interest and other socio-political causes. It is very common that in the teenage people believe in information of friends and follow the same path of friends. Peer pressure and peer counseling is major factor to drive the youth. The effect of peer pressure was found in this study also. many prisoners shared their life history where role of peer was more effective. Some of people are involved in terrorism due to personal interest to hold the power and property. Indirectly, political interest was found among some prisoners as a causative factor. Similarly, basically more people from the poor family and unemployed youth was involved in the terrorist activities. Poverty is also one causative factor to drive the youth in negative way. So, Nepal Government should strongly address the poverty, unemployment and other negative motivation of youth to safe their life from negative behavior as well as to safe the nation from terrorism.

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