

Effect in personal life due to involvement in Terrorist Activities: Cases from Nepal

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ABSTRACT

Terrorism is not good for social development and nation building. It always creates violence in between people to people and people to government. Nepal is one small and peaceful country; beautiful destination for tourist though there are some problem of terrorist activities from hidden groups. So, the study had explored the effect of terrorism in personal life of terrorists. The data was collected from the 385 prisoners who were accused and punished by government due to their criminal activities. The study had used the structured questionnaire survey to collect the data. Descriptive design was used to present the data. The result shows that 80% prisoners realized the family effect due to their involvement in criminal activities. Basically, married life was destroyed from wrong activities of life partners. The study suggested to strictly control the terrorist activities by enhancing the capacity of security forces. There is need of moral education to children to develop the morality.

1. Introduction

In a very general sense, terrorism is an act intended to cause fear and/or exert coercive power through violence. Terrorism is also, however, a socially constructed phenomenon rather than a tangible event, and thus not only what leads to terrorism but what constitutes terrorism itself is socially constructed and dependent on the social norms of a given culture. One of the widely used definitions proposed by Schmid and Jongman (1988, p. 28) defines terrorism as 'an anxiety inspiring method of repeated violent action, employed by (semi) clandestine individual, group, or state actors, for idiosyncratic, criminal, or political reasons, whereby—in contrast to assassination—the direct targets of violence are not the main targets. The immediate human victims of violence are generally chosen randomly (targets of opportunity) or selectively (representative or symbolic targets) from a target population, and serve as message generators'. Similarly, Hussain and Sarma stated that terrorism is a method of creating fear and anxiety through the use of violence for various political, religious or other ideological reasons, and is intended to have adverse psychological and social effects apart from physical damages (Hussain & Sarma, 2016).

Nepal, like much of South Asia, has been facing the problem of terrorism. Nepal had several experiences of conflict with British India in the southern, eastern and western parts and Tibet (now autonomous province of Republic of China) in the north. The border disputes in Rautahat, Siuraj and Butwal (Terai area), resulted in a hostile relationship between British India and Nepal. The Anglo-Nepal War (1814-1815) terminated with the treaty of Sugauli, which enabled British India to annex the Himalayan districts of Nainital, Almora, Garhwal, Dehradun (now in India) and extensive tracts were given to Sikkim from the western and eastern parts of Nepal (Jenkins, 1963). Similarly, A series of coordinated bomb blasts occurred on 20 June, 1985 in Kathmandu and other cities¹ in Nepal

¹Jhapa, Pokhara, Biratnagar, Janakpur, Birgunj, Mahendranagar, Nepalganj and Bhairahawa Airport

(Bowman, 2000). This spat of bomb attacks was the first of its kind in the country (Bowman, 2000). Nepal faced the 10 years long conflict between the CPN Maoist and Government. The Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist (CPN-M) was formed in 1995 following a split in the Communist Party of Nepal-Unity Centre. A radical faction led by Pushpa Kamal Dahal alias Comrade Prachanda and Dr. Baburam Bhattarai set up the CPN-Maoist and denounced the Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist-Leninists (CPN-UML) and other mainstream communist factions as 'renegades' and 'revisionists' due to their participation in the parliamentary process. It resorted to an armed struggle on February 13, 1996, by attacking police stations in the Rukum and Rolpa districts in northwestern Nepal and thereby declaring a 'People's War' in Nepal. CPN Maoist adopted violent means and launched insurgency in various parts of the country demanding for the fulfillment of their 40 points demand which had included the abolition of the parliamentary system and the monarchy (INSEC, 1999). The internal conflict of Nepal killed thousands of people and many people were internally displaced. It has adverse impacts in human psychology.

Terror and terrorism can lead to a substantial loss for the economy of the country. These losses are mainly due to uncertainties brought about by the confidence lost with terrorism and transferring a significant portion of the country's resources to military expenditure (Karagöz, 2016, p. 5). terrorism creates fear and horror in society, pose adversely in many areas, mainly the country's economy. Thus, due to the deep influence of terrorism on social and political life in the country, it also affects economic development adversely (Frey, Luechinger, & Stutzer, 2007; Uysal, Mucuk, & Gerçeker, 2009). A study conducted covering a total of 115 countries for years 2000-2015, and the result of the panel data model takes income groups into account. As expected from the literature, it was found that there is a negative effect of terrorist incidents on economic growth in most of the countries in this study as well. However, this effect in low-income countries is about three times greater than in high-income countries (Çınar,

2017). Terrorist activities, such as bomb blasts in public places can be very traumatic as such attacks are always sudden and unexpected. Terrorist attacks and mass violence are psychologically the most disturbing types of disaster because of their intentional nature, consequently, their psychological outcomes are more severe (Norris, 2001; Khan, Sahandi, Hussain, Iqbal, & Rizwan, 2012).

Terrorism is not good for anyone. These kinds of activities can finish own self and others. Also it, threatens the security and dignity of human beings everywhere, takes or endanger innocent lives, creates an environment that destroys the freedom from fear of the people, jeopardizes fundamental freedoms, and aims at the destruction of human rights (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 2007). It has many effect in individual life, family, society, and national development. In this context, the study had explored the effect of terrorism in family and personal life of terrorist.

2. Materials & Methods

The study was based on the descriptive design as well as it was cross-sectional study. The researcher visited the different jail located in the Kathmandu, Chitwan, Kaski and Surkhet district. Data was collected from the 385 prisoners through the structured questionnaire survey. The simple random sampling technique was adopted to select the respondents. The research instrument was pre-tested before final data collection to ensure the reliability and validity of data.

The collected data was analyzed from the SPSS and presented in tabular form.

3. Result & Discussion

There was majority (97.4%) male participated in the study whereas female participation was very low (only 2.6%) because of the less number of female prisoners, the study could not include more female in survey. There are different types of caste groups participated in the study. Level of education was very low in majority of respondent so researcher had taken data from face to face interview. The researcher had asked about the effect in family and married life due to involvement in terrorist activities.

1. Effect in family

As discussed earlier, family are the one who we share strong bond of relationship. So our deeds can directly influence family. That being said, if anyone involve in terrorism, family are mostly affected. They lose faith and belief on them and so does society. Society boycott such type of people and their family.

The study knows about effect in family due to prisoner's involvement in terrorism. They were asked, what sort of effect their family faced when they were in terrorist activities? Table 1 shows maximum percentage (80.2%) of prisoners believed their family members had negative effect when they are involved in terrorism. They also agree with no support from their family to involve in terrorism.

Table 1: Effect in Family

		Caste					Total
		Dalit	Janjati	Brahamin/ Chhetri	Madhesi	Others	
Effect in family	Positive effect	4.4%	5.2%	6.5%		10.0%	5.8%
	Negative Effect	75.6%	76.5%	83.0%	100.0%	80.0%	80.2%
	No effect	20.0%	18.3%	10.5%		10.0%	14.0%
Support from family to involve in terrorism	Yes	15.6%	7.7%	6.6%	11.1%	15.8%	8.7%
	No	60.0%	57.3%	59.2%	77.8%	52.6%	58.7%
	Can't say	24.4%	35.0%	34.2%	11.1%	31.6%	32.6%

Source: Field Survey, 2019

We can interpret from the table that almost all Madhesi (100.0%) along with Brahmin/Chettri (83.0%), Janjati (76.5%), Dalit (75.6%) and others felt negative effect to the family. There were only few percent (5.8%) of prisoners who said they have positive effect in their family members due to their involvement in terrorism. About 14.0% prisoners couldn't determine any of the effect their family member had.

We know Maoist movement in which lots of people lost their life, many family members were separated, migrated and country lose its monument and economy was low. Prisoners felt that most of their family members had negative impact. Their family felt they were isolated, didn't get help from others easily. They were migrated from their residence in search of new residing place. No one like to stay in such place where there is no caring people.

One Dalit said that his family move far away from him as society always neglected and threaten them. His family members were isolated. He thought that there was no respect for his family as before. So, terrorism not only affect own self but also to others who are behind us. Only few family members had positive effect once their member was involved in those activities. Positive effect was also due to fear, chaos among society. Everyone get afraid of such people and their family members could benefit from such activities. Only those family had supported terrorism who were bound by society and didn't had much freedom as others.

2. Effect in married life

Life partner are the one who are closer than anyone. They can adjust in every possible difficult situation and had impact on each other due to their decision. Some partners react in such a way that directly or indirectly affect others. There is

mainly negative effect in married life when involved in terrorism. But there might be some partners who want to involve in terrorism and still they have support from their half.

Prisoners were asked about their married life after their involvement in terrorism as shown in table 2. Maximum percent (36.6%) of prisoners said they had very negative effect in their married life.

Table 2: Effect in married life

		Caste					Total
		Dalit	Janjati	Brahamin/ Chhetri	Madhesi	Others	
Effect in Married life	Very Negative effect	38.9%	26.0%	43.3%	28.6%	52.9%	36.6%
	Negative effect	30.6%	34.0%	29.8%	42.9%	41.2%	32.5%
	Normal effect	30.6%	40.0%	26.9%	28.6%	5.9%	30.9%

Source: Field Survey, 2019

Maximum percent (43.3%) of Brahmin/Chhetri believed they had very negative effect in married life. On the other hands fewer percent (26.0%) of Janjati had this effect. When asked about married life, one of the prisoners said that he had murdered his neighbors, in the same night her wife left him and they haven't met thereafter.

It was seen that prisoners married life was severely affected when they were involved in terrorism. Some of their partners left them or move far away from them. Family and partners felt insecurity and isolated from them which led to bust up, fight and many more. Partners also thought that they had lost their respect and prestige. There was decrease in economy and harmony among people due to terrorism.

Some partners support these activities whatever may be external situation. So their married life is not much affected by those activities because they feel they are free and do whatever they want to do. One Chand prisoners said, "My wife was beaten badly by my neighbors for not done robbery. She was in bed for several days but again they scold my wife and children. So I attacked one of them with sickle. There was

chaos and one was dead and two were injured. Me and my wife didn't regret that incident as I have done for my family."

4. Conclusion

The study found out that there was various effect of terrorism in the personal and family life of those person who was previously engaged in terrorist activities. The study had asked the question to prisoners about their experience of effect in their life due to their involvement in terrorist activities. In total, 80% realized the negative effect in their family, basically married life was very disturbed. Majority prisoners shared that there was mental tension for parents and spouse because of their activities and prisoners' life. Some of the prisoners shared about the divorce between husband and wife due to terrorist activities of life partner. The social perception and behavior was also not good towards the prisoners and their family. It has brought fraction in social relationship so there is need of strong law against the criminal activities and terrorism which discourage the people to involve in such activities. Moral education should be taught to each children from the very starting to higher education to enrich the morality in people.

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