

Global Security Threat of Terrorism, Muslim Jihadi Organizations and U.S Foreign Policy

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ABSTRACT

Terrorism is a phenomenon that is specifically associated with the 21st century, though it has a relation with history. It is an international framework of organized violence transcending state boundaries through suicide bombing, terrorist attacks, airplane crashes etc. The attacks of 9/11 were the landmark of the emergence of this phenomenon in a globalized world of modern era because they were completely different from all previous incidents of terror. Global terrorism has been linked with Islamic Jihadi Organizations and state sponsored terrorism since this catastrophic event. This theory has both its supporters and opponents. The opponents of this theory generally emphasize the limited role and infrastructure of these Jihadi organizations and object to exaggerated propaganda of the West, especially USA, whereas, the supporters of the theory consider global terrorism the biggest threat to global security. This article analyzes this global issue to explore its hidden complexities in relation to US counter terrorism strategy and Jihadi organizations.

Key words: Security, Terrorism, Jihadi Organizations, Violence, US Foreign Policy.

INTRODUCTION

Terrorism emerged as the greatest threat to global security in the new millennium. Attacks of September 11th 2001 on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon shocked Americans as well as the world because of their complexity and precision. Although it is not completely a new phenomenon, its execution in the 21st Century horrified the world and attained the focus of foreign policies of all major powers. It is a highly contested and deeply controversial phenomenon; critical theorists believe that major part of the commonly accepted knowledge about it is stereotypical and based on misconceptions. It is largely an overstated concept on ideological grounds and over promoted by media, which most of the time is used to achieve national objectives by world powers. Thus, there is a need to understand its origin and all its complexities and transformations in the modern.

Terrorism, as a word in its usual usage, has basically a connotation of evil, indiscriminate violence or brutality¹. However, due to the complexity of the phenomenon, there have been a variety of definitions provided by theorists of world politics. Some of them are extremely complicated or consist of too many elements. To Walter Laqueur (1987, 1999) terrorism constitutes the illegitimate use of force to achieve a political objective by targeting innocent people². Robert Goodin describes it as a form of political violence that aims to achieve its objectives through creating a climate of fear and apprehension³. James Lutz and Brenda Lutz gathered the work of Crenshaw (1983), Hoffman (2006) and Claridge, and have given a comprehensive definition of terrorism that is:

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Since the gastroenteritis epidemic erupted through contaminated water, only the news relating to prevalence or that posed fear for disease out of contaminated water have been treated as medical news. All news about the water supply situation, fear for water contamination, general testing of water for any pathogens or routine water check-up have not been regarded as medical news since these types of news fall within the adequate water supply system. Hence, a separate category under “water matters” has been coined for this purpose. Data confirms that second highest (12.9 percent) number of news relate to the ‘water matters’.

However, agricultural sciences and computer sciences were provided one percent coverage. Other disciplines that received mentionable coverage are: geology (0.84%), metrology (0.70%), research and development (0.58%), and energy (51%). Disciplines like food safety, botanical sciences, natural sciences, marine biology, nanotechnology, space sciences, engineering and advance sciences received very less coverage.

CONCLUSION

The epidemic of gastroenteritis did not occur in that locality of Karachi again, which may be an outcome of due media coverage as people may have adopted certain measures. However, the value of this study persists even more today and years to come, mainly with respect to observing the changed behaviour of newspaper readers and to finding ways how newspapers can be used to inculcate better civic sense among the masses.

A short account of former studies on the science communication through newspapers gives an idea about the extent of research in this discipline. However, the data in this study shows a picture of how science news are treated and covered by the newspapers in a society like Pakistan. Since there are a number of epidemiological issues throughout the country, the study might be a starting point in initiating similar kind of studies for the welfare of society. Karachi being the largest city deserves to be a focus for these studies because mixed population is reachable and the people of different socioeconomic backgrounds inhabit the city.

Moreover, this might be a humble effort from a developing country like Pakistan to share its responsibility in the domain of diffusion studies and the effect paradigm in society with emphasis on health related science news. The initiation of such a different viewpoint might invoke interest among the mass communication researchers towards other similar studies for the benefit of society at large. Not only Pakistan but also other developing countries have been facing the problems of various outbreaks, hence purposeful studies may lead towards the evolution of strategies for the control of epidemiological diseases.

The study concludes on a note of caution. Pakistani newspapers lack proper coverage of science based news and their readers may be lagging far behind in understanding the debates about the policies to provide an increased safety to the people.

Geology	-	-	-	-	-
Metrology	-	0.1	0.2	-	0.3/0.075
Marine Biology	-	0.03	0.16	-	0.19/0.047
Nanotechnology	-	0.1	-	-	0.1/0.025
Space science & technology	0.06	0.07	0.12	-	0.25/0.062
Advance sciences (laser etc)	-	0.03			0.03/0.075
Engineering	0.04		0.03	-	0.07/0.017
Total	6.50	7.20	9.49	12.30	35.49/8.87

DD= Daily Dawn, DE= Daily Express, DJ= Daily Jang, DN= Daily Nation,
DNe= Daily News, DNw= Daily Nawa-e-Waqt, DU= Daily Ummat.

The reason for this extraordinary coverage by the daily *Ummat* may be due to unique style of this newspaper on investigating and colour reporting pattern. The reporters of daily *Ummat* provided detailed background information on gastroenteritis epidemic besides the interviews of the affected patients, and published large size colour pictures from the site of epidemic; and the conditions of water supply and sewerage system in the affected areas. The extraordinary coverage, however, had nothing to do with the overall scenario since the situation became normal within 10 days or so. This matches the medical phenomenon that gastroenteritis fades with one to two weeks' time. The actual figure in medical news discipline may be even lower if the number of news about the gastroenteritis and its causes are eliminated.

Other medical news includes- the news about polio, free medical camps, and eye diseases etc. However, the number and quantity of such news are even below one percent.

The third highest number of news (1.9%) relate to 'environmental sciences.' Release of obnoxious gases into the atmosphere, climate changes, increasing loads of hazardous matters, insanitation, and increased vehicular exhausts are some topics of media interest. Therefore, media performs its duty to keep on informing about environmental conditions. However, the coverage is lower than expected. No newspaper paid due attention to this important discipline. Results show lower percentages of coverage i.e. daily *Jang* and *Nawa-e-Waqt* (0.2% each), daily *Express* (0.4%), and daily *Ummat* (0.1%). This data itself speaks of the grave negligence of media in Karachi in providing coverage to the environmental sciences even when much of the material is available from concerned agencies and NGOs working in this sector for public benefits.

includes agriculture, automotive, consumer technology, environment, food, health, lifestyle, oil and gas, science, technology, and weather. However, the NEWS³³ provides a very brief list of sections as U.S., world, politics, investigative, health, entertainment, money, technology, travel, recipes.

On the basis of local needs and sequence of events, the journalists coin their own sort of news. The events are reported as and when they occur with a slight touch of background information and futuristic approach. Scenario of science news coverage is mostly dependent on the health and environmental situations. Since water supply, sewerage systems and cleanliness conditions themselves speak of poor state of affairs, most news items relate to the poor water quality, seepage of water supply and sewerage lines.

Table shows medical news find the highest percentage (36.9 percent) in aggregate. Medical infrastructure in Karachi like any other metropolitan city of a developing country is in pathetic form. Paucity of basic facilities, non-availability of medicines, failure of emergency cares, poor hygienic conditions are regular features of Urdu language newspapers. Data shows that dailies, *Jang* (4.1%) provided an ample coverage to medical news whereas daily *Nawa-e-Waqt* made higher (5.9%) coverage to the medical news; daily *Ummat* took lead in this regard providing 9.3% coverage, almost double than other newspapers, but daily *Express* made only 3.8% coverage to medical sciences related news.

Table: Categories and measure of science news (in % of space) covered by four Urdu language newspapers

Discipline	DE	DJ	DNw	DU	Total %/ Average
Medical sciences	3.8	4.1	5.9	9.3	23.1/5.7
Water matters	1.8	2.4	2.6	2.9	9.7/2.4
Food safety	0.01	-	-	-	0.01/0.01
Botanical sciences	-	-	-	-	-
Agricultural sciences	-	0.1	0.2	-	0.3/0.075
Research & development	0.3	-	0.08	-	0.38/0.09
Environmental sciences	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.9/0.22
Natural sciences/ wild life	0.05	-	-	-	0.05/0.012
Energy	0.04	0.07	-	-	0.11/0.027
Computer sciences	-	-	-	-	-

Awareness in Pakistani Society

Currently, there are about 85 channels on-air in Pakistan in private sector²⁶. Besides in the national language Urdu, channels in regional/local languages such as Sindhi, Bloachi, Siraiki, Pushto and Punjabi are also gaining momentum. Official Pakistan Television Corporation owns 6 channels in public sector with 49 re-broadcasting stations²⁷. Similarly, there are about 410 periodicals²⁸ enlisted with the All Pakistan Newspapers Society that are being published from different parts of the country. Of those over 335 are daily newspapers while others are weekly, monthly and fortnightly²⁹. However, a few of them are as old as the country or even older as they are being published since before the creation of Pakistan. Some of these like *Jang* Group of Publications and *Nawa-e-Waqt* Publications are regarded as most popular by way of credibility and trust. After the year 2000, some newspapers began their publications from various number of large cities simultaneously. Some newspapers publish their editions from as many as 11 or more cities.

In Pakistan, "70 per cent of the population has no access to primary and emergency care, 1.2 million people die of water-borne diseases annually, a child dies of some disease every minute, and 70 women die of pregnancy-related complications every day."³⁰ Hence, the media is expected to provide information on all issues and events. The essential need of potable water is one of the most serious issues and often various diseases erupt because of water contamination that results in medical emergency. Newspapers, besides political issues, also report prevalence of epidemics like bird flu, polio, dengue fever, malaria, gastroenteritis, naegleria (brain eating amoeba) and other medical emergencies. Hence a common man tends towards newspapers for obtaining information and for confirming any news. This role of a newspaper has made it a source of accurate, speedy and complete information about daily events.

Science News Coverage in Pakistani Newspapers

With regard to science news in Pakistani newspapers, the case for this study relates to the city of Karachi. On the basis of status, four Urdu language newspapers were selected. The science news data extracted from these newspapers show a different pattern of science topics. However, one must see what topics constitute the science news coverage in a newspaper. Various media organizations have categorized science news in different manners.

The newspapers under study are regarded media opinion leaders not only in Karachi but also all over Pakistan having considerable influence on the public opinion as well as on the formation and reflection of national attitudes. Main functions of newspapers under study are found similar to all latest mass media, providing a field for public discussion³¹.

The Canadian Press³² includes health news as one of the top categories along with business, sports and entertainment news. In the special interest category, it

about gastroenteritis epidemic hit the headlines of newspapers. The 14 issues of a newspaper are considered as authentic to find out something required²².

Collection of Newspapers: Daily *Jang* and *Nawa-e-Waqt* were obtained from Dr. Mahmud Hussain Library, University of Karachi. The copies of daily '*Ummat*' were purchased from its office and used accordingly. However, the management of daily '*Express*' was much gracious to provide copies from their office record on gratis. All newspapers were examined carefully. Science news were searched, located and measured with the help of a graduated scale in column centimeters. Photocopies of all such news were prepared, pasted on separate sheets of papers and maintained properly for record. The data was compiled, summarized and tabulated. Newspapers spread out information about *gastroenteritis* through science news but individual consumers of newspapers went through contents, absorbed information, judged the trustworthiness of the news and acted upon or rejected the advice of health facility providers in order to keep themselves safe from epidemic.

Studies of Science News

The news that contains content of scientific information or that is based on scientific findings has been an active field of learning. Science stories or science-based stories were collected from newspapers over a period of 14 days. The selection of the date range was based on the knowledge that September 17, 2005 was the day the epidemic of gastroenteritis hit the news headlines. For the study, a definition of a science story was developed as one which included a significant explicit scientific content, namely a reference or references to scientific findings, scientific research, and scientific procedure, science as intellectual activity or scientists working in their professional capacity. In this range of science stories, social science research stories were included on social issues. It was also determined that medical stories should be included if they contain element of explanation of a scientific process, or the effects of a disease. The matters of personal health and lifestyle, or health care policy and administration, and the articles containing these references did not merit the inclusion in this sample.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

An average American spends about 7.5 hours each day consuming media products; 28.8 minutes reading a daily newspaper while rest of the time is spent on magazines, Internet, radio and television²³. Benjmin²⁴ finds that news media plays an influential role in shaping the understanding of the public so much so that it was the news media that revealed the dangers of genetics and medical research. The people read and put messages together with earlier media messages to create new ideas. Therefore, to understand message content, to examine how public use that content, and how public respond to those messages, and what messages public choose as important one are the main inquiry questions²⁵.

safe from epidemics. But, they still remain in the small-scale-grip of various epidemics like bird flu, dengue fever, and gastroenteritis. Similar is the case with highly populated city of Karachi. The year 2005 is marked as horrible one for the city. An epidemic broke out in the thickly populated locality of 'Landhi' town in September 2005 that was identified as *gastroenteritis*. The epidemic spread very quickly throughout the locality. Some 25,000 persons, most of them children, got affected by the gastroenteritis and as many as 14 persons, despite the efforts of health providers, expired.

Mass media tried to play its role to inform people about the cycle of the epidemic and its causes. The media persons contacted health experts and asked them to advice people how they could keep themselves safe from *gastroenteritis*. Hence, such information was widely publicized through media, and reached people to make them aware, and subsequently preventive measures were taken. As it might become unmanageable to take all kinds of media simultaneously into account, to narrow the scope of the study only one form of print media i.e. newspaper had been selected. The study of science reporting on the risk of the epidemic was conducted to find the role of newspaper coverage. It is also studied that how the risk of epidemic covered by newspapers involved various stakeholders, including experts, policy makers, interest groups, and the general public, in debates about policies to provide an increased safety to the people.

METHODOLOGY

Selection of Newspapers

Newspaper was one of the most popular and dependable means of detailed information during the twentieth century; and even in the 21st century, newspapers are considered important for content analysis in order to understand any specific topic or subject of interest. Most of the scientists selected newspapers for studying their topics of interest¹⁸ (Toby A. Ten Eyck and Melissa Williment, 2003; Ellen Hijmans, 2003). Their research was narrowed to scientific news that appeared in newspapers. Becker¹⁹ state, "the daily newspaper is the main source of news on scientific research and technological developments for the general public". This kind of news can be found on separate service pages and increasingly in regular news pages²⁰; especially science related topics like environmental pollution and biotechnology are found more often²¹.

Therefore, in view of popularity, reasonability, impartiality, coverage, circulation and interest in the society, following four Urdu language newspapers, published from Karachi were selected for this study: daily *Express*, daily *Jang*, daily *Nawa-e-Waqt* and daily *Ummat*. Since the spread of the epidemic under focus was mainly in illiterate, semi-literate and lower middle class people, only Urdu language newspapers were selected for study. To have a control over population of these newspapers, sample for this study was taken for 14 days starting from 17th September, 2005 to 30th September, 2005. The reason for selecting this specific period is that 17th September 2005 was the date when the first news

During the Second World War, coverage of science may have reached its peak. Hence, in the twentieth century the larger news organizations covered science by beat reporters while smaller ones handled science reporting by a general assignment reporter or by wire service⁷. Newspapers that carry regular science sections as compared to those that do not also give greater coverage to science in the news section⁸, particularly to stories about basic research. The scope of large newspapers makes them more energetic and powerful, besides having expanded vision, to accommodate such news stories that small newspapers usually avoid. Thereby, Dennis and McCartney⁹ found that science writer's at large newspapers preferred stories about environment, medicine, and technology to that of physical and behavioural sciences. Hence, consumers of large newspapers are more exposed to science news, particularly, to health related stories. Ellen¹⁰ did the content analysis of science news coverage in Dutch newspapers; and found the lack of critical approach and statistical data whereas complex information instead of explanation was avoided.

Robert¹¹ conducted a content analysis of two major newspapers, Los Angeles Times and The Washington Post, in respect of science, medical and environmental news reporting. On the basis of content analysis of two Korean newspapers, *Chosun Ilbo* and *Hankyoreh*, Robert¹² found out government officials and physicians as main news sources. However, both newspapers used different sources during public health crisis. Emma Weitkamp confirmed in her study that medicine and health topics were given privilege over science in newspaper reporting. Unlike studies of medical research news, which have found medical journals to be the main source of news stories, this study found that general science and medical news are drawn from a wide range of sources¹³.

Fiona and Deborah¹⁴ conducted the study of the New York Times' Science Times Section covering twenty years from 1980 to 2000 and found that Science Times Section in 2000 was much larger than computer related advertisements. Earlier, it was believed that computer advertisements had cut the share of science news but the scientific study disproved the notion. Similarly, medicines and health related topics received more coverage.

There is a great deal of science reporting about risk, and this is one area in which public interest seems high. The reasons for this are obvious. Scientific discoveries can help people to avoid health threats, detect threats, or identify threats, the extent and the way in which risk is covered by the press¹⁵. When risks are identified or labelled as concerns; stakeholders including "experts, policy makers, interest groups, and the general public"¹⁶ become involved in debates about policies that are designed to provide an increased safety. Grunig¹⁷ describes the audiences as 'active' that seek for information energetically about the risk.

It is natural that there is arise in number of problems in populated cities. People, civil society, media and healthcare professionals keep on trying to make people

Study of Science News in Pakistani Newspapers: *Jang, Nawa-e- Waqt, Express and Ummat*

Sardar Ahmad Nazish*
Nisar Ahmed Zuberi**

ABSTRACT

A study of science news coverage was undertaken in four Urdu language newspapers published from Karachi along with a case study for contribution to the global efforts of science communication in Pakistan. Higher rates of science coverage have been found in *Express, Jang, Nawa-e-Waqt, and Ummat* at 6.5%, 7.2%, 9.49% and 12.3% respectively due to an event of gastroenteritis epidemic erupted in a locality of Karachi city. However, not much news of botanical sciences, computer sciences, and geological sciences could be traced. News relating to food safety, environmental sciences, wildlife, energy, metrology, marine biology, nanotechnology, space science, and engineering could be traced only below 1%. The study concludes that Pakistani newspapers lack proper coverage of science based news and their readers may be far behind in finding ways how to use newspapers particularly to inculcate better civic sense among the masses.

Key words: Science News, Newspapers, Gastroenteritis, Pakistan.

INTRODUCTION

News media at all times deals with science and gives it due importance. According to Weigold¹, newspapers in the nineteenth century published Thomas Huxley, Louis Agassiz, and Asa Gray lectures. Likewise the *New York Tribune* devoted its one issue to publish the physics lectures of John Tyndall. Science usually hit the headlines and the scope was so extensive that Edwin W. Scripps launched a news agency as 'Science Service' during 1920s. Ritter² expressed the importance of joint efforts by science and journalism; and strongly recommended to join forces in support of the basic ideas of journalism and science.

A large number of studies on the newspaper science coverage are found throughout printed literature. Many scholars³ signal and conclude a "problem" in science communication since a large number of American adults were found scientifically "illiterate"⁴, even though Palen⁵ reported 38 percent respondents still read science news in a newspaper weekly as compared to 56 percent of regular American viewers of television programs on science, technology, or nature. About 75 percent of those who paid special attention regularly read the paper, but they were disappointed with the science coverage, and only 9 percent rated the newspaper as a good source of science news⁶.

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CONTENTS

Research Papers:

Study of Science News in Pakistani Newspapers: <i>Jang, Nawa-e- Waqt, Express and Ummat</i>	Sardar Ahmad Nazish Nisar Ahmed Zuberi	1 – 10
Global Security Threat of Terrorism, Muslim Jihadi Organizations and U.S Foreign Policy	Rani Erum	11 – 26
Change in Christian Missionary Attitude Towards Islam: A Case Study of Madras Missionary Conference (1938)	Ubaib Ahmad Khan Hafiz NaqibUllah	27 – 36
Analyzing Pakistani Tertiary Classrooms Under Grice Principles - Getting the Meaning Across!	Nazra Zahid Shaikh Najeeb-us-Saqlain	37 – 44
Exploring the Intellectual Contributions and Educational Thoughts of Syed AbulA'alaMaududi	Samra Bashir Muhammad Saeed Akhtar	45 – 52
New Trends in Japanese Scholarship on Islam	Muhammad Arif Mateen	53 – 60
Quality Assurance Mechanism in Higher Education Institutions - A Thematic Analysis of Experts' Perspectives	Huma Shahid Zaira Wahab	61 – 70
Right of honour and repute in islam	Atique Tahir Ataullah Khan Mahmood	71 – 86
Study on the Impact of Social Media in Changing Political Opinion in Pakistan - 2013	Muhammad Osama Shafiq	87 – 90
Traditional and Modern Methods Used for Memorization of Quran in Turkey	Saifullah Bhutto	91 – 100

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- The name of the MRJ can be seen in the list of H.E.C. approved research journals on H.E.C. website at www.hec.gov.pk/journals. 9-4-2014(1).
- The MRJ can be access on the internet at www.mrjpk.com
- References in English should be as:

Journals:

- 1) Abdullah O (1931), *Demographic Studies in Medieval Ages*, *Analytica Sociologica*, 32 (1), pp. 463-477

Books:

- 2) Furqan D A (1991), *A Course in Sociology*, Irfan and Danish Publishers, Karachi

In the text these should be quoted as Abdullah [1] and Furqan [2]

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TRANSLITERATION TABLE

	a	د	d	غ	gh	بہ	bh			
ب	b	ذ	dh	ف	f	پہ	ph	ا	ā	
پ	p	ر	r	ق	q	تہ	th	آ	ā	
ت	t	ژ	r	ک	k	ٹہ	h	ی	ī	
ٹ	t	ز	z	گ	g	چہ	jh	و	ū	
ث	th	ژ	z	ل	l	دھ	dh	و	(Urdu) ō	
ج	j	س	s	م	m	ڈھ	dh	ے	(Urdu) ē	
چ	ch	ش	sh	ن	n	ڑھ	rh	Short Vowels		
ح	h	ص	ṣ	ں	ṇ	کھ	kh	ا	a	
خ	kh	ط	ṭ	ہ	h	گھ	gh	ی	i	
د	d	ظ	ẓ	ی	y			و	u	
								Diphthongs		
<p>ا (ء), when it appears at the middle or end of a word, is transliterated as elevated comma (') followed by the letter representing the vowel it carries. However, when ا appears at the beginning of a word it will be represented only by the letter representing the vowel it carries.</p> <p>ع is transliterated as elevated inverted comma (').</p> <p>ح as an Arabic letter is transliterated as (d), and as a Persian/Turkish/Urdu letter is transliterated as (z).</p> <p>و as an Arabic letter is transliterated as (w), and as a Persian/Turkish/Urdu letter is transliterated as (v).</p> <p>آ is transliterated as (ah) in pause form and as (at) in construct form.</p> <p>Article ال is transliterated as (al-) whether followed by a moon or a sun letter, however, in construct form it will be transliterated as ('l).</p>								و	(Arabic) aw	
								و	(Persian/Urdu) au	
								و	(Turkish) ev	
								ی	(Arabic) ay	
								ی	(Persian/Urdu) ai	
								ی	(Turkish) ey	
								Doubled		
								و	(Arabic) uww	
								و	(Persian/Urdu) uvv	
								و	(Turkish) uvv	
								ی	ی	iy
								ی		
<p>و as a Persian/Urdu conjunction is transliterated as (-o) whereas as an Arabic conjunction is transliterated as (wa).</p> <p>Short vowel (و) in Persian/Urdu possessive or adjectival form is transliterated as (-i).</p>										