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HYBRID WARFARE AND PAKISTAN: IMPLICATIONS AND RESPONSE STRATEGY

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ABSTRACT

Hybrid warfare refers to the use of a combination of conventional and unconventional tactics, such as cyber-attacks, information warfare, proxy warfare to achieve strategic objectives. It involves a blend of military, political, economic, and informational means to destabilize and weaken an adversary. In this context, Pakistan is facing the threat of hybrid war. In order to understand the fifth generation warfare trends and implications for Pakistan, qualitative research design was employed. Particularly, this research aims to understand the strategies employed and their impact. Additionally, it explores India's defense strategies and technological advancements to gain insights into their approach to hybrid warfare. By employing this multi-faceted research methodology, the study aims to gain a comprehensive understanding of the dynamics of hybrid warfare between India and Pakistan. However, the study found that the all generations of warfare are focusing on two major areas i.e. targeting certain type of ideology and developing modern technology and warfare equipment's. Furthermore, the study concluded that Pakistan is currently facing higher level of fifth generation warfare from India mainly in four major domains i.e. conventional war, diplomatic challenges, misinformation and economic suppression. The findings of the current study are of

prime importance for framing a constructive policy to counter the fifth generation warfare threats.

1. INTRODUCTION

Pakistan is under great threat of fifth generation war from the regional as well as global actors. However, it is pertinent to mention the role of India in using the hybrid war against Pakistan. India is employing a wide range of tactics against Pakistan in the realm of fifth generation war. There are four major areas where India is using different physical and conceptual modes of hybrid war against Pakistan (Korybko, 2019). It is considered that hybrid warfare or fifth generation war is only related to modern technologies. Rather it is the combination of all the latest and modernized way and traditional means. The objective of all the activities is to sabotage the peace and progress of the opponent hence both means are applied at the same time. In the context of Pakistan, India is applying both modern and traditional means of warfare.

1.1.1 Diplomatic Means

Diplomatic means are very strongly implied by India in Pakistan. Indian political leaders have often expressed in public isolating Pakistan in the world. They mostly use the international organizations such as SAARC and UNO for their agenda against Pakistan.

They mostly use the theme of terrorism against Pakistan at the forums of SAARC and UNO. Indian lobby in FATF attained hard against Pakistan to drag it in the black list. Other instances have also been visible where India tries to sabotage Pakistani interests such using UN Security Council forum to fulfill its interest against Pakistan.

1.2.1 Economic Means

Apart from using diplomatic means, India is closely observing the economic interests of Pakistan. Sometimes diplomatic means are combined with economic means to gain a much broader benefit. There are two major areas where India is using fifth generation war techniques against Pakistan i.e. CPEC and Karachi the economic hub of Pakistan.

1.3.1 Military Means

The most conventional and most obvious means are military operations, which India often carries out at different sectors against Pakistan. Flag operations and use of military power is quite evident at LOC and line of control. Maritime security is often challenged by India in recent times and use of air space against Pakistan is not hidden at all specially the incidents of 2019 where Indian pilot was captured violating the Pakistani airspace.

1.4.1 Front Groups

India is sponsoring multiple key actors in Pakistan to formulate front group to create chaos in the country. Such groups are formed in the shape of NGOs and

different separation movements in Pakistan. These front groups are visible in action in Karachi and Baluchistan particularly. There are many journalists who are on the payroll of the CIA and RAW hence these front groups become one of the key tools of the hybrid war.

1.2.1 Responses by Pakistan to Counter Fifth Generation Warfare

The above section delineates in detail how India is operating different means against Pakistan. Therefore, it is imperative for Pakistan to formulate a strong response strategy. Keeping in view the all areas where India is engaging Pakistan, it is important to counter engage in all the mentioned areas.

1.2.2 Diplomatic Measures

The following major measures as a strong policy that has been adopted by Pakistan.

- Alliances with regional and international organization such as SAARC, UNO and OIC. Some recent incidents regarding Kashmir issue were efficiently dealt with by such organizations.
- Pakistan actively engaged with OIC and UN Security Council. Positive and productive engagement with stakeholders such as Afghanistan and USA. Pakistan has made some significant contribution in such areas and peace talks with USA and Afghanistan are key achievement in this regard.

1.2.3 Counter Intelligence Measures

Counter intelligence measures are the most important when it comes to countering the fifth generation war threats. In order to counter hybrid war threats from India, Pakistan has developed a strong counter intelligence set up. In doing so Pakistan has developed strong ties with neighboring countries regarding intelligence sharing. In addition to that, Pakistan has increased the strength and capacity of the intelligence agencies in Pakistan by allocating funds and equipping with modern technologies.

1.2.4 Strong Public Information Sharing and Societal Cohesion

Pakistan has adopted very strong public information sharing mechanism through ISPR and other media houses. This has become an important tool regarding building public opinion and propaganda. It has been acknowledged from the key experts in the field regarding the role of ISPR in providing information and building societal cohesion.

Pakistan is facing multiple threats from India regarding fifth generation warfare. However, at the same time Pakistan has adopted a strong way of addressing all the threats. The current study has looked into this issue through the help of primary data, to see what further needs to be done in this regard.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

For a comprehensive understanding of the study, the literature review have been divided into six themes:

- Defining fifth generation war
- Explaining Hybrid War
- Hybrid Warfare and Modernization
- Implications and Countering Policy
- Cyber Space Technology, Information and Hybrid War
- Hybrid Warfare and Pakistan

2.1 Definition of fifth generation war

The definition of fifth generation warfare is very difficult to comprehend owing to its complication and involvement of many aspects. According to Liang, 1999 in his book the definition of fifth generation warfare is as follows

"Warfare that uses all means whatsoever means that involve force or arms and means that do not involve force or arms; means that involve mil power and means that do not involve mil power; means that entail casualties and means that do not entail casualties to force an enemy to serve one's own interests"

Similarly, 5GW Educational instate defines fifth generation warfare as follows

"SGW is an extension of Asymmetrical and Insurgent Warfare, whereby the enemy uses all means, conventional and unconventional tactics. It includes political, religious and social causes; incorporates information operations campaigns (internet and 24 hours news cycle) can be conducted by organization or un-organized groups; may be nation state led or non-nation state led to disrupt and defeat opponents in order to achieve their will"

Military review 2007 also defined it in following way

"5GW will result from the continued shifts of political and social loyalties to causes rather than nations. The increasing power of smaller and smaller entities and the explosion of biotechnology will mark it. 5GW will truly be a nets and jets war: networks will distribute the key information, provide a source for the necessary equipment and material, and constitute a field from which to recruit volunteers; jets will provide worldwide, inexpensive, effective dissemination of the weapons

Hence, the definition of fifth generation warfare is quite ambiguous keeping it view the multidimensional nature of the concept. The above definition provides a deeper insight that it is not easy to define the term fifth generation warfare and different scholars have approached it differently.

2.2 *Explaining Hybrid War*

Reichborn-Kjennerud & Cullen (2016) asserted that in the modern times, hybrid war has become an important aspect of concern in the security challenges. It is linked with intellectual challenges, as it is not like the conventional war where the armed forces of two countries confront each other vividly. Rather the hybrid war is the challenge of the flow of information, which sometimes effect more than the damages of conventional war. On the Other hand, there is also a great debate about the hybrid and conventional war. There is lack of clarity between these concepts.

Hoffman (2009) reported that in the contemporary world, there is not any clear-cut definition of hybrid warfare. The meaning and the understanding of hybrid warfare is itself changing with the passage of time. During the period of 2002 and 2015 there is witnessed a change in its meaning. As some of the war analysts have quoted that, "the hybrid construct was deduced from looking at the enemy".

Hoffman (2009) pointed out that there are two stakeholders linked with the terminology of hybrid warfare i.e. state and non-state actors. The non-state actors have more linkages with hybrid warfare than the state actors do. First, in this warfare the non-state actors have increased their capabilities than in the conventional warfare means. The sophistication and the level of work are technological and advanced. This modern technology helps in developing the modern weapons, which require the little human effort. The machines carry out the most of the work in very secret and sophisticated way. In all of these activities, the non-state actors play their role in the front foot stage. Munoz & Bachmann (2015) reported that in the conventional war, the military personnel confront each in the battlefield. However, on the other side, the hybrid warfare expands the battlefield beyond the military realm. In this warfare, non-military equipment's have more importance. In many researches, it is also disclosed that hybrid warfare is also associated with the coordination between terrorism and organized crimes. The hybrid war does not demonstrate the war tactics in the clear way rather it carries out the militant activities in the secret ways, which falls in the line of terrorism and organized crime.

Vandiver (2014) revealed that there are many linkages of the hybrid warfare but the non- state actors quote the Russian actions in relation to Ukraine as the best linkage in relation to hybrid warfare. In this example, the non-military means were employed to win over by one sate against another. There were some key hints of this hybrid warfare like use of non- military actors, asymmetric relationship with conventional war, which collectively make Russia responsible in this hybrid warfare.

Halper (2013) pointed out that the hybrid warfare "targets and exploit the seams". It adopts the western liberal democratic societies, which do not possess the same capabilities. The hybrid warfare is a different way if the normal practiced war. It largely depends on the modern means, which have developed in the modern era. In the past, the hybrid warfare was not as popular as today because in the traditional and primitive societies there was a lack of

technological advancement. In the future, the hybrid warfare is getting more attention of the developed and developing societies.

Berzins (2014) said that hybrid warfare is a multidimensional task, which is based on multi stages. The single stakeholder does not carry it out at the single stage rather it involves a numbers of levels at the same time. It involves the traditional physical land, sea, air and space. On the other hand, it also inculcates social, economic, political, cultural and infrastructural and cyber fields. Out of all these fields, the major objective of warfare lies upon the political and strategic fields. In the conventional warfare, the cognitive and psychological aspects did not have importance but in the hybrid warfare, the major focus is lied on the same areas.

Hoffman (2009) revealed that there are different ways of warfare of those eight are prominently known. These eight modes of warfare are popularly known as conventional capabilities, Criminal activities, irregular tactics terrorism, political means, social means, economic means, information means and social means. All of these are popularly means of war out of who major are fulfilled through hybrid warfare.

Goertz (2006) points out that modern warfare has become so expensive that even the developed countries cannot bear the expenses of a long conventional war. Furthermore, the nuclear technology has created a fear of so much destruction that the nuclear weapon states cannot take this risk. In this regard, the hybrid warfare is getting more and more attention because it does not depict the clear-cut war like conventional war. In this hybrid, warfare means the other states cannot easily understand and take action again the state, which is adopting hybrid warfare means. Hence, hybrid warfare is being used as mean of war. On the other hand, this warfare is relatively not so expensive like the conventional. Otaiku (2018) reveals that hybrid warfare has become the top priority of the majority of the states. The main reason behind this is the action in cheapest and secret way. Through hybrid warfare, a state can achieve her social and political objectives in top secrecy that even sometimes the opponents cannot even judge the situation. The high rate of adopting this warfare means is also creating the serious intentions in the present ear. The national and international meetings are being held to control this widespread warfare because if it is not controlled, it will create serious problems in future. To control the spreading of this phenomenon it is important to understand the cultural and political factors of non-state and state actors of violence. It will help to understand the basic purpose of any hybrid warfare technique.

2.3 Hybrid Warfare and Modernization

Renz (2016) elaborated that the concept of hybrid warfare firstly initiated in the beginning of this century. However, with the passage of time its sensitivity and importance increased. It got fame during the period when Russia annexed Crimean Peninsula in 2014. Since 2014, the typology of hybrid warfare is largely linked with Russia although it existed before it.

Hoffman (2007) pointed out that the term of hybrid warfare is the mixture of conventional and unconventional forces. There is an ambiguity in the terminology of this concept because it is dealt in different ways by the different thinkers and analysts. Conclusively, the hybrid warfare is based on both conventional and unconventional means to gain the certain objectives of the stakeholders. On the other hand, the non-state actors also play the key role in the hybrid warfare means.

Sehgal (2018) reported that the hybrid warfare has created immense confusion in the means of war and peace. Through hybrid war, it is not; easy to find the situation whether it is war or peace because the hybrid warfare is run in very secret way where a state cannot judge the clarity of these two concepts. The hybrid warfare has increased the secrecy and ambiguity in the war.

Ionita (2014) disclosed that there is also linkage between the western conventional war and hybrid warfare. It is also perceived the hybrid warfare got attention in the reaction of western supremacy in the convention warfare means. It also shows that hybrid warfare is concentrated in the reaction of western conventional war.

Wilkie (2009) explained that hybrid warfare is increasing its importance in the current era where more and more technological advancements have been made. The hybrid warfare is mainly driven through the technological advancements that is why growing its importance in the technological advanced countries. In these countries, a special of is being given in the policy matters about the hybrid warfare.

Ionita (2014) revealed that cyberspace is considered the key of success in the advanced era. The developed even the developing countries are going to develop their projects in the cyberspace. All this is because the cyber space has much importance for the hybrid warfare. The hybrid threats are also being made through cyber supremacy as well.

Johnson (2018) explained like many other thinkers that there is an ambiguity in the definition of hybrid warfare. This term is dealt in many ways by the different writers as some of them label a "new" and some term it as "postmodern war". It is clear that hybrid war is new as well as postmodern war because such war tactics were not used in traditional or old warfare. It also depicts that the means and drivers of war are changing over time and in the same way, the hybrid warfare is the modern technique.

Kaldor (2013) elaborated that the concept of hybrid warfare is consisted on different basic elements. These elements determine the true nature of hybrid warfare that what actually it means and how it is implemented. First, the hybrid warfare is like a blurred space between war and peace as none can say it is war and it is not predicted as peace. Secondly, hybrid warfare has much importance in the regard of technology and cyber space because these both are the backbones of hybrid war. Thirdly, the information is also another basic element of hybrid warfare because the whole hybrid war is based on the flow of actual information to achieve the certain objectives.

Galeoti (2016) reported in the way criticism that there is nothing new in the hybrid warfare as all of the tactics are employed in the war. During the war time very possible measure is adopted to defeat the opponent either it is information or technology. However, the only the change is the advancement in technology which was not in practice in the old times.

Clausewitz (1989) explained in detail that before to discuss the hybrid warfare, it is very important what actually war is? A war is actually an act, which forces our enemy to give in before you. In the war, the different ways are adopted to win over the enemy. In the same way, the modern warfare is also modern which has enhanced and involved many fields in the war like technology and information. The hybrid war is initiated to achieve the particular objective, which may be social, cultural or political.

2.4 Implications and Countering Policy

Pawlak (2015) concluded that the hybrid warfare has futuristic implications on the coming generations. It is the need of the day to control this wide-ranging spread of the technological warfare especially in such circumstances where the nations clearly do not know about the happenings of this warfare. In order to control the fifth war it is important to consider the legal parameters and material capability. In doing so, the widespread hybrid can be restricted otherwise it be fatal for the future generations.

According to the US Joint Chiefs of Staff (2015), the major damaging consequence of the hybrid war is the non-availability of the actual information about the hidden techniques. The secret application of this war is the actual subject matter of the policy making who have to spend more on such policies. The other main clause of the hybrid warfare is not simple dealt with the state and non-state drivers of the fifth generation war. There may be the other active forces behind the secrecy of the mission, which is not even known by the representatives of the respective states; as such, missions are highly confidential. In this regard, the hybrid war has fatal consequences for the future world where such covert operations may be applied in more sophistication of technology. Tamminga (2015) explained that security policies need more attention in the response of the hybrid war. The security of the state is considered the prime attention of any country. The hybrid warfare is the direct threat to the security policy of the states in the current and coming decades. Furthermore, the technological advancements have special implications for the states in the regard of hybrid warfare. The management of the security is viewed with regard the capability of the societies to manage and control the threats and risks about fifth generation warfare. Not all of the societies possess the same capabilities in the field of technological innovation so it may create the serious issues for those who have less technological ability.

Giegerich (2016) pointed out that NATO is the major military organization of the north- Atlantic countries. Almost 28 countries under the jurisdiction of this organization have not similar resources and capabilities. There are developed and advanced countries like US and Canada who possess all modern technological capabilities to counter the fifth generation warfare. On the other

hand, at the same time there are states with lower technological progress. In this regard, it is the responsibility of NATO to strive to curtail the threats of hybrid warfare in the for all member countries. The national level meetings should be organized to counter hybrid war but it may not be as fruitful as it is taken as a whole under the umbrella of a larger organization. Furthermore, the EU and NATO both should ally each other in this regard which may be more beneficial. The threats of the hybrid warfare can only be controlled if the efforts are made from local to national and further organizational level.

Mölling (2015) revealed that the responsibility of tackling the hybrid threats could not be labeled to a single department or institution rather it should be considered as the collective responsibility of the whole nation. If all of the organs of the same country work together, it will give encouraging results. However, all of the management should be organized under the flag of a supreme body of any department. This body will supervise and examine the progress of all of the sub departments, which will create a sense of cohesion and cooperation. This upper hierarchy may further contact with the other states as well. All these tasks and managements will be organized in more sophisticated and systematic way, which creates cohesion at, inter- governmental level.

Charap (2015) explored that the war deterrence strategy is the mainly followed by most of the nation states. The majority of the countries do not want to engage themselves in the wars as the conventional warfare result the log lasting results for these nations. However, unfortunately, some nations consider themselves superior to others and continue to start confrontation. In tackling the same threats, the permanent NATO forces should be deployed in such areas or countries, which will be seen as the sign of peace and war countering strategy. NATO possesses the more resources and capabilities than the local forces, as they are well equipped with modern technology, which is employed in the hybrid warfare. On the other hand, the NATO forces already have begun their trainings to train their military personnel in accordance of the threats of hybrid warfare. This strategy will help to control and minimize the hybrid threats.

Boot (2015) gave more importance to the early warning in order to control the hybrid attacks. According to Boot, the early warning is the foremost step, which must be taken as soon as possible. The early warning will surely reduce the destruction, which may happen in the future time. The early warning will alert the respective institutions, which have sufficient time to control the hybrid tactics. The early warning can only be considered even if you a have a weak signal about the hybrid attack. The secrecy of early warning should be maintained the secrecy of hybrid attack as it would be fruitful only in the same condition otherwise; this early warning may be wasted.

According to European Union (2015), the modern and postmodern societies strongly rely on the availability of information. Epically in the post-modern societies information is everything as all of the major projects in the present or future are set according to this information. In the same way, the hybrid or fifth generation war is also operated in the view of information. In this warfare, the forces of two countries do not confront each other rather the single institution with the help of technology and information tries to damage the enemy as much

as it is possible. In this regard, the strategic and communication operations ought to be undertaken in very precise, consistent and coherent way. The highly motivated regional organizations are keenly working in the same areas. For example, NATO established Strategic Communication Centre of Excellence in Latvia in 2014, which was mainly assigned the responsibilities regarding communication and information.

2.5 Cyber Space Technology, Information and Hybrid War

Robb (2004) explained that the growing influence of the technological developments also played a role in helping the non-state actors initiate advanced system of war. This system of war is largely based on the technological gadgets and information, which is used as a trick. In this technological war, the media networks are also employed to help in achieving the objectives. This basic purpose of this way of war is to weaken the moral bonds and cohesion in the society.

Fuller (1997) asserted that a majority of the thinkers believes that the hybrid warfare consists of the technological developments. The technology is playing a significant role in the contemporary societies where every individual is associated with this technology directly or indirectly. In this scenario, the stakeholders of the fifth generation war prefer to adopt modern technology as a tool of triggering social disintegration. On the other side, the hybrid warfare is also known as a war of information because whole of the mission is started in accordance of the availability of information.

Deichman (2010) explained that cyber space technology is the backbone of the fifth generation war. In the present and future era, the more and more developments are made in the cyber space technology because it provides the sophisticated information, which can be utilized in the different ways, and the fifth generation war is one of them. The perceptions and propagandas are shaped in accordance to this cyber information. The media and social media are being used for this purpose where the false perceptions are created to manipulate the information and ideas as the strategy of hybrid war. Sawyer (1993) explored that it is very important to have full information about the steps taken by your enemies because now the methods and ways of the war are changing. The traditional and conventional warfare methods are replaced with the wars based on information and advanced technology. Only those will succeed in the future, who have an eye on the steps taken by their enemies and they will be victorious. Contrary to that that does not have information about these areas are defeated especially against the war, which is based on the information.

Chapman (2003) stated that this is the 21st century modern era. In this era, the largest bulks of armies are not as useful as in the past where the different nations used to confront each other with the help of these massive militaries. In this modern era, the war is more complicated than the past. All this is because of the availability of technology and importance of information. The largest and strongest armies have been replaced with the availability of technology and information. The new technological weapons are used than the simple guns of

the primitive and traditional wars. All these instruments have been changed in the hybrid warfare.

Alberts et al (2001) asserted that there have been made many improvements in the computers, information, electronics, speed sensors, weapons and technology. All of these improvements are also affecting the warfare methods. The war tactics are also shifted from the rigid ways to modern technology. Furthermore, the intelligence departments has also become the key section of army where the information is gained through intelligence agencies, this information is used in the hybrid warfare.

Deichman (2010) revealed that fifth generation war is fought while positioning the cultural and religious sentiments of the people. Through the hybrid war, the cultural and religious sentiments are used to defeat the opponents. The people are blackmailed and the religious extremism is used as tool to create violence and terror in the enemy society. In this regard, the mobs are formulated to escalate the situation in the targeted country. The war practices are shaped with the help of technology to target the tender point. Abbott (2010) explored that fifth generation war is the battle of information. The information is dealt in very secret way that even the even victim is not aware that she is suffering from a satiation of war. The circumstances are not changed marvelously like the conventional war but the war is on in the normal routine of life. When the victim realizes the consequences of hybrid war, it is too late to recover the situation. This secrecy of war is fatal and dangerous than the military war where everything is clear. The hybrid war will be more successful if the victim is not aware about the secrecy of the mission. Mcneilly (2015) reported that fifth generation war is more fatal than the conventional war because in this war there is not any vivid triggers of the violence and terror. The modern weapons are used with the help of modern technology. The information is also adopted as a tool of war in which the mistrust and deteriorated situation is created among the citizens and administration.

2.6 Hybrid Warfare and Pakistan

Hassan (2019) revealed that there are many causes of the hybrid or fifth generation warfare but the major role in this war is played by the different factors like socio- economic, religious and sectarian lines. A number of the researches have been conducted on the same topic in Pakistan, which also disclosed that the same factors are mainly responsible in the hybrid warfare in Pakistan. The religious sectarianism is aired by the enemy funding agencies and the situation of terror and imbalance is created in Pakistan. On the other hand, the hybrid warfare threats in Pakistan also have similarities with the hybrid threats of Yugoslavia, which also confronted the same reasons of hybrid warfare.

Syed (2018) explored that army chief of Pakistan also confessed that in the current scenario Pakistan is facing the threat of hybrid warfare. The enemy countries especially India is launching more and more technical ways to put Pakistan on the destabilizing track which is the tactic of hybrid war. Furthermore, the military chief elaborated that the hybrid warfare weakens the

country in the internal ways where the people of the same country play the role in the war against themselves. It is important to take some concrete steps to counter this war and get ready for this purpose as a nation.

Puyvelde (2015) asserted that in the current era the new tactics and new era of war has begun. This new war tactic is known as fifth generation war or hybrid war. This new war system is hidden from the broader view. The means and triggers of hybrid war are driven by the opponent countries, which employ the most secret ways. The authenticity of the enemy is also not clear because it is not clear that is behind this hybrid threat. Sometimes, more than a single country participates in the fifth generation war. They together formulate the policies and run the system accordingly.

Mahsood & Kamran (2017) explained that there are many similarities in the fifth generation war between Pakistan and Yugoslavia. The both of them faced the same situation in the hybrid threat i.e. social, cultural and religious factors. Yugoslavia faced the religious sectarianism in the form of Republican Srpska and in the similar way; Pakistan is facing the religious sectarianism in the form of Lashkar-e-Jhangvi and Sipah-e-Sahaba. Such ethnic and religious organizations are funded by the enemy countries, which are assigned the task of destabilization in their respective countries.

Ispahani (2017) reported that while comparing the fifth generation war of Pakistan with other countries, one thing factor is important to note is the role of media and flow of information. Unfortunately, it is the fact the propaganda is prepared through the mouth of media against the institutions especially the military, which is one of the tools of fifth generation war. The media in Pakistan is also aggressive as some of the references also disclose that media may also be funded to achieve the objectives in hybrid warfare. On the other hand, the regional ethnicities and ideologies are also incorporated in fifth generation warfare. For example, the Balochi and other backward people are motivated to stand against the s Hussain (2011) noted that religious extremism is another helping factor, which promoted hybrid war in the Pakistan. The religious extremism and sentiments are employed especially during and after the Russian invasion in Afghanistan. During this period, the people were religiously blackmailed and trained for the gorilla war. The Russian invasion ended but this streak of religiosity did not as it continued to prosper until the advancement of 21 century although the military operations in Pakistan have succeeded against this problem but it prevails until date.

Butt (2016) reported that Pakistan has to be very vigilant and attentive in order to curtail the hybrid threat. India is the major enemy of Pakistan but now she is aligned with other Pakistani enemies as well for the same purpose. Pakistan government has to overcome the basic flaws of socio-economic problems, which is the apex reason of hybrid warfare in the country. In the view of the same objective, the National Action Plan 2014 was prepared to counter terror financing in Pakistan. The same measures are needed to deal with fifth generation war.

3. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Following are some of the key research questions that are intended to address.

- 1:** How Fifth Generation Warfare is affecting Pakistan and what are some important implications in this regard?
- 2:** How Pakistan can effectively counter this Fifth Generation Warfare?

3.1 Objectives of the Study

- To examine the implications of Fifth Generation Warfare for the security of Pakistan and its response strategies.
- To develop effective recommendations to counter this threat of warfare.

3.2 Significance of the Study

Internal and External Security of country is a key to ensure progress and development. However, in the modern times security challenges to a country have widened largely because of new ways of warfare such as 5GW. Most of countries are applying Fifth generation warfare technology against each other, which has many implications. Similarly, Pakistan is facing security challenges because of terrorism and regional security issues. It is very important to understanding the latest trends in the Fifth generation warfare war and implications for Pakistan. Threats to Pakistan's stability by the hostile countries and their proxies by using 5GW and its ramification need to be counter by deep analysis and understanding. The current study is an attempt to find out the ongoing Fifth generation warfare challenges to Pakistan and what strategies are being applied and what new strategies needed to be adopted to counter the Fifth generation warfare. This study will help in future researcher regarding the Fifth generation warfare. Modern Warfare warrants a critical understanding of 5GW and Fifth generation warfare including all kinetic and non- kinetic means from artificial intelligence to proxies in the battlefields. Threats to our stability by the hostile countries and their surrogates by using 5GW and its ramification needs to be counter by deep analysis and understanding and currently Pakistan is passing through this phase hence this study is of prime importance. In addition to that, by delineating key issues and challenges of Fifth generation warfare, researcher will present some key recommendation to improve the countering strategies regarding Fifth generation warfare in the context of Pakistan.

4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The current study applied qualitative method of inquiry. This is mainly based on the nature of the topic researcher intends to investigate. The nature of the topic revolves around finding out the in-depth understanding, nature and implications of the Fifth generation warfare. Moreover, the researcher applied exploratory research design to explore the implications and counter strategies by Pakistan in the wake of Fifth generation warfare.

5. PAKISTAN AND FIFTH GENERATION WAR

Pakistan came into being on 14 August 1947 and since very first day, India see it as the bitter enemy of Pakistan. India employed every possible measure to dismantle the new country on the globe. With the advancement of modern

technology, India also has started the fifth generation war in Pakistan (Korybko, 2016). The major aim of the current research is also to find the reasons and determinants of fifth generation war against Pakistan. While conducting the interviews, it provided an opportunity for the researcher to comprehend the results with the dignified views of the experts on the same topic. The researcher went through different dimensions of the hybrid warfare, which disclosed the hidden realities of the same issue. In relating the current situation with fifth generation warfare, a military expert told that,

"It is the dire need of the day to make policies regarding the fifth generation war threat. Most of our politicians are not taking it seriously which may pose serious concerns in future"

Another respondent replied,

"It is obvious that India is our enemy and she is taking steps to create disturbance in our country even through the normally neglected areas like minorities and ethnic communities. It is very important that our government must deal even with the smaller ethnic communities"

The different Indian measures of initiating wars and creating disturbance in Pakistan can be traced back to the early years of partition. The Indian government used to say that Pakistan can hardly survive for a few years and ultimately it has to align with India again. In the current scenario both India and Pakistan are using fifth generation war techniques against each other. Especially India is taking more steps in this regard to arouse the emotions of the deprived communities in Pakistan. On the other hand, the Pakistanis are also in the same page according to the Indian administration. This implies that both Pakistan and India are targeting the pressure groups having some issues with the states. This is visible in Pakistan in Baluchistan and in Indian Punjab. According to Indian government, behind every single happening in India there is Pakistan (Korybko, 2017). The present study also posed the similar findings, which are supported by the existing literature. It shows that this research is purely based on the scientific bases, which enhanced the understanding of fifth generation warfare. The majority of the respondents revealed that Indian government and intelligence agencies are major stakeholders behind the fifth generation warfare threat in Pakistan. One political analyst explained,

"We share the longest territorial border with our bitter enemy. This longer territorial boundary provides more opportunities for India to take more fifth generation war threats through every mean".

Another respondent said,

"It is a good and humane sign that Pakistan opened the Narrowal border for the Indian Sikh community to offer their religious rituals. But our intelligence must be vigilant about this as it may also support Indian government in fifth generation war".

In the contemporary period, there is a vivid shift in the foreign policy of Pakistan, which is also one of the causes of fifth generation war in Pakistan. In the past, Pakistan had a balanced diplomatic relations with US and China (the major powers of the world). Recently, Pakistan has adopted a tilt towards China especially, which is not acceptable for both India and US. This also triggered the fifth generation war against Pakistan. The views of the respondents match with above explanation. One international relations expert told,

"In the present situation both India and USA are on the same page due to China factor. This policy shift may also increase the fifth generation threat against Pakistan".

A military expert explained,

"CPEC is the major bone of contention in India, US and Pakistan triangle. Both India and USA are not happy regarding CPEC developments in Pakistan because it will diminish the Indian and US dominance over China. This is the reason that Pakistan is under the direct threat of fifth generation war"

5.1 Indian Fifth Generation War Strategy against Pakistan

India is among top economies, the largest landmass country with massive population of 1.4 billion. Due to its big economy, population and land mass, India has adopted a hegemonic attitude in the whole South Asian region. Her most hegemonic attitude is portrayed especially with regard to Pakistan. India is trying its best to isolate Pakistan not only in South Asia but also at world level. However, despite all international check and balances, India has started fifth generation war against Pakistan. The respondents of the current study especially the international relations experts and political analysts described the same situation. A political analyst answered that,

"The basic Indian advantage is the huge economy, population and land mass. Due to all this dimension, India is getting international support other what India is doing is not hidden from the international community".

Another analyst reported in the same sense that,

"India is considered one of the biggest markets in the world. That is the reason, which hides her brutalities in Kashmir and in other parts of India against the minorities. Due to this advantage India has adopted many warfare means against Pakistan".

Recently, the Brussels based EU published a report titles as Indian Chronicles. This report disclosed the Indian fifth generation war strategies against Pakistan. This report exposed the Indian fifth generation war against Pakistan since last fifteen years. The Indian groups continued to publish the fake researches to damage the image of Pakistan in international community. These researches were associated with the deceased international figures to get more fame (Butt, 2021). Both military and political analyst respondents also noted this recent Indian cyber fakeness as well. A military expert stated that,

"Before disclosing of the Indian fakeness, the Pakistan Army had mentioned these Indian propagandas. Furthermore the there are other hidden tactics of Indian Modi government will be operating too".

The major aim of this Indian administration is to gain votes over anti-Muslim policy. This is also hurting the secular image of India because the Hindus are given importance under Modi's Hindutva policy. The fake reports are prepared to distract the international community from the Modi brutalities in Kashmir (Butt, 202). A respondent revealed in the same way that,

"The Indian administration under Modi rule is violating the LOC on routine basis. The fifth generation war is specially associated with Kashmir and Pakistan to distract from her brutalities".

According to DGISPR of Pakistan, the country is facing the wave of fifth generation warfare. The major reason of Indian fifth generation strategy against Pakistan is nothing else than CPEC. The path of prosperity of Pakistan cannot be digested by India that is why India wants to create disturbance in Pakistan through fifth generation war strategy (Dawn, December 3, 2020). In view of a political analyst,

"There is not such intensity of conventional and fifth generation warfare if today Pakistan halts CPEC in Pakistan. Both India and US are waging the fifth generation war against Pakistan due to CEPEC".

Pakistan is under the hybrid threat aided by India but with the help ISPR we are aware about this hybrid threat. The Pakistani army is fully aware about the fifth generation war threat and has proper capability to control this attack. The role of ISPR is immense in controlling the issue of hybrid warfare as well as creating the awareness among general masses regarding this issue. The major factor of this fifth generation war is current ongoing developmental project CPEC (Pakistan Observer, December 10, 2020). Majority of the respondents was on the same page that Pakistani Army has the capability to handle every situation. In the same sense, a respondent explained that,

"Pakistani army is well aware about the fifth generation war launched by India against Pakistan. On the other hand, the separatist movements are also launched by Indian based groups as the strategy of hybrid war"

5.2 Pakistani Strategy and Institutional Response

It can be explained by two ways. In the first category, there are countries that do not have any serious concern or threat from the other countries. They have friendly relations with most of the countries and do not face any special conventional hybrid warfare threat. Being very friendly and diplomatic, they are fully aware and prepare for any sudden hostile actions by the opponents specially India. These countries do not need any special attention for the fifth generation war. They do not have normal environment like the earlier. They are always to ready to deal any sudden attack. They are also very attentive and alert to respond any conventional or hybrid war attack. For example, the countries

like Pakistan have threats from their enemy countries like India. In the same way, Pakistan is always alert and attentive to control any fifth generation or conventional war attack. The current research posed the similar situation that Pakistan is facing the threats of conventional as well as the fifth generation warfare by Indian side. All of the respondents provided that Pakistan has a major war threat from India side. One of them reported,

"It is the modern age where the fifth generation war tactic is more useful than the conventional war. Similarly, India has initiated a fifth generation strategy against Pakistan".

Another military expert explained,

"India is using both hard and soft measures against Pakistan. But due to the attentive role of our military, India is always defeated in every step"

The military personnel and the heads are well aware of such situations, which they further inform to the political authorities as well. The intelligence departments under the military guidelines are prepared to gather more and more information about the policies of enemy countries. All of the military experts stated that the Pakistani army is mainly dealing well to respond to the Indian fifth generation attack. One of them said,

"India wants to target Baluchistan and Gilgit-Baltistan under fifth generation war but the intelligence information of Pakistan is already prepared to control them".

The diplomatic relations are the first priority of the democratic countries to settle the bilateral, regional or global issues. The political heads come together at local, regional and international forums where such matters are discussed. In the same way, the political institution of Pakistan makes efforts to disclose the Indian hybrid threats against Pakistan. The attention of the global community is attracted to the burning issues through diplomatic means. All of the participants of the current study i.e. military and political experts asserted that the first priority of Pakistan is to handle the situation through political and diplomatic means. One of them explained,

"Pakistan is making the situation clear before the global powers about the hybrid attacks. Especially, Prime Minister Imran Khan is visiting the international forums personally to disclose the Modi's Hindutva policy".

The international organizations provide another opportunity for Pakistan to reveal the hidden clever face of India's government in South Asia. The forums like the World Economic Forum and UNO are being employed especially under the leadership of Imran Khan to describe the whole picture in detail. The current research also provided the same insight as the respondents showed the positive response of Imran Khan through the political measure at international forums. One of them said,

"Imran Khan explained the fifth generation war and Islamophobia at the UNGA. The Indian media was shouting loudly on this speech because it was the first time in the history that Indian propaganda was disclosed at international form". The above discussion on the current theme provides that Pakistan be fully prepared to deal any conventional or fifth generation war threat. In this regard, the political, military and economic institutes of Pakistan are well prepared.

6. CONCLUSION

The findings of the study illustrated that there is no authentic and most agreed upon definition of the concept fifth generation warfare. However, framework of fifth generation war is complex and multidimensional and in the context of Pakistan. The term of fifth generation Warfare is attributed to two major constructs. In the first place, fifth generation warfare is the combination of many forms of warfare i.e. conventional, information, diplomatic and economic ways of subjugating the opponents. Secondly, fifth generation warfare is referred to as the misinformation and use of media and propaganda.

Based on the qualitative data analysis and findings of the study, it is concluded that every warfare is an up gradation in the technological development and based on targeting ideology. The earlier generations were based on targeting the political ideologies, which later on shifted to the economic ideologies, and now the fifth generation warfare targets the information and all sorts of ideologies. Similarly, with reference to the modern technological developments earlier generations of warfare were based on simple tools and shifted to machine guns. This further leads to the development of warfare based on air force and now modern and fifth generation warfare is based on spy and media.

Pakistan is facing hybrid war threats both from the regional and the international actors. However, the extent and magnitude of the threats is quite vast from India. India is targeting Pakistan from all the areas with special focus on the information related propaganda followed by diplomatic means and the conventional warfare techniques at the borders. But with reference to the countering strategies by Pakistan, a positive and constructive countering strategy has been used by Pakistan with special focus on media and building ideology.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS AND COUNTERING STRATEGIES

Hybrid warfare is not a sudden activity rather it has long historical background. It took decades to shift from the traditional war to fifth generation war. In this fifth generation war, the enemies are not targeted through weapons rather they are dealt through their material affluences and modern facilities. It targets the members of enemies through their desired activities like modern gadgets and technology. They use this technology and even do not know that they trapped in the hybrid tricks of their enemies. The hybrid attack includes many areas like military, social, cultural and economic. In the hybrid, threat military is the key player, which should not underestimate even the minor clue of information. In addition, the civil departments have to cooperate with the intelligence of the military to culminate this threat. On the other side, they also should be more attentive and careful about the vulnerable and important areas, which can be target through this hybrid attack.

Local and national institutions are important while tackling the hybrid threat. All of the stakeholders whether they belong to local or national level must cooperate each other. This is the only way to control the situation against the threat of hybrid attack. The government, military and even the private sectors all can play a role in this matter. If all of these level managements work within a proper circle, it can produce better results. Further, the inter-governmental closeness is helpful to minimize the hybrid warfare threats. This approach will create a responsible body of management, which ultimately is supportive against the action of fifth generation war.

Specific Recommendations for Pakistan

- Pakistan can counter India's hybrid warfare by strengthening its own intelligence capabilities and implementing effective countermeasures. It's important to maintain open lines of communication, engage in diplomatic efforts, and utilize international support to address any challenges.
- To counter India's hybrid warfare, Pakistan can focus on enhancing its cyber security measures, investing in advanced technology, and conducting comprehensive training for its military and intelligence agencies. Additionally, building strong alliances with regional and international partners can help strengthen Pakistan's position and deter any aggressive actions.

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