

## PalArch's Journal of Archaeology of Egypt / Egyptology

### **Impact of Terrorism on Sports Activities in the Universities: Player Students Perceptions**

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**Keywords: terrorism, sports activities, sports events, universities level, student's perception.**

#### **Abstract**

The main objective of this study was to examine the effect of terrorism on sports activities at four universities in KPK. Public sector universities were the population of the study. A simple random technique was used to select samples. This research used a questionnaire for data collection. The questionnaire was distributed to the players at the universities. Data were analyzed through SPSS for the percentage and mean of the questionnaire. The results of the study showed that students and their families feel terror in

sports events. Students were reluctant to participate in sports activities and a high security challenge in higher education institutions exists. The recommendation of the study provides necessary steps to meet high-security risk at sports events in universities and also to do further research to understand the psychological and social impact on students' behavior towards sports participation.

## **Introduction**

Terrorism means extreme fear and the people who shaped the frightening circumstances events are called terrorists (FarhatUllah, 2019). Terrorists consider them as maltreated by society, this growing circumstance changes the behavior of this group (Irshadullah, 2016) Terrorism created violence in many models, such as religion and war or genocide, when society and communities seen some new trends in their area and it's not related their value or religion then they created terror and humiliation to protect their perception (Rehman, 2012). The terrorists have created negative influences on peoples daily life activates and their quality of life. The world has suffered from terrorism since 1970 but the expansion of terrorist acts have occurred after the attack in New York in 2001 on the 'twin towers. The Americans came to Afghanistan to attack and eliminate Taliban forces and compelled Afghani's to take refuge across the border in Pakistan and this refuge shield gathered many militant groups and they worked from the Pakistan KPK area because KPK is the border near the Afghan border (Shukat, Pell, & Gull, 2016). Pakistan Taliban was an organization established under Taliban militancy and 40 Taliban group of KPK gathered under the umbrella of the Baitullah Mehsud leadership, targeted the army forces and KPK educational institutions (Hussain, 2019).

Terrorism worstly affected the area of Pakistan specially Khyber Pakhtunkhwa where lives of inhabitants, especially badly affected the education system of KPK. After the sad incident of

Army Public School, Peshawar, students in the educational institutes feel the fear threat and the terror so their educational and physical activities were affected by the terrorist (Irshadullah, 2016) Terrorists attacks not only destroyed properties and infrastructure of sports in educational events, blow up buildings, and kill the people and put fear and panic to the population. The brazen terrorist attack has highly affected the cricket sports events especially in Asia Subcontinent regions such as Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan (Ogufur & Deemua, 2013).

### **The objective of the study:**

#### **Objectives of the study were:-**

- To explore universities students' perception on the impact of terrorism on sports activities in KPK.
- To find the impact of terrorists on students activities participants in the sports event at the universities level in KPK.

#### **Research Questions.**

The research questions of the study is below:-

What is the universities students' perception on the impact of terrorism on sports activities in KPK?

What is the impact of terrorists on student activities participants in the sports event at the universities level in KPK?

### **Literature review**

#### **Effect of Terrorism on Educational Institution**

According to media, NGO, and international agency (UNESCO) sources 65 attacks in education sectors in 2013 to 2017 such as in Feb. 2013 Peshawar university, in May 2014 Gomel medical college, in 5 Feb computer and management College Peshawar, and in 2016 Pakistan Taliban attacked Bache Khan university(Report, 2018). The KPK was overshadowed by terrorism after the year 2008, KPK education system, was worst hit by militancy. The education sector infrastructure was damaged and destroyed by terrorists in KPK. The universities and colleges were so much, insecure and affected . The terrorist blew up hundreds of educational institutions and students were afraid to do any physical activities in education institutions (Khalil-Ur-Rahman, 2018). Parents felt fear of safety and refused to send their children to participate in any gathering of educational activities (Petkovaa, 2016). Before 2004 terrorism hit only 1 or 2 educational institutions. The most affected country of the world is Pakistan where most of the terrorist attacks on educational institutions; from 1990 to 2013 753 attacks of terrorism,destroyed the infrastructure of education, and female institutions. Education is the target of extremist's people they were more than 3400 attacks targeting educational institutions across 110 countries between 1970 and 2013. The study of terrorism and responses to terrorism's, Global Terrorism database is the US National consortium as documented that between 2004 and 2013 there was an increase in attacks each year from 70 to over 350. Terrorist attacks in the period of 1990 to 2013 on Pakistan KPK educational institutions occurred at a much higher rate than in the world (Ghosh, Manuel, Chan, & Babri, 2016).

The most painful incident in Pakistan happened on 16 December 2014 in Peshawar Pakistan where terrorists attacked on Army Public School; nine terrorists in military uniform entered the school and shot the students and teachers. This record violent attack and this activity are considered as one of the most pathogenic disastrous activities on psychologically immature children at the age of 6 to 12 (Aliya, Naheed , Ali, Kibria, & Imtaiz, 2016). Terrorism has

disturbed the physical and mental activities of educational institutions, although parents and children are soft and vulnerable targets terrorist threats waste their time and potential for physical activities. Due to terrorists attack many sports activates events were postponed or frequently canceled in universities (Maheen Jamal, 2016). Terrorist's main objective to establish their law was through the control of educational institutions in KPK so, they attacked, bombing and killing in educational institutions. They destroyed the educational infrastructure, threatened the students and teachers, kidnapped the children from educational institutions in KPK (Khan & Seltzer, 2016).

### **The effect of Terrorism on sport activates**

Terrorists attacks on sports events are most rare from other targets, they attacked in 1972 Munich Olympic Games, in 1996 Atlanta's Centennial Olympic, in 2002 Santiago Bernabeu stadium, in 2008 Sri Lankan Marathon, in 2009 attacked in Pakistan on the Sri Lankan cricket team bus. Terrorists attacked sports events because the host country is the real and primary target of the attack, sports made symbolism for the audiences and the players (Spaij & Hamm, 2015). Most dramatically evident at the Olympics of 1972 and 1996 described the link of terrorism and sports, and these events indicated that sports and lover people of sports have become increasingly targeted by terrorists. Laki marwat, KPK in January 2010 in volleyball match were same months when gun attacked on the national football team in Togo, Cabinda, and Angola. In the world championships in Hyderabad due to the specific terrorist threat, the English badminton team withdrew it (Richards, 2016).

India and Pakistan have suffered from the terrorist attacks and due to fear Australia has refused to play a test cricket match in these countries since 1998, New Zealand was feared and avoid casualties in 2002 where players were injured in a terrorist attack. Terrorist attacked discouraged global sports; terrorist groups intend on promoting their message at the world

stage, as they considered sports to be a very effective means of achieving this strategic aims(Hassan, 2013). This made a highly attractive and high profile of media attraction across the world and it changed the world participation as events super bowl, Champions, Africa cup of nations, World cup, Rugby World Cup, Olympics and FIFA World Cup. This participating of the world, attracts the attention of terrorists so, approximately five attacks every year from 1972 to 2003, 168 times terrorist attacks in different sports events. Sports encourages the people who are the participant ,not for physical fitness, but character building, and healthy life (Taylor & toohey, 2007). Ohio state terrorist attack in 2016 is the unpredictable long wolf violence at the university campus, where many students and staff members stabling spree hurting. In universities, co-curriculum activities such as games, speech, and music are an important aspect of student's life that is the requirement of students to assemble in public spaces (Rajpal, 2017). The sports bodies and their administrative infrastructure has been trying hard to review the much-needed sports activities the political leadership, electronic and print media the educationist and reformer will have to play the active role for the revival of the sports activities through the length and breadth of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. These studies explain the effect of terrorism on sports activities in KPK universities.

### **Statement of the problem**

After 9/11 Afghanistan refuge entered in Pakistan KPK border area and made the organization Taliban Pakistan. The Taliban created illegal violence against the government and civilians of Pakistan to create fear in the country. The terrorist action to target the public places and their events, they targeted the educational institutions. Tausif (2009, stated that cricket is badly affected in the subcontinent including Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh. Due to terrorism most of the sportsmen refused from playing at the university level because their parents do not allow them to play in such an uncertain environment. The literature reviewed for this study indicates limited research in this area in the Pakistani context in general and in

the context of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in particular. This current study, therefore, aimed to fill this gap and examine the impact of terrorism on sports activities at the university level in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan.

### Research methodology

The aim of this study is to investigate the universities student's perception of the impact of terrorism on sports activities in KPK. The population of the study consisted of the player registered 820 students from the Kohat University, Gomal University, Swat University, and the Bannu University of the KPK from the 2016-17 sessions. The researcher randomly selected 160 players (40 payers of each university) as the sample from the universities. To get the response of the participants a questionnaire tool was used for the study. The Likert scale was used for the data collection tool.

### Data analysis

The table shows the respondents' perception of the effect of terrorism in sport activates.

**Table 1:**

*The universities students' perception about reducing tolerance to participant in sport activates*

| Statements                             | SA    | A   | UD  | DA | SDA | Mean |
|--|-------|-----|-----|----|-----|------|
| Terrorist attack reduces the tolerance | f 67  | 59  | 19  | 2  | 13  | 4.2  |
|  | % 42% | 37% | 12% | 1% | 8%  |      |

The above Table illustrated that 42% of respondents strongly agree that terrorist attacks reduce the tolerance among players at the universities level. 37% of respondents agree that terrorist

attacks reduce the tolerance among players at the universities level. The Mean (4.02) showed that most of the participants agree that terrorist attacks reduce tolerance.

**Table No 2**

*Universities players Avoid taking part in universities sports*

| Statements  | Response frequency |     |     |    |     | Mean |
|---|--------------------|-----|-----|----|-----|------|
|   | SA                 | A   | UD  | DA | SDA |      |
| Players avoid taking part in universities sport activates | F 52               | 65  | 22  | 9  | 12  | 3.9  |
|   | % 33%              | 41% | 14% | 5% | 7%  |      |

The above table demonstrated that 33% of respondents strongly agree that players avoid attending universities sports events. 41% of respondents agree that players avoid attending university sport events. The Mean (3.9) showed that most of the participants agree that universities player avoid taking part in universities sports events due to fear of terrorist attacks.

**Table No. 3**

*Universities students perception about feeling fear during attending universities sports events due to terrorist attacks*

| Statements | Response frequency |    |    |    |     | Mean |
|------------|--------------------|----|----|----|-----|------|
|            | SA                 | A  | UD | DA | SDA |      |
|            | F 69               | 64 | 13 | 3  | 11  | 4.3  |



|  |   |     |     |    |    |    |
|--|---|-----|-----|----|----|----|
| Players feel fear during attending universities sport events | % | 43% | 40% | 8% | 2% | 7% |
|--|---|-----|-----|----|----|----|

The above table illustrated that 43% of respondents strongly agree that terrorist attacks enhance the fear among universities student’s players during attending universities sports events. 40% respondents agree that terrorist attack enhances the fear among universities student’s players during attending universities sports events. The Mean (4.03) showed that most of the respondents agree that universities student players feel fear during attending universities sports events of terrorist attacks.

**Table No. 4**

*Universities student’s perception that healthy and strong network among universities also collapse due to terrorist attack*

| Statements   | Response frequency |     |    |    |     | Mean |
|--|--------------------|-----|----|----|-----|------|
|  | SA                 | A   | UD | DA | SDA |      |
| The strong and healthy sports network among universities | F 66               | 62  | 12 | 12 | 8   | 4.0  |
|  | % 41%              | 39% | 7% | 8% | 5%  |      |

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also collapse due to terrorist  
attack.

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The above table explained that 41% of respondents strongly agree that terrorist attacks collapse the strong and healthy sports network among universities. 37% of respondents agree that terrorist attacks collapse the strong and healthy sports network among universities. The Mean (4.0) showed that most of the participants agree that strong and healthy sports networks collapse among universities by fear of terrorist attacks.

**Table No. 5**

*The universities students' perception about players afraid of outside games due to risk of terrorism*

| Statements                        | Response frequency |     |    |    |     | Mean |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|-----|----|----|-----|------|
|                                   | SA                 | A   | UD | DA | SDA |      |
| University players afraid of f    | 65                 | 64  | 10 | 13 | 8   | 4.0  |
| outside games due to the threat % | 41%                | 40% | 6% | 8% | 5%  |      |
| of terrorism.                     |                    |     |    |    |     |      |

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The above table explained that 41% of respondents strongly agree to University players afraid of outside games due to the threat of terrorism. 40% of respondents agree to University players afraid of outside games due to the threat of terrorism. The Mean (4.0) showed that most of the participants agree that University players afraid of outside games due to the threat of terrorism.

**Table No. 6**

*The universities students' perception about family unwilling to let them participate in universities sports events*

| Statements                       | Response frequency |    |    |    |     | Mean |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|----|----|----|-----|------|
|                                  | SA                 | A  | UD | DA | SDA |      |
| about family unwilling to let    | F 68               | 68 | 12 | 8  | 4   | 4.4  |
| them participant in universities | % 43%              | 43 | 7% | 5% | 2%  |      |
| sports events                    |                    | %  |    |    |     |      |

The above table described that 43% of respondents strongly agree that player's families unwilling to let them participate in universities sports events. 43% of respondents agree that the player's family unwilling to let them participate in the universities sports events. The Mean (4.4) showed that most of the participants agree that the player's family unwilling to let them participate in the universities sports events.

**Table No. 7**

*The universities student's perception about decrease the players' participation in sports activities due to universities insecure and unsafe measure*

| Statements | Response frequency |   |    |    |     | Mean |
|------------|--------------------|---|----|----|-----|------|
|            | SA                 | A | UD | DA | SDA |      |

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|  |   |     |     |     |    |    |     |
|--|---|-----|-----|-----|----|----|-----|
| Decrease the players' participation in sports activities due to universities insecure and unsafe measure | f | 60  | 67  | 17  | 9  | 7  | 4.0 |
|  | % | 37% | 42% | 11% | 6% | 4% |     |

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The above table described that 37% of respondents strongly agree to decrease the players' participation in sports activities due to universities' insecure and unsafe measures. 42% of respondents agree that Decreases the players' participation in sports activities due to universities insecure and unsafe measures. The Mean (4.4) showed that most of the participants agree that decrease the players' participation in sports activities due to universities' insecure and unsafe measures by fear of terrorist attacks.

#### **Table No. 08**

*Universities students' perception about less participation due to the safety reasons of the sports event*

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| Statements   | Response frequency |     |     |    |     | Mean |     |
|--|--------------------|-----|-----|----|-----|------|-----|
|  | SA                 | A   | UD  | DA | SDA |      |     |
| Universities students' perception about less participation due to the safety reasons of the sports event | f                  | 71  | 54  | 15 | 6   | 14   | 4.0 |
|  | %                  | 44% | 34% | 9% | 4%  | 9%   |     |

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The above table described that 44% of respondents strongly agree that Universities students' perception about less participation due to the safety reasons of the sports event. 34% of respondents agree that Universities students' perception about less participation due to the safety reasons of the sports event. The Mean (4.0) showed that most of the participants agree

that Universities students' perception about less participation due to the safety reasons of the sports event by the terrorist attack.

## **Conclusion, Discussion, and Recommendation**

### **Conclusion**

82% of students agreed that universities players students lost their tolerance by fear of terrorist attack. 64% of students agreed that players' students avoid participating in the sport activates of the universities for fear of terrorism. 56% of students agreed that players feel fear to take part in sports activities at the universities level due to terrorist attacks. 57% of students agreed that healthy and strong sports networks collapse among universities due to fear of terrorist attacks. 81% of students agreed that players students feel fear to the participant in outdoor games because of the threat of terrorists. The 86% of students agreed that student player's families unwilling to let them participate in the universities' sports events. 79% of the students agreed that decrease the players' participation in sports activities due to universities' insecure and unsafe measures. 78% of the students agreed that Universities students' perception about less participation due to the safety reasons of the sports event.

### **Discussion**

The main objective of this study to explore universities students' perception of the impact of terrorism on sport activates in KPK. Toohey & Taylor, (2006) argued that terrorists attacked for worldwide media coverage and they targeted the very crowded and mega-events, such as Olympic Games or university activates. (Toohey, 2008) Claimed that our society is at risk because of the uncertain power of terrorists and the institutions, culture is not secure due to implementing socialist risk administration policies. The (Jamal, Khan, & Muhammad,

2016) agreed that 32.8% of students player avoid gathering in public or universities events due to fear of terrorist attacks hence their social coverage is a serious risk. They also noticed that 26.7% lost their family members in terrorist attacks so they feel fear to take participate in public gathering places. (Galily, Yarchi, Tamir, & Samuel-Azran, 2016) Agreed that the goal of terrorists to attack in crowded areas and they preferred targets for radicals. They attacked the sports events such as the Olympic 1972 attack, which is the very tantalizing process of gaining far-reaching advertising at no cost. (Taylor & Toohey, 2006) Suggested that the majority of the attendees feel fear to participate in the sports events and increased the security fears and decline to participate in the sports event. The University sports directorate usually refuses to take the responsibility as a host of sports even and It is difficult to attract students to watch sports due to fear of terrorism.

### **Recommendation**

1. This study suggested that due to fear of terrorist attack students players do not participate in universities sports events that universities sports organizers control events through a high-security alert.
2. The University sports directorate usually refuses to take the responsibility as a host of sports even and It is difficult to attract students to watch sports due to fear of terrorism. It is recommended that the university directorate have not refused a host of sports events and have to remove the fear of terrorism through tight security measures.

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