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Issue Brief

Law of Jungle Cannot Prevail

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The start of 2017 was not very pleasant for the Pakistani nation as it lost 184 innocent civilian and 57 security forces personnel in the first three months of this year.¹

A series of attacks in February jolted the civil and military establishment to respond with some strict actions in the form of Operation Radd-ul-Fassad, a new operation that will assure stable security situation not in any particular area, but all across the Pakistan. Numerous security operations has been done in the past. Now the question arises whether this particular operation will be able to make significant change in the security environment of Pakistan, particularly related to its counter terrorism measures.

Operation Radd-ul-Fassad has been launched with the aim of consolidating the gains from all the previous military operations. In addition to this, the terrorists who are hiding in the remote areas of Pakistan e.g hideout in interior Punjab, are the main target of this operation. The need of this operation cannot be denied, but this is not the only solution to the complex yet diverse security situation of Pakistan. The recent senseless incident in Abdul Wali khan University Mardan, where an innocent student was killed by a mob accusing him of blasphemy on face book force us to think where the problem actually lies.²

This act of violence needs our attention to the basic problems of Pakistan and our present educational system is one of them. Revamping our education system is the need of hour. Such syllabus should be designed which may include some de-radicalization programming both at the school and University level so that this problem may not penetrate further in the society. De-politicization of the educational institutes is also very necessary. Most of the public sectors universities in Pakistan are victim of deep-rooted politics. All the political parties are having strong political student bodies in educational institutions and uses them when ever required. Many extremist elements grow under this scenario and then cause violence in different forms in the society. Government should identify the vulnerable institutions and run special de-radicalization programmes for its students, as well as teachers.

While we talk about reforms in education system we cannot ignore madrassas, as a huge chunk of Pakistani youth is enrolled in madrassas about which the government has no proper data bank. Government first needs to make a proper data bank of all these students, as well as their teachers. The

¹ <http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/countries/pakistan/database/casualties.htm>

² <https://www.dawn.com/news/1326729>

teachers in madrassas also need proper training. They must be trained on modern lines. An exposure of modern world through seminars, trainings and technological improvement may help in this regard.

Beside this, our justice system is also a big hurdle in punishing the true culprits. Our criminal justice system needs immediate reforms as the absence of scientific methods of investigations, poorly trained investigators, insufficient protection for judges and witnesses, and corruption before the trial of the cases leads the terrorism related cases in the bail of terrorist, or at least relaxation in punishment after which these extremist individuals start planning attacks from jails which are considered to be safe heavens for them. Which brings us to the question of reforms in jails as well.

The phenomenon of extremism is now penetrating in Pakistani youth mindset. Portraying Mumtaz Qadri as a hero and the construction of a shrine, that too in the neighbourhood of federal capital, is a big question mark on the seriousness of the government in implementation of the National Action Plan which ban the glorification of terrorists in Pakistan.³

Pakistan being host of people from different cultures and religions need to promote tolerance in the society and that will never be achieved through any military operation. Beside military operation, the role of political government, civil society and media needs to be determined in the right direction. Last but not least, every part of the society will have to play its role in eradicating the menace of extremism from the society.

³ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1302289>