

The effect of terrorism on the growth and stability of Pakistan

Terrorism is defined as the means of doing criminal acts against the citizens of a country, committed with a purpose of causing deaths or taking hostages to spread terror among the people.

Although historically terrorism in Pakistan started in 1980's, during the Soviet Union invasion by United States which brought thousands of Taliban's from Afghans to fight against the soviets. But the major wave of terrorism started in Pakistan after the 9 / 11 attacks in the United States in 2001. Since Pakistan shared an important geographical position in South East Asia, it became an important pathway for United States during its invasion in Afghanistan. Therefore, Pakistan got involved in the war (despite it not having to do anything with it). This has led to terrorism in the country which has lasted for 18 years.

In Pakistan, many terrorist acts have occurred at various places, causing the deaths of many thousands of innocent people including young children. In addition to this, it has caused a negative effect on our economy, growth and development. In order to tackle this issue, the Pakistan Army adopted several methods to combat terrorist acts such as Operation Zarb-e-Azb which was launched on June 15th, 2014. This operation was against numerous militant groups which included Al-Qaeda, Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, Jundallah, the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU), the Haqqani network and others. Various other operations were also carried out in order to free Pakistan from any those people creating hurdles and harm in the way of prosperity and progress of the country. Terrorism in the country has had everlasting effect on all sectors of economy. Most importantly, the economic development of the country has been hampered in the last 18 years. According to Pakistan Economic Survey of 2017-2018, Pakistan has suffered a \$126 billion loss due to terrorism in the past 17 years. Moreover, the indirect cost of war on terror has reached \$179.1 billion and direct cost is \$72.1 billion. Such terrorist activities needs to be avoided as they not only hampers the growth of our economy of the country but also causes turmoil, instability and negatively effects the growth of a country.

In a nut shell, the government, along with the help of Armed Forces, needs to step forward like before in tough times and make proper strategies and policies that are proactive. In order to eradicate such terrorist activities the government should address the pros and cons of conducting such activities in the country. In addition to this, the government should focus on eradicating racism, injustice, extremism, hate and all other forms of bigotry from within the country. Moreover, they should encourage and promote morality, education and balanced way of life. As a result, it will help to bring stability and peace in the country, while improving its economic conditions.



Youth Economic Forum

Bridging the Gap Between
Youth and Policy Makers