



NON-TRADITIONAL SECURITY IN PAKISTAN CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

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Abstract

The dynamics of security and economics worldwide have been completely transformed in the twenty-first century. Global powers have shifted their focus from traditional security concerns to non-traditional security threats. This article delves into the complex obstacles faced by Pakistan, exploring the various aspects of the non-traditional security landscape in the country. These aspects include socio-economic challenges, water security issues, terrorism and extremism, environmental concerns, health crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic, and cyber security threats. These challenges present both difficulties and possibilities. This article examines these complexities by analyzing the crucial challenges confronted by Pakistan. It examines the existing policy frameworks pertaining to non-traditional security and proposes improvements to ensure effective risk management and resilience building. However, within these challenges, there are opportunities to address these issues. Collaborative regional efforts, technological advancements, strong policy frameworks, and cooperation involvement offer avenues to tackle these non-traditional security challenges. Opportunities arise through better management of water resources, regional cooperation in counterterrorism strategies, utilization of technology for disaster management and healthcare, policy interventions to address climate change, and enhancement of cyber security measures. Nevertheless, addressing these challenges requires collective efforts from multiple stakeholders, including governments, NGOs, international organizations, local communities, and academia. By leveraging partnerships, innovative approaches, and community-centered solutions, Pakistan is well-positioned to mitigate non-traditional security threats while capitalizing on



opportunities for sustainable development and resilience. This research article aims to analyze the nature, scope, and interconnectedness of threats, as well as their implications for Pakistan's security and development.

Keywords: Security, Global Powers, Pakistan, NGOs, COVID-19

Introduction

Pakistan faces multiple security challenges; including Non-Traditional security threats pose significant challenges for Pakistan. These challenges serve as critical obstacles to the country's progress. Over the past few decades, security challenges have greatly hindered Pakistan's socio-economic development. The war on terror, insurgency, cybercrimes, water crisis, mass migration, heat waves, floods, and food security issues have all played a major role in impacting Pakistan's economic and political progress. These non-traditional security issues have the potential to jeopardize the national integrity of Pakistan. Additionally, this delves into the economic costs associated with non-traditional security, which have contributed to the emergence of these threats in Pakistan. Even though Pakistan's first National Security Policy just highlighted how severe these dangers are, Pakistan's lack of organized, effective, and centralized systems for coordination and decision-making affects not just the caliber of decisions made but also the country's ability to interact with other countries. This is especially true when it comes to non-traditional security concerns. The South Asian region remains a hot topic of conversation in international forums, mostly because of particular issues related to this region. There are legitimate concerns throughout the world due to the existence of territorial conflicts and nuclear capability in nations such as China, India, and Pakistan. Because of the governments' different national interests and foreign policy objectives, the area is still sharply divided. In addition, Pakistan is presently dealing with the fallout from a disastrous flood, which presents serious difficulties going forward. Pakistan, a country of 220 million people, continues to see a two percent yearly population increase and confronts significant challenges with food security. The nation also faces a serious water shortage, which has negatively affected the agricultural sector and led to low crop yields and food insecurity. Pakistan has long struggled with inadequate infrastructure for dams and water storage. The water shortage has also been a topic of contention between Pakistan and India. Moreover, climate change further exacerbates the challenges faced in ensuring water security in the region.

Terrorism & Extremism

Since being formed, Pakistan has faced several external crises that have challenged both its independence and its geographical integrity. Pakistan is physically situated between Afghanistan and India; therefore, its connections with both nations have influenced Pakistan's perspectives on security. The primary source of security challenges for Pakistan has been its tense relationship with India. Currently, Pakistan faces a three-fold threat scenario, which includes the enduring threat from India, challenges from Afghanistan, and the evolving domestic situation. (Khalid 2012)



The relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan has undergone numerous changes. The situation became even more complicated after the events following 9/11. Unfortunately, for most Pakistanis, their past experiences have not always been pleasant, particularly when it comes to Afghanistan. Often, the forefront of these experiences has been filled with unpleasant aspects, which starkly contrast with the earnest expressions of the rulers. (Cheema, 2006)

However, it is crucial not to overlook the potential danger of Afghanistan's political instability spilling over into the neighboring provinces of Pakistan. The provinces of Kyber-Paktoonkhawa, FATA (Federally Administered Tribal Areas), and Baluchistan are particularly susceptible to such a scenario due to the presence of dissident elements. (Cheema, 1983)

The ongoing turmoil in Afghanistan has not only hindered Pakistan's access to Central Asian States and negatively impacted its potential as an energy and trade corridor, but has also greatly affected stability in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). Pakistan cannot afford to witness Afghanistan becoming a safe haven for anti-Pakistan forces. In fact, Pakistan also supports long-term international assistance to Afghanistan to ensure the establishment of a sustainable economic system. The Talibanization movement in Pakistan contributed to the culture of terrorism. This included suicide attacks in mosques and other significant locations, bombings of schools, NGOs' offices, bridges, and pillions, as well as ambushes on the armed forces by Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). Over 35,000 Pakistanis have died as a result of terrorism-related incidents so far, including the deaths of 5,000 armed men. There have been 2113 terrorist and sectarian assaults in 2010 alone, resulting in the deaths of 2913 people and the injuries of another 5824 (Rana 2011, 2).

Twenty terrorist strikes in Punjab claimed the lives of 315 people. Among the dead are sixty-two security personnel. The suicide attacks that occurred in Lahore's Moon Market were the deadliest acts of terrorism. In these two incidents, about 85 individuals lost their lives (Noor-ul-Haq 2011). Extremism and terrorism by non state actors in Punjab were brought to attention by the March 3, 2009 attack on the Sri Lankan cricket team in Lahore, which resulted in the deaths of six police guards and the injuries of seven players (Firdous 2009, 50). The episode damaged Pakistan's reputation in the eyes of the world community. On September 20, 2008, a dump truck loaded with explosives exploded in front of the Islamabad Marriott Hotel, resulting in at least 54 fatalities and 266 injuries (Masood 2008). At least five foreign nationals are said to have died, and fifteen more are said to have been injured in this incident.

At least six students and staff members were killed and over 29 others were injured when two suicide bombers attacked the International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) new campus on October 28, 2010 (Dawn 2010, 1). Baluchistan has taken on a significant role, especially in the aftermath of the Gwadar incident. The murder of Akbar Bugti, the availability of mineral riches, and the presence of coal and natural gas reserves are the main causes of the discrimination that the locals felt against one another. The situation is reportedly being made worse by external variables like Iran and India as well as external terrorist groups (liberation organizations) like the



Baluchistan Liberation Army (BLA) and the Baluch Liberation Front (BLF), among others. (Akram 2011, 8)

The recent terrorist attack in Peshawar, resulting in the loss of more than 100 lives, has instilled a sense of fear regarding the potential resurgence of terrorism. Furthermore, it has ignited intense debates regarding the government's ability to effectively address such threats amidst the prevailing economic and political turmoil. This incident has shed light on the security risks posed by non-state actors (NSAs) involved in terrorism, who have gained increasing prominence in the global security landscape since the tragic events of 9/11. The ongoing economic and political crisis in Pakistan has faced criticism for diverting the attention of its leaders and overshadowing pressing security concerns. (Sadiq, M.2023)

Water Security and Mismanagement

The water supply in Pakistan is not only restricted, but also highly unpredictable. Moreover, the overall availability is at great risk due to the escalating pollution and climate change. Conversely, the water demand is rapidly increasing due to the growing population and urbanization. Consequently, this imbalance is driving the country towards a critical water shortage.

Pakistan, being a semi-arid nation, heavily depends on the Indus River and its tributaries (Kabul, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, and Sutlej) for its water resources. These rivers collectively provide over 140 million acre feet (MAF) of water annually. This reliance highlights Pakistan's susceptibility to a single river basin, which is further compounded by ongoing water disputes with India, leading to insecurity. The rivers of the Indus system that flow into Pakistan have their origins in India. Therefore, in order to ensure peaceful management of water resources, the two countries have agreed upon the Indus Water Treaty of 1960. As per this treaty, Pakistan has exclusive rights over the western rivers (Indus, Jhelum, Chenab), while the eastern rivers are reserved for India. (RM Farrukh 2014) Nevertheless, conflicts have arisen in the past regarding the agreement when India initiated the construction of several power facilities along the western rivers. Examples of these projects include the Baglihar dam and Ratle Project on the Chenab River, as well as the Kishanganga Project on a tributary of the Jhelum River. (Shaheen, 2010)

The low water productivity in Pakistan can be attributed to the inefficient distribution system, a significant portion of the country's total annual water supply, over 90 percent, is allocated to agriculture. Moreover, the supply of water is dependent on the canal command area, leading to farmers being obligated to use water even when it is unnecessary. Consequently, the output generated per unit of water remains remarkably inadequate. Furthermore, the stress levels are set to escalate even more as a result of the increasing demand, primarily driven by the growing population, rapid urbanization, and the detrimental effects of climate change. Additionally, the ongoing deterioration of water quality adds to this mounting pressure. Consequently, the nation will find itself perilously close to the threshold of absolute water scarcity. The World Resource



Institute predicts that Pakistan will experience a significant degree of water stress by 2020. Looking ahead to 2030, the situation will deteriorate even further, reaching an extremely critical level. This will ultimately place Pakistan among the top 33 countries facing extreme water stress. (Luo Tiany 2015)

Environmental Issues

Climate change has emerged as a Non-traditional security concern, prompting states to devise strategies to address shared environmental challenges. Pollution, being a global problem, has significantly altered the climate due to the escalating levels of carbon dioxide, water vapor, and other greenhouse gases. The shifting monsoon patterns, rainfall variations, and accelerated glacier melting have resulted in severe calamities like floods and droughts. The vulnerability of Pakistan to non-traditional security threats is evident in the higher number of lives lost due to unexpected monsoons, changing rainfall patterns, and heavy floods compared to terrorism. Climate change-related security threats range from interprovincial rivalry to poverty, resource scarcity, and internal displacement of people. This displacement primarily leads to urban migration and is projected to reach up to 70 percent by the end of the century. Therefore, climate change poses a significant danger to the safety and security of Pakistan (Khan, 2019).

In July 2022, Pakistan experienced a heat wave with temperatures exceeding 120°F, causing numerous problems in both developed and developing states. Tragically, many people lost their lives due to the extreme heat. Additionally, the country faced significant challenges such as massive flooding, damages, water shortage, and devastating floods, particularly in Baluchistan. Pakistan is currently ranked 14th among the 17 countries facing extremely high water risk, with its groundwater resources depleting rapidly, especially for irrigation purposes. If the situation remains unchanged, Pakistan may encounter water scarcity by 2025 (Maqbool, 2022).

The country would face grave social and political peril due to these conditions. The escalation of heat waves, in addition to floods and rainfalls, has resulted in food insecurity, posing a potential threat to peace and stability (Siddiqui, 2022).

Increasing global temperatures has particularly grave implications for a developing country like Pakistan, leading to severe economic devastation. Moreover, Pakistan's heavy dependence on agriculture necessitates access to water resources, which are becoming increasingly scarce due to climate change. The Indus River, a vital source of water for the country, has already dwindled to 40% of its original capacity, continuously impacting crop production (Yusuf, 2022). This situation not only jeopardizes the livelihoods of millions but also undermines the very foundation of the state. (Yusuf, 2020)

The grains of wheat were unable to complete their biological cycle and decreased in size due to the significant rise in temperature. This has resulted in the transformation of arable land into unusable land, greatly impacting the livelihoods of small farmers. Moreover, Pakistan is currently



facing a shortage of wheat due to the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine. The domestic wheat production in Pakistan for the year 2022 has decreased by 10% (Bhatti, 2022). Consequently, the gap between supply and demand has widened, leading to a severe flour shortage in the last two months of this year. The Pakistan Statistics Bureau regularly monitors the price fluctuations of essential commodities in the country, such as vegetables, pulses, oil, flour, rice, and onions. Their findings have revealed a rapid increase in prices (Bukhari 2023).

According to the World Bank's recent reports in 2021, climate change has had a significant impact on people's livelihoods and has also affected various aspects of their lives, similar to the consequences of natural disasters. This has resulted in a large number of individuals becoming vulnerable and helpless due to the environmental changes. Particularly in developing countries, the majority of people have limited protection against these catastrophic events due to their poor economic conditions or inadequate infrastructure, which puts them at risk. (Akram & Hamid, 2015).

PUBLIC HEALTH

Security has consistently been a paramount concern for mankind. The innate desire to protect oneself and ensure safety is inherent in every individual. Nevertheless, the notion of security is often associated with nontraditional elements (Hsiung, 2004).

In the Northern region of Pakistan, specifically in the Hindu Kush and Himalayas, the mountains are experiencing the impacts of climate change. The rate at which snow is melting in this area has accelerated. As a result, during the summer season, the flow of water in the Indus River intensifies due to the melting of glaciers in the Northern region. This three-month period is of utmost importance for agriculture, as approximately 90% of the water in the Indus River is derived from this source (Menhas, 2016).

Increasing global warming is extremely causing the rapid melting of Himalayan glaciers rapidly. This making vulnerable to climate change in all kind of areas whether it is arid, semi-arid, or coastal areas (Hadid 2021)-people in mountains areas pay more heavy cost of the catastrophic climate change-they mostly depend on nature. The country lacks political stability, resulting in the absence of a comprehensive food policy. Pakistan, being an agrarian nation, heavily relies on its agricultural sector for its economy. However, the current food production falls short of meeting the demands of the growing population. The Pakistan Bureau of Statistics report reveals that a staggering 61% of the population is experiencing severe food insecurity (Khetran 2021). Extensive studies indicate that Pakistan has been grappling with food insecurity for several years.(Khetran, 2021)

The act of deforestation has had a significant impact on the environment, as it is driven by both commercial profits and domestic needs. Trees are being cut down for various purposes such as



furniture production, energy generation, and economic gains. In a specific case, a farmer resorted to cutting down trees and selling them in an effort to combat deforestation, the previous government implemented initiatives like the Green Pakistan Program, Billion Tree Tsunami, and REDD Plus (Huma, 2018).

However, the recent flood in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has caused extensive damage to the 10 Billion Trees Tsunami Program (BTTP) and the Billion Trees Afforestation Program (BTAP). Numerous sites have been adversely affected by the flood, which originated from Kalam in Swat. The flood has caused damage to plantation sites, rivers, bridges, and has severely impacted the billion trees program, resulting in an economic loss of Rs. 108.530 million (Pakistan Today, 2022).

CYBERSECURITY

Cyber security encompasses various forms of threats, such as malicious software and computer viruses utilized in cybercrime, along with cyberwarfare and cyberterrorism. These concerns are approached and addressed in distinct ways within the realm of politics. Pakistan, being a new battlefield for cyber warfare, is still ill-prepared to effectively respond to this emerging challenge. While the government has allocated billions of rupees towards the country's defense to counter conventional threats, it has failed to implement a comprehensive cyber security strategy for government institutions to tackle cyber threats. The neglect of the information technology sector was evident prior to the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf government's "Digital Pakistan" initiative. In the federal budget for 2020-21, a mere 6,673 million rupees were allocated to the information technology sector under the public sector development program, which falls short of the required investment. Consequently, Pakistan's innovation capacity is ranked 107 out of 131 countries.

Pakistan has enacted several laws to address cyber security concerns, but unfortunately, they have proven to be ineffective in combating cyber warfare. Recognizing the gravity of this emerging threat, Pakistan has taken a significant step forward by introducing the National Cyber Security Policy 2021, which aims to provide a comprehensive plan. However, in order to achieve optimal results, it is crucial for Pakistan to ensure the proper implementation of this policy. This qualitative study sheds light on cyber warfare as a new dimension of warfare and examines the challenges that Pakistan faces in this realm. (Ahmed & Jahangir)

OPPORTUNITIES

Water Management Initiatives

Pakistan is confronted with considerable obstacles in terms of water scarcity and management, primarily because of its dependence on the Indus River system and the escalating demands of a burgeoning population. In order to tackle these challenges, the government has implemented various initiatives, both independently and in partnership with international entities. *Water scarcity can be alleviated by implementing efficient water management strategies, which include the*



construction of dams, reservoirs, and the adoption of modern irrigation systems. Moreover, enhancing water security can be achieved by fostering collaboration with neighboring countries and establishing fair water-sharing agreements. (A.Iftikhar 2007)

The Project of the Diamer-Bhasha Dam and the Tarbela Dam Extension

The project of the diamer dam is a colossal dam designed for the purpose of water storage and hydropower generation. This initiative, predominantly financed by the Pakistani government, endeavors to tackle water scarcity issues and produce environmentally friendly electricity. Anticipated to significantly enhance water availability for irrigation, this project holds immense potential. (Hassan. 2021) The Tarbela Dam Extension project is an endeavor to augment the water storage capacity of the world's largest earth-filled dam, the Tarbela Dam. This extension initiative, with partial backing from esteemed international financial institutions such as the World Bank, seeks to amplify the reservoir's capability to accommodate surplus water (Roca, M.2012).

Modern Irrigation System

Efforts have been undertaken to enhance the efficiency of irrigation systems by embracing modernization techniques. The government, in partnership with esteemed international organizations like the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), has diligently worked towards the implementation of drip irrigation and sprinkler systems in agricultural regions. This concerted endeavor aims to curtail water wastage and promote optimal water utilization (Esham, 2014).

International Collaboration for Water Sharing Pakistan has actively pursued diplomatic initiatives with neighboring nations, notably India and Afghanistan, in order to establish agreements for the equitable distribution of water resources. For instance, Pakistan has actively participated in dialogues facilitated by organizations such as the Indus Water Commission and has sought the intervention of international bodies like the World Bank to resolve conflicts pertaining to the allocation of water from shared rivers. Pakistan has been the recipient of aid and support from numerous international organizations and donor countries to enhance its water management endeavors. These entities extend financial assistance, technical expertise, and knowledge sharing to facilitate the implementation of sustainable water management strategies (Barrett, 1994).

Counterterrorism and Extremism Measures

Community Dialogues and Forums, Local communities, religious leaders, and civil society organizations collaborate in initiatives that aim to foster interfaith harmony, tolerance, and understanding. Through programs like "Peace Committees," community members engage in dialogues that promote peace and tolerance, creating a platform for open discussions and mutual respect.

Youth Empowerment Programs Initiatives that prioritize the youth, such as youth clubs, sports activities, and cultural events, offer positive outlets and opportunities for young individuals to



engage constructively. These programs steer them away from radical influences by providing them with a supportive environment where they can develop their skills and talents. The government has taken proactive steps to revise educational curricula with the goal of promoting tolerance, critical thinking, and religious harmony. These reforms aim to eliminate hate speech and extremist content from textbooks, ensuring that students receive an education that encourages respect and understanding. Training programs designed for educators focus on promoting inclusive and pluralistic values. By equipping teachers with the necessary tools, these programs enable them to impart critical thinking skills and effectively counter radical narratives. This ensures that students receive a well-rounded education that encourages empathy, respect, and the ability to think critically.

Local NGOs or international organizations have launched initiatives with the objective of empowering women, promoting community development, and ensuring access to essential services in marginalized areas. These efforts aim to address the grievances that extremist groups frequently exploit (Rafique, & Manan, 2019).

Healthcare Infrastructure Improvement

Pakistan is confronted with considerable obstacles in healthcare infrastructure and research. The government has undertaken several measures to enhance healthcare facilities and foster medical research. Here are instances of the initiatives implemented by the Pakistan government in these domains. The Prime Minister's Health Initiative encompasses a range of healthcare programs, such as the provision of health cards to underprivileged sections of society. These health cards enable individuals to receive medical treatment at designated hospitals without facing any financial limitations.

Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) The EPI is a government initiative aimed at delivering cost-free vaccinations against preventable diseases to children throughout Pakistan. The program focuses on enhancing vaccination coverage and ensuring access to remote areas.

Polio Eradication Campaign, Pakistan has actively participated in endeavors to eradicate polio. In collaboration with esteemed international organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF, the government conducts nationwide immunization campaigns with the goal of eradicating polio.

National Institute of Health (NIH) Situated in Islamabad, the NIH serves as a hub for research and disease surveillance. It engages in extensive research on diverse health concerns, provides training programs, and offers technical assistance to enhance public health.

Healthcare Assurance Program This partnership between the government and private insurance companies seeks to offer health insurance coverage to economically disadvantaged households. Its



primary objective is to guarantee accessibility to healthcare services for marginalized communities.

Countrywide COVID-19 Immunization Campaign Pakistan launched a comprehensive initiative to administer COVID-19 vaccines across the nation, with the aim of inoculating a substantial proportion of the population to curb the transmission of the virus. The government undertook measures to establish dedicated COVID-19 treatment facilities, procure essential medical resources, and coordinate endeavors to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on healthcare infrastructure. (Saleem, 2021).

Climate Resilience and Adaptation

To enhance forest cover, the government collaborates with local communities and NGOs to carry out tree plantation drives and a forestation campaigns in degraded areas. In order to prevent soil erosion, retain water, and promote biodiversity, special programs are implemented that focus on reforestation in critical watersheds and mountainous regions.

Climate-Resilient Agriculture efforts are made to promote the adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices, including drip irrigation, mulching, and crop diversification. These practices not only help conserve water but also increase yields and enable farmers to adapt to the changing climate patterns. These instances demonstrate the endeavors made by Pakistan to improve climate resilience and adaptation through pragmatic and efficient initiatives. The implementation and expansion of these programs to tackle the challenges brought about by climate change heavily rely on the collaborative efforts of government agencies, local communities, NGOs, and international organizations.

Disaster Risk Reduction and Preparedness establishing community-based programs aimed at reducing the risk of disasters and educating communities on how to prepare for, respond to, and evacuate in the event of floods, cyclones, or other natural disasters. These programs also provide training on effective response strategies to minimize loss of life and property. Additionally, efforts are made to develop and enhance early warning systems for floods, landslides, and other weather-related disasters, allowing for timely responses and mitigating the potential impact on communities. (Ali, 2019) ponds and small dams are made to integrate climate-resilient features into infrastructure projects, such as road construction, bridges, and buildings. These measures are aimed at ensuring that the infrastructure can withstand extreme weather conditions like floods and storms. Additionally, green infrastructure solutions, including permeable pavements and green roofs, are adopted to manage storm water and minimize the urban heat island effect.

Ecosystem Conservation and Restoration the protection and restoration of ecosystems such as mangroves, wetlands, and coastal areas are prioritized. These natural habitats serve as essential buffers against climate-related hazards such as storm surges and rising sea levels. Furthermore,



sustainable land management practices are implemented to prevent soil degradation and maintain ecosystem services crucial for climate resilience (Memon, 2012).

Cyber security Enhancement

Pakistan has made significant efforts to strengthen its cybersecurity measures in order to safeguard its digital infrastructure and combat cyber threats. One of the key initiatives taken in this regard is the establishment of national-level cybersecurity response centers, such as the Pakistan Computer Emergency Response Team (PakCERT). These centers are dedicated to detecting, responding to, and mitigating cyber threats. They play a crucial role in coordinating incident response, sharing valuable threat intelligence, and offering guidance to government agencies, businesses, and the general public to enhance cybersecurity resilience.

The enactment and enforcement of comprehensive cybersecurity laws and policies, such as the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA), are crucial in combating cybercrimes, safeguarding data, and preserving online privacy. Well-defined legal frameworks play a vital role in prosecuting cybercriminals, safeguarding individuals' digital rights, and providing businesses with guidelines to ensure secure online operations.

Public-Private Partnerships, Collaborative endeavors involving the government, private sector, and academia are essential for fostering the exchange of information, conducting cybersecurity training programs, and developing joint initiatives to combat cyber threats. By involving the private sector and academia, collective efforts in cybersecurity are strengthened, knowledge is shared, and best practices are exchanged to enhance the overall cybersecurity posture.

The implementation of cybersecurity measures is essential to safeguard critical infrastructure sectors, including energy, finance, healthcare, and transportation, from cyber threats. It is imperative to strengthen cybersecurity in these critical sectors to ensure uninterrupted services, prevent disruptions, and protect national security interests. The cybersecurity enhancements and initiatives undertaken in Pakistan demonstrate the country's dedication to fortifying its cybersecurity stance, safeguarding digital assets, and mitigating cyber threats. Nevertheless, it is vital to continuously advance, collaborate, and adapt to effectively stay ahead of evolving cyber risks and challenges. (Khan, 2020).

Conclusion

Pakistan is confronted with several non-conventional security issues that need prompt attention, tactical preparation, and cooperative endeavors to achieve enduring resolutions. The possibilities and problems facing the nation in this sector are complex, and there is a need for all-encompassing strategies to successfully meet them. Opportunities-wise, Pakistan may improve its security environment by utilizing programs for water management, counterterrorism measures, economic



diversification, and climate resilience. In order to address the issue of water shortages, water management offers a chance through the building of dams, contemporary irrigation systems, and fair water-sharing agreements. Likewise, initiatives to combat terrorism and extremism, in conjunction with educational reforms and career development, provide avenues for reducing radicalization and promoting societal stability. Economic diversification may also improve disadvantaged areas by lowering socioeconomic gaps and promoting general stability. It can do this by concentrating on industries like small company growth and renewable energy. Adopting climate resilience strategies, such as disaster preparedness and sustainable agriculture, offers chances to guard against environmental degradation and adjust to the effects of climate change. These opportunities do, however, come with important challenges. Pakistan continues to face challenges related to terrorism, water scarcity, inequality in the economy, healthcare risks, and the effects of climate change. Inadequate infrastructure, a lack of resources, and regional conflicts exacerbate these issues; strong governance, prudent policy, and continued international cooperation are therefore necessary. Pakistan has to invest more in infrastructure, healthcare, education, and sustainable development in order to meet these problems and seize possibilities. It is imperative that government agencies, commercial companies, public society, and foreign allies work together. A proactive strategy that makes use of cutting-edge tactics, technology, and community involvement may increase resilience and open the door to a more affluent and safe Pakistan. In order to confront these non-traditional security problems and ensure the nation's resilience and stability going forward, strategic planning and coordinated actions are essential.



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