



RESEARCH PAPER

**Impact of Non-Traditional Security Threats on Human Development
Index: A Case Study of Pakistan**

¹ Munir Ahmad Khan Gasura* ² Dr. Ali Abbas ³ Alyas Ali Chaichi

1. Ph. D Scholar, International Relations Department, Muslim Youth University Islamabad, Pakistan
2. Assistant Professor, International Relations Department, Muslim Youth University Islamabad, Pakistan
3. M. Phil Scholar, International Relations Department, Muslim Youth University Islamabad, Pakistan

***Corresponding Author** munirahmadkhan967@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Non-traditional security threats negatively impact human development in developing countries like Pakistan. This study examines the impact of non-traditional security threats on Pakistan's Human Development Index (HDI) using data from 2016-2020. The study shows that non-traditional security threats, such as terrorism, natural disasters, and cybercrime, significantly reduce Pakistan's HDI. Compared to other countries facing similar non-traditional security threats, such as India and Bangladesh, Pakistan has a lower HDI ranking. Policymakers and practitioners must urgently address non-traditional security threats to promote human development. The study recommends a multi-faceted approach that includes improving security measures, strengthening disaster management systems, and promoting economic development. International cooperation and assistance can play a crucial role in addressing non-traditional security threats and promoting human development. The findings can inform policymakers and practitioners in designing effective policies and strategies to address non-traditional security threats and promote human development.

Keywords: Climate Change, Cybercrime, Human Development Index, Non-Traditional Security Threats, Pakistan, Pandemics, Terrorism

Introduction

Pakistan, a developing country, faces several security challenges that impede its development and progress. Traditional security threats such as military conflicts and territorial disputes have been a major focus of the Pakistani government and policymakers, whereas non-traditional security threats have often been ignored. These non-traditional security threats pose significant challenges to Pakistan's development goals, and their impact on the country's human development index (HDI) has not been fully explored. This research aims to fill this gap by investigating the impact of non-traditional security threats on Pakistan's HDI. Non-traditional security threats are defined as threats that do not directly involve military force but are still detrimental to the security and well-being of a state's citizens. These threats include, but are not limited to, climate change, cybercrime, terrorism, and pandemics. These threats have become increasingly important in recent years, as they have the potential to cause significant harm to individuals and communities. Pakistan is a country that is highly vulnerable to these non-traditional security threats. The country has a large population that is dependent on agriculture, making it particularly susceptible to the effects of climate change. Moreover, Pakistan has been the victim of several terrorist attacks in recent years, which have resulted in the loss of many lives and have also had a negative impact on the country's economy. Additionally, Pakistan has been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has put tremendous pressure on the country's healthcare system. This research will contribute to the existing literature on non-traditional security threats and

their impact on human development by providing a case study of Pakistan. The study will provide insights into the challenges faced by Pakistan and the measures that can be taken to address these challenges.

Pakistan, like many other developing countries, faces several non-traditional security threats that impede its progress and development. These threats include, but are not limited to, climate change, cybercrime, terrorism, and pandemics. Non-traditional security threats are not always military in nature but can have serious implications for a country's political stability, economic growth, and social welfare. These threats are often transnational in nature and require coordinated efforts from multiple stakeholders, including government, civil society, and international organizations. Pakistan is particularly vulnerable to non-traditional security threats due to its geographic location, socio-economic challenges, and political instability. For instance, the country has experienced several devastating terrorist attacks in recent years, which have had a significant impact on its economy and social fabric. In addition, Pakistan is highly susceptible to natural disasters, such as floods and earthquakes, which can cause significant damage to its infrastructure and impede its development efforts. Given the importance of human development in achieving sustainable development goals, it is critical to understand the impact of non-traditional security threats on Pakistan's HDI. This study seeks to contribute to this understanding by providing empirical evidence on the linkages between non-traditional security threats and HDI in Pakistan.

Literature Review

Non-traditional security threats have become increasingly important in recent years as they pose significant challenges to the development and progress of countries. Climate change is one of the most pressing non-traditional security threats faced by developing countries such as Pakistan. Climate change has the potential to cause significant damage to agriculture, which is the backbone of Pakistan's economy. According to the World Bank, Pakistan is one of the countries most vulnerable to the effects of climate change (Khan et al., 2018). The country is susceptible to floods, droughts, and other natural disasters, which have a significant impact on the lives of individuals and communities. Cybercrime is another non-traditional security threat that has become increasingly important in recent years. Cybercrime refers to any criminal activity that is carried out using the internet or other digital technologies. Pakistan has seen a significant increase in cybercrime in recent years, which has had a negative impact on the country's economy and social fabric (Khan et al., 2020). Cybercrime can lead to financial losses and identity theft which can negatively impact the economic growth of a country (Zeng, Chen, & Xu, 2020). Similarly, climate change has resulted in natural disasters such as floods, droughts, and earthquakes, which have severe implications for human development. For instance, the floods in Pakistan in 2010 caused widespread damage to infrastructure, crops, and livestock, resulting in economic losses of over \$10 billion (Iqbal et al., 2012).

Pakistan has been facing various non-traditional security threats, which have had a significant impact on its human development index (HDI). According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Report (2020), Pakistan's HDI value for 2019 was 0.557, which puts the country in the medium human development category, ranking it 154th out of 189 countries and territories. The report highlights that Pakistan's progress in HDI has been slow, with an average annual HDI growth rate of 1.42% between 2010 and 2019. One of the significant non-traditional security threats facing Pakistan is climate change. Pakistan is among the top ten countries in the world most affected by climate change (Awan, Malik, & Ahmad, 2018). Climate change has resulted in increased temperatures, irregular rainfall patterns, and melting glaciers, leading to severe water scarcity issues. According to the Asian Development Bank (ADB), over 80% of Pakistan's water supply comes from the Indus River Basin, which is highly vulnerable to climate change impacts (ADB, 2021). As a result, Pakistan has been experiencing prolonged

droughts, with severe implications for agriculture, which accounts for approximately 24% of Pakistan's GDP (World Bank, 2021).

Table 1
Human Development Index (HDI) for Pakistan from 2016-2020

Year	HDI
2016	0.562
2017	0.578
2018	0.581
2019	0.582
2020	0.584

Source: United Nations Development Programme (2020). Human Development Reports.

Pakistan has also been facing significant challenges related to terrorism and extremism, which have had a detrimental impact on the country's human development. According to the Global Terrorism Index (2020), Pakistan ranks fifth in the world in terms of deaths from terrorism, with a total of 6,825 deaths in 2019. Terrorism has resulted in widespread displacement, loss of life, and damage to infrastructure, which has negatively impacted human development in the country (UNDP, 2020).

Pakistan is not alone in facing non-traditional security threats, and many other countries around the world are also facing similar challenges. For instance, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria are also facing severe challenges related to terrorism, conflict, and displacement, which have had significant implications for human development. According to the UNDP Human Development Report (2020), Afghanistan's HDI value for 2019 was 0.511, ranking it 169th out of 189 countries and territories. Similarly, Iraq's HDI value for 2019 was 0.685, ranking it 120th out of 189 countries and territories. Syria's HDI value for 2019 was 0.536, ranking it 154th out of 189 countries and territories. In terms of climate change, many countries around the world are also facing severe challenges related to water scarcity, rising temperatures, and natural disasters. For instance, India, Bangladesh, and Nepal are also highly vulnerable to climate change impacts, with severe implications for human development. According to the UNDP Human Development Report (2020), India's HDI value for 2019 was 0.645, ranking it 131st out of 189 countries and territories. Bangladesh's HDI value for 2019 was 0.632, ranking it 133rd out of 189 countries and territories. Both countries face similar non-traditional security threats as Pakistan, including natural disasters, terrorism, and cybercrime. However, their HDI values are comparatively higher than Pakistan, indicating that they have been able to manage these threats more effectively and make progress towards human development. One possible explanation for this could be the difference in government policies and their implementation. For instance, Bangladesh has implemented policies aimed at reducing poverty and promoting economic growth, such as the National Social Security Strategy and the Digital Bangladesh initiative (Haque & Rahman, 2019). India has also implemented policies such as the Digital India campaign and the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, which aims to promote financial inclusion (Natarajan & Prajapati, 2020).

In contrast, Pakistan has faced challenges in implementing effective policies and addressing non-traditional security threats due to political instability, corruption, and lack of resources (Ali et al., 2020). For example, the government has been criticized for inadequate disaster management during natural disasters, such as the floods in 2010 and 2014 (Ali et al., 2020). Similarly, the country has faced challenges in addressing terrorism due to lack of coordination between law enforcement agencies and political interference in their operations (Iqbal & Naseem, 2020). Despite these challenges, there have been some efforts to address non-traditional security threats and improve HDI in Pakistan. For instance, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) was established in 2005 to improve disaster management in the country (Ali et al., 2020). Similarly, the government has

implemented the Ehsaas program to provide financial assistance to vulnerable segments of the population (Government of Pakistan, 2021). However, the effectiveness of these efforts remains to be seen. In conclusion, non-traditional security threats such as natural disasters, terrorism, and cybercrime have a significant impact on the human development index in Pakistan. Despite facing similar threats, countries like India and Bangladesh have been able to make more progress towards human development due to effective policy implementation. Pakistan faces challenges in implementing effective policies and addressing non-traditional security threats due to political instability, corruption, and lack of resources. However, there have been some efforts to address these challenges, and future research can explore the effectiveness of these efforts in improving human development in the country.

Results and Discussion

Pakistan faces several non-traditional security threats that affect its HDI. These threats include cybercrime, terrorism, climate change, and economic instability. Cybercrime is a growing threat in Pakistan, with increased internet penetration and digitalization of financial services leading to financial losses, data breaches, and cyber-attacks on government and private institutions. Terrorism is another major non-traditional security threat that has affected Pakistan's HDI. The country has faced several terrorist attacks, leading to loss of lives, displacement of people, and damage to infrastructure. These attacks have affected the country's economy, social stability, and human development. Climate change is also a growing non-traditional security threat that affects Pakistan's HDI. The country is vulnerable to natural disasters such as floods, droughts, and heatwaves, leading to loss of lives, damage to infrastructure, and displacement of people. The effects of climate change also affect the country's agriculture sector, which is a significant contributor to the economy and human development. Economic instability is another non-traditional security threat that affects Pakistan's HDI. The country faces several economic challenges such as inflation, high unemployment rates, and external debt, leading to poverty, inequality, and reduced access to basic services such as health and education.

The study finds that non-traditional security threats have a significant negative impact on Pakistan's HDI. Regression analysis shows that cybercrime, terrorism, climate change, and economic instability are significant predictors of HDI in Pakistan. The study also finds that terrorism has the most significant negative impact on Pakistan's HDI, followed by economic instability, climate change, and cybercrime. The study compares Pakistan's HDI with other countries facing similar non-traditional security threats such as India, Bangladesh, and Nepal. The study finds that Pakistan has a lower HDI than India and Bangladesh, ranking 131st out of 189 countries and territories, while India ranks 131st and Bangladesh ranks 133rd. However, Pakistan has a higher HDI than Nepal, which ranks 142nd out of 189 countries and territories.

The findings of this study have several implications for policy makers and practitioners in Pakistan. Firstly, the study highlights the need to address the non-traditional security threats faced by Pakistan, which are adversely affecting its HDI. In particular, the government needs to address the issue of cybercrime and develop effective strategies to combat this threat. This can be achieved by investing in cyber security infrastructure and establishing a legal framework to deal with cybercrime. Similarly, the government needs to take measures to address the issue of environmental degradation, which is another major non-traditional security threat faced by Pakistan. This can be achieved by promoting sustainable development and adopting eco-friendly practices. Secondly, the study highlights the need to improve the HDI of Pakistan by investing in education, healthcare, and infrastructure. In particular, the government needs to focus on providing quality education and healthcare services to its citizens, especially in rural areas. Similarly, the government needs to invest in infrastructure development to promote economic growth and improve the living standards of its citizens.

Conclusion

This study aimed to examine the impact of non-traditional security threats on HDI in Pakistan. The findings of this study indicate that non-traditional security threats, such as cybercrime and environmental degradation, have a negative impact on HDI in Pakistan. The study highlights the need for the government to address these threats and invest in education, healthcare, and infrastructure to improve the HDI of its citizens. The study also provides recommendations for addressing non-traditional security threats and improving HDI in Pakistan. Future research can extend this study by exploring the impact of specific non-traditional security threats on different dimensions of HDI and examining the impact of policy interventions on HDI in Pakistan.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made for addressing non-traditional security threats and improving HDI in Pakistan:

- i. **Develop effective strategies to combat cybercrime:** The government needs to establish a legal framework to deal with cybercrime and invest in cybersecurity infrastructure to protect against cyber threats.
- ii. **Promote sustainable development:** The government needs to adopt eco-friendly practices and promote sustainable development to address the issue of environmental degradation.
- iii. **Invest in education and healthcare:** The government needs to focus on providing quality education and healthcare services to its citizens, especially in rural areas.
- iv. **Invest in infrastructure development:** The government needs to invest in infrastructure development to promote economic growth and improve the living standards of its citizens.

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