

**Analyzing Radicalization Tendencies among Pakistani Youth: A
Quantitative Social Psychological Perspective**



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Perspective betrays with its dichotomy
train tracks always meet, not here, but only
in the impossible mind's eye;
horizons beat a retreat as we embark
on sophist seas to overtake that mark
where wave pretends to drench real sky.
Well then, if we agree, it is not odd
that one man's devil is another's god
or that the solar spectrum is
a multitude of shaded grays; suspense
on the quicksands of ambivalence
is our life's whole nemesis.

Sylvia Plath

Dedicated

To

My beloved NaniAmmi

Declaration

I, Sadia Khan, ID No. 15005112001, student of M.Phil Political Science in the University of Management and Technology, Lahore; do hereby declare that this study titled, *Analyzing Radicalization Tendencies among Pakistani Youth: A Quantitative Social Psychological Perspective* has been carried out genuinely by me under the supervision of my worthy supervisor Dr. M Shoaib Pervez. I confirm that this thesis presented for the degree of M. Phil in Political Science has not been submitted for any other degree from any other institute.

Sadia Khan

Research Completion Certificate

It is certified that Ms. Sadia Khan (Roll No. 15005112001) of University of Management and Technology, Lahore has successfully completed her study titled “*Analyzing Radicalization Tendencies among Pakistani Youth: A Quantitative Social Psychological Perspective*” in partial fulfilment for the requirement of the degree of M. Phil in Political science under my supervision. Her work has been found genuine and satisfactory for the award of Degree of M. Phil in Political Science.

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Abstract

A rise in radicalization across the world has posed a serious threat to human development and the state machinery. The increase in the phenomenon is linked to Jihadist ideology of non-state actors, such as Al Qaeda, which allures youngsters towards radicalization owing to an abusive interpretation of Islam. This study aims to analyze the phenomenon of radicalization among Pakistani youth from a social-psychological perspective having theoretical underpinning of social identity theory. The social psychology of radicalization explains radicalization as a group phenomenon, and encourages the approach that does not restrict the analysis of radicalization tendencies to religion as a sacred doctrine only. Unlike previous studies, this study takes religion as a social identity group and addresses the concerns that are related to group dynamics. These group dynamics are social categorization and perceptions of threat to group identity. The social psychological approach towards radicalization also deals with these dynamics.

Four hypotheses have been formulated. The first hypothesis that there is a relationship between social categorization and radicalization is confirmed (N=400). Second hypothesis that there is a relationship between perceptions of threat to group identity and radicalization is also confirmed (N=400). Third hypothesis that the relationship between social categorization and radicalization will be positively more significant among Madrassah students than among university students is confirmed. However, relationship between social categorization and radicalization among university students is negative that is a different result from the previous studies. Fourth hypothesis that relationship between perceptions of threat to group identity and radicalization will be positively more significant among Madrassah students than among university students is confirmed. The relationship between perceptions of threat to group identity and radicalization was also positive among university youth although at a minor level. Correlation test was used to analyze the data in SPSS 21. The relationship between variables was not very linear meaning there can be other contributing factors of radicalization other than social categorization and perceptions of threat to group identity. In the last chapter, recommendations for future researchers are given.

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List of Abbreviations

UK	United Kingdom
US	United States
ISPR	Inter Services Public Relations
ISIS	Islamic State of Iraq and Syria
WOT	War on Terror
JI	Jamaat e Islami
ITMD	Ittehad e Tanzeemat e Madaris e Deeniya
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency
ISI	Inter Services Intelligence
PBS	Pakistan's Bureau of Statistics
ASER	Annual Status of Education Report
NEC	National Education Census
SSP	Sipah Sahaba Pakistan
JeM	Jaish e Muhammad
MJC	Muttihada Jihad Council
FATA	Federally Administered Tribal Areas
MI6	Military Intelligence Section 6
TTP	Tehrik e Taliban Pakistan

Introduction

1.1 Background of the Problem

Radicalization is becoming an ever-increasing phenomenon all over the world. It is a process in which a person or group tries to challenge the political and social structures of a society for the sake of different political objectives. In the aftermath of 9/11, almost all parts of the world have been plagued by the menace of radicalization, sparking various debates about the nature of the problem. Radicalization is a very relative and confusing term. However, the current definitions of radicalization include supporting non-state actors, like al Qaeda, Taliban etc.