



WAR REPORTING: STRESSES AND THREATS TO WAR REPORTERS

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ABSTRACT: The countries like Pakistan where media institutions have experienced varied mode of actions and activities since the country came into being as an independent state in South Asia; War on terror is, of course, a new phenomenon the country has been facing from the last two decades. Thousands of Pakistanis, civilians as well as security personnel are killed and slaughtered by terrorist groups. War against terrorism has become an international issue where Pakistan plays a central role by giving tremendous sacrifices of sacred lives and valuable properties. Media houses and war reporters, in this war, made great contribution to get the public well-aware and informed. This research study primarily focuses on the issue of stresses and threats to war reporters which are regularly faced by them in the line of their professional duties. It also investigates contributing factors that make the work more challenging and create hardships for reporters in reaching the war zones. The population of the study were the reporters working in tribal areas of Pakistan and Editors working in the media houses. The sample for this research study was 100 reporters working in war-zone tribal areas of Pakistan and 50 Editors working in the media houses. The empirical analysis of data reveals that reporters working in all tribal agencies of Pakistan are facing same level of life threatening situations. The study also indicates that reporters who have more experience are facing more threats to life than the less experienced reporters.

Keywords: War on Terror, Terrorism in Pakistan, Tribal Areas, War Reporting, Pakistani Reporters, Media Houses, Quantitative Analysis.

I. INTRODUCTION

War against terrorism is not a new phenomenon in the human history nor is war reporting from a war-zone a new experience in the world of journalism. However, war against terrorism in the tribal areas of Pakistan, has been, of course, a unique fight against terrorism and insurgency that involved NATO forces led by the US, the Western world, war-torn country like Afghanistan, and its ultimate fall-out on Pakistan. The whole story created deeply complex situation, especially for the people of Pakistan who have been the direct target of terrorist acts. Their interest in brutal war and its consequences have always been natural at individual and as well as at national levels. Thus making the national media more attentive and sensitive to gather and disseminate information for public satisfaction. National media in Pakistan played historic role in bringing the divided nation together against the increase in terrorism that swallowed the economic, social, political and cultural identities. In return, many journalists/reporters gave their lives in the line of their professional duties. Reporting war events, historically, has always been a challenging task to do. In a complex conflict like War on Terror in the tribal areas of Pakistan nonetheless it is more complicated for any reporter to bring the facts on surface. One the one hand, reporters with least access remain unable to report the war events direct from the warring areas. Secondly, life threats from the warring parties and groups have always been the most challenging and dangerous elements a reporter has to face.

Present research study focuses mainly on the issue of war reporting and threats to reporter in the tribal areas of Pakistan. News reporters have not only been the target of warring parties but they also have to face tremendous difficulties due to as lack of proper organizational support in form of logistics, training, security and financial aid in any eventualities.

Objectives of the Study: The study includes four major objectives;

- To explore the level of threats faced by reporters working in the tribal areas of Pakistan
- To know the security situation for the reporters in the tribal areas of Pakistan
- To know the organizational support to reporters covering in war-zones tribal areas of Pakistan
- To know the journalists perception about the future prospects of peace in tribal areas of Pakistan.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Human history reveals that no part of the globe has ever been existed as a place of complete peace and tranquility. Fighting and killing of human by the human has been a phenomenal reality along with its reporting through the ages in different forms and scopes. However, rapid and diverse scientific and technological advancement, especially in the field of information gathering, means of information, and news dissemination have reshaped the entire phenomena. Similarly, modern war technologies and resources have also advanced the scope and effects of war-unthinkable magnitude of destruction and collateral damages of human lives and properties. Modern wars and weapons are very different from the ancient wars fought in the ancient near East, Greece and Rome, China, India, Byzantine, the Arab World, Persia, Ottoman Empire of Fourteen Century and Mongolia and Central Asia etc (Gerard, 1994). The two global conflicts, The World War 1st and the 2nd were given due coverage by the media outlets existing at that time. In the early 50's and with the establishment of the United Nations (UN), extended wars and conflicts emerged into zonal wars under the new global divides; communism led by the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) and, Capitalism led by the United States of America (USA) which was the then newly emerged global power. After the World War 2nd, Korean and Vietnam wars are the examples of ideological conflicts between Communism and Capitalism. Afghan War (1979-1990), after the dismemberment of Soviet Union, nature of conflict changed as the global power paradigm shifted.

New war zones have very advanced and highly lethal war technologies and media coverage of war events is a daunting task, coverage persons risk their lives to tackle with news reporting problems from the area as eye witness.

War reporting includes different problems for the stake-holders of varying interests. Philip (1975) has contributed historic information in his famous work, *The First Casualty: From Crimea to Vietnam: The War Correspondent as hero, Propagandist and Myth Maker*. The writer narrates different war events and the media coverage in detail. To him, 'News gathering and Reporting were the first example of fabrication even rumor mongering during American Civil War'. Rumor Mongering, Propaganda and heroism on the part of journalist's activities go side by side in conflict situations (Ryan, 2004, McComb & Shaw, 1972). Warring parties, War Reporters and the public have different views and interests they need to receive, calculate and address from the Warring Fronts.

Since the dawn of media technologies and vast expansion of communication means; news coverage from a War-Zone has become an issue of major concern, particularly, in terms of access to the area under war and reporter's physical protection. Writers and analysts like Robinson (2004) looked at War-Zone Reporting in the context of 'News Frames Analysis'. To his view, from Crimea War (1854) to Afghan War (2001) and the US invasion of Iraq (2003), are the examples of 'Media Framings'.

Nature and types of conflicts in wars may be different in various aspects. These include: the parties involved; their aims and objectives; geographical location of war; and military resources and trainings. However, all armed conflicts in media coverage perspective have the common objective of providing day-to-day information from within the War-Zone. Media personnel have to depend on the sources provided by the fighting states, or the groups (McLaughlin, 2002). Unlike the media coverage in normal situations, all types of war coverage are the most challenging areas for a working journalist (Reporter/Sub-Editor) to accomplish. A number of writers and investigators have contributed on this subject. For example, Gitlin (2003), Noris et al (2003), Hallin and Beinett (2004), Wcimann et al (2004) and many others as quoted by Robinson (2004) have studied the issue both in historical perspective as well as in the context of media coverage from a War-Zone.

On the subject of War-Zone Reporting the work done by John Carey (1987), 'Book of Reportage', and Grey (2002), 'The Burning of Rome', in the same context Philip Knightley's work, 'The First Casualty' is worth reviewing. Philip in his work includes many cases where military and other dominant figures controlled and miss guided the press. He looked at an extensive area of war coverage from the Crimea War (1853-1856) to Vietnam War (1954-1975). According to him, during Civil War, 'Sensationalism and exaggerations, outright lies, puffery, slander, faked eyewitness accounts and conjectures built on pure imagination cheapened much that past in the North for News'. Other writers Keeble (2002), McChesney (1998), Chomsky (1996), Newbold (1995) and Sheller (1992) as cited by Niazi (2006) have identified the ways and means through which powerful interest groups frame news stories influencing the journalists especially during the armed conflicts. However, unlike the past where news was not much different from editorial opinion; news and views in the existing media have distinctive characteristics in media coverage. Now, it has become technically easy to separate objective reporting from political propaganda (Niazi, 2006).

William Howard Russell (1820-1907) contributed to *The Times* and *The Telegraph* for over 20 years; he made the headway to objective reporting as much as he could. Also, during the Crimean War he won five major Campaign medals and was knighted for his services to journalism.

Throughout the history of war reporting, reporters found different ways in how to report the war events but all reporters faced similar problems from reach to life threat. One of the most common issues a war correspondent has to face is the interest and strategy of the war parties to win over the others or to ensure the leaks control that may happen by the news report (Philip, 1975).

In order to understand such foremost difficulties of reporting truth from a warring zone, the following dispatch of Russell is worth-noting in which he openly narrated the worst condition of British-Allied battle against Russia known as the Crimean war. He says,

I could not tell lies to "make things pleasant". There was not a single man in the camp who could put his hand on his heart and declare he believed that one single casualty had been caused to us by information communicated to the enemy by me or any other newspaper correspondent. The only things the partisans of misrule could allege was, that I did not "make things pleasant" to the authorities, and that, aimed the fifth starvation, and deadly stagnation of the camp, I did not go about "babbling of green fields", of present abundance, and of prospects of victory.

On the contrary, despite negative impact of Russell's news report as seen in official circles, he was the man whose professional journalistic efforts led Florence Nightingale to initiate Red Cross organization which started providing medical help to the British armed forces.

Natures, capacity of conflicts and war techniques have tremendously changed media technology. Likewise, the information control system of the 21st century has also reached its epitome. In order to conduct objective reporting, the news reporters, especially war correspondents have to go along-with both speed and space to protect their lives, livelihood and professional integrity.

Among various types of war and conflict, war against terrorism has always been seen more complex and difficult. War against terrorism in any part of the globe is not only challenging for the state armed forces but also becomes a great threat to the concerned public and for the media reporters. Media organizations and their working journalists/reporters are bound to inform the respective information consumer about the occurrences within the boundaries, their causes, and their consequences. The most important rather basic concerns of the correspondent to cover any complex war like war against terrorism are to cover the war events with balanced, accurate and fair news reports. The public demand for news and technological advancement are the compelling forces a news reporter has to cater during his/her professional performance, especially in a war-like situation — a war where the face of actual enemy is hidden. Ideal and highly competent war correspondents have to expose themselves to the same risks faced by soldiers. But the ease of conducting duty depends upon; training, organizational support, courage and firm belief in fair and just reporting. In case of war against terrorism in the tribal belt of Pakistan, news reporters have always been lacking the above mentioned facilities.

Terrorist activities have been stemmed out, which were being conducted under a powerful slogan of the Islamic Jihad. Clearly misinterpreted versions of the Islamic principles of Jihad were used by various interest groups and forces to achieve their political global and regional agenda (Lodhi, 2012).

In a very peculiar condition of war against terrorism in the tribal as well as in the settled areas of Pakistan pin-pointing the terrorists and to counter them has always been extremely difficult both for the armed forces and civilian authorities. Hit, run and hide techniques of terrorists in highly scattered hilly areas and within populated cities make it difficult for news reporters to report as eye witness. Reporters face issue of smooth access to the warring zone, they face such constraints regularly in the name of 'national interest' and war policies. Moreover, war correspondents require facilities in form of money, travel, health-care and protection needs to be provided by the respective media organization. In case of reporting from the warring-zones of the tribal areas of Pakistan, such facilities have never been provided to any correspondent or news reporter in Pakistan.

Consequently, news reporters mostly depend on either side of the warring parties. In many cases on-spot or objective reporting, caused the correspondents to face life threats, kidnapping, torture or even, death. In such a unpredictable war, a war reporter needs brain, will, and unconditional commitment to profession (McGrath, 2011). However, when there are life threats on one hand and public demand on the other, war reporters have to depend on the 'fed-news'.

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This particular research work is related to both conceptual and practical issues of a complex and difficult subject, 'terrorism in the tribal areas of Pakistan, role and challenges to media men (reporters) and the problems a reporter have to confront with' particularly in the context of stress and life threats. A reporter faces so many difficulties when covering the conflict area. Survey research technique was used to collect

data from selected population. A standardized questionnaire was used to collect data from reporters of seven tribal agencies and editors of different media organizations. Questions are framed in two different types. Close-ended questions as well as open ended are subsequently analyzed to further specify the opinion of two journalist's cadres about the problem.

3.1 Research Design: In this research work which is descriptive in nature, relevant data is collected using three means of sources. These are: the reporter working in the tribal areas; media editors; and literature and research already done in the area of the problem under study. It encompasses the methodology and procedures used in doing research in a scientific way. It also defines the nature of the research study i.e. descriptive and reviewed in form of a case study. This quantitative study was also conducted using software of statistical analysis to draw inferences.

Precisely the research design for this research work is framed as a blue print in order to collect information and efforts are made to collect maximum amount of information used in analysis. (Wimmer & Dominick, 1983).

3.2 Survey Research: The primary data for this research was collected by assessing the thoughts, opinions and feelings of different people, it was not limited to specific group therefore, it is attributed as survey research.

3.3 Population of the study: This research work is related to a particular group of people of a specific geographical location, i.e. Tehreek-e-Taliban (TTP) and Al-Qaeda as terrorist in the tribal areas of Pakistan. It also includes reporters and editors of different media organizations as very specific population of the study. In this research work, the above people were the population of the study, which were integral to the investigation.⁴

3.4 Unit of Analysis: Since this research study aimed at investigating news relevant to coverage of terrorism in a particular period of time therefore, incidents, occurrences and involved actors –in the war and war-reporting— were taken as the readily distinguished unit of analysis.

3.5 Sampling: In this study sampling plan is based on probability sampling (random sampling). It is also termed as simple random sampling. In this research study all relevant subjects of the frame are given an equal probability and have the same chance of responding to the investigation. Selected media organizations and journalists working in the tribal areas are taken sample of this case study.

3.6 Sample Size: For this specific research study 100 working journalists in the war-zone tribal areas of Pakistan were taken as sample. Moreover, 50 editors were also served self-structured questionnaire to collect their views and opinions on the issue.

IV. DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

This research study is conducted to measure the challenges and prospects of media coverage in war zones with reference to tribal areas of Pakistan.

The data is collected from 150 journalists including 100 reporters working in various tribal agencies and 50 editors associated with different news organizations of the country. Separate questionnaires are served for data collection from reporters and editors. Both questionnaires include close-ended and open-ended questions about the issue. The data collected through closed questions was analyzed using inferential statistics while the data collected through open ended questions was analyzed using qualitative analysis method.

4.1 QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS: For quantitative analysis, descriptive and inferential statistical methods are adopted. The whole quantitative analysis has been divided into four parts according to the four objectives of the study. Data with continuous dependent variables having normal distribution is tested using parametric test statistics like t-test and ANOVA, while data with nominal or ordinal variables is measured using non-parametric test statistics like Spearman's rho correlation coefficient, Wilcoxon Signed Rank test and Kruskal Wallis test. For all these tests, alpha level is set at .05. Analysis of background variables and some uni-variate analysis are done through descriptive statistics and frequency distributions.

The qualitative analysis is done by organizing similar answers in same categories and then narrating their views to certain questions in detail. This qualitative analysis is used for explanation of certain dimensions of the problem under study, which are not being answered through quantitative data. Both quantitative and qualitative data analysis combined gave a more vivid picture of the challenges and

prospects of media coverage in tribal areas of Pakistan.

Table 4.1. Descriptive analysis of background variables of the respondents

	Editors (N=50)		Reporters (N=100)	
	M	SD	M	SD
Gender	1.26	.443	1	.000
Nature of Media	1.96	.283	2.08	.677
Type of Media	2.84	.510	1.70	.870
Experience	4.46	3.118	3.22	1.508
Area of Coverage			4.32	2.059

Note. N= Number of respondents, M= Mean, SD= Standard Deviation

Background variables (Gender; nature of media; type of media, experience and area of coverage of reporters) of respondents with N=150 (Editors N= 50; Reporters N= 100) are analyzed using descriptive statistics. For gender, editors included both males and females with M=1.26 and SD=.443. All the reporters were male with M= 1 and SD= .000. The reason is that there are no female reporters working in the tribal areas.

For Editors, nature of media (Local; National; International) had M=1.96 and SD= .283, and for reporters M= 2.08 and SD= .677. The mean value and standard deviation of reporters are higher than the mean and standard deviation of editors. One possible reason for this may be the higher ratio (2:1) for the reporters in the sample. In analysis of type of media (Newspaper, Radio and Television), Editors have M= 2.84 and SD= .510, and reporters have M= 1.70 and SD= .870. The editors have higher mean value but lower standard deviation than reporters. Editor's have experience with M=4.46 and SD= 3.118, while reporters have M= 3.22 and SD= 1.508. The mean value suggests slight difference in years of experience between editors and reporters, but the higher standard deviation value for editors suggests more dispersion than reporters. Area of coverage is only measured for reporters with M= 4.32 and SD= 2.059.

4.2 LIFE THREATS TO REPORTERS WORKING IN DIFFERENT TRIBAL AREAS

Life threat to reporters working in different tribal areas (measured in number of threats journalists received) using one way analysis of variance for the deference in life threats to reporters working in different tribal areas, and also for the effects of experience on levels of life threat to reporters in these areas. For measuring difference between life threats to reporters and editors, independent sample t-test is used, while frequency distribution is used to report the availability of financial support for journalists in case of mishap. Wilcoxon Signed Rank test is used for knowing differences among journalists' perceptions regarding who is more responsible for killing journalist: Taliban or other terrorist groups.

Table 4.2.1 Descriptive Analysis of life threat index of reporters working in different tribal agencies of Pakistan

	N	M	SD
Bajuar Agency	12	2.25	1.545
Momand Agency	12	1.83	1.586
Khyber Agency	14	1.79	1.311
Orakzai Agency	13	1.62	.870
Kuram Agency	12	2.67	1.435
North Waziristan	17	1.88	1.111
South Waziristan	20	2.35	.813
Total	100	2.06	1.238

Table 4.2.1 shows the descriptive data for life threats to reporters working in different tribal areas of Pakistan. Kuram Agency (N= 12, M=2.67, SD=1.435), South Waziristan Agency (N= 20, M= 2.35, SD= .813), and Bajuar Agency (N= 12, M= 2.25, SD= 1.545) has higher mean value for life threat to reporters working there as compared to Momand Agency (N=12, M= 1.63, SD= 1.586), Khyber Agency (N= 14,

M= 1.79, SD= 1.311), Orakzai Agency (N= 13, M= 1.62, SD= .870) and North Waziristan Agency (N= 17, M= 1.88, SD= 1.111). However, this is just difference among their descriptive indicators and does not stand for any statistically significant difference by itself.

Table 4.2.2 Area wise difference in life threats received by reporters working in Tribal areas

	SS	df	MS	F	Sig.
Between Groups	11.308	6	1.885	1.25	.29
Within Groups	140.332	93	1.509		
Total	151.640	99			

One-way ANOVA is used to explore the difference in life threats to reporters working in different tribal areas. (See table 4.2.2) Respondents are divided into seven groups according to the tribal agency where they were working (Group 1: Bajuar Agency; Group 2: Momand Agency; Group 3: Khyber Agency; Group 4: Orakzai Agency; Group 5: Kuram Agency; Group 6: North Waziristan; Group 7: South Waziristan). $F(6, 93)=1.25, p=.29$, suggested that the statistical difference was not significant at $\alpha=.05$ level for the number of life threats that reporters received in the seven groups.

Table 4.2.3 Descriptive analysis of life threat to reporters of different groups based on their experience

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
2 to less than 4 years	17	1.76	.831
4 to less than 6 years	22	1.55	.671
6 to less than 8 years	14	2.29	1.437
8 to less than 10 years	16	2.81	1.940
More than 10 years	31	2.10	1.012
Total	100	2.06	1.238

Table 4.2.3 indicates that reporters in higher experience have higher mean of life threat. Group: 3 with 6 to less than 8 years' experience (N= 14, M= 2.29, SD= 1.437), Group: 4 with 8 to less than 10 years of experience (N=16, M= 2.81, SD= 1.940) and Group: 5 with more than 10 years of experience (N= 31, M= 2.10, SD= 1.012) have higher mean of life threat compared to Group: 1 with 2 to less than 4 years of experience (N= 17, M= 1.76, SD= .831) and Group:2 with 4 to less than 6 years of experience (N= 22, M= 1.55, SD= .671).

Table 4.2.4. Experience wise difference in life threats received by reporters working in Tribal areas

	SS	df	MS	F	Sig.	η^2
Between Groups	17.122	4	4.281	3.023	.021	0.11
Within Groups	134.518	95	1.416			
Total	151.640	99				

One-way Independent ANOVA is used to statistically test the effect of experience on levels of life threat to reporters in the tribal areas. Respondents are divided into five groups according to their level of experience (See table 4.2.4) (Group 1: 2 to less than 4 years; Group 2: 4 to less than 6 years 3: 6 to less than 8 years; Group 4: 8 to less than 10 years; Group 5: More than 10 years). There is a statistically significant difference at $\alpha=.05$ level in life threats for the five experience based groups [$F(4, 95)=3.023, p=.021$]. $\eta^2=.11$ suggest that effect size is more than moderate according to Cohen (1988) criteria. Using Tukey HSD test for Post-hoc comparison indicated that the mean score for Group 2 (M= 1.55, SD= .671) is significantly different from Group 4 (M= 2.81, SD= 1.94), $p=.01$. Other comparisons do not show significant differences

Table 4.2.5. Difference in Life threats to Reporters and Editors

	N	Mean	SD	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
Reporter	100	2.06	1.24	-1.940	69.88	.056
Editor	50	2.64	1.93			

Table 4.2.5. Indicates the difference in life threats to reporter and editors. In order to find out the threat difference independent-samples t-test is used to statistically test difference between life threats to Reporters and Editors. The difference is not significant ($t = (69.88) = -1.94, p = .056$) between life threat to Reporters ($M = 2.06, SD = 1.24$) and Editors ($M = 2.64, SD = 1.93$).

Table 4.2.6. Frequency distribution of financial support by the media organizations to the journalists in case of accidents

	F	%	Cf%
Yes	21	42.0	42.0
No	29	58.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	

Table 4.2.6 shows availability of financial support by the media organizations to their journalists in case of any mishap. Data in this respect indicates that media organizations of 42% reporters working in tribal agencies provide some kind of financial support to their reporters, while remaining organizations with 58%, reporters of tribal areas do not provide such kind of financial support.

Table 4.2.7 Groups responsible for killing of journalists in tribal areas of Pakistan

	N	Md	SD	Z	p	r
TTP_killing	150	4.00	.947	-4.59	.000	.26
Othergroup_Killing	150	3.00	.903			

Wilcoxon Signed Rank test is used to measure the difference between TTP and Other terrorist groups as responsible for killing journalists in Tribal areas of Pakistan. (See table 4.2.7.) Significant difference is found at $\alpha = .05$ ($Z = -4.59, p = .000$) between Taliban ($Md = 4.00, SD = .947$) and other terrorist groups ($Md = 3.00, SD = .903$). $r = .26$ indicates large difference between the two groups.

4.3 CHALLENGES FACED BY JOURNALISTS DURING ON SPOT-REPORTING IN WAR ZONES

The objective of knowing challenges faced by journalists during on-spot reporting in war zones is achieved by measuring relationship between life threat to reporters working in tribal areas and how frequently they do on-spot reporting from tribal areas. Also the relationship between access to war zone and ability of journalists to do on-spot reporting was measured. Both these relationships are measured by using Spearman's rho correlation coefficient test.

4.3.1 Relationship between life threats to reporters working in tribal areas and frequency of on spot reporting

	N	MD	SD	1	2
1. On spot Reporting	100	3.00	.864		
2. Life Threats Received	100	2.00			
1.238	.033				
$P = .373$					

Table 4.3.1 indicates the relationship between life threats to reporters working in tribal areas and their ability of on spot reporting is measured through Spearman rho correlation coefficient. The relationship was not significant ($r = .033, N = 100, p = .373$).

Table 4.3.2 Relationship between access of reporters to conflict area and frequency of on spot reporting

	N	MD	SD	1	2
1. On spot reporting	100		100	3.00	.864
2. Access to Conflict area	100	2.00	.944	.061	

P= .273

The relationship between access of reporters in the conflict area and their frequency of on spot reporting was measured through Spearman rho correlation coefficient. The relationship is not significant ($r=.061$, $N= 100$, $p=.273$).

4.4 CHALLENGES IN OBJECTIVE REPORTING FOR JOURNALISTS WORKING IN WAR ZONES

The third objective of measuring the challenges in objective reporting for journalists working in war zone is achieved by measuring differences in perception of reporters working in different tribal areas about terrorism as organized activity using Kruskal Wallis test. Also, relationship between life threat to reporters in conflict areas and their ability of objective reporting; and the relationship between access of reporters to conflict areas and their ability of objective reporting is measured through Spearman rho correlation coefficient.

Table 4.4.1. Differences in perceptions of reporters of different tribal areas about terrorism as organized activity

AREA OF COVERAGE	N	Md	SD
Bajuar Agency	12	5.00	.793
Momand Agency	12	4.00	.515
Khyber Agency	14	5.00	1.460
Orakzai Agency	13	5.00	.855
Kuram Agency	12	4.00	.492
North Waziristan	17	4.00	.507
South Waziristan	20	4.00	.503
Total	100	5.00	.778

Kruskal Wallis test is used in table 4.4.1 to measure differences in the perceptions of journalists of different tribal areas about terrorism as organized activity. Respondents are divided into seven groups according to the tribal agency where they are working (Group 1: Bajuar Agency; Group 2: Momand Agency; Group 3: Khyber Agency; Group 4: Orakzai Agency; Group 5: Kuram Agency; Group 6: North Waziristan; Group 7: South Waziristan). There is no significant difference between the perceptions of reporters working in seven tribal areas regarding the terrorism as organized activity ($\chi^2 (6) = 6.41$, $p=.38$).

Table 4.4.2. Relationship between life threats to reporters in conflict areas and their ability of objective reporting

	N	Md	SD	1	2
1. Life Threats	100	2	1.238		
2. Objective Reporting	100	4	1.106	-.076	

P= .227

The relationship between life threat to reporters in conflict areas and their ability of objective reporting is measured through Spearman rho correlation coefficient. The relationship is not significant ($r=-.076$, $N= 100$, $p=.227$).

Table 4.4.3. Relationship between access of reporters to conflict areas and their ability of objective reporting

	N	Md	SD	1	2
Access to Conflict area	100	2	.944	.	
Objective Reporting	100	4	1.106	.347	

$P= .000$,

The relationship between access of reporters to conflict area and their ability of objective reporting is measured through Spearman rho correlation coefficient. The relationship is statistically significant ($r=.347$, $N= 100$, $p=.000$). $r^2=.12$ indicate stronger positive relationship.

4.5 JOURNALIST’S PERCEPTION ABOUT THE FUTURE PROSPECTS OF PEACE IN PAKISTAN

the last objective of measuring journalists’ perceptions about future prospects of peace in Pakistan is achieved by using frequency distribution method to analyze responses to four statements: (1) US invasion of Afghanistan is a major cause of terrorism in Pakistan; (2) media capability in providing information about war zones in Pakistan; (3) political and military leadership of Pakistan are on the same page regarding war on terror; and (4) timing of Zarb-e-Azb operation in North Waziristan.

Table 4.5.1. Journalist’s perception about US invasion as a major cause of terrorism in Pakistan

	f	%t	Cf%
Strongly Disagree	3	2.0	2.0
Disagree	8	5.3	7.3
To some extent	12	8.0	15.3
Agree	54	36.0	51.3
Strongly Agree	73	48.7	100.0
Total	150	100.0	

Table 4.5.1. Indicates that out of the total tribal journalists who were part of the sample, 48.7% journalists strongly agree with the statement that US invasion in Afghanistan is a major cause of terrorism in Pakistan. 36% agree while 8% agree to some extent with the statement. Among the remaining 7.3%, 5.3% disagree while 2% strongly disagree with this statement.

Table 4.5.2. Media capability in providing information about war zones in Pakistan

	f	%	Cf%
Not Capable	12	8.0	8.0
Least Capable	14	9.3	17.3
Less Capable	32	21.3	38.7
Capable	75	50.0	88.7
Highly Capable	17	11.3	100.0
Total	150	100.0	

Table 4.5.2 shows that 50% of the respondents consider media capable and 11.3% consider media highly capable in providing information about war zones in Pakistan. The remaining 38.7% say that either media are less capable (21.3%), least capable (9.3%) or not capable (8.0%).

Table 4.5.3. Journalist's Perceptions about civil-military relationships

	F	%	Cf%
Strongly Disagree	15	10.0	10.0
Disagree	38	25.3	35.3
To some extent	35	23.3	58.7
Agree	46	30.7	89.3
Strongly Agree	16	10.7	100.0
Total	150	100.0	

Table 4.5.3 indicates journalists' perception about statement that civil and military leadership are on the same page regarding war on terror. 30.7% agree, 10.7% strongly agree while 23.3% agree to some extent with the statement. Among the remaining 35.3%, 25.3% disagree and 10% strongly disagree with the statement.

Table 4.5.4. Journalist's perceptions about timing of Zarb-e-Azb operation in North Waziristan Agency

	F	%	Cf%
Very Timely	22	14.7	14.7
Timely	57	38.0	52.7
Be Lately	71	47.3	100.0
Total	150	100.0	

Table 4.5.4 shows data about journalists' perception regarding the timing of Zarb-e-Azb operation in North Waziristan. 38% consider it timely and 14.7% very timely, While 47.3% considered this operation as late

Table 4.5.5 Journalist's perception about the outcomes of agreement between Government and TTP

Values	Responses	%	Cf%
No Outcomes	76	50.6	76
Usefulness of Agreement	7	4.6	83
Violation of Agreement	8	5.3	91
Other Factors	15	10	106
No Response	44	30	150
Total	150		

Data in table 4.5.5 shows the responses of the journalists and editors of different media organizations about the outcome of agreement between Government and TTP. The study reveals that more than 50% respondents say there is no outcome of the agreement. While 4.6% journalists of tribal areas say agreements are useless because these agreements are temporary. 5.3% respondents think that both parties i.e. the Government and TTP violated agreements. While 10% journalists of tribal area and editors of different media organizations think that other factors are involved to sabotage these agreements and 30% respondents didn't answer the question about peace agreement.

Table 4.5.6 Reporters and Editors Perception about agreement failure between the Government and TTP

Values	Responses	%	Cf%
Lack of Trust	66	44	66
Foreign Pressure	21	14	87
Violation by TTP	16	10.6	103
Govt. and other factors involved	8	5.3	111
No Response	39	26	150

Table 4.5.6 shows the responses of the journalists and editors about the reason of failure of agreement between the Government and TTP. 44% respondents is of the opinion that there is lack of trust between the two parties which caused failure of the agreement in tribal areas of Pakistan while the 14% journalists consider the cause of failure is due to foreign pressure. While more than 10% is of the opinion that TTP violated the agreements. 5.3% respondents are of the view that the Govt. and the foreign hands are involved in agreement failure and 26% respondents didn't give their input about the failure of the agreement between the Government and TTP.

Table 4.5.7 Reporters and editors perception about the impact of terrorism activities on economic and political condition of Pakistan

Values	Responses	%	Cf%
Badly Effected	103	68.6	103
Not Effected	2	1.3	105
Other Factors	7	4.6	112
No Response	38	25.3	150
Total	150		

Table 4.5.7 shows journalist's and editor's opinion about the terrorist activities and their impact on economic and political conditions of present day Pakistan. In this regard, 68.6% respondents say that due to terrorist activities, Pakistan economy is badly affected, particularly in form of foreign investment. Local industrialists are also shifting their business other countries because of the security issues. 1.3% respondents say that Pakistan's economy has not affected while 4.6% respondents think that foreign hands and anti-state actors are involved to destabilize Pakistan's economy and 25.3% journalists do not give their opinion on political and economic conditions of Pakistan visa-v terrorist activities.

V. DISCUSSION OF RESULTS & CONCLUSION

Literature relevant to war reporting and data of this research study reveal that war reporting in any parts of the world has always been a challenging and very difficult job for a working journalist. War front includes a number of problems for a news reporter starting from access to the life threat. War on terrorism is an insurgency where insurgents are usually unknown as enemy. Hit, run and hide strategy is the most important technique which the insurgents use during their activities. Thus for a regular army it becomes often difficult to chase and hit the target effectively and successfully. War against terrorism in the tribal areas of Pakistan is almost the same nature of conflict where regular security forces have been launching attacks on the insurgents. On the other hand, killing and sabotage in settled areas of Pakistan has been making more difficult to flush out the terrorists from the populated towns and cities. Such kind of war makes the public concern more curious about day to day happenings and destruction committed by different terrorists groups. Public at large intends to know the causes and motives behind these activities and actions taken by the security forces. National media have the responsibility to provide objective information in order to fulfill the public demand to know. While media men have to face tremendous challenges to collect objective information from the war front. In this regard, war against terrorism in the tribal areas of Pakistan and its extension to the urban localities makes the job more difficult for working journalists (reporters/editors) because; access to the war areas like tribal agencies of Pakistan which geographically very hard to travel; (b) parties involved themselves are usually become a threat to the news reporters; (c) news reporters mostly depend on the framed information provided either by the military sources or from the militant spokesperson; and (d) reporters in the line of their duty are not provided facilities by their respective organizations and also not compensated in case of physical loss.

Data relevant to the issue and subsequent analysis reveal that life threat to reporters working in different tribal areas is the most challenging factor that they have to face. Different statistical tests are used to measure the threat frequency both of the journalists working in the field and editors sitting into the organization office. In regard with the challenges to news reporter in war like situation, the problems of Pakistani journalists are not only the existing example of job contradiction between

military, militants and terrorists. Each one of them contradicts other in terms of information management.

Military, very often tries to restrict the information flow during conflicts for the sake of 'operational secrecy' while news reporters want together operational strategies and actions because they think that gathering objective information is their right and receiving information is the public 'right to know'. This struggle is not a new phenomenon but existed throughout the history and remained continue in every armed conflict of nay natures. Free flow of information during a war has always been subdued by the parties involved in conflict. Both try either restricting the free flow of information or the dissemination of only favorable information. This can also be seen in Crimea War (1854), American Civil War (1861-1865), World War 1st (1914-1918), World War 2nd (1939-1945), Vietnam War (1954-1975), Iraq War (1990-2003) and Afghanistan War (2001).

Interestingly, the data reveals that in tribal areas of Pakistan journalists with greater professional experience has more life threat as compare to less experienced or new comers in the field. It is also revealed that most media organizations do not provide financial support to their reporter in case of any physical or otherwise mishap.

In regard with life threat, it is interesting to fined very small number of reporters belonging to the areas as native residents have more life threat as compared to reporters reporting from distant areas depending on other sources of information. Understandably, the local news reporters are well known to the terrorists groups in the tribal areas and they can exert influence easily on the natives.

War against terrorism in the tribal areas of Pakistan is a unique case in terms of complexity and confusion created by the militants in the name of Islam. Their Islamic slogan created a soft corner within the segments of Pakistani society, particularly among some religious parties and individuals. It also makes a big challenge for the national media to disseminate information that carry national interest of peace and stability. Monopolization of news information misguided the public and becomes propaganda. History reveals that the Government and states used to suppress the public 'right to know', especially during the war time. Consequently, brave journalists receive dire consequences even in form of death, harassment, torcher and sometime they also get money and keep the objective information away from the public.

Data analysis reveals that reporter's access to the conflict area and quantum of conflict information have no significant relationship because reporters in most cases get information from other sources and disseminate to their respective media organizations. Regarding to the journalist's perception about terrorist in different tribal areas no significant difference is found. They believe that terrorism in the tribal areas is an organized activity undertaken by different groups of TTP. Interestingly, life threat is a major element in the reporting process from tribal areas. However, it was fond (see table 4.4.2) that reporters do their job and their ability of objective reporting is affected by threats to their life. However, on the other hand, access of the reporter to conflict areas has strong relationship (see table 4.4.3) with their objective reporting. It indicates clearly that when reporters do not have access to the conflict areas they have to depend on other sources of information which do not fulfill the need of objectivity. In regard to the journalist's perception about the cause of terrorism and future prospects of peace in Pakistan, they agree that US invasion of Afghanistan is the major cause of terrorism in Pakistan, 50% of the journalist (reporters/editors) consider that national media are highly capable of providing information about War-Zone provided access to the conflict areas. They also believe that the Civil Military policy on war against terrorism is congruent and both the authorities on the issue are on the same page. In case of Zarb-e-Azb, majority of the journalists believes that Zarb-e-Azb operation in North Waziristan is not timely and started very late.

On the issue of agreement between Pakistan Government and TTP, majority of the reporters and editors view the agreement an unsuccessful effort and 50% see the agreement negative. They consider that the agreements were not only temporary but also violated by the parties involved. In this regard 10% journalists are of the opinion that the agreements undertaken were sabotaged from outside sources.

What were the reasons of failure of the agreements between The Government and TTP? Answering this question, 44% respondents opined that lack of trust between the two parties caused failure of agreements in tribal areas while 14% consider the foreign pressure as a major cause and about 10% respondents blamed TTP violation of agreements. Only 5.3% respondents are of the view that both the Pakistan Government and foreign hands are responsible for failure of agreements and 26% of the respondents did not give any response, (see table 4.5.6).

In regard with terrorism in Pakistan and its impact on economic and political conditions of the country, over whelming majority, i.e. more than 68% respondents strongly believe that terrorist activities have very strong negative impact on Pakistan economy, particularly, in form of foreign investment, local

capital and flow of business out of the country, (see table 4.5.7)

Precisely, data relevant to the issue and its analysis reveal that journalists working in different tribal areas of Pakistan face near the same life threat in all seven tribal agencies. It means that the first hypothesis of the study, i.e., journalists working in different tribal areas are prone to different levels of threats' has not been supported. Similarly, no difference was found in life threats index to reporters and editors. Both categories of journalists, whether working in offices or in the field face nearly similar life threats. But when differences to life threats were measured on the basis of experience of journalists, results reveal that the journalists with more experience face higher life threats. One possible explanation for this difference may be that experienced journalists have spent more time in tribal areas during which they may have received more life threats. The financial support available to journalists in case of any mishap cannot be termed satisfactory, organizational incentives given to the reporters are discouraging, particularly for the reporters working in the War-Zone.

Review of literature, data collection, data analysis and personal interaction with news reporters covering war-zone clearly indicated that life threat to reporters as well as access to the war-zone areas have no direct relationship with their ability of on-spot reporting. The results of investigation did not support the second and third hypotheses of the study, which respectively stated that, "Life threats faced by journalists is negatively related with on-spot reporting" and "Access to conflict areas in tribal agencies is positively related with on-spot reporting". Reporters may have different sources for gathering news from these areas, as well as they can also use official security help for reaching the warring areas.

Majority of journalists consider Pakistani media capable of providing reliable information about war zones in Pakistan, and even life threats cannot bar journalists from the pursuit of objectivity in reporting. The results suggests that life threat to reporters have no relationship with ability of reporters to report objectively from the war-zones, which did not supports the fourth hypothesis of this study, i.e. "Life threats faced by journalists is negatively related with objective reporting". This pursuit of objectivity could be one of the reasons for killings of journalists in tribal areas of Pakistan. On the other hand, the stronger positive relationship between access of reporters to conflict areas and their ability to report objectively indicate that with no access to these areas, fact gathering can be hampered and journalists have to rely on secondary sources of news rather than getting firsthand account from the spot, which could affect their ability of objective reporting. These findings supported the fifth hypothesis of study, i.e. "Access to conflict areas in tribal agencies is positively related with objective reporting".

Majority of the journalists considered the US invasion as major cause of terrorism in Pakistan. It seems in line with the historical evidence that the current spate of violence in tribal areas of Pakistan was started when the US forces pushed Taliban and their supporters from Afghanistan towards the border region of Pakistan in 2001. Though majority of the journalists were of the view that government and military in Pakistan are on the same page in war against terrorism, but disagreement can be observed among the perceptions of journalists in regard to the timing of very crucial military operation against militants in North Waziristan; operation Zarb-e-Azb. This indicates that they are not much sure about the results of this operation. These findings lend some support to the sixth and last hypothesis of the study, i.e. "Journalists are not much hopeful about future prospects of peace in tribal areas due to ineffective initiative by the government".

Review of literature, data relevant to the issue and data analysis also opens some important areas for future investigation. War reporting and information carry special interest not only for general public but also taken very important for the warring parties. War against terrorism, according to the study, has been a unique experience for the reporters to cover. Reporters with no facilities on the one and constraints in various form from the warring parties on the other made it further difficult rather challenging for the journalists and reporters. News reporters were never allowed to go into the conflict areas on different pretexts. While information and news consumers all the time kept consciously interested to get as much information as possible. The study also reveals that the warring parties are always intended and interested in news information that serve their purpose. To warring parties, news media are to be used as propaganda tools to achieve their desired goals.

Literature review and data relevant to the issue further reveals that nature and methods of war on both sides in the tribal belt compelled the news reporters to depend on 'framed information' provided by the Pakistan military officials and the spokesperson of different terrorist groups. In the settled areas of Pakistan media performance meet the need of objective reporting, especially the news about terrorist acts and their results in form of loss of lives and properties.

In the process of data collection, facts are found revealing and worth- noting. For example, reporters deputed to report events from the war-zone have never been provided proper help and assistance on

the part of their respective media organizations. Most of the reporters working are not even paid or regular employee of the organization they work. The study also indicates that no Pakistani media organization have 'war-reporting training' for the journalists. Resultantly, journalists within and from outside the tribal areas got killed, in most cases by unknown hands. Reporting from the war- zone made objective reporting very questionable. Despite challenges and hardships in doing the duties, journalists in Pakistan have given heroic sacrifices in covering the war events from the conflict areas and kept the public abreast about the most complex war in the tribal areas of Pakistan.

Terrorist attacks on Karachi International Airport and killing of innocent school children in Army Public School (APS) at Peshawar brought all political forces on the same page. In regard to operation Zarb-e-Azb, the government of Pakistan, had finally changed the policy of negotiations with any group of TTP. To this end, national media have also been playing effective role in making the policy a success. Terrorism in any forms and manifestations is a great curse for any society and the national media in such a complex war have to play this role with conformity and commitment in order to keep national integrity and coherence intact. While it also depends on the system in which existing news media have to work.

Keeping this work in mind, the researcher feels it imperative to record some suggestions which hopefully would help future researchers and investigators of such issues on national as well as international importance.

VI. SUGGESTIONS & FURTHER AREAS OF RESEARCH

Primary focus of this research work is to see and study the challenges that news reporters have been facing in the tribal area of Pakistan since 2001. Some of the difficulties are directly related to the system that exists in Pakistan and translate media state relationship normatively.

However, during the given research work, it was found that national media organizations have to change their policies about professional and personal well-being of the working journalists/reporters.

Unlike the media-rich and developed countries, media in Pakistan do not have training and education facilities for their employees (reporters), especially for those who have to cover war-like situation. Without proper training and required facilities, it becomes very hard for reporter to gather and to disseminate information to his/her respective organization.

This is also important to suggest that existing media organizations are required to modify and to bring change in service condition of the news reporters. Unlike the past, media organizations in Pakistan are economically more affluent and strong in business. While media employees, especially the field reporters are not well-paid and in most cases do not provide job security.

Reporters working in war-like conditions are required not only war-reporting techniques but also need extra care and support by their respective organizations.

In regard to the relationship between media houses and other state institutions the researcher found it important to propose that attitude change on both sides is necessary to decrease gate-keeping role kept using by different authorities within and outside the media houses. Unnecessary gate-keeping by the state institutions resulted in flow of rumors rather than news which leads the information consumers towards chaos, distrust and incredibility. Historically, external pressures and constraints in any form have always been proven counterproductive. Truth in its nature is the most decisive power of positive relationship necessary to exist and maintain among institutions and the segments of a human society.

War against terrorism is a new experience not only for the Armed Forces of Pakistan but also a new history for the media reporters. Many areas of this new insurgency in the tribal areas of Pakistan raises the question of why the brave people of tribal areas of Pakistan became terrorists and started undertaking brutal acts against their own people.

Making a base, future researchers can explore the basic ingredients of terrorism rooted in the tribal belt of Pakistan. The present research work opens venue to find out the causes of terrorism and the mindset that misguided the people of a unique cultural values and traditions.

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