

Effect of Farmers' Educational Level on Adaptation to War on Terror and Livelihoods in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan

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Abstract

This study was conducted to examine the effect of education on farmers' adaptation to war on terror and livelihood sustainability in the agriculture and tourism dependent districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. Using multistage random sampling technique data were collected from 370 respondents. The study uses the χ^2 test for seeing associations and Kruskal–Wallis H test for checking differences among farmers adaptation to war on terror and livelihood with differences in their educational level. The results showed significant association between farmers' educational level and their adaptation to war on terror and livelihood. Results further revealed significant differences in farmers' adaptation to war on terror and livelihoods with differences in their educational level. The study recommends that the farmers need reasonable educational services for increasing adaptation to war on terror and livelihood. Therefore, for providing effective services, education may be increase in the study area and efforts may be made to provide non-formaleducation to farming community.

Key words; terror, livelihood, war, farmer adaptation, and education

Introduction

Studies across the globe have proven that education has strong linkages with conflicts and security challenges. Lack of education brings wars, poverty, underdevelopment, migration and human rights abuses (Delgado, 2019). Post education or education in between wars brings civic awareness including racial or ethnic tolerance and is a contributing factor in helping rural communities to better response to wars and poverty crises through maintaining livelihood (Nelles, 2005; Pacheco, 2013). During wars, non-formal education has developed to meet the needs of large-scale state farms which can led to changes in production and an increase in the number of people employed in agriculture by diversifying tourism and environmental management (Slavik, 2004; Ullah et al., 2019). Education developed specialized areas such as tourism, farm business management and economics. Sustainable economic activity comes from alternative uses of farm buildings, market niche crops and livestock products, and attraction enterprises for people in urban areas through tourism (Slavik, 2004).

The global 'War on Terror' started with the bombing of Taliban strategic positions in Afghanistan on 7 October 2001 under Operation Enduring Freedom and then reached many countries especially Africa and Asia including Pakistan. On Pakistani side more than 70 000 Pakistani troops fought war on terror against Taliban militants and used 'surgical strikes' by air and search-and-destroy operations. The war started in Afghanistan spread to FATA and then to the settled areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). The War on Terror has had an impact on the economy,

society, politics, livelihood and ideology of the people especially the farming communities in rural areas and human rights violations increased. When the insurgency took root in the Northern areas especially district Swat, the Pakistani Army undertook military action there too, which badly affected livelihood of rural communities which were greatly dependent on farming and tourist industry (Nazir, 2010).

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including district Swat is an agricultural dependent province of Pakistan which is mainly composed of crops and livestock sector, however a large proportion of farming community is vulnerable to many types of risks including war on terror and low literacy rate among population (Ullah & et al, 2019). Moreover, it is gifted with surreal scenic and natural beauty that thousands of domestic as well as the foreigner tourists come to enjoy it (Aftab, 2008). Existing studies show that tourism and rural development commonly represent peasant or farming community as socially cohesive but economically unsophisticated, implying that they require outside assistance to engage with tourism and agricultural livelihood since, there is an increasing relationship among tourism, agricultural livelihood and rural development (Bidwell et al., 2019). However, terrorism affects the livelihood by increasing insecurity which turns agricultural and tourism economy or livelihood into political economy of terrorism (Feyyaz, 2017).

Thus above literature shows tourism and agriculture as very important to generate revenue and provide employment opportunities to the rural people. Due to provision of employment and marketing at local level, it can help to reduce rampant poverty in KP and in district Swat particularly. In the history of Swat valley, the last decade was very crucial. Swat was badly affected by the current Talibanization and military operation such as *Zarb-e-Azb*. A powerful militant religious group overcame the valley over a night and imposed 'Islamic' laws which banned different social activities like television (TV), internet services, all activities regarding education and tourist's tourism activities were fully banned in the Swat Valley. This study therefore, is conducted to know the possible role of education in farmers' adaptation to war on terror and its association with livelihood. Therefore the objectives of this study include

- To see the associations among farmers educational level and their adaptation to war on terror
- To identify the association among farmers educational level and war on terror effect on their livelihood
- And finally to know the differences among community members adaptation to war on terror and livelihood based on their educational level

Materials and method

This study is confined to the popular tourism places of Swat. According to Tourism Corporation Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the popular tourism places included Saidu Sharif, Murghuzar, Miaadam, Malamjaba, Madayan, Beharain, Kalam and Moudand. These places were taken due to two reasons i.e. fame for tourism, and terrorist's attacks on these places. To collect data for this study, a list of the farmers were obtained from the department of agricultural extension. To ensure which farmers had income from the tourism industry, a list of current tourism industry of district Swat was obtained from the Tourism Corporation of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (TCKP). To address the research objectives, data was collected from the rural community using following formula,

$$\text{i.e. } n_1 = N_1/N_i * n_i$$

Where: n_1 = Sample Size of the 1st strata

N_1 = Total Population of the 1st strata

n_i = Total Sample size

N_i = Total Population

According to above formula, an estimated sample size of 370 was selected from district Swat. The collected data were analysed using statistical package for social sciences (SPSS). The hypotheses were tested through χ^2 (Chi-Square) test and the Kruskal-Wallis H test. However, where sample size were small Fisher's exact tests were used to examine associations (Holmes *et al.*, 2018). The empirical results of the study are also linked with literature review.

Results and Discussions

For effective poverty alleviation, farmers need to be provided with education, and may be improved their awareness, so that they can effectively run their farm and tourism related business during and after 'war on terror' crises. Statistical analysis from the survey is provided in Table 1 to show farmers educational level in association to farmers' adaptation to war on terror in the districts Swat of KP province.

Table 1. Educational level of the respondents and adaptation to war on terror

Education Level	Adaptation to war on terror				Total
	Migrated	Change Profession	Wait to become normal situation	Any Other	
Illiterate	29 (7.8)	8 (2.2)	10 (2.7)	0 (0.0)	47 (12.7)
Primary	35 (9.5)	3 (0.8)	25 (6.8)	0 (0.0)	63 (17.0)
Middle	47 (12.7)	8 (2.2)	43 (11.6)	3 (0.8)	101 (27.3)
Matric	25 (6.8)	3 (0.8)	12 (3.2)	4 (1.1)	44 (11.9)
Inter	22 (5.9)	8 (2.2)	19 (5.1)	0 (0.0)	49 (13.2)
Graduate	17 (4.6)	0 (0.0)	13 (3.5)	1 (0.3)	31 (8.4)
Master	4 (1.1)	4 (1.1)	11 (3.0)	4 (1.1)	23 (6.2)
Any Other	5 (1.4)	7 (1.9)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	12 (3.2)
Total	184 (49.7)	41 (11.1)	133 (35.9)	12 (3.2)	370

Source, Field survey, 2018

χ^2 Value = 78.132, P Value = 0.00

Values in parenthesis are percentages

Table 1 shows results on farmers’ educational level in relations to farmers’ adaptation to war on terror. It can be seen in the table that most of the respondents are either illiterate or have education up to matric and as the educational level has increased to master level the number of farmers has decreased. The results shows very high migration of respondents to other nearby area however, most of the respondents (11 farmers) at master level has survived with in community. At low level of education (primary and middle) most of the respondents have migrated to nearby area leaving behind their farms and tourism related business. All respondents reported no non-formal education throughout the crises as they stated that soon after reaching of terrorist into the district, all service providers (government and non-government) including the non-formal educational providers left the area. Results showed significant association between farmers educational level and their adaptation to war on terror. Similar results were found by Bile and Hafeez (2019) and Khan et al, (2017). It is highly likely that migration from rural areas with total dependence on agriculture and tourism industry will effect livelihood of rural poors. Education can also contribute to sustaining livelihood therefore, non-formal education or post crises education may contribute to livelihood of the rural farmers. Table 2 shows results on farmers’ educational level in relations to livelihood of farming communities.

Table 2 Farmers’ educational level and farmers’ livelihood

Education Level	Farmers perceptions of war on terror complete effect on livelihood			Total
	Agree	Don’t know	Disagree	
Illiterate	47 (12.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	47 (12.7)
Primary	51 (13.8)	12 (3.2)	0 (0.0)	63 (17.0)
Middle	83 (22.4)	12 (3.2)	6 (1.6)	101 (27.3)
Matric	29 (7.8)	12 (3.2)	3 (0.8)	44 (11.9)
Inter	39 (10.5)	0 (0.0)	10 (2.7)	49 (13.2)
Graduate	26 (7.0)	2 (0.5)	3 (0.8)	31 (8.4)
Master	20 (5.4)	3 (0.8)	0 (0.0)	23 (6.2)
Any Other	12 (3.2)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	12 (3.2)
Total	307 (83.0)	41 (11.1)	22 (5.9)	370

Source, Field survey, 2018

χ^2 value = 57.123, P Value = 0.00

Values in parenthesis are percentages

Results in Table 2 shows that all illiterate farmers agreed that war on terror completely effected their farming and tourism related livelihood however, there was a mixed response of farmers with education even some educated farmers disagreed that war on terror completely effected their livelihood. Results showed strong association among farmers’ educational level and their perceptions of war on terror complete effect on livelihood (See table 2). These results are in agreement with the findings of the Ayatullah et al. (2015); Velepini and Martin (2019).

The Kruskal–Wallis H test showed that there was a statistically significant difference in farmers’ level of education scores between the differences in farmers’ adaptation to war on terror and livelihoods adjustment. This is because P values for both variables are $P = .000$ with the different mean ranks for each variable This indicates the importance

of education in providing farmers with new insights and information on innovations and better adaptation to war on terror and livelihood adjustment.

Table 3. Results of Kruskal–Wallis H test

Variables	Educational level	N	Mean Rank	χ^2 value	Sig.
How people tackle the situation during war on terror?	Illiterate	47	154.10	19.017	0.00
	Primary	63	177.02		
	Middle	101	194.43		
	Matric	44	179.31		
	Inter	49	188.22		
	Graduate	31	184.94		
	Master	23	254.78		
	Any Other	12	158.13		
Livelihood affected	Illiterate	47	154.00	21.597	0.00
	Primary	63	187.14		
	Middle	101	186.88		
	Matric	44	215.47		
	Inter	49	195.94		
	Graduate	31	185.11		
	Master	23	176.70		
	Any Other	12	154.00		

Source, Field survey (2018)

Conclusions and Recommendations

Based on the results, it is concluded that though low educational level and illiteracy is high in the study area, however, it is very important for developing knowledge among farmers on adaptation to war on terror and livelihood sustainability during crises situations. The study found significant differences in farmers’ adaptation to war on terror and livelihood sustainability based on differences in the level of their education. The descriptive statistics suggest that with increase in educational level, the farmers’ level of knowledge on adaptation to war on terror and livelihood increases and vice versa. It was recommended that the increasing literacy level in the study area may help youths of the local community to better cope with the avers situations of wars and livelihoods under crises situations. Besides, rural communities in the study area need reasonable non-formal educational services for increasing knowledge level, therefore; strong emphasis may be given to establishing an effective frequent contact between farmers and extension or adult education service providers so as to equip communities with the necessary information they need for maintaining livelihood in deteriorating situations to agriculture and tourism sector. For providing effective services, adult literacy providers or extension agents may increase their visits to the farming community and may reach maximum rural people and encourage them to visit the educational service providers for seeking information.

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