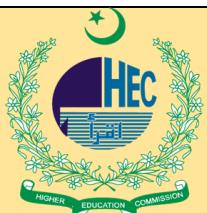




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Print ISSN: [3006-2497](#) Online ISSN: [3006-2500](#)Platform & Workflow by: [Open Journal Systems](#)**Adopting Human Security Paradigm: A Strategic Framework for Pakistan's Security Concerns****Qaisar Sharif**

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ORCID: <https://orcid.org/my-orcid?orcid=0000-0001-9968-9079>**ABSTRACT**

This study aims to analyze how human-centered security paradigm can be adopted and translated to address existing security concerns of Pakistan in the face of widespread external and internal security threats. Using qualitative method with an exploratory and descriptive approach, the study conducted semi-structured in-depth interview of eight experts or academics in security studies to explore various ways the country can adopt to address and reduce its large number of insecurities. The study analyzed the data through thematic analysis within the theoretical framework of securitization theory. The study found that a more inclusive and holistic security framework is needed to address widespread security challenges the country faces while placing the human well-being at the center of security policy. While providing a comprehensive understanding of the security environment of Pakistan, the study argues that for a more stable, peaceful, secure and prosperous Pakistan, a human-centric security approach can be a suitable security framework. Citing roots of security challenges of Pakistan its socio-political, economic and environmental spectrum and governance structure, the study highlights the need to adopt a broader security model which presents a critical opportunity to address multi-faceted concerns of the country.

Keywords: Human Security Paradigm, Traditional Security Paradigm, Pakistan, Securitization, De-Securitization

Introduction

Since the independence in 1947, Pakistan's security policy has emphasized on securing its territorial integrity and expanding its military strength against external and internal threats. For the state-centric traditional security paradigm, enormous resources have been dedicated from public exchequer (Rahman, Ishaque & Sayed, 2025). While the traditional security paradigm has been vital for Pakistan to secure its borders and territorial integrity against external and internal threats, the paradigm has led to neglect of other areas such as human development, health, education and social welfare which play a vital role in maintaining stability and a secure environment internally. The significant risks posed to individuals and community within the country by widespread poverty, social and economic inequality, lack of access to basic amenities, political instability and widespread impacts of climate change are a major cause of vulnerable security environment in the country. Without addressing the underlying causes of

internal insecurity, the efforts made by policy makers to achieve long-term stability and peace many remain fruitless (Gasura, Abbas & Chaichi, 2023). Besides this, European and other developed nations have recognized the importance of human security for a country's stability therefore their main focus has been on non-traditional security paradigm. However, Pakistan has yet to recognize and adopt the non-traditional security approach (Akber, 2023).

The central problem this study analyzes is how the Human Security paradigm can be adapted to address the specific security concerns of Pakistan and what modifications or considerations might be necessary to align Human Security principles with Pakistan's unique geopolitical and socio-economic context. Since the national security policies of Pakistan are of both intense scrutiny and debate within country and international forum because the country has been facing serious security challenges that require effective policies and strategies to safeguard its interest, ensure stability and sustainability therefore, this research study aims to examine whether implementing a human security paradigm could effectively and efficiently address the security concerns of Pakistan by giving priority and attention to the protection and wellbeing of individuals and communities. The study aims to explore ways a human security approach can address Pakistan's existing security challenges prioritizing empowerment and protection of individuals and communities. The study aims to find the gaps and loopholes in the existing security framework of Pakistan and propose an alternative security approach which can align with the country's contemporary security needs.

Background and Review

Academics (Chauhdry, 2014; Khattak, Habib, & Khan, 2008; Shah, 2021; Chattopadhyay, 2024) have argued that in the face wide-spectrum threats to internal security of Pakistan in shape of financial mess, regular floods, natural disasters, energy crisis, political instability and social and cultural backwardness, the country needs to think over adopting alternative measures to ensure security to its citizens. Citing loopholes in the current traditional security model of the country, scholars (Babar & Malik, 2022; Yaseen, Samsi & Yeo, 2022; Mukhtar, Ishaque & Malik, 2019; Abbas & Cheema, 2022; Shah & Mehmood, 2023) believe that Pakistan cannot depend on one-dimensional security model because the model lacks robust and effective roadmap towards dealing with above mentioned threats. The current security model has limited investments in other significant fields such as education, health and infrastructure.

Mukhtar, Ishaque & Malik (2019) argue that Pakistan, since its inception, has been facing multidimensional security threats, such as terrorism, sectarian violence, poverty, health diseases and other natural and man-made disasters. They argue that there is growing need of shifting from traditional security approaches toward a human security paradigm. Believing that Pakistan's security threats and needs are not limited only to traditional military, geopolitical and geostrategic concerns, they argue that Pakistan needs to implement a broader security approach that would not prioritize the safety of citizens but also the wellbeing of individuals and communities.

Malik (2019) argues that all those vulnerabilities that affect communities and individuals are being addressed within human security paradigm. Extending his argument, he adds that vulnerabilities within Pakistan both internal and external vary ranging from economic disparities, health diseases, food insecurities to community and political instabilities including gender-based violence and environmental threats. In order to addresses these challenges, he laments that Pakistan lacks proper mechanism and policy to adopt human security as a new paradigm which would assist the state's policies and interventions to handles all these vulnerabilities more comprehensively and increases the resilience among the citizens and state responsible institutions.

Aziz (2020) argues that the concept of human security and its significance in addressing all non-traditional threats has been gaining the traction within Pakistan. He adds that the implementation of human security paradigm faces several obstacles. While exploring what stops the adoption of human security as an alternative security paradigm in Pakistan, he mentions that the political instability, corruption, lack of trust among the citizens and state organs and lack of institutional capabilities hinder the state ability in implementing this new paradigm successfully.

Exploring significance of human security as a security model, Gleditsch & Hoelscher (2017) argue that adopting human security as a new paradigm will pave the way towards addressing the security-related issues in Pakistan which are multi-faceted in nature while conditioned with effectively implementation of the related policies by the state. Therefore, they argue that the stakeholder and policy makers who are directly or indirectly involved in the policy making process of Pakistan's national security policy need to keep a balance between national security threats and concerns with the wellbeing and protection of both individuals and communities. In order to address military threats and socioeconomic disparities and other threats both traditional and non-traditional and issues related to human rights; they believe the country needs very comprehensive and effective strategies and policy frameworks. In order to do this, they suggest that Pakistan could engage the stakeholders and state policy making organs with international organization, financial assisting agencies and donors to gain support in translating Pakistan's traditional security toward human security by getting assistance and expertise.

The concept of human security has gained wide significance in academia exploring its benefits, significance and implementation as an alternative security model. While globally, the human security as a model has been widely studied and explored, in Pakistan the human security as an alternative model remains unexplored. Existing literature on adoption of human security in Pakistan reviewed in this study primarily focus on specific security issues such as terrorism, gender-gap, economic crunch and political instability as insecurities failing to provide a comprehensive examination and analysis regarding implementation of human security paradigm as a complete and system security paradigm in Pakistan covering all major insecurities the country faces. Thus, this research aims to fill the above-mentioned gap by studying and analyzing the ways Pakistan can use to transition from state-centric approach to a more inclusive approach such as human security approach. Thus, the study contributes to academic discourse and practical policy making in the area of security studies.

Theoretical Framework

Since the securitization theory acknowledges both internal and external sources of threat alike, the theory arguably suits to examine non-traditional security dynamics in Pakistan. The proponents of securitization theory, mainly Barry Buzan, Ole Weaver and Jaap de Wilde (1998) from Copenhagen School of Security Studies, argue that socio-political unrest can be dealt with traditional and non-traditional means; however, if unrest as a security matter is dealt within the normal political process, it would be better. The theory implies three main features of security such as notion of threat, the concept of security and nature of security. According to the theory, the concept of security is potentially associated with the notion of threat, posing a degree of challenge to ideology, identity, integrity and dignity of either a state, society government (Kurniawan, 2017). Secondly, the concept of security is subjective with no universally accepted definition or clarification of what security is therefore depending on any organized body to decide its concept (William, 2012). Thirdly, the nature of security is political therefore a state with its coercive and non-coercive institutions decides to mitigate any threat or vulnerability (Kurniawan, 2017). Buzan et al. (1998) argue that any whether military,

political, economic, environmental or societal is a public issue on the condition that it is dealt by a state. In this way, all issues regarded as human security by UN's 1994 Human Development Report are dealt under securitization theory.

Securitization theory allows to demonstrate how Pakistan's security policy has been dominated by the referent object of the state rather than the individual citizen, highlighting an urgent shift toward human security through de-securitization of certain issues and refocusing on human welfare. Furthermore, security theory aligns with this study's aim of integrating human security concerns into national policy, reducing reliance on coercive and militarized responses to public issues.

Drawing on securitization theory, thus the study argues that Pakistan by adopting human security paradigm can de-securitize public issues, re-conceptualizing security around human welfare through development of a more sustainable and inclusive strategic framework.

Method

The research study uses qualitative method with an exploratory and descriptive approach. Using thematic analysis as analytical tool, the responses of the participants are analyzed. The number of participants selected for the study are 8 which depended on data saturation or saturation point and size of sample suggested by Braun & Clarke (2013). Before conducting interview, I carried out exhaustive research on biographies of various possible interviewees to see and examine if their expertise falls within the area of the current research. The interviewees selected for the study are security experts, academics and individuals who hold sufficient knowledge and understanding about the security situation and needs of Pakistan. Through snowball sampling technique, I found relevant participants with target characteristics. Through semi-structured in-depth interview, data was collected from experts of security studies to explore their viewpoints on human security and its application to Pakistan security needs. In order to carry out the analysis, Braun and Clarke's (2006) model of thematic analysis has been used as an analytical technique of the transcribed and written interviews. Using inductive thematic analysis, the data itself determined the themes. Using this analytical technique, data was examined to identify various themes. Using six-step thematic analysis, I familiarized myself with the collected data in the form of interviews through diving into the contents and reading all the data closely and repeatedly, identifying initial codes and patterns. The second step involved further examination of the familiarized data by identifying patterns and designating them as keywords. These keywords helped in identifying further major themes from the data. In the third step, words and keywords were coded as codes on the basis of their message, significance and idea. The keywords helped further converting the raw data into manageable units. The fourth step involved organizing the codes and keywords into meaningful groups or themes as per the objectives of the research. These themes were identified embodying patterned meanings which linked the research questions with the data. The fifth step involved conceptualization of themes through interpretation defining the concepts which emerged out of the data. Through conceptualization, the relationship of the themes with the research was explained. The sixth and final step involved interpretation of the data as guided by the thematic analysis model. The final stage aimed to answer the questions raised in the research while analyzing how the study contributes to the existent knowledge by encapsulating all the findings and insights.

Analysis and Discussion

Experts outline some major specific security concerns of Pakistan such as socio-economic challenges, political instability, poor healthcare, terrorism, environmental degradation, food insecurity, educational crisis and poverty which have a direct impact on the well-being of

citizens. While suggesting how Pakistan can adopt human security model to address its specific security challenges, experts view that its policy makers need to focus on improving economy, better healthcare, environmental protection, political stability, investment in human development, heavy investment in education, morphing from security state to welfare state and introduction of policies to enhance social cohesion.

Shifting from Traditional to Non-Traditional Security Approach

The experts put emphasis on introduction of an alternative security framework which shifts its focus from state-centric security to people-oriented approach. One of the most prominent and important steps, experts agree, would be a complete shift from traditional security approach to non-traditional security approach by Pakistan's policy and decision-makers. Arguing that the nature of security landscape around the world has evolved from traditional to non-traditional security approach, experts state that in Pakistan's context, the existing traditional security paradigm is insufficient to address a load of challenges ranging from economic instability to environmental degradation, social inequalities and political instability therefore human security approach which includes comprehensive strategies for all domains can be categorized a better option for Pakistan. As a result, experts recommend that the policy and decision-makers of the country need to agree that non-traditional security approach is not only a necessity but will be a significant step towards addressing the root causes of Pakistan's many enduring challenges. Experts argue that though Pakistan's historical conflicts with India and recent developments in Afghanistan justifies the country's adoption of traditional security approach which focuses on military strength and territorial integrity; however, there are non-military challenges as well which can threaten the existence and survival of the country in the long-term. Therefore, experts highly relate human security paradigm to Pakistan's existing security landscape while recommending that the policy makers need to agree on shifting country's approach from traditional to non-traditional security paradigm.

Focus on Economic Stability

In the view grave economic stagnation, experts agree the country needs to focus on economic stability because a country's economy is its base and backbone. Experts agree on the fact that economic insecurity and instability fuel other insecurities and challenges such as social unrest, organized crime to earn money out of unemployment, political unrest, migration or loss of capital in shape brain drain of educated youth and skilled workers and widespread poverty which will be a further burden on a country's economy. Due to economic instability, experts point out rise in terrorism as lack of opportunities for the youth is easily exploited by militant groups to recruit them. They argue that economically marginalized regions are vulnerable to terrorism. Besides this, they argue that economic instability leads people to protest and call strikes thus contribution to political unrest and undermining the credibility of government in providing facilities to its citizens. Realizing the grave impacts of economic crisis, they point out that lack of employment and business opportunities result in organized crime as people without jobs and opportunities resort to illegal means to earn a living. Reminding of what economic instability leads to, experts argue that lack of proper means to earn money forces educated youth and skilled workers to leave the country thus leaving loss of human capital and cream of the society. In the face of worrying impacts of economic crisis, experts emphasize on urgent focus on economic stability through various reforms such as introducing structural reforms by expanding tax base and making public sector organizations profitable, modernizing agricultural and industrial sector, sharing the benefits of economic growth equitably among all, investing in human capital through vocational training and teaching them skills, managing the rising debt levels, controlling rising inflation, emphasizing on export-driven growth to help grow

local production and encouraging investment by bringing political stability and betterment of law and order.

This analysis finds resonance in existing literature (Zaman, 2023; George, 2023) which note that Pakistan is undergoing a grave economic crisis which is exacerbated by low growth, rising debt levels, lack of job opportunities, lack of investment, trade deficit and absence of permanent or long-term economic policies by the state,

Protection of Environment

Since human security paradigm frames environmental protection one of its key components to make earth livable for living habitants, experts see the adoption of human security paradigm highly relevant in the context of Pakistan in addressing one of its major concerns. In the face of vulnerabilities to climate change such as rising temperature, erratic rainfall and increased frequency of natural disaster, experts recommend that Pakistan needs to prepare for disasters through early warning systems and climate-resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable energy through transitioning from fossil fuel to renewable energy and green technology, managing water security through efficient conservation and usage of water, conservation of biodiversity and arable land through combating deforestation and stopping massive housing schemes on arable lands, combating massive urbanization, controlling air quality through reducing and regulating emissions from industries and vehicles, managing waste through recycling and better waste collection system, integrating environmental protection into national security and economic policies and promoting public awareness through introduction of environmental education in educational institutes.

Previous studies (Chien et al., 2021; Yousaf et al., 2022) also agree that degradation of environment presents a grave challenge to human life and their activities. They note that in the face of extreme weather, rising temperatures, increasing air pollution and changing weather patterns causing both droughts and storms, human survival and existence is in grave danger causing enormous setbacks to human health and living standards, underscoring the need for special attention to issue of climate change which can exacerbate in coming years.

Focusing on Political Stability

Experts view that presence of political instability has deeply disturbed the political and economic process of Pakistan while citing importance of political stability that a stable political environment is a guarantee to addressing broader security and political challenges thus making and impacting well-being of its citizens. Experts agree that one of the main focus of human security paradigm is political stability for its significance and capacity in addressing Pakistan's major issues in the realm of politics and security. While recommending how Pakistan can bring political instability while adopting human security principles, experts argue that democratic institutions such as parliament should be strengthened through promotion of transparent and accountable governance and reformed electoral process, rule of law should be ensured, national unity and social cohesion should be fostered through political management of ethnic and other political issues, all regions should be equally developed to remove disparities which cause instabilities, genuine political representation should be encouraged while empowering marginalized voices, civil-military relations should be balanced through strengthening civilian institutions and conflict resolution mechanisms should be introduced to resolve conflicts particularly in Balochistan. They emphasize on the given proposals to ease down political instability which would prove to be roadmap towards political stability in the country in the long-term.

This analysis is corroborated by a corpus of prior scholarship (Imran, Murtiza & Akbar, 2023; Baklouti & Boujelbene, 2020) which, discussing the importance of political stability for a

country, argue that for the unity of society and government's legitimacy, politics has to remain stable. Referring to political stability, they explain it as united society, thriving economy, a legitimate government and rule of law. They argue that for nation's building and progress, political stability is an essential component. A stable and mature government can handle challenges in the nation's best interests. Further studies (Ahmadani & Noonari, 2020; Rahid & Rahid, 2024; Hussain & Zaman, 2024) while explaining the damages inflicted by political instability, argue that it has badly damaged Pakistan's economy, political institutions, rule of law, democratization process, public trust in government and public institutions and foreign policy and investment.

Introducing Better Healthcare and Education

Experts agree that education and health are vital domains for the country in its quest for development and long-term stability in the society. They argue that by prioritizing education and health sectors, not only Pakistan can provide its citizens access to basic amenities of life but also can enhance their quality of life and build a resilient, healthy and tolerant society. Experts agree that improving healthcare and education sectors is essential for Pakistan's long-term stability. Therefore, the country should expand access to quality healthcare and education and strengthen infrastructure in health and education sectors. Experts agree that introducing better facilities in education and health sector through human security framework, Pakistan can address various underlying issues though empowering its citizens by making them healthy and educated.

The aforementioned perspectives are consistent with and reinforced by existing scholarship (Kousar et al., 2023; Hashami, 2020) which note that a country's health system is measured through health indicators and presently, Pakistan's health indicators perform the worst in the world showing the state of health in the country. They note that there are only two countries in the world which haven't succeeded in combating polio virus yet; one is Afghanistan and the other is Pakistan while the virus continues to cripple the children in these countries. Mirza (2021) note that lack of primary healthcare (PHC) centers in the country is one the main concerns which lead to health crisis in the country. Sain (2023) argues that alike health crisis, Pakistan faces severe crisis in education sector with millions of children out of schools, lack of required number of teachers and absence of effective and favorable learning environment. However, Naviawala (2016) reminds that the good thing is in recent years Pakistan has been investing a large sum of money in education sector but the concern is it should be used transparently.

Morphing from Security State to Welfare State

Experts argue that Pakistan has to adopt a more inclusive approach to address its underlying issues which are a grave threat to its national security such as poverty, organized crime, terrorism, environmental degradation and political instability. They argue that a welfare state does not mean that Pakistan would not prioritize external threats rather it means that by adopting human security paradigm Pakistan can become internally strong and capable to face external and internal threats. Experts see morphing from security state to welfare state as a major shift in Pakistan's security policy while highlighting its importance in addressing Pakistan's underlying issues. Offering a multi-dimensional approach, they argue that Pakistan can address both traditional and non-traditional issues more effectively as both pose grave threats to the country's security landscape.

These views are substantiated by earlier academic scholarships (Anwar, Mumtaz & Akbar, 2024; Jamil, 2023; Shahnawaz, 2022) which argue that Pakistan does not meet the parameters of a welfare state thus Pakistan cannot be called a welfare state. They note that Pakistan's

priorities such as national security over protection and well-being of its citizens say that Pakistan is more a security state than a welfare state. For instance, the study by Jabri (2006) explains that a state which prioritizes national security over other domains while exercising extensive surveillance and use of force to maintain order cannot be called a welfare but a security state. While defining welfare state, Castles (2010) explains that a welfare state refers to a state which prioritizes protection and well-being of its citizens over other domains by giving them access to equal opportunities and equitable distribution of resources at a state's disposal.

Adopting Human Security Paradigm to Pakistan's Unique Concerns

Experts argue that Pakistan's unique geopolitical and socio-economic landscape require several modifications and considerations in the principles of human security model as the country's unique geopolitical location underscores the need for a strong military under traditional security paradigm to counter India's hegemonic intentions in the region while strongly fencing terrorism and refugees from Afghanistan. Besides this, they argue that in the socio-economic landscape, Pakistan's unique cultural and socio-political environment underscores the need to make several changes in the human security model to adjust within the given environment. Pakistan faces lots external and internal security challenges therefore a nuanced approach while aligning both traditional and non-traditional security approach needs to be developed. Integrating traditional or state-centric security concerns with human-centered concerns requires a nuanced approach. The experts argue that for a nuanced approach, key modifications are required such as balancing defense with social investment, socio-economic development and environmental security. While suggesting a lot of modifications and considerations, experts recommend that a balance between traditional and non-traditional security threats should be maintained, environmental security should be incorporated as a core component, development goals should be integrated with security strategies and grassroots engagement, socio-economic development and regional cooperation should be prioritized with the human security model.

Balance between Traditional and Non-Traditional Security Concerns

Pakistan faces both traditional and non-traditional security threats. Traditional security threats such as border disputes with India and Afghanistan, cross-border terrorism and militancy and regional tensions justify Pakistan's focus on defense and military strength but, experts suggest, this does not mean Pakistan's total focus should be towards traditional security as non-traditional security threats such as poverty, climate change, political instability and economic crisis also pose threats to the country's national security. Experts agree that in the face both traditional and non-traditional security concerns, Pakistan needs to establish balance between both of them. They argue that since both traditional and non-traditional security threats are interconnected with each other and affect each other therefore striking a balance these two requires a nuanced approach where both traditional and non-traditional security threats are prioritized.

These observations are corroborated by a corpus of preceding academic studies (Hussain, 2021; Khan & Raza, 2022) which argue that non-traditional security threats are also grave and pressing for Pakistan in the realm of security and political stability without whose resolution, the country cannot progress. They note that Pakistan is stuck in tunnel where its traditional security threats force its national security policy to prioritize conventional security over non-conventional security threats. As a result, non-conventional security threats have remained unresolved. Abbas & Cheema (2022) argue that since its inception, Pakistan had no declared national security policy until 2016 when a first national security policy was documented which

was state-centric neglecting economy, politics and other social sectors. However, after due considerations and needs of the country, the government announced another national security policy under the title 'National Security Policy of Pakistan 2022-26'. The national security policy document declares itself as human-centric while focusing on both geo-economics and geo-strategy. The document emphasizes relationship between traditional and non-traditional security. However, the findings of the study in shape of perspectives from experts suggest that the document fails to mention a clear roadmap towards resolution of non-traditional insecurities.

Incorporation of Environmental Security as a Core Component

Findings emerging from experts' interviews agree that since Pakistan faces significant environmental challenges, environmental security has become a critical aspect of national security therefore the policy makers of Pakistan need to incorporate environmental security as a core component within human security model. Seeing the widespread impact of climate change, experts argue that one of the main modifications which is necessary to align principles of human security with Pakistan's unique geopolitical and socio-economic context is incorporation of environmental security into Pakistan's broader security framework. Since environmental security recognizes that environmental threats are grave to existence and survival of humans, it focuses protecting the environment from degradation to make the environment livable for every living being therefore its incorporation in the broader national security policy has become very essential. Since majority of the population in Pakistan depend on agriculture and natural resources, environmental degradation leaves grave impacts on agriculture and mineral sector therefore, experts argue that without the containment of environmental degradation livelihoods of people along with food and health sector will be greatly affected.

These perspectives are supported by previous academic researches (Yaseen et al., 2022; Adam, Mukhtar & Amir, 2022) which argue that environmental degradation has become a major human security challenge to Pakistan, describing Pakistan's major environmental issues such as rising temperature, rising sea level, deforestation, melting of glacier, unusual rainfall and loss of biodiversity. They argue that despite the presence of Ministry of Environment established in 1975 which now is called Ministry of Climate Change, there is no proper policy making and action regarding environmental protection.

Integration of Development Goals with Security Strategies

In 2022, Interior Ministry announced 'National Security Policy of Pakistan 2022-26' which encompasses human security, environmental security, economic security, border security, sustainable development and national cohesion; however, the policy lacks any roadmap to achieve all the goals mentioned in the policy document and without political stability in the country, the goals are unachievable. Besides this, all the powers are given to National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) whose main focus is terrorism and militancy so how can the authority help achieve development goals and contain non-traditional security threats (Shahzad & Falki, 2024).

The empirical evidence derived from experts' interviews note that underdevelopment is a major root cause of terrorism, extremism and organized crime. Therefore, they recommend that in order to address the root causes of insecurity and foster long-term stability, development goals should be integrated with national security policy of Pakistan. They argue that development goals such as reduction of poverty, better healthcare and education and economic growth address social and economic vulnerabilities which often fuel terrorism and other sorts of conflicts. While arguing that development is the foundation for security, they link

the social unrest and other conflicts directly with lack of economic opportunities, unemployment, economic disparities and poverty.

These perspectives are substantiated by an expanding corpus of scholarly works (Chattopadhyay, 2024; Asad, 2019; Zeewaqr, 2024) which note that Pakistan has made very little progress regarding development goals because of lack of political will, planning and foresight. They add that the country's entire policy and resources are centered on national security while neglecting other major fields and sectors. They suggest that without including development goals in the overall national security policy, national security cannot be achieved as lots of insecurities emerge out of underdevelopment and poverty.

Implication of Securitization Theory for the Study

The findings of the study resonate strongly with the core assumption of securitization theory which explains how the primary referent object state has positioned itself to construct traditional security thinking as the dominant security discourse, centered on military strength and territorial integrity while socio-economic, environmental and human welfare concerns have been sidelined. The conclusion of the study which suggests Pakistan's transition from tradition to human-centric security model can be termed as call for de-securitization. Applying the logic of de-securitization, a central concept in securitization theory, human-centric welfare concerns such as education, health climate change, poverty and political instability should be de-securitized. Under the lens of securitization theory, Pakistan's security framework can be termed as a socially and politically constructed discourse thereby revealing its narrow and militarization construction of security, resulting in neglect of human-centric concerns. Using this lens of the theory, the study calls for discursive transformation of security discourse of the country, incorporating non-traditional threats as legitimate security concerns.

Conclusion

The study analyzed how human security paradigm can be adopted and translated to address existing security concerns of Pakistan in the face of widespread external and internal security threats. The study provided a comprehensive understanding about human security as a comprehensive security framework and its relevance to Pakistan's existing security landscape. While explaining why and how human security framework is relevant to Pakistan's existing security landscape, the study noted that in the face of terrorism and violent extremism, economic crisis, widespread poverty, environmental degradation, public health crisis, political instability, bad governance, corruption, religious extremism, increasing sectarian divide, educational crisis and capital loss, Pakistan's existing security model does not provide a comprehensive mechanism to address these issues thus making human security model highly relevant to the country's current security needs. The study also discussed how human security paradigm can be adopted to address the specific security concerns of Pakistan. The study concludes that a major shift from traditional to non-traditional approach is needed, secondly, economic stability should be focused, thirdly, environment should be protected, policies should be made to bring political stability, better healthcare and education should be introduced and state should be morphed from security to welfare state. The study concludes that in order to align principles of human security with Pakistan's unique geopolitical and socio-economic context, various modifications or considerations might be necessary such as balance between traditional and non-traditional security concerns must be maintained, environmental security should be prioritized and development goals should be integrated with national security of the country. Lastly, the study calls for redefinition of security discourse of Pakistan within the lens of securitization theory by incorporating non-traditional threats as security concerns.

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