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From traditional Security to Human security: Unveiling Repression against Afghan Women under Taliban 2.0

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Abstract

The aim of the paper is to analyze the transition from traditional security concepts to human security and how it has shaped our understanding of conflicts. The paper argues that historically, the realist idea of security dominated the World War, cold war politics. After, demise of the USSR, the concepts of human development and security became prominent. This thought prevails in the international relation discussion and in 1994 UNHDR, conceptualize the idea and introduced the term of Human security. Human security in its simplest form can be defined as the analytical tool to protect individuals not state. Furthermore, this study critically evaluates the repression against Afghan women in under Taliban 2.0 and its implications under the theoretical framework of human security. The research proposes the need to analyze the issue of Afghanistan under human security framework instead of the security-centric approach. And the need to enhance the international engagements and assistance to foster the growth of Afghan women.

Keywords: Human Security; Traditional Security; Afghan Women; Taliban 2.0; Gender and Human Rights

Introduction

The concept of security has been carried out under the shadow of the principles outlined in the Treaty of Westphalia by nations for decades. During the Cold War era the tug of war between USSR and US further strengthened this concept of security that only revolves around the state. In order to pursue their national interests these states opted for the state-centric security approach. Moreover, though the UN agenda was to promote collective security during the cold war period the proposal were more of a containment or prevention strategy rather than development. After the demise of cold war era, the outbreak of several wars in developing states shifted the approach, these conflicts were not of traditional nature number of non- traditional factors were involved that were out of the model of inter-state conflict. Despite the efforts made by United nations such as introducing Covenant on Political and Civil Rights (1966), International Covenant on Economic, Social and Political Rights (1966) and Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Social discrimination to deal with issues that were not state-centric but relevant to human development. Thus, requiring a new approach to deal with the issues that were not caused by traditional threats for instance the political instability, organized crimes, terrorism, economic disproportionality and gender seen to be the cause of the inter-state conflicts. Therefore, the concept of Human security was viewed as a holistic paradigm of human development when introduced by Pakistan Finance Minister Mahbub ul Haq. UN HDR 1994 become the first international document incorporating the concept of Human Security with policy and action. Human security can be defined as an analytical tool to evaluate security issues to protect individuals not state. Furthermore, this reconceptualization of the security resulted in

broadening threats causing insecurity to individuals, for instance, socio-economic, political, food, health, environment and personal safety. For instance, the Afghan Women have been suffering from the violation of human rights and deprivation of basic freedom since the inception of Taliban on the soil of Afghanistan. The Deobandi restrictive ideology of Taliban 1.0 has been replicating by the Taliban 2.0 the ban on girls education, the restriction on their movements in streets and other such initiatives has made it a necessity to view the issue from Human security and feminist perspective in order to ensure the security of marginalized groups. The aim of the paper is to analyze this shift from traditional security approach to humans' security and to what extent it has benefited the individuals. Moreover, the study further explores the causes of Afghan Women insecurity and the impact of security-centric approach on them, while, suggesting the ways to bridge the gap between security and development.

Historical Background

Historically, the meaning of the term security in political context has been remained link to the national sovereignty. It was due to the prominence of the realist concepts and the theory of balance of power, where was inevitable to maintain the balance without any super-state. Many major power bargains for territorial gains; small states were only the object to be bargained in the overall picture. But several changes in the international arena transform this concept firstly, the democratization and constitutionalism for instance the Glorious Revolution in Britain that minimize the role of king in order to protect the individual's fundamental rights. On the other hand, the social contract granted the state to be held responsible for the provision and protection of security to individuals. Another factor, is the emergence of the laissez faire concept and utilitarianism that calls for the less involvement of government and changing political thought i.e., "night watch state". What is essential to understand is that minimizing the role doesn't mean the weak state, it is argued that state is responsible for maintaining order at domestic level and should possess the coercive power to discharge the mission. This idea corresponds with democratic role of state in protecting the subjects of it. Secondly, the process of socializing the security, after the Depression the Doctrine of Social Welfare got attention which in one way socializes the concept of security and on other hand it somehow again increases the role of a state. Thirdly, the eruption of the idea of collective security in the twentieth century transformed the structure of term security. The premise of this idea was that every state is responsible for the security of every other state, this idea collapsed after the outbreak of World War II. Lastly, the cold war era and the rise of bi-polar world led to the formation of alliances and divided the world into two blocks the era of internationalization of security. This process took place in economic and social fields, the establishment of international agencies like WHO, WFP, UNDP and UNHCR. The multilateral agreements and exchanges of aid among the states raise this notion that international organizations are responsible for the provision of security giving the term security an international dimension. With, the Report of 1994 the human security emerged, and the concept of security do not remain the state centric, the reports says, "it a transition from traditional security to all-encompassing human security" and "from security through armaments to security through human development." This transition broadens the concept of security threats and highlights the necessity to address the human insecurity issues where subjects are facing non-traditional security threats like hunger, economic inequality, political violence and gender disparity for instance the Afghan Women issue.

The violation of Afghan women rights has always been a matter of fierce, many generations have faced suppression but the repression under the Taliban 2.0 is unmatched in term of its impact. Though, in history they have enjoyed some rights for instance they got the right to vote in 1919 a year before United States and 50 years before Switzerland. They were allowed to participate

in educational activities and enjoyed this freedom in 1950s. In 1960s the UNICEF and Who carry out health programs in which number of Afghan women participated as nurse, lab researcher and other professions. In 1996 most of the Afghan soil was under the control of Taliban that adopted systematic and political violence until its collapsed in 2001. Afterwards, somewhat woman enjoyed some rights that were enshrined in the constitution of Afghanistan (2004). Moreover, women took part in public life, training program and universities. For instance, Adela Raz who was appointed as a Representative to Afghanistan at United Nations then served as a ambassador. Though, the situation of providing the Afghan women their basic rights were improved but in the context of their overall development it was worsened due to the economic decline of the state many women reported to UN about the non-traditional threats they faced due to the inability of state to provide wellbeing.

Literature Review

Gina Vale, Devorah Margolin and Farkhondeh Akbari has done the comparative analysis among three militant group which includes Hamas, IS and Taliban while arguing that all of them functions on the orthodox and traditional approach of suppressing women. Moreover, this paper has described the foundation of their traditionalist stance on gender that rooted into their religious belief of Deobandi and Revivalist Islam. Apart from this, the research also highlighted the transition of Taliban 1.0 stance which initially was aimed to present themselves as the guardian of Afghan women to portraying women as a source of corruption or threat that need securitization. This brutal stance was evident in the statement given by the Attorney's General statement in 1997 that "women face is a mean of corruption for the men who are not related to them". This, transition then led to suppression of their rights approximately 21 ordinances were issued by the Taliban Committee of High court to restrict or regulate the behavior and movements of women. In addition to this, the Taliban 2.0 is replicating the footsteps of their predecessor and imposing restriction on women.

Sidra Shabbir In her work argued that the notion of security studies has been treated identical to realist's paradigm. The state has remained a central subject of security studies, thus marginalizing threats other than military in nature. After the demise of cold war, the realist debate and security discourse has been challenged, particularly after the proposition of Human Development on the UNDP agenda in 1994, suggesting an alternative pathway to analyze the issues related to conflict, environment, economy and health. Moreover, the paper describe the implications of the traditional security approach on Pakistan, she argued that due to the prolonged conflict of Afghanistan and its ripple effect on Pak border because of its involvement in Aghan War, the state has been unable to deal with the threats that were not military in nature thus leading to the economic crisis and declining human development index. The policymakers viewed this interconnected issue with the narrowed lens of security thus failing to provide freedom from fear and wants.

R. Matthew, Patricia, Gunhild and Nora in their work argued that IR has grew up in the research revolving around the concept of security in masculine manner and was studied alone by Keneth Waltz and his influential students such as Jhon Mearsheimer and Stephen Walt that made the research of conflict only in terms of security. They have also described the emergence of the other school of thoughts like, Critical feminist theory and Marxist that challenge the discourse of neoliberals and at the end of Cold War their view of viewing security from other lenses came from margins to the mainstream themes of IR. The research argued that Women have remained the soft target and a tool for systematic violence or sex trafficking. Moreover, they have been treated as a marginalized community since the inception of "sustainable Development" in the UN agenda, the inclusion of gender debate among IR scholars also become popular and credited

to the work of J. Ann Ticker “Gender in International Relations” and V. Spike Peterson edited volume of “gendered States: (Re)Visioning International Relations (1992) that brought the gender perspective in IR mainstream. Furthermore, they have shed a light on the feminist discourse that argue that Woman security and insecurity are dependent on complex interconnection of gender, context, history and power. In addition to this, they describe the significance of inclusion women voices in peace-making and peace building efforts while using the Afghan Women as a case in point.

Shahrbanou Tadjbaksh in her research work highlighted the inclusion of human security in the security studies, where security was always seen as a Hobbesian concept where ‘humans made compromised on their rights in exchange of protection by the state’. While, neglecting the cases where states were unable to provide protection against threats which were not of military nature. Thus, making the concept of human security a necessary dimension or aspect to be evaluated during policymaking of a states that dealing with un-conventional threats for instance like Bosnia, Kosovo, East Timor and Afghanistan. Furthermore, he argued that the post-cold war era studies shaken the old concept of security, highlighting the episodes in international relations when states themselves become the perpetrators of insecurities, not only failing in fulfilling their duties towards their subjects but threatening their existence. Besides, he also defines the term human security in its simplest form as “absence of insecurity and threats’ where to be secured is a state when there is freedom from fear (of physical, sexual or psychological abuse, violence) and wants (of food, health and gainful employment). Moreover, the paper argued that the concept of human security not only broadens the security debate at academia level but also introduces the innovation in the vicinity of policymaking. The research emphasized the significance of human security as an approach to mitigate un-conventional threats and a way to bridge a gap between the state sovereignty and development. In order to achieve this goal, the effective role of state should be as a catalyst, facilitator instead of interventionist in domain of economy and security for instance like Japan and Canada where this concept received as a goodwill gesture and efforts have been made to include it on global agenda since 2003.

Zahra Zaman in her article “Afghan Women Plight under Taliban 2.0” unfolds the grim reality of Afghanistan women under the plight of Taliban 2.0 another period of repression or oppression under which the hopes of woman betterment have been buried. The research further illustrated the 70 decrees have been issued and codified to institutionalize the gendered base violence reflecting the lamentable situation of Afghan Women. Also, stated facts related to the ban of women education 80% of school aged girls and 2.5 million women in Afghanistan have been deprived of the education. Furthermore, the UN women analysis report mentioned that rate of early childbearing has been surged to 45% during 2026. In addition to this paper further describe the recent policies such as the ban on women work with NGOs extended to UN entities further describe the jeopardizing situation of woman in Afghanistan.

Research Objectives

1. To examine the transition from traditional security to human security in the discourse of international relations
2. To analyze the impact of political violence and terrorism on Afghan woman
3. To investigate the human rights violations against the Afghan Women under Taliban 2.0
4. To investigate the relationship among human development, human security and women’s empowerment in a conflict affected region Afghanistan
5. To access the role of human security approach in improving the security and development of Afghan Women.

Research Questions

1. How has the shift from traditional security to human security shaped our understanding of conflict and human development?
2. In what ways terrorism, political violence and security centric approach has affected the development of Afghan Woman?
3. To what extent the human security approach can contribute to boost or improve empowerment and the security challenges faced by Afghan Woman under the regime of Taliban 2.0?

Literature Gap

The concept of security has remained a central topic in the international relations discussions, and has significantly evolved from national security to social, then collective to lastly human security. The academic debates have done comparative analysis of the traditional and human security and traced back their evolutions. But there exists a literature gap in application of this concept Human Security on the region of Afghanistan that has always been viewed from the lens of traditional security, the external threats like USSR and war of terrorism. The analysis of threats like environmental challenges, climate, the political violence under the Taliban regime, economic degradation and its implications for the population of Afghan Woman. In addition to this, literature lack a framework to utilize the concept of human security to ensure the development and empowerment of women in the region of Afghanistan.

Theoretical framework

This study is primarily grounded in the Human Security Approach, which provides an alternative and broader understanding of security beyond the traditional state-centric perspective. Traditionally, security studies have been dominated by realist thinking, where the state is considered the principal referent of security and military threats, territorial integrity, sovereignty, and national survival are given central importance. During the Cold War, the rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union further strengthened this understanding of security by emphasizing military capabilities, alliances, deterrence, and the protection of states from external threats. However, the end of the Cold War and the emergence of conflicts involving political violence, terrorism, organized crime, economic instability, poverty, and social inequalities challenged the assumption that the state alone should be the primary focus of security. The study therefore adopts the Human Security Approach to examine insecurity from the perspective of individuals, particularly Afghan women.

The concept of Human Security gained international recognition through the UNDP Human Development Report 1994, which represented a significant transition from traditional security to a more comprehensive understanding of human safety and development. The report emphasized a shift “from security through armaments to security through human development.” Unlike traditional security, which primarily seeks to protect the state from military threats, human security focuses on protecting individuals from threats that affect their survival, dignity, freedom, and well-being. In this sense, security is not limited to the absence of war or physical violence; rather, it also encompasses conditions that allow individuals to live free from fear and want. The framework therefore incorporates multiple dimensions of insecurity, including economic security, food security, health security, environmental security, personal security, political security, and community security.

The Human Security Approach is particularly relevant to the case of Afghan women under Taliban 2.0, because their insecurity cannot be adequately explained through conventional military or state-security frameworks. Although political instability, terrorism, and armed conflict remain important dimensions of insecurity in Afghanistan, women are simultaneously exposed to a wider range of non-traditional threats. Restrictions on education, employment, freedom of

movement, political participation, and access to public life directly affect their economic, political, social, and personal security. The study therefore conceptualizes these restrictions not merely as human rights concerns but as human security challenges that undermine women's development and empowerment. The existing discussion in the study highlights that Afghan women have experienced restrictions under both Taliban 1.0 and Taliban 2.0, while the post-2001 period provided comparatively greater opportunities for women's participation in education, public life, training, and professional activities.

The second theoretical perspective incorporated into this study is the Feminist Security Perspective. Feminist security scholarship challenges the traditional understanding of security by arguing that conventional security studies have often been constructed around masculine experiences of war, conflict, power, and state survival. From a feminist perspective, security cannot be understood solely through the relationship between states or through military capabilities. Instead, it is necessary to examine how political structures, social hierarchies, gender relations, and unequal power structures produce insecurity for marginalized groups. The literature reviewed in this study emphasizes that women have frequently remained vulnerable to systematic violence and have often been treated as marginalized actors within international relations. Feminist approaches therefore seek to bring women's experiences and voices into the study of security, conflict resolution, peace-making, and peace-building.

The Feminist Security Perspective is important for this research because the insecurity experienced by Afghan women is strongly connected with gender, power, political authority, and social restrictions. Taliban policies toward women cannot be examined simply as consequences of Afghanistan's broader political instability. They must also be analyzed in relation to gendered structures of power that determine women's access to education, employment, mobility, political participation, and public spaces. The literature reviewed in the study notes that Taliban ideology has historically constructed women through restrictive and traditional understandings of gender and has imposed regulations governing women's behavior and movement. Taliban 2.0 has continued several of these restrictive practices, creating a gender-specific form of insecurity. The combination of Human Security Theory and Feminist Security Perspective enables this study to establish a broader analytical framework for understanding the situation of Afghan women. Human security explains what forms of insecurity women experience, while the feminist perspective helps explain how gendered power relations contribute to the production and continuation of those insecurities. Together, these perspectives move the analysis away from a purely state-centric approach and place the individual, particularly the marginalized woman, at the center of security analysis. This combination is also consistent with the study's objective of examining the relationship between human development, human security, and women's empowerment in a conflict-affected environment.

Furthermore, the framework recognizes that security and development are interconnected. A society cannot achieve meaningful human development when a significant portion of its population is deprived of education, economic opportunities, political participation, and basic freedoms. Similarly, development cannot be sustained where individuals remain exposed to political violence, discrimination, economic insecurity, and restrictions on their fundamental rights. The study therefore views women's empowerment as an important component of human security rather than as a separate development issue. The inability of the state or governing authority to provide conditions of freedom from fear and freedom from want contributes directly to human insecurity. This perspective allows the study to assess how political and security-centric policies affect the everyday lives and developmental opportunities of Afghan women.

Within this theoretical framework, Taliban 2.0 policies and political violence function as major sources of insecurity, while women's rights, access to education, economic participation, freedom of movement, political participation, and human development represent important dimensions through which the consequences of insecurity can be assessed. The framework consequently allows the study to examine whether a security approach focused primarily on political control and regime stability is sufficient to address the actual security needs of Afghan women. It also provides a basis for evaluating whether a human-centered approach can bridge the gap between security and development by placing individual well-being, dignity, freedom, and empowerment at the center of policymaking.

Thus, the theoretical framework of this research rests on the complementary application of Human Security Theory and Feminist Security Perspective. Human Security broadens the meaning of security from the protection of states to the protection of individuals from multiple traditional and non-traditional threats, while Feminist Security Theory highlights the gendered nature of insecurity and the importance of marginalized women's experiences. Applying these perspectives to Afghanistan enables the study to analyze the insecurity of Afghan women not only as a consequence of conflict and political violence but also as a consequence of gender-based restrictions, economic deprivation, limited political participation, and barriers to human development. Ultimately, this framework provides the theoretical foundation for assessing the extent to which a human security approach can contribute to improving the security, development, and empowerment of Afghan women under Taliban 2.0, which directly corresponds with the research objectives and questions of the study.

Research Methodology

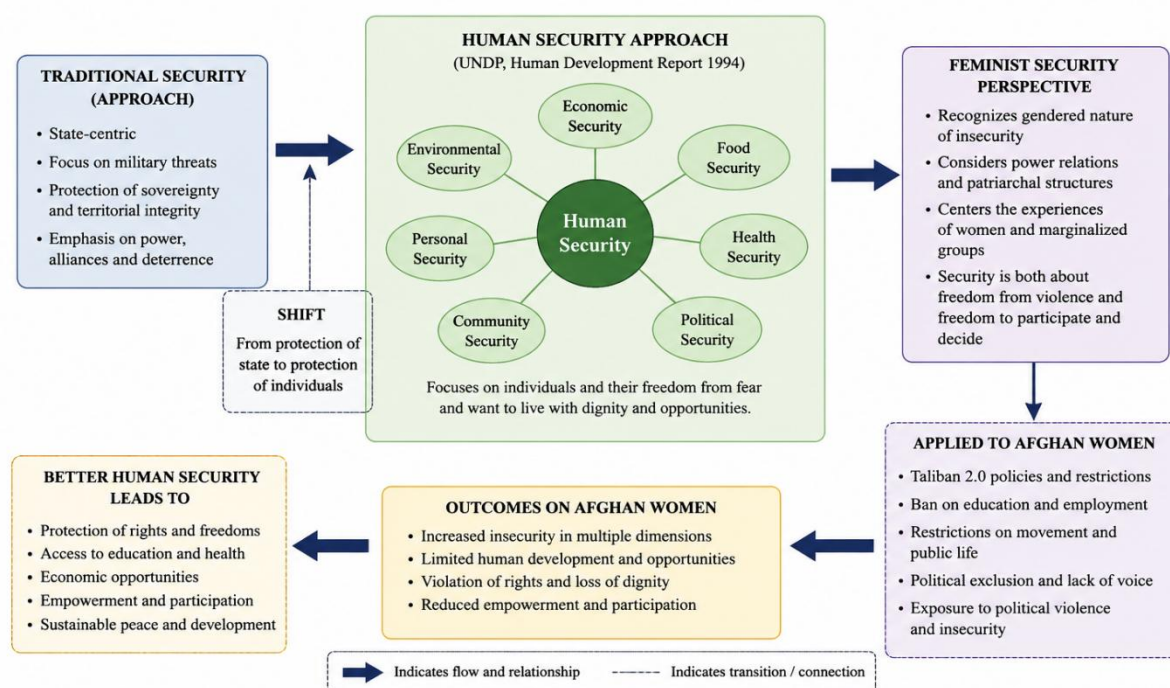
This study adopts a qualitative research methodology to examine the transition from traditional security to human security and its implications for Afghan women under the Taliban 2.0 regime. The research is primarily based on secondary data, including academic books, peer-reviewed journal articles, research reports, policy papers, United Nations publications, and other credible institutional sources. The qualitative approach is appropriate because the study seeks to understand the nature, causes, and consequences of insecurity experienced by Afghan women rather than measuring the phenomenon through statistical analysis.

The study employs John Scott's (1990) model of documentary research as the principal framework for evaluating and analyzing secondary sources. Scott's model provides four criteria for assessing the quality and usefulness of documentary evidence: authenticity, credibility, representativeness, and meaning. First, authenticity concerns whether the document is genuine and originates from the source it claims to represent. In this research, sources are therefore examined to ensure that the documents, reports, and publications are authentic and traceable to their stated authors or institutions. Second, credibility assesses whether the information contained in a document is accurate, reliable, and free from significant distortion. Academic publications and reports from established institutions are therefore critically evaluated before being incorporated into the analysis.

Third, representativeness concerns the extent to which the selected documents adequately represent the broader body of evidence related to human security and Afghan women. The study therefore draws upon diverse sources covering traditional security, human security, feminist security, political violence, women's rights, and human development. Finally, meaning examines the context and significance of the information contained within the documents. The study interprets documentary evidence in relation to the political, social, economic, and gendered conditions of Afghanistan.

Through Scott's documentary analysis model, the study systematically evaluates secondary sources and uses thematic analysis to identify recurring themes related to human insecurity, political violence, gender-based restrictions, human development, and women's empowerment. The findings are then interpreted through the combined lens of Human Security Theory and Feminist Security Perspective to assess the security challenges faced by Afghan women and the potential contribution of a human security approach.

Figure 1: Conceptual Framework
Human Security and Afghan Women under Taliban 2.0



Source: Developed by the researcher based on Human Security Approach (UNDP, 1994) and Feminist Security Perspective.

Discussion and Analysis

The findings of this study demonstrate that the understanding of security has significantly evolved from a traditional state-centric approach towards a broader human-centered approach. Historically, security was primarily associated with national sovereignty, territorial integrity, military capabilities, and the protection of the state from external threats. The realist tradition and the Cold War rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union reinforced this understanding by placing the state at the center of security studies. However, the changing nature of conflicts after the Cold War exposed the limitations of this approach. Political instability, terrorism, economic insecurity, social inequalities, organized crime, and gender-based violence demonstrated that individuals could remain insecure even when the state itself was protected from conventional military threats. This transformation provides the basis for understanding the insecurity experienced by Afghan women.

The Human Security Approach provides a more comprehensive framework for analyzing this situation. The UNDP Human Development Report 1994 introduced human security as a transition from traditional security towards security through human development. Rather than focusing exclusively on protecting states, human security emphasizes the protection of individuals from threats to their survival, dignity, and well-being. Its broader dimensions include economic, food, health, environmental, personal, political, and community security. The Afghan case demonstrates the importance of this broader perspective because women experience insecurity

across several of these dimensions simultaneously. Therefore, restricting the analysis to terrorism, armed conflict, or political instability would fail to capture the complete nature of insecurity faced by Afghan women.

The historical experience of Afghan women further supports this argument. The study indicates that Afghan women have experienced changing levels of rights and participation throughout the country's modern history. They obtained voting rights in 1919 and participated in educational and professional activities during later decades. During the 1990s, however, the Taliban's control introduced systematic restrictions and political violence against women. Following the fall of the first Taliban regime in 2001, women experienced comparatively greater opportunities through the constitutional framework of 2004, including participation in public life, education, training, and professional activities. Nevertheless, economic decline and continuing insecurity also created significant non-traditional challenges. The return of the Taliban therefore needs to be examined not simply as a change in political authority but as a transformation in the conditions of women's human security.

The analysis of the literature also demonstrates continuity between Taliban 1.0 and Taliban 2.0 in relation to gender restrictions. The literature reviewed in this study explains that the Taliban's traditionalist understanding of gender contributed to the regulation of women's behavior, movement, and public presence. Taliban 1.0 introduced numerous restrictions that treated women's presence and behavior as matters requiring institutional control. The literature further suggests that Taliban 2.0 has replicated several elements of this restrictive approach. Consequently, women's insecurity under the current regime should be understood as a structural and gendered phenomenon rather than as an isolated consequence of conflict.

The Feminist Security Perspective strengthens this analysis by highlighting the relationship between gender and power. Conventional security studies have historically focused on military conflict and state survival, while the experiences of women and other marginalized groups have frequently remained outside the central security discourse. Feminist scholars challenge this limitation by arguing that insecurity is experienced differently according to gender, social position, historical context, and power relations. In Afghanistan, this perspective is particularly useful because restrictions on women's education, employment, mobility, political participation, and public life are specifically gendered. Thus, the security of Afghan women cannot be adequately evaluated without examining the political and social structures that produce their vulnerability.

The study further reveals an important relationship between human security and human development. Security and development cannot be treated as completely separate concepts because persistent insecurity directly limits opportunities for development. When women are denied access to education and employment, their economic independence and future opportunities are reduced. Similarly, restrictions on movement and political participation limit their ability to contribute to public decision-making and community development. This supports the argument that human security must include freedom from both fear and want. A security-centric approach that prioritizes political stability while overlooking these dimensions may therefore fail to provide meaningful security to individuals.

The findings also support the argument that the political and security-centric approach has limitations in addressing Afghanistan's complex challenges. The literature reviewed in the study indicates that prolonged conflict and a narrow understanding of security can prevent policymakers from adequately addressing economic, social, health, and developmental problems. In the Afghan context, the protection of territorial or political interests does not automatically guarantee the protection of individuals. Afghan women may remain insecure

because of restrictions, poverty, political exclusion, and denial of basic opportunities even in the absence of conventional warfare. Human security therefore provides a more suitable framework for identifying these interconnected forms of insecurity.

Overall, the analysis demonstrates that Afghan women's insecurity under Taliban 2.0 is multidimensional and deeply connected with the relationship between security, development, and gender. The Human Security Approach helps identify the different forms of insecurity experienced by women, while the Feminist Security Perspective explains how gendered power structures contribute to those insecurities. Together, these perspectives provide a stronger analytical foundation than a traditional state-centric approach. They also support the study's argument that improving Afghan women's security requires more than protection from physical violence; it requires attention to their rights, education, economic opportunities, political participation, dignity, and empowerment. The study therefore concludes that bridging the gap between security and development is essential for achieving meaningful human security for Afghan women.

Recommendation

Based on the findings and analysis of this study, several recommendations can be proposed to improve the human security and development of Afghan women under Taliban 2.0. First, there is a need to shift from a traditional security-centric approach towards a human security-oriented framework that places individuals, particularly marginalized groups, at the center of security policies. The security of Afghan women should not be measured only through the absence of armed conflict but also through their access to education, healthcare, employment, political participation, freedom of movement, and personal safety.

Second, women's access to education should be prioritized as a fundamental component of human security and human development. Restrictions on girls' and women's education have long-term consequences for their economic independence, social participation, and future opportunities. International organizations and humanitarian actors should continue supporting mechanisms that facilitate safe and sustainable educational opportunities for Afghan girls and women.

Third, greater attention should be given to women's economic security and empowerment. Restrictions on women's employment and participation in economic activities increase their vulnerability and contribute to household-level economic insecurity. Appropriate mechanisms should therefore be developed to expand women's access to employment, vocational training, entrepreneurship, and livelihood opportunities while taking into account the prevailing conditions in Afghanistan.

Fourth, the international community should strengthen humanitarian and diplomatic engagement with Afghanistan. Rather than relying exclusively on isolation or conventional security measures, international actors should employ constructive engagement to encourage improvements in women's rights and human security. Humanitarian assistance should remain focused on protecting vulnerable populations and ensuring access to essential health, food, and social services.

Finally, a gender-sensitive human security framework should be incorporated into future peace-building, development, and policymaking initiatives concerning Afghanistan. Afghan women should be included in peace-building, development, and decision-making processes because sustainable security cannot be achieved without their participation. Bridging the gap between security and development requires policies that protect women's rights while simultaneously strengthening their dignity, empowerment, and opportunities for meaningful participation in Afghan society.

Conclusion

This study concludes that the concept of security has undergone a significant transformation from a traditional state-centric approach towards a broader and more comprehensive understanding of human security. Traditional security primarily focused on the protection of state sovereignty, territorial integrity, and military interests, while the Human Security Approach places individuals and their well-being at the center of security analysis. The study demonstrates that this shift is particularly important in the context of Afghanistan, where conventional security approaches cannot fully explain the multiple forms of insecurity experienced by Afghan women. The analysis shows that Afghan women's insecurity under Taliban 2.0 is multidimensional and extends beyond physical violence. Restrictions on education, employment, freedom of movement, political participation, and public life have created significant challenges to their personal, political, economic, and social security. The historical comparison also indicates that Afghan women have experienced different levels of rights and participation across different political periods, while the return of the Taliban has resulted in renewed restrictions and limitations on their development and empowerment.

The study further concludes that the Human Security Approach and Feminist Security Perspective provide a more suitable theoretical foundation for understanding these challenges. Human security highlights freedom from fear and want, while the feminist perspective draws attention to gender, power relations, and the experiences of marginalized groups. Their combined application demonstrates that women's security cannot be separated from human development, dignity, rights, and empowerment.

Ultimately, sustainable security in Afghanistan requires moving beyond a narrow security-centric approach and addressing the broader conditions that shape women's lives. Improving access to education, economic opportunities, healthcare, political participation, and basic freedoms is essential for strengthening human security. Therefore, the study argues that protecting Afghan women is not only a human rights concern but also an essential component of peace, development, and sustainable security. Bridging the gap between security and development through a gender-sensitive human security framework can provide a more comprehensive pathway for improving the security and empowerment of Afghan women under Taliban 2.0.

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