

Causes and Effects of Political Extremism in Youth: A Study of Government College University, Faisalabad

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ABSTRACT

This study had the aim to explore the causes of political extremism in youth which include a level of awareness and protects society from extremism. Quantitative method of research was used to conduct this study. The target population was the university students of Faisalabad. The data was collected with the help of a questionnaire. Sample size of this research was 225 and respondents were selected through simple random sampling. The research was designed to fulfill the aspects, first was to study the impact of political extremism in youth and the second was to identify the problems of extremism in youth. The study indicated the youth feel that they should have responsibility to play a role in prevention of extremism. A significant number of respondents reported that youth is the main power of the nation and can change this extremism scenario for betterment of the country. Respondents were of the views that incentives given by political parties to create their vote bank can shape the political extremism in youth. However, the youth suggest that poverty and unemployment have an important effect on political extremism of youth. Majority of respondents of this research was male, which argues that socio-economic status and lack of income is harmful to create uncertainty in youth.

Keywords

Corporate Social Responsibility, Business Organizations, Waste Management, Rural Areas

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Introduction

By comparing violent and nonviolent political extremists, we provide an initial test of the explanatory reach of key criminological theories. Finally, a baseline criminological analysis of political extremists is a crucial step toward developing a criminological theory of politically motivated crime. Criminologists and terrorism scholars often reach different conclusions about which variables most strongly correlate to crime and extremism. To formulate healthy theories of extremism, it is critical to understand how extremists differ from more ordinary criminals (Horgan, 2008).

Through this research, we also respond to two prominent weaknesses in prior research on extremism. First, most researchers have only analyzed individuals who have used violence for an extremist cause but have not considered those who may share similar ideological convictions but have not used violence in their pursuit (Borum, 2011). Thus, the inferential power and external validity of many prior studies have been limited

by the fact that there is little variation in the dependent variable. There have been recent attempts to address this limitation (Gartenstein-Ross & Grossman, 2009). But thus far, few researchers have included subsets of radicalized individuals who did not commit violence. Second, although important work has been done tracing the radicalization pathways of individuals and small groups, variously highlighting the role of psychological processes (Horgan, 2008). Most of the scholars conducting these studies relied on qualitative case studies to support their claims. Few researchers to date have used systematically collected quantitative data to generate inferences (Kruglanski et al. 2009). The link between various measures of employment and crime is one of the most comprehensively researched areas in criminology, and many (but not all) scholars have concluded that work history is highly correlated with levels of criminal activity (Uggen, 2000). In particular, social control scholars have provided evidence that stable employment is especially important in

establishing prosocial bonds and in redirecting individuals away from crime.

Recently, attempts to account for an endogenous relationship between employment and crime by using state labor laws as an instrumental variable and found evidence for a robust causal relationship. Similar arguments for a relationship between unemployment and deviant behavior have been applied to discussions of the causes of extremism (LaFree & Ackerman, 2009). Nevertheless, thus far, empirical results have been less convincing than the results for unemployment and more ordinary types of extreme. Researchers specifically examining the relationship between employment status and participation in extremism have found that many members of organizations that use extremism have jobs (Sageman, 2004).

Similarly, researchers concluded that, at the time extremists joined groups, most of them were students, worked as professionals (e.g., doctors and engineers), or performed semi-skilled labor. The results of other research show that those who participate in terrorist actions are frequently not the poorest members of their societies (Silke, 2008). Although the author noted that the majority of respondents were fully employed. Although empirical support for the connection between employment history and participation in political violence has been mixed in extremism studies, in present research, scholars do not distinguish between individuals who use violence in pursuit of political goals and those who do not. Instead, in most studies in which the relationship between work history and extremism has been examined, researchers have limited their analyses to those individuals who have engaged in acts of violence. Given that researcher is testing the utility of variables derived from criminological theory (Bakker, 2006).

Although social control scholars most commonly emphasize marriage, work, and military services as the key positive turning points that guide individuals from crime, related scholars have found that educational attainment also acts as a mechanism that suppresses crime (Blomberg, Bales, and Piquero, 2012). Overall, however, the results of criminology research on the link between educational status and violent crime, like the link with work history, have been mixed (Uggen, 2000). The authors found no significant link between educational attainment and crime after controlling for several individual

characteristics. Similarly, they found no relationship between education and crime after controlling for wages. In contrast, some others have found that education significantly reduced the probability of imprisonment and arrest after they examined data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (Lochner & Moretti, 2004).

Other researchers found that time spent in school significantly reduced criminal activity more than time spent at work suggesting that period link between school attendance and crime. Some others applied similar arguments to their discussion of the causes of extremism (Pape, 2005). Educational attainment and political violence, scholars did not examine its impact on ideologically motivated individuals who either did or did not engage in violence. Based on criminological consensus, we expect a weak, negative, relationship between educational attainment and participation in violent political extremism (Sageman, 2004).

Social control scholars presupposed that the motivation to offend is everywhere but that individuals refrain from offending if they have strong bonds to conventional society, an important source of which is marriage. The relationship between marital status and crime has been shown to be forceful and consistent in criminology across a variety of methodological approaches (Bersani & Doherty, 2013). In general, preliminary evidence suggests that the negative connection we find between marriage and crime may not be as tough for political violence. Although in their study of extremist profiles in 18 countries, concluded that the typical offender is an unmarried male. The author found that many groups encourage intermarriage among group members to build intragroup cohesion and trust. Nevertheless, we should emphasize that there is little empirical research on this topic, and in many of the studies that have been done, researchers did not distinguish between offenders who had and had not committed violent political acts (Shapiro, 2013).

Social learning researchers emphasize the impact of social influences on crime, particularly peers. Within this context, there is an evolving learning process that involves the transmission of behaviors through imitation, modeling, conditioning, and reinforcement (Akers, 2009). Peer influences can occur through mechanisms

such as fear of the desire for loyalty, which produce compliance and opportunities for status enhancement (Warr, 2002). Individuals are influenced according to the frequency, intensity, duration, and priority of their relationships with others, which in turn help and create definitions of behavior (Akers, 2009). This line of criminological research has some similarities to group dynamics models of violent political extremism, which suggests that the in-group/out-group biases that form in small groups can lead to extreme forms of violent expression and groupthink (Janis, 2012).

The intense bonds experienced within cliques, and the weak bonds tying individual members to those outside cliques, eventually change the conformity and remove barriers to individual participation in violent extremism. Given that family members play a prominent role in socialization, a great deal of criminological research, including studies informed by social learning perspectives, have found evidence of an intergenerational transmission of violence that is consistent with social learning perspectives of modeling and reinforcement (Giordano, 2010). The researcher has consistently found that parental criminal behavior is significantly related to a child's aggressive and deviant behavior (Thornberry & Henry, 2013).

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Alava et al. (2018) reported that youth people are ambassadors of peace and they should be investigated to violent or extreme on social media. Because society attracts youth and they have easy access and it's necessary for security intuition to make use of the internet safely. Sarma (2017) focused to describe challenges associated with violent extremism and development of psychology to the assessment terrorism. Risk assessment is a process of information gathering in which an individual is predicted for his future misbehavior. Eliseev et al. (2017) focused on the study to suggest that it is necessary to prevent growth of international extremism among youth. According to researchers, young people are more involved in extremist activity. In modern society extremism has been becoming a global problem.

Guibet and Lafaye (2016) found out the correlation between poverty and unemployment and young people's willingness to engage in political violence is not explicit. This study shows stronger correlation between political violence and

experiences or perceptions of injustice, corruption and systematic discrimination. Pauwels and Schils (2016) reported that focusing on political violence and social media is used as an extremist content of social learning. Researchers have collected the data by web-based survey from the youth of high school students ages between 16 to 24 years. Cragin (2015) analyzed that individual of the Palestinian family whose members are arrested did not become terrorist. The researcher has collected the data from the west bank of Palestinian residential family. The researcher further argued that upon which the U.S implements policy of counter violent extremism are on the right path.

Schils and Pauwels (2014) described that this study focuses to show the effects of extremism on moral setting and political violence in society. Extremism largely affects adolescents of the society. Religious and political extremists protect their goals to violate criminal law. Bassoli (2014) investigated the temporary working condition and unemployment of youth effects on the political participation of youth. Socio economic condition of the young labor force has great concern with political extremism. Bordignon (2013) described that citizens of the country first select a subset of the candidates and in final the cast vote to the candidate they have selected. Political extremism is known as very harmful because it creates uncertainty in society and hinders the effective functioning of democracy.

Goede (2012) examined the theory that there is a causal relationship between the mass media and extremism based on the assumption the media have an interest in transmitting more news and reports about political extremism. Moreover, the vast majority of research studies focus on this relationship in Western societies alone. Awan (2012) explored that few analysts have considered the more general question as to why particular kinds of action are chosen to articulate political decisions, whatever the causes of or justifications for such decisions may be. Kahne et al. (2011) described that different forms of pedagogy influence the different form politics. The researcher had collected the data through a survey method of research from California and Chicago high school students. Societal issues of the country promote youth to involve in politics and elections activity.

Eliseev and Ustinova (2010) described that extremism is a threat to the constitutional order and democratic human rights and freedoms, as expressed in the internal willingness for activity aimed at achieving the set goals by criminal means. Marien et al. (2010) argued that non-institutionalization form of political participation is easier and more compatible for youth citizens of the country. Youth people are more interested in political participation. Arzheimer and Carter (2006) described that socio-economic situations of a voter have an impact on the vote bank of extremist wing parties. Respondents of this study said that they vote for the extreme party more than others. Gender gap is seen in extreme right to party; male voters are greater extremist to vote for extreme than their female.

Doucet (2005) described that when political parties are ideologically distinct from each other, it is more difficult for the parties of the extreme right to adopt this strategy. On the other hand, the extreme right might perform well at the polls when the mainstream parties are ideologically quite distinct. Abadie (2004) reported that poverty and freedom of politics leads to violent extremism in society. Economics conflict and poverty generate terrorism and political extremism in youth people. Krueger and Maleckova (2003) suggested that poverty, education and terrorism are interlinked with each other because people into extremist groups are doing for economics benefits of their family. Poverty in a country has an indirect effect on extremism because this led to a country in civil war.

Pilar (2001) maintained the view of extremism and extremist groups are not randomly generated but also distributed all over the world. The standard of living of the social strata and the social economy and the characteristics of social economy which make them as extremist growth. White (2002) argued that the end of extreme belief is that the mix of time is a prescription of violence, which is proportionally dramatic. When researchers think about the reflections around worldwide reflections on fractures of such extremism it represents the important battlefield. Lubbers et al. (2002) reported that certain socio demographic groups have shown themselves more likely to vote for the parties of the extreme right than others. In the first instance, a significant gender gap in the support for the extreme right has been reported, with male voters exhibiting a

greater tendency to vote for right wing extremist parties than their female counterparts.

Widfeldt (2000) focused on the study to pay more attention on the growth of extremist right activity in society. Extremist party gain more support of the people and become successful party without campaign than others part. Jurgens (2000) argued that all the traditions of extremism around the world are now involved in ritual extremism. These individuals are not limited to extreme behavior. He points out that in order to understand the political extremism of young people; we first need to understand the role of that idea of global war plays in the global views of these individuals. Kreidl and valchova (2000) focused on the research to explore the social geographical background of extremism in the people of Czech Republic. The researcher had collected the data through survey method of research and extremist party had been successful on their extremist approach.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The universe of this study was Faisalabad. All the students of Government College University, Faisalabad were the target population of this research. The researcher has first divided the population into different strata and then used a simple random sampling technique for the data collection. The sample figure is to end the part of the population whose features are gaining information. The sample of the current study included 225 respondents. Researchers have already divided the population into different areas and then have used simple random samples to collect data. The data itself was collected by a structured questionnaire. As a written instrument's questionnaire was filled by the respondents during a face to face meeting. After collecting data research, a coding process was used for data analysis. Analysis was created by putting data in SPSS (statistical package for social scientists). Null Hypothesis= H_0 = There is no relationship between extremism and political extremism. Alternative Hypothesis= H_1 = There is a relationship between extremism and political extremism.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Following are the results which have been derived from the data collected and analyzed by using the appropriate statistical methods.

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to poverty generates political extremism in youth?

Categories	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	31	13.8%
Agree	159	70.7%
Neutral	27	12.0%
Disagree	6	2.7%
Strongly Disagree	2	.9%
Total	225	100%

This was asked from the respondents either the feel poverty generate political extremism in youth, 13.8% respondents strongly agree that poverty generate political extremism in youth and most of the respondents 70.7% agree that poverty generate political extremism in youth, 12.0% respondents were neutral, 2.7% respondents were disagree and only minor number of respondents 0.9% respondents strongly disagree that poverty generate political extremism in youth. Similarly, previous studies examined that poverty is the main reason which generates extremism in youth. The broader theory in which poverty produces a lot of extremes. Poverty creates extremism with the results of existing institutions on the current economic conflict of community. The researcher argues that poverty is an essential element of producing extremism (Kahn & Weiner, 2002).

Table 2: Distribution of respondents according to perception about unemployment is main cause of extremism in youth?

Categories	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	53	23.6%
Agree	128	56.9%
Neutral	35	15.6%
Disagree	8	3.6%
Strongly Disagree	1	.4%
Total	225	100%

The above table 2 shows that 23.6% respondents strongly agree that unemployment is the main cause of extremism in youth, most of the respondents 56.9% were agree with the statement, 15.6% respondents were neutral about this phenomenon, 3.6% respondents were disagreeing and just .4% respondents were strongly disagreed that unemployment is main cause of extremism in youth. Similarly, the previous studies also indicate

that it is usually expected that respondent source of income would probably not be able to achieve what was expected or dreamed up for the decent living standard in the society, so they engage themselves such type of activity to achieve their goals and necessity of life (Bjørge, 2011).

Table 3: Distribution of respondents according to perception about education play an important role to reduce political extremism?

Categories	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	86	38.2%
Agree	104	46.2%
Neutral	28	12.4%
Disagree	4	1.8%
Strongly disagree	3	1.3%
Total	225	100%

The above table shows that 38.2% respondents were strongly agreed that education plays an important role to reduce political extremism, 46.2% respondents agreed, 12.4% respondents were neutral, 1.8% respondents disagree and only 1.3% respondents strongly disagreed that education plays an important role to reduce political extremism. There is little evidence that reason for optimism that reduces poverty or increases education realizing it will play an important role in reducing international extremism. The scholars concluded that educational attainment has its impact on ideologically motivated individuals who either did or did not engage in violence (Kruger & Maleckova, 2003).

Table 4: Distribution of respondents according to perception about lack of income support to political extremism in youth?

Categories	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	29	12.9%
Agree	149	66.2%
Neutral	39	17.3%
Disagree	5	2.2%
Strongly disagree	3	1.3%
Total	225	100%

The above table shows that 12.9% respondent strongly agree that lack of income support to political extremism in youth, majority of the respondents 66.2% respondents were just agreed, 17.3% respondents were neutral, 2.2% respondents were disagreed and 1.3% respondents shows strongly disagree that lack of income

support to political extremism in youth. Investigating the effects of lack of income in the political boundaries among youth to support political extremism in youth. Low-income young people have little confidence in politics; they speak less about politics and support revolutionary political views towards young people (Bay & Blekesaune, 2002).

Table 5: Distribution of respondents according to perception about social media is creating political extremism in youth?

Categories	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	76	33.8%
Agree	93	41.3%
Neutral	47	20.9%
Disagree	7	3.1%
Strongly disagree	2	.9%
Total	225	100%

The above table shows that 33.8% respondents of this research strongly agree that social media is creating political extremism in youth, 41.3% respondents were just agreed, 20.9% respondents were neutral, 3.1% respondent were disagreed and only .9% respondents were strongly disagreed that social media is creating political extremism in youth. Social media is creating interactive ways, an easy-to-use platform to attract a younger audience. Youth people take more in use of social media. Because social media is the most interesting platform to interact with other people. As mostly respondents of this agree that social media is creating political extremism in youth (Weimann, 2015).

Table 6: Distribution of respondents according to perception about youth is more involved in extremism activity than aged people?

Categories	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	40	17.8%
Agree	119	52.9%
Neutral	59	26.2%
Disagree	5	2.2%
Strongly disagree	2	.9%
Total	225	100%

The above table shows that 17.8% respondent were strongly agree that youth is more involved in extremism activity than aged people, 52.9% respondent were agreed, 26.2% respondents were neutral, 2.2% respondents were disagreeing and only .9%t respondents had strongly disagreed that

youth is more involved in extremism activity than aged people. Investigated due to lack of civic knowledge youth is mostly involved in extremism activity than aged people. The knowledge of youth is not compatible to meet their socialization requirements. Extremism scholars often reached different conclusions about which variables most strongly correlate to crime and extremism. As majority respondents of this study indicate that youth are more involved in extremism than aged people (Hart et al. 2004).

Suggestion:

- Awareness seminar should be conducted to prevent extremism.
- Government may assure us to provide education and free education.
- Poverty should be eliminated to prevent political extremism in youth.
- Social media can play a role in prevention of extremism.
- Unemployment should be abolished.

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