

**WEAPONIZATION OF TEACHERS AND ITS PSYCHO-EDUCATIONAL IMPACT
ON LEARNING ENVIRONMENT IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS OF
DISTRICT CHARSAKDA**

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ABSTRACT

Weaponization of Teachers refers to arming teachers with guns for security protection. This concept started after terrorism attacks over schools, Colleges and Universities. Especially in Pakistan after terrorist attacked over Army Public school on December 16, 2014 and University of Bacha Khan located on January 20, 2016 at Charsakda. Provincial government decided to arm and give proper training to teachers for self-protection. Safety for teachers and students is an issue that stays close to administrator's minds always as the doors of schools are opened each day. They started training of teachers in whole province including our female teachers. There are many advantages and disadvantages to having teachers act as security guards for a school. On the other hand, some people criticising this act from government side. They argued that weaponization badly affected the education promotion process especially among female. So in this study the researcher evaluated through Mix Method research and analysed the impact of arming faculty members can help in securing lives or harm education purpose. Respondents concluded that weaponization leads to fear among students and further that added that terrorism will be defeated with Pen not gun.

Keywords: Weaponization, Arming, Terrorism, Educational Institutions

INTRODUCTION

After happened at Sandy Hook, lawmakers in many states looked to control school violence with proposal to weaponizing teachers, while number of people was against this new strategy as well. However, South Dakota govt. Dennis Daugaard signed a bill into a law in month of March which allowed teachers to keep guns with themselves. In Kansas and Georgia, policy makers have argued a bill that would allow guns on each school campuses as well. While about 20 states have already been agreed upon that adult can carry a loaded gun within educational environment. They were given written permission letters from school head or from board (Cornell, 2012).

A harmful environment in school could be cause for breeding floor for violence in premises of educational environment. While a positive environment lead to enrich nonviolence and cooperation, not division. In Pakistan in general and in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in particular, terrorism badly damaged number of educational institutions. After terrorist attack on Army Public School Peshawar and University of Bacha Khan located at Charsadda, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa decided to arm faculty members and administration to make able for future critical situation. (Lecher, 2012) A discussion over weaponizing teachers has surged in Pakistan once again these days after defensive act of assistant chemistry professor Syed Hamid Husain who started fire on the Taliban gunmen who attacked the university campus where he worked. According to Students how the 33-years old father died protecting them with a handgun in the attack that claimed 21 lives in University of Bacha Khan (BKU) in Charsadda (2016, January 20).

The Global Coalition to protect education from attack (GCPEA) published a report in year of 2014; according to report educational institutions in round about 70 countries were attacked from 2009 to 2013, while isolated attacks were also reported in 40 countries. All those schools, colleges and universities are covered in this report which affected by bombing, burnings, killing, injuring and kidnapping students, teachers and academics. "Pakistan, Colombia, Afghanistan, Somalia, Sudan and Syria were the countries that have been classified among those which was 'heavily effected' territories with 1000 more attacks on educational institutes, staff and students between 2009 to 2012," according to this report.

Kasler (2013) concluded that In Kansas, South Dakota, and Tennessee, faculty members are already permitted to keep concealed weapons within school, but the cost of weapons are out

of access. In Indiana, s situation was somewhere they were more worried about the financial mater of allowing teachers to keep weapons. In this way first hurdle they faced was about training expenses and then purchasing weapons. This problem overcomes with the help of a local community member who gave 27,000 USD value of the weapons for the district institute.

Singer (2012) estimated that been discussed in many district schools is “arming” the teachers. Those who were in the favor of weaponized teaching staff are more concerned about the crucial minutes at the occasion a determined shooter bursts into a building and the time which skilled law enforcement personnel can reach. Ali (2016) highlighted that Early in the morning of 16th December seven men with guns wearing military masks entered in an army owned school at Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan. Those terrorists went each class and shooting them at very close distance. The tragedy left 150 people martyred including 134 children. Later in afternoon, Muhammad Omar Khurasani a spokesperson for Taliban in Pakistan. They took the credit of this terror attack. “We want Pakistan army to feel pain,” said Khurasan, who represents the group which is officially known as Tehrik-e Taliban.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To know the socio-economic status of the respondents
- To know the perception of students about arming Faculty members
- To identify the Psychological impact of weaponization culture on the teachers

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The most important element of the entire research process is to ensure the data reliability and appropriate analyses of research findings. Inappropriate statistical & mathematical analyses faked the original findings, misguide ordinary readers, and may badly manipulate the general public perception of the performed research (Shepard, 2002). In the existing study, data is being collected from Students, Teachers and administrative staff of Educational institutions through purposive sampling (Neuman, 2013) from districts Charsadda and further examined and tabulated analytically. The data was inspected with the help of the uni-variate analysis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

General and Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

S. No	Statement	Frequency	Percentage
1	Male	119	66.1
2	Female	61	33.9
Total		180	100.0
Status of Respondents			
S. No	Statement	Frequency	Percentage
1	Student	150	83.3
2	Teacher	30	16.7
Total		180	100.0
Age of the Respondents			
S. No	Statement	Frequency	Percentage
1	16 – 20	7	3.9
2	21 – 25	107	59.4
3	26 – 30	5	2.8
4	31 – 35	56	31.1
5	36 and above	5	2.8

Total	180	100.0
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Table 1 shows that the Gender of the respondents was categorized in to 2 groups male and females. There were 66% male and 34% female of the respondents (180). Table 1 Status of the respondent's statement 2 indicate two categories teacher and Students. Where Students were in 83% and teachers were 17% of the respondents (180).Table 1 statement 3 the age was categorized into 5 groups, 16, -20, 21-25, 26-30, 31-36, 36 and above. There were 3.9% were in the age group of 16-20,59.4% were in the group of 21-25, 2.8% were in the age group of 26-30, 31.1% in the age group of 31-35 and 2.8% were in the age group of above 35 and above among total (180) respondents.

Student Perception Regarding Weaponized Culture in Educational Environment

S#	Statement	S. A	A	N	D	S. D	Total	Mean
1	Weaponization of teachers may negatively affect student learning in class room	84 (46.7%)	76 (42.2%)	6 (3.3%)	7 (3.9%)	7 (3.9%)	180 (100%)	4.24
2	An armed teacher may do misuse of weapons.	76 (42.2%)	67 (37.2%)	21 (11.7%)	5 (2.8%)	11 (6.1%)	180 (100%)	4.09
3	A Student may feel afraid from a weaponized teacher.	78 (43.3%)	75 (41.7%)	7 (3.9%)	11 (6.1%)	9 (5%)	180 (100%)	4.11
4	A Weaponized tutor may cause of a stressful environment in educational institutions.	79 (43.9%)	70 (38.9%)	9 (5%)	6 (3.3%)	16 (8.9%)	180 (100%)	4.33
5	Teacher carrying gun may give a sense of threat in educational environment.	78 (43.3%)	65 (36.1%)	11 (6.1%)	9 (0.5%)	17 (9.4%)	180 (100%)	4.03
6	Weaponization of teachers may inspire students to get	67 (37.2%)	76 (42.2%)	9 (5%)	13 (7.2%)	15 (8.3%)	180 (100%)	3.94

	weapons							
7	Weapon training sessions of teachers may certainly enhance the gun culture in educational premises.	78 (43.3%)	72 (40%)	4 (2.2%)	9 (5%)	17 (9.4%)	180 (100%)	4.07

Table 2 shows that student’s perception statement 1 shows regarding weaponization of teachers may negatively affect student learning in class room. Majority of the respondents i.e. 89% agreed and strongly agreed about the statement. Very low amount i.e. 8% of the respondents disagreed and strongly disagreed with the statement. A very low amount of respondents i.e. only 3% didn’t show any interest to show their perception regarding the issue. Mean value of the statement (Weaponization of teachers may negatively affect student learning in class room) is 4.24 which show a tendency towards agreement of the respondents about the statement.

The above table 2 students perception statement 2 shows regarding an armed teacher may do misuse of weapons. Majority of the respondents i.e. 79% agreed and strongly agreed about the statement. Very low amount i.e. 9% of the respondents disagreed and strongly disagreed with the statement. A very low amount of respondents i.e. only 12% didn’t show any interest to show their perception regarding the issue. Mean value of the statement (An armed teacher may do misuse of weapons) is 4.09 which show a tendency towards agreement of the respondents about the statement.

The above table 2 student’s perception statement 3 shows regarding A Student may feel afraid from a weaponized teacher. Majority of the respondents i.e. 85% agreed and strongly agreed about the statement. Very low amount i.e. 11% of the respondents disagreed and strongly disagreed with the statement. A very low amount of respondents i.e. only 4% didn’t show any interest to show their perception regarding the issue. Mean value of the statement (A Student may feel afraid from a weaponized teacher) is 3.94 which show a tendency towards agreement of the respondents about the statement.

The above table 2 student's perception statement 4 shows regarding A Weaponized tutor may cause of a stressful environment in educational institutions. Majority of the respondents i.e. 82% agreed and strongly agreed about the statement. Very low amount i.e. 12% of the respondents disagreed and strongly disagreed with the statement. A very low amount of respondents i.e. only 6% didn't show any interest to show their perception regarding the issue. Mean value of the statement (A Weaponized tutor may cause of a stressful environment in educational institutions) is 4.33 which show a tendency towards agreement of the respondents about the statement.

The above table 2 student's perception statement 5 shows regarding Teacher carrying gun may give a sense of threat in educational environment. Majority of the respondents i.e. 79% agreed and strongly agreed about the statement. Very low amount i.e. 10% of the respondents disagreed and strongly disagreed with the statement. A very low amount of respondents i.e. only 11% didn't show any interest to show their perception regarding the issue. Mean value of the statement (Teacher carrying gun may give a sense of threat in educational environment) is 4.03 which show a tendency towards agreement of the respondents about the statement.

The above table student's perception statement 6 shows regarding Weaponization of teachers may inspire students to get weapons. Majority of the respondents i.e. 79% agreed and strongly agreed about the statement. Very low amount i.e. 16% of the respondents disagreed and strongly disagreed with the statement. A very low amount of respondents i.e. only 5% didn't show any interest to show their perception regarding the issue. Mean value of the statement (Weaponization of teachers may inspire students to get weapons) is 3.94 which show a tendency towards agreement of the respondents about the statement.

The above table 2 student's perception statement 7 shows regarding Weapon training sessions of teachers may certainly enhance the gun culture in educational premises. Majority of the respondents i.e. 83% agreed and strongly agreed about the statement. Very low amount i.e. 14% of the respondents disagreed and strongly disagreed with the statement. A very low amount of respondents i.e. only 3% didn't show any interest to show their perception regarding the issue. Mean value of the statement (Weapon training sessions of teachers may certainly enhance the gun culture in educational premises.) is 4.07 which show a tendency towards agreement of the respondents about the statement.

4.3 Psychological Impact of Carrying Guns within educational Environment

S#	Statement	S. A	A	N	D	S. D	Total	Mean
1	Keeping gun may encourage teachers to act authoritative in front of students.	70 (38.9%)	79 (43.9%)	14 (7.8%)	12 (6.7%)	5 (2.8%)	180 (100%)	4.09
2	Students may feel anxiety in front of weaponised teacher.	78 (43.3%)	82 (45.6%)	4 (2.2%)	14 (7.8%)	2 (1.1%)	180 (100%)	4.44
3	Holding arm may increase the chance of aggressiveness among teachers.	81 (45%)	80 (44.4%)	8 (4.4%)	9 (5%)	2 (1.1%)	180 (100)	4.27
4	A student may afraid of his teacher with gun in class room	90 (50%)	67 (37.2%)	9 (5%)	10 (5.6%)	4 (2.2%)	180 (100)	4.27
5	Teachers carrying gun within class room can stress students	79 (43.9%)	81 (45%)	4 (2.2%)	12 (6.7%)	4 (2.2%)	180 (100%)	4.22

Table 3 shows that the Psychological Impact statement 1 shows regarding Keeping gun may encourage teachers to act authoritative in front of students. Majority of the respondents i.e. 83% agreed and strongly agreed about the statement. Very low amount i.e. 10% of the respondents disagreed and strongly disagreed with the statement. A very low amount of respondents i.e. only 7% didn't show any interest to show their perception regarding the issue. Mean value of the statement (Keeping gun may encourage teachers to act authoritative in front of students) is 4.09 which show a tendency towards agreement of the respondents about the statement.

The above table 3 the Psychological Impact statement 2 shows that Students may feel anxiety in front of weaponized teacher. Majority of the respondents i.e. 89% agreed and

strongly agreed about the statement. Very low amount i.e. 9% of the respondents disagreed and strongly disagree the statement. Very low amount of respondents i.e. only 2% didn't show interest to show their perception regarding the issue. Mean value of the statement (Students may feel anxiety in front of weaponized teacher) is 4.44 which show a tendency towards agreement of the respondents.

The above table 3 the Psychological Impact statement 3 shows regarding Holding arm may increase the chance of aggressiveness among teachers. Majority of the respondents i.e. 89% agreed and strongly agreed about the statement. Very low amount i.e. 6% of the respondents disagreed and strongly disagreed with the statement. A very low amount of respondents i.e. only 5% didn't show any interest to show their perception regarding the issue. Mean value of the statement (holding arm may increase the chance of aggressiveness among teachers) is 4.27 which show a tendency towards agreement of the respondents about the statement. Moreover table 3 Psychological Impact statement 4 shows the regarding A student may afraid of his teacher with gun in class room. Majority of the respondents i.e. 87% agreed and strongly agreed about the statement. Very low amount i.e. 8% of the respondents disagreed and strongly disagreed with the statement. A very low amount of respondents i.e. only 5% didn't show any interest to show their perception regarding the issue. Mean value of the statement (A student may afraid of his teacher with gun in class room) is 4.27 which show a tendency towards agreement of the respondents about the statement. The above table 3 Psychological Impact statement 5 shows the that teachers carrying guns within class room can stress students. Majority of the respondents i.e. 89% agreed and strongly agreed about the statement. Very low amount i.e. 9% of the respondents disagreed and strongly disagreed with the statement. A very low amount of respondents i.e. only 2% didn't show any interest to show their perception regarding the issue. Mean value of the statement (Teachers carrying gun within class room can stress students) is 4.22 which show a tendency towards agreement of the respondents about the statement.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on available data and major findings researcher concluded that provision of arms to the teachers is disliked. It was observed that instead of providing weapons to the teachers the security must be strengthened. Armed culture within the educational institutions may harm

the student's teacher's relationships and divert the attention of teachers from their actual job to something other than their duties.

SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

On the basis of study findings it is recommended that full-proof security must be provided to the educational institutes on priority bases, and armed culture within the educational institutions must be highly discouraged. Further, psychological counseling and stress management sessions must be arranged for both the employees and students at the educational institutions. Moreover, in a broader sense, for ending the terrorist activities in the region generally and within the educational institutions particularly it is suggested to both the government officials and policy makers shall develop peaceful relationships with neighborhood countries on priority basis as peaceful neighborhoods are foundation for a peaceful country.

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