

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AGAINST TERRORIST ACTS IN OUR SCHOOLS AT THE SECONDARY LEVELNayab Waqas Khan¹, Syeda Zahida Rizvi², Syed Jawad Hussain Rizvi³**Original Article**

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Abstract

The main purpose of this research is to investigate the operative conducts for crisis preparedness to combat terrorist acts at schools in Pakistani perspective with the proper planning of disaster management authority. This research employed a mixed-method approach. The sample of this study comprises a hundred teachers at a secondary level of government schools in Lahore. The random sampling process has been used to conduct this survey for the purpose to get the views of selective teachers about school safety measures. The finding of this research is, that lack of cohesion between different law enforcement agencies, disaster management authorities and implementation of government policies in the educational sector are the barrier to school safety. The findings recommend serious efforts for incapacitating the crooked consequences further in the form of any disaster. The school is the most reliable socializing institution for younger ones and the new generation that should be a haven that must be free from crime. Future researchers can find out more operational apparatuses for disaster management's policies implementations to make initiatives for the safety of the academic sector. The academic sector should be beyond this political, dogmatic, spiritual, and folkloric intolerance.

Keywords: School safety, Disaster Management, Terrorist acts, etc.

Introduction

Many faiths have been embraced by different Pakistanis like Islam, Christianity, and Hinduism and very few minorities stay in Pakistan like Sikhs. Islam is the predominant religion as 97% population are Muslims. The religion of Islam has been exploited in negative ways by western media and some extent for political supremacy and the bilateral relation among the international community. "You shall not kill any person * for GOD has made life sacred — except in the course of justice." (Quran 17:33) Many modern reports have been used in the term to put the black shade on religious extremism. Pakistan is the only country that has been targeted in several ways in the name of terrorism, for instance, Islam is the religion of jihad and it exploits women's rights and has been spread in

the name of the sword. Pakistan is a state situated in a very sensitive area on the globe. Pakistan has been politically used as a buffer state. The involvement of Pakistan in Afghanistan's internal affairs has given high costs in the form of destabilization. When the interest of religious militants that had been involved against Russian forces in Afghanistan shifted in the other direction then it hit Pakistan the nastiest. For this reason, the death toll and human crisis inflame our society. The different research scholars have given different names to terrorism according to their perceptions like religious extremism, fight against the state, bloodshed, mass destruction, and ethnic violence. Terrorism is a ubiquitous threat to Pakistan's growth in all facets. Pakistan's

educational sector has suffered immensely with the fretful environment in the country. If it is urban schools or rural schools. Many terrorist attacks hit the Pakistani government, semi-government and private sector schools. The year 2015 has the worst example of the invincible terrorist menace in APS Peshawar School. On the whole many schools are still unsafe except for high alert security given by the government. Pakistan had indulged itself in the war of terrorism for the sake of bilateral relations with the USA. The problem became unembellished after the Taliban attacked the world trade center. Currently, in 2016, it's become jeopardy for our homeland. Several incidents of terrorists in Pakistan have weakened the internal and external structure and international prestige. The role of parents and teachers can't be put aside in such catastrophes. Parents leave their children for educational purposes but if they are being targeted for the sake of religious and ethnic violence then this kind of society needs serious amendments to its roots. In this panic situation, collective efforts are needed. The government needs to take precautionary measures for saving the lives of innocent souls. After all, terrorism is our mutual opponent, and we can't see a successful Pakistan without eliminating it. Fighting against terrorism, in general, is meticulous work, performed by armed forces in every sphere till now with full dedication.

Literature Review

What is terrorism?

David Rapaport pointed out that "Terrorism is "the gadget to inflame or provoke various feelings and sympathy that tactlessly leads towards repulsion". Stephen Sloan proclaimed over the times but its ideological goals always remain stagnant. Today's terrorists can attack at any place, at any time, and with practically any weapon (Department of Homeland Security, 2002). Terrorism has no religion, no cultural boundaries and these acts had generated devastation in national cohesion. The million-dollar question is what are terrorist acts? Is it a gigantic adverse side on national identity or what else? The topic of terrorism is both multifaceted

and sensitive. It is complex because it syndicates various forms of disasters. Many incidents have been reported in western countries as well about school shootings. Pakistan is the only country that paid the most. This advanced world brings so many comforts to the life of humans but on the other side of this picture, there are many detriments of this advanced technology. Poverty, injustice, hunger, fights for rights, violation of human rights, immoderation, bigotry, and fanaticism are the gifts of this modern world. People become less tolerant and they show greediness towards wealth and power. When governments feel insecure about their neighborhood countries and increase their military expenditures then civil war becomes common. That is the phase when basic rights are being humiliated. When the budget has the least expenditures for the education sector and no further improvements have been taken for ages. It is obvious formerly when schools become a less safe place. Attacks of terrorists on schools hit the backbone of national integration and it's the anxiety for cultural and social growth. Schools must lock all unmonitored entrances for safety purposes and check all visitors at the main office. Visitors also need to wear identification cards given by the administration (Begar, 2002). School recruits have also initiated showing routine security inspections of the exterior and interior of the school and reporting any suspicious activity to school officials or the police (Triplett, Trulson, & Snell, 2001). Medium size schools now fix at least 10 to 15 surveillance cameras in classrooms, hallways, gyms, cafeterias, parking lots, football fields, and on each school bus ("Security Toughens," 2001). School authorities who can well plan and are well equipped for emergency preparation easily detect weapons, illegal substances, and other items that lead to or promote school violence more easily in case of terrorist acts (Ellis, 2003). Schools' students wear visible student identification cards at all times that giving less opportunity aimed at outsiders to sneak into the school (Bridges, 1999). Schools are generally considered to be safe anchorages for millions of children and the supreme mingling foundations after the family. However, the recent experiences with natural

disasters, in-school violence, acts of terrorism, and external threats demonstrate the need for schools to be prepared for all-hazard crisis possibilities. Different Faiths have been embraced by different Pakistanis like Islam, Christianity, and Hinduism and very less minorities stay in Pakistan like Sikhs. Islam is the predominant religion as 97% population are Muslims. The religion of Islam has been exploited in negative ways by western media and to some extent for political supremacy and bilateral relation among the international community. "You shall not kill any person * for GOD has made life sacred — except in the course of justice." (Quran17:33). Many modern rappers have been used in the term to put black shade on religious extremism. Pakistan is the only country that has been targeted in several ways in the name of terrorism, for instance, Islam is the religion of jihad and it exploits woman's rights and has been spread in the name of the sword. Pakistan is a state situated in a very sensitive area on the globe. Pakistan has been politically used as a buffer state. The involvement of Pakistan in Afghanistan's internal affairs has given high costs in the form of destabilization. When the interest of sacred militants that had been involved against Russian forces in Afghanistan shifted in the other direction then it hit Pakistan the nastiest. For this reason, the death toll and human crisis enflame in our society. The different research scholars have given different names to terrorism according to their perceptions like religious extremism, fight against the state, bloodshed, mass destruction, and ethnic violence. Terrorism is a ubiquitous threat to Pakistan's growth in all facets. Pakistan's educational sector has suffered immensely with the fretful environment in the country. If it is urban schools or rural schools. Many terrorist attacks hit the Pakistani government, semi-government and private sector schools. The year 2015 has the worst example of the invincible terrorist menace in APS Peshawar School. On the whole many schools are still unsafe except for high alert security given by the government. Pakistan had indulged itself in the war on terrorism for the sake of bilateral relations with the USA. The problem

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The role of Disaster Management

The National Disaster Management Authority reporting name: (NDMA), is an active, self-directed, and constitutionally established disaster preparedness federal institution directive towards dealing with all types of disasters in the country. Disaster management, particularly preparedness in Pakistan has largely remained unsatisfactory. The underlying factors responsible for its inefficiency, besides insufficient resources, are the lack of proactive approach and transparency.

Disaster management has different phases. First, Prevention and preparedness are initial parts that can be taken before a disaster occur and these factors prevention and preparedness can reduce its impact. The response is the third phase that should be swift and as fast as it can be. This is the very imperative part that can survive the victims. The steps involved in the response phase are condition analysis, crisis mapping, information communiqué, removal and shelters, dispatching of resources, and early damage assessment. It aims to deliver instantaneous emergency sustenance to a community. The recovery phase can be short-term or long term and it starts after the accomplishment of the disaster. The recovery phase covers reconstruction, rehabilitation;

longitudinal planning, infrastructure building, socialshelter, transport, clean drinking water, communication, and cultivation. The National Disaster of Pakistan needs to improve its credibility and efficiency in other disasters. The main factor that creeps the even functioning of the disaster management process is alack of integration between various agencies and organizations involved in the process. Consequently, these diverse factors condensethe management process pathetically and, therefore, people bear the brunt on their shoulders.



The Purpose Statement

The purpose of the present study was to examine the effectiveness of emergency preparedness in our schools and how it can help to overcome the worst consequences of any disaster.

Research Questions

Q1: How emergency preparedness action plan by school management can improve security for students, faculty, and staff members?

Q2: which security measures taken by schools are considered the most effective in reducing fewer disaster aftermaths in schools?

Methodology

This study aims to explore these questions in the sphere of the Pakistani scenario. The exploratory sequential mix method will be used and the item will be analyzed in the form of percentages with graphs. First, the expert interviews have been recorded, and then a survey was conducted on the respective sample

of teachers. According to Creswell (2003), "survey design provides the numeric description of trends and attitudes of the selective sample that can be generalized to population". The theoretical framework will be based on the deductive approach.

Expert Interviews

The two experts have recorded their experience regarding disaster management planning in the time of the worst conditions. One of the experts is from the Anti-terrorist force and the second is Reg. colonel from Pakistan Armed Forces. Anti-terrorist force experts said we are well trained and always ready to combat terrorism and try to avoid maximum death toll. Although, it is the most panicky situation for civilians because they are targeted in the name of retaliation. Every school should have specific agenda against combing terrorism immediately and spread awareness among the management of the school. A reformed and strengthened criminal justice system is pivotal to countering terror threats and containing violent extremism. The armed force official explained that they are trying to regulate the madrasa sector, curb hate speech and literature and block terrorist financing have been haphazard at best. The military, which has almost complete control over national security and counter-terrorism policy still wants to protect citizens from any kind of danger. The armed forces believed that the still pivotal way of enforcing the law is not applicable. The government should take the step to curb terrorist financing and money laundering. Many constitutional amendments bring change for countering terrorism. Police authorities should be vigilant in taking immediate steps. They should have enough authority to mitigate the problem at their level. Unfortunately,

The Study and the Data

The purpose of this article is to find out that emergency preparedness in disaster and try to overcome the worst circumstances. A survey was conducted on 100 teachers (male & female) from different schools with one set of questionnaires. The responses are shown in charted form.

Participants of the Research

Different participants took part in the survey. The teachers, who are teaching different subjects in public schools at the secondary level, were in the group. They were male and female teachers who filled the questionnaires voluntarily.

Data Collection Instrument

For collecting data, one separate set of questionnaires was designed on the Likert scale and distributed among the teachers. In the questionnaire designed for the teachers (see Appendix 1), some questions are included that presuppose some obvious reasons for teachers. These questions are included to justify and verify whether the assumed reasons are true or not, which received strong support from the teachers for school safety.

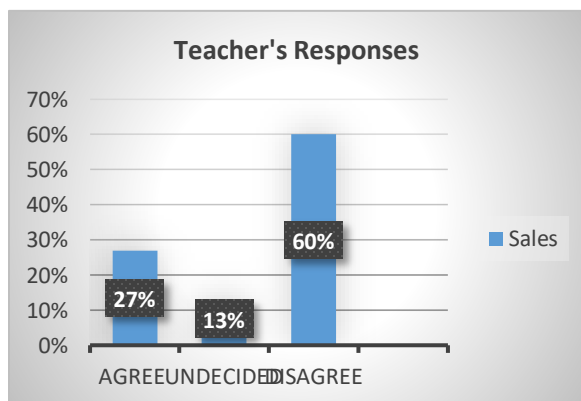
Item Analysis & Results

Item by item Analysis of data

Strongly Agree + Agree	= Agree
Undecided	=Undecided
Disagree + Strongly Disagree	=Disagree

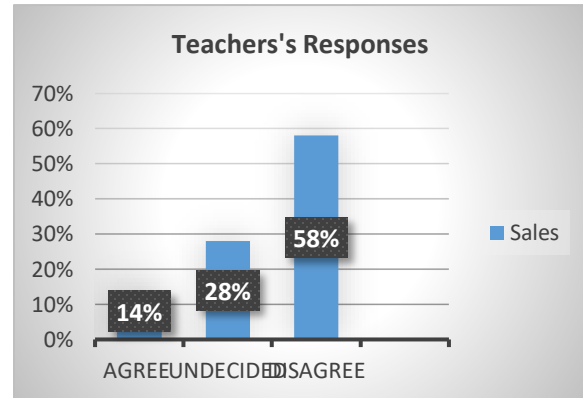
Item 1: The school authority has a crisis management plan in case of any emergency.

The overall view of this item was 60%. It means 60% of teachers believe that their school has not any crisis management plan in any case of emergency whether it is a terrorist attack or any other natural disaster. That shows the school's high proportion of negligence.



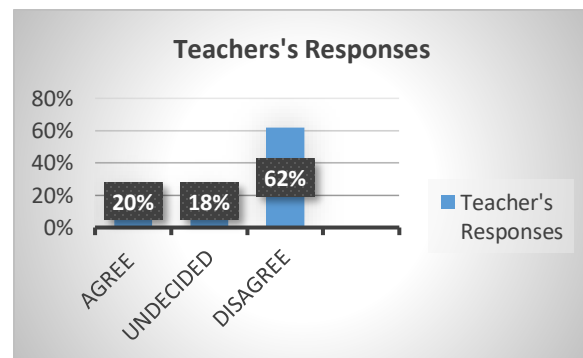
Item 2: The school management organizes drills for safety precautions for students, faculty, and staff.

The item shows that only 14% of teachers agree about safety drills rather while a high percentage shows that schools are not serious about their planning.



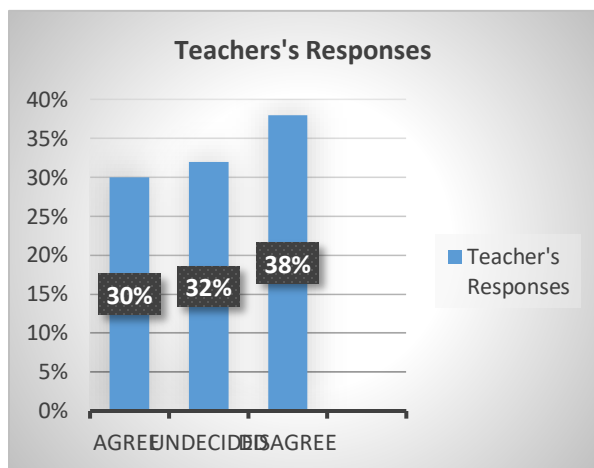
Item 3: The school safety plan is reviewed by any security experts.

Unfortunately, many schools don't have any sort of planning for disaster recovery in schools. If any school has to plan then unluckily, there is no implementation at all. All these kind of planning is only preserved in documents. Nevertheless, this is highly negligence by the government side because the Pakistan disaster management authority must maintain check and balance through their active wings. Pakistan is a country where natural disasters demolish massive infrastructure. The death toll increased immensely. The review can be mandatory by the schools and the law enforcement agencies on the regular basis.



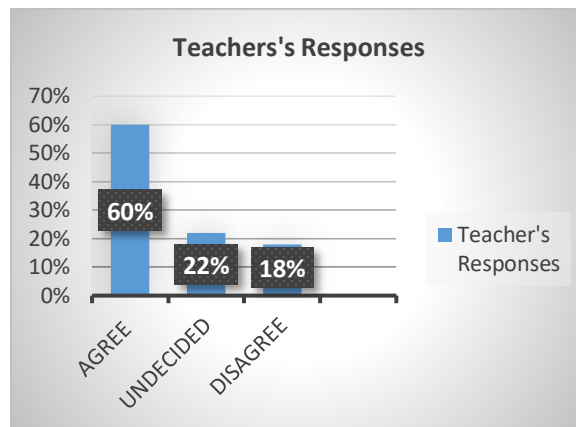
Item 4: The teachers motivate students to initiate a safety awareness campaign outside the premises of the school.

This item reveals quite neutral results that may teachers motivate students to take steps in the form of conducting seminars about safety measures but many teachers don't. 32% are undecided about this issue as they think students cannot bring extensive change until or unless the government takes amendments to different schools' policy makers' strategies.



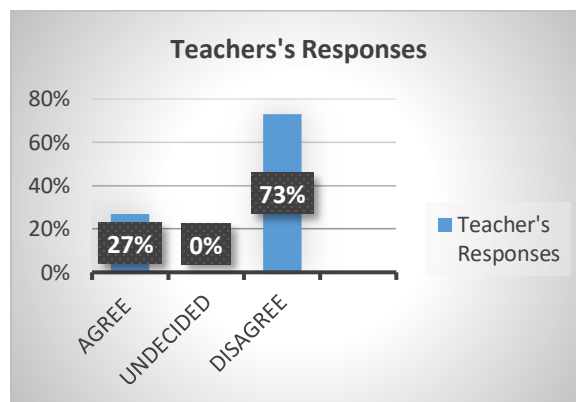
Item 5: Teachers aren't highly satisfied with the action plan of school in any disaster.

The item analysis strongly emphasized the disagreement of the teachers. 60% of teachers show their dissatisfaction regarding school policy. This is an alarming situation according to the teachers' point.



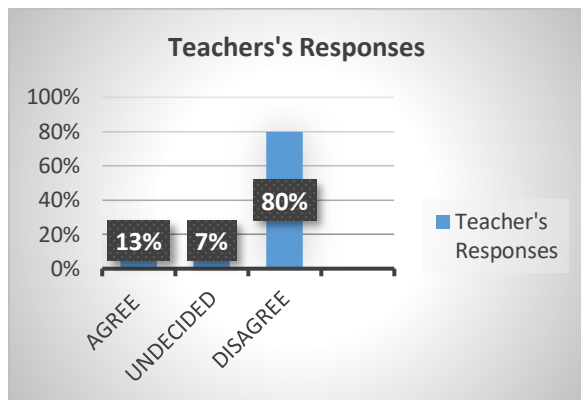
Item 6: The school hired any extra security guards for school safety.

Different schools higher extra security guards but that's not the case with government schools, it only happened in private schools. In government schools, only 2 to 3 extra police officers are appointed at school for home time or in the morning when school starts. Will it be safe to step by the school management? Not. Alas! Children are not safe.



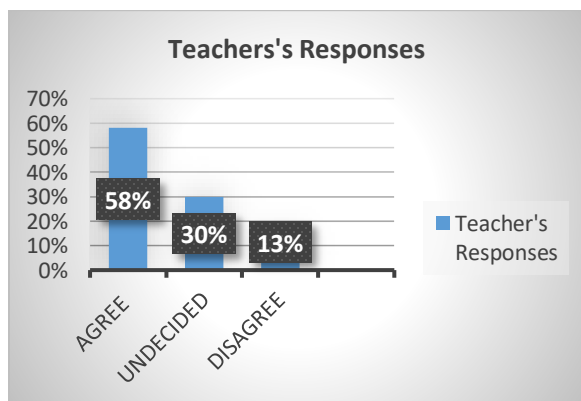
Item 7: The hired security guards are well trained by any law enforcement agency.

The high ratio of teachers believes that the extra security guards are not well- trained they are extremely cheap and have no risk allowance by the school authority as well. First of all government schools don't hire any extra security guards, if any government school does then it is 1 in 100.



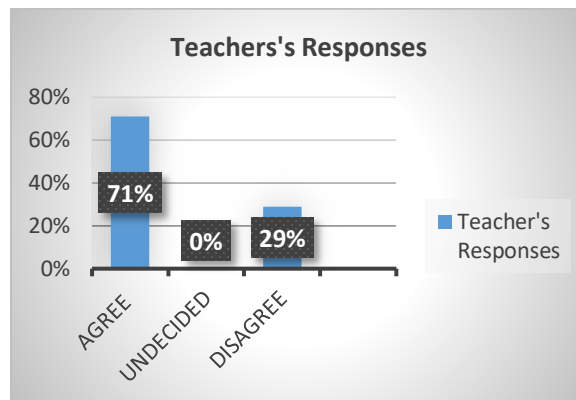
Item 8: The announcement of a holiday from the government in any case of terrorist threats is useful.

Likewise, teachers and students are happy on holidays but actually, it is not the solution to such a serious problem. The government cannot put aside such a burning issue and start giving holidays. The institutions must be so secure that government continues academic sessions routinely. The holiday is the worst form of retaliation against terrorist acts.



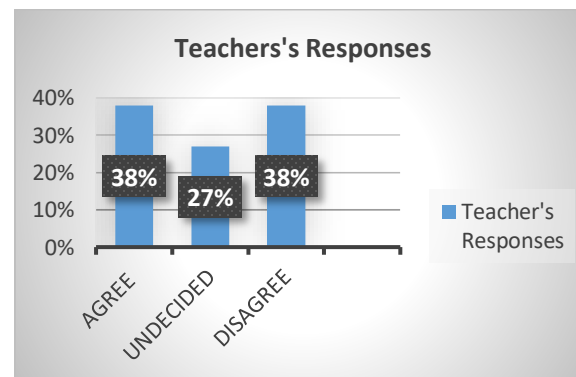
Item 9: The expert-related anti-terrorist force visited or delivered a lecture in your school.

Yes, 71% of teachers give a positive response about the expert lecture and visit to their schools. The main cause is government conducts different seminars for awareness but these are not fruitful. They all remain futile when there is no implementation.



Item 10. The school has any secure place to Exit in the mode of emergency.

Every school has a different structure, some government schools have quite old buildings. So, the results are the appropriate balance. 38% agree and 38% disagree. Some school buildings have Exit places in case of fire, or earthquake.



R1: How emergency preparedness action plan by school management can improve security for students, faculty, and staff members?

The data presented the fact that most schools don't have emergency planning against any kind of catastrophe, in this situation teachers feel apprehensive. The school expenditure has not extra roamed on planning emergency drills and providing equipment to staff for safety. Less % has evidence that school is serious about the preparedness of recovery but it becomes useless if they put this planning in files and papers. Very limited measurements have been taken by the authority of the school but these are inconsequential ones.

R2: which security measures taken by schools are considered the most effective in reducing fewer disaster aftermaths in schools?

They constructed boundaries, conducted seminars, visited security experts, precaution safety drilling, hired extra security, trained teachers, and rapid decision making by management of the school is quite effective measures which many schools have already taken although the percentage of these schools is very less they overcome the aftermaths in the case of adversity.

Reliability:

Reliability Statistics

Cronbach's Alpha	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items	N of Items
.810	.811	10

Case Processing Summary

	N	%
Cases Valid	100	100.0
Excluded	0	0.0
Total	100	100.0

For reliability, the alpha coefficient for all ten items is .810 which is relatively high in internal consistency. The most widely used measure is Cronbach's coefficient alpha which assesses the internal consistency of reliability (Henson, 2001; Crocker & Algina, 1986). The mixed-methods approach is one in which the researcher inclines to base knowledge claims on pragmatic grounds. The data collection contains both numeric information as well as text information so that the final database represents both quantitative and qualitative information.

Discussion and Recommendations

The results show quite a transparent image of government strategy that many changes are needed in an hour. **International organizations** can help in preventing a terrorist attack in the form of an alert system. The UNESCO, really helped in Palestine, to inaugurate an emergency alert system for the convenience of parents and students if the route is not safe they can alert the parents via text message in the morning. In Colombia, the government has allotted teachers radios and mobile phones to enable teachers to communicate with authorities in an emergency. In December 2014, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government launched an emergency mobile application so schools can more easily alert a rapid response force.

Measurements are taken by the Government

Recent research has shown that only 27% of primary schools in the private sector have boundary walls. The erection of barriers has been constructed in the surroundings of schools. Entry and exit cards for teachers and schools are necessary now. Use single entry/exit gate for general purpose. Many schools have constructed boundary wall that is 8 feet in height. Fencing off a boundary wall with razor wires. Metal detectors and mirrors are used for physical search on the place of entrance for persons and vehicles. Security guards have been placed in different sensitive areas of schools for rapid action. Higher financing and funds are important for annual school budgets. School buses and transportation routes have increasingly become targets of attack. For short-term planning resources must be allocated to the schools' authority for repair purposes, learning the material, hiring trained teachers and remaining costs must be repurposed for security issues. The international funds from the USA must be embarked on security measures at schools. This is the government's responsibility to encourage international donors for support. For example, in Nigeria, business leaders collaborated with donors, UN agencies, businesses, and government to launch a similar Safe Schools Initiative with an innovative financing model combining resources from the private sector, government, and international donor agencies. This initiative must be practiced in the Pakistani context as well for tomorrow's enhanced and secure future of the Pakistani nation.

Conclusion

The crust of this paper is to create awareness that emergency preparedness is extremely imperative. Terrorism is an international problem and in this rapidly growing world, many nations are affected directly and indirectly interlinked. Pakistan was affected in a worse manner. Terrorist acts and disaster management actions are directly interlinked. Disaster management overcomes the bloodshed by terrorists if planning is well equipped and alert. The current data regarding school safety shows that still accessible Pakistani schools need safety serious measures. Pakistan is a peace-loving nation and plays an important role in combating terror. Peace is the key element in making a nation progressive. Pakistan is fully responsible as a nation and capable of handling things in quite an impressive manner. Religious

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- intolerance can be one of the root causes but government policy should be appropriate for handling this international propaganda of terrorism proactively. On the other hand, all citizens must proliferate the moderate culture of Pakistan that connect our nation with the rest of the world. The academic sector is the backbone of national integration and national unity. The Pakistani government must understand that rapid progress in the industrial, agricultural, financial, and academic sectors is vital. We cannot put aside these elements for the sake of terrorism. Different attacks on law enforcement agencies should be executed with the joint venture of hostile intelligence agencies. Pakistan as a nation sacrificed the most and its efforts at the international forum must be appreciated.
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