

Digital Media and Radicalization: An Evidence from Students Perspective at Tertiary level

Zaheer Abbas

Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Gujrat, Gujrat, Pakistan
dr.zaheer@uog.edu.pk

Zainab Shamsher

BS Student, Department of Sociology, University of Gujrat, Gujrat, Pakistan

Muhammad Moiz Abdullah

BS Student, Department of Sociology, University of Gujrat, Gujrat, Pakistan

Abstract

The paper explains the issue of digital media and radicalization among youth has received significant attention all over the world. The youth of any country is very important for the development of any nation. Media (electronic, social and print) play a crucial role to engage youth in radicalization, violent activities aggressive behavior towards society. All over the world violence at domestic as well as border level is a significant issue. Pakistan is also one of the nations which considered as violent countries, especially in youth violent behavior. This is a misconception that violence among youth in Pakistan is only based on religious ideology. All over the world, certain factors are involved in violent behavior. This research was an effort to know youth radicalization patterns at the tertiary level in district Gujrat. Data was collected from 289 students of the University of Gujrat. To determine sample size for the target population, multiple sampling techniques were used. To determine the sample size for the target population, multiple sampling techniques were used. This study also confirmed that the use of digital media affects their study at the University level. Given these findings, there is a need of engaging youth indifferent extra co-curriculum activities for the positive development of their personality to control the radicalization culture in Pakistan.

Keywords: *Digital Media, Radicalization, Social Networking Sites, Terror and Violence*

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1. Introduction

This chapter provides the background of the study and the details of digital media exposure. It also discusses Radicalization among youth, the problem statement, objectives, hypothesis and significance of the study. The study of this research examines the connection between digital media exposure and the potential for radicalization among students at the tertiary level. With the widespread availability and accessibility of digital media platforms, there is a rising concern about the influence of online content on individuals, particularly in terms of radical ideologies. This study will explore the extent of digital media exposure among tertiary students, identify possible hazard factors for radicalization, and propose strategies for prevention and intervention.

Similarly, technology, media, different groups, and virtual networking, offer different programs for entertainment and allow them to share their beliefs, ideas, thoughts and behavioural attitudes. (Jewkes and Yar, 2010; Best et al., 2014; Tripathi, 2017; Kapoor et al., 2018). With the use of computers and mobile devices that include a variety of software and applications, social media users can share papers, images, videos, and personal information (Tripathi, 2017; Abbas et al.,

2019). Likewise, it is found that most users use Facebook with 1,968 million, and 319 million active users follow followed by Twitter in 2017, YouTube with 1.5 billion users, and Facebook with 2.04 billion active users in 2019 (Hameleers and Schmuck, 2017). YouTube, Instagram, Pinterest, and other social media. (Mastrodicasa and Metellus, 2013). Additionally, platforms include interactive elements like polls, comments, likes, and shares that encourage user involvement and participation (Choi and Kim, 2016). Users can influence the process of creating information by providing feedback and engaging with other users (Dijck, 2013).

Similarly, programs on digital media and the internet have become significant drivers of youth radicalization (McCauley and Moskalenko, 2008). In contrast, many media users particularly young people become more and more involved in violent and anti-social behaviours, because young people use digital media excessively, and unethical and illegal content is readily available on the digital media platforms to which they are exposed. (Jewkes and Yar, 2010; Lemoine, Hackett, and Richardson, 2016; Abbasi, 2016)).

Youth violence has been connected to a variety of problems, including parental dysfunction and family system maladjustment, including (1) Parental Criminality: Although this has been primarily researched in men, the majority of studies indicate the threat of violent crime among children and adolescents is increased by parental criminality (Baker and Mednick, 1984; Farrington, 1989).

Frequently, considering and judging a youth's hazard for violent behaviour can be significantly influenced by the nature of their peer relationships. (Ferguson, 2015). Peer rejection and link with peer criminals are two separate terms, but possibly connected processes that contribute define unhealthy peer interactions in children and adolescents. Similarly, peer rejection is linked to a wide range of negative consequences for youth, including crime and aggression (Coie et al., 1992; DeRosier, Kupersmidt, and Patterson, 1994; Kupersmidt and Coie, 1990; Ollendick et al., 1992). Criminal peer association cause aggressive children to frequently form antisocial networks with their peers (Cairns et al., 1988).

2. Review of Literature

In this study, recent research on the role of empathetic media technologies that use machine learning to classify and respond to human emotions in the process of digital radicalization is reviewed. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and other social media sites are excellent examples of empathetic media (Bakir and McStay, 2018). According to this report's findings, the emergence of empathetic media has complicated the problems associated with countering radicalization, necessitating the growth of new theoretical frameworks to understand and limit the spread of extremist beliefs in an affectively polarized online environment (Ho, 2022).

Furthermore, another primary kind of family violence, parent abuse, has received little attention in family violence studies in comparison to spouse and child abuse. This study examines the prevalence, correlates of sociodemographic characteristics, and root causes of attacks on parents using statistics from a national sample of teenagers. Key objective of the study is to evaluate an integrated framework that integrates traditional family violence variables with the most well-accepted theories of adolescent delinquency and uses them to explain parent assault. According to data, adolescents who assault their parents are more likely to: (a) have friends who also do the same; (b) approve of misbehaviour, including violence; (c) think that there is little chance that their actions will be punished by the authorities; and (d) have a poor attachment to their parents. (Agnew et al., 1989).

According to this study the Online Social Network (OSN) has developed into a well-liked platform that allows for rich topic-centric conversations and acts as a conduit for online radicalization. We concentrate on the Twitter information network and provide a method for recognizing dynamic

groups that develop as a result of "radical" topic-centric user interactions, keeping in mind the growing necessity to uncover online radicalization. The strategy uses evolving topic-entity mappings and evolving interaction graphs at subsequent timestamps. To assess the degree of resemblance among succeeding community timestamps, we suggest using the "Rate of Overlap (ROAct)" metric. Consuming an available dataset of criminal offences in the city of Denver, Colorado, we further confirm our methodology. (Wadhwa et al., 2015).

Frequently, the terms use to associated with violence or being a victim of violence, as well as the use of social media, are discussed in detail in this study, which looked for relevant studies with a focus on young people between the ages of 12 and 21. Among the terms associated with violence were "gang violence," "murder," "rape," "suicide," "victims of crime," "sexual/child/partner abuse," and "bullying." Social media were referred to by terminology like "Facebook," "Twitter," "YouTube," "Myspace," and "Formspring," which are the terms of social networking sites. Cyberbullying, often known as electronic bullying, is the first significant category of youth violence including social media (Menesini et al., 2012).

Although, cyberbullying is a sort of mistreatment that involves the use of online or computer-mediated message, such as Twitter, Facebook, immediate messaging, or text messaging. Sending offensive or threatening texts, spreading rumors, divulging private information, and showing shame are a few examples of cyberbullying. Researchers working in the arenas of criminal justice, sociology, medicine, and public health should pay attention to electronic juvenile violence (Smith et al., 2008). Our capacity to offer suggestions for potential interventions in the future is constrained by the constraints of this study. This result shows that young people violence whether caused by mistreatment, gang violence, or self-directed violence occurs online more regularly (Patton et al., 2014).

As well, radicalism study has probably emerged as the greatest significant sub-fields of extremism research, even though it is quite a young and underdeveloped body of literature (Neumann and Kleinmann, 2013). Despite the fact that researchers and decision-makers have gradually taken a radicalization and counter-radicalization method, there are still a numerous of important problems that prevent the progress of a thorough body of data. First off, there is little consensus on the best way to gauge radicalization. Second, even though several risk variables have been extensively addressed, there hasn't been any systematic evaluation of the varying and occasionally contradicting findings (Allan et al., 2015; Victorof 2005). Third, little is known about how risk and protective factors are distributed or how they are weighed relative to one another (Crenshaw 2007; Gill 2015; Hafez and Mullins 2015; Staring 2014).

Likewise, the current study set intended to conduct a methodical review and meta-analysis of potential threat and defending aspects for radicalization throughout the entire Feld. One putative factor has been the subject of prior evaluations (Misiak et al., 2019). A small group of preselected (perhaps unfair) presumed factors since it tries to evaluate all potential risk and protective factors connected to a successful defense without making assumptions about what such components could be the Feld-Wide approach is a more complete technique (Vergani et al., 2018).

As well, the Internet currently offers extra chances to get radicalized because of its properties including mass reach ability, anonymity, and comfort of use. Previously provided extensive of literature on how the Internet is used to support violent extremism and terrorism. By utilizing cutting-edge technologies to their advantage, illegal elements, especially violent rebels and extremists, use the Internet in parallel ways to commit crimes, communicate with one another, and avoid detection (Sageman, 2008). Secrecy is a sole characteristic of the Internet that may benefit prospective criminals," claims Mitchell (Weimann, 2006). Numerous studies demonstrate how the

Internet can "reach" people who would not otherwise be accessible to radicalizers in different way (Stevens and Neumann, 2009).

While, according to studies on violent radicalization, the young are disproportionately recruited by extremist organizations, typically using narratives that appeal to their protests and needs for excitement or belonging (Bramadat and Dawson, 2014; Dalgaard-Nielsen, 2008). Youth, especially teenagers, are seen to be more susceptible to radicalization than younger or older individuals. While the majority of authors mention how young people are marginalized and disenfranchised as of a lack of political and financial opportunities, underemployment, ostracism, and discrimination (Biswas and Roy, 2015). Leveraging factors for sustained green consumption behavior based on consumption value perceptions: testing the structural model. (Bhui, Warfa, and Jones, 2014; Costanza, 2012; Schmid, 2013)..

3. The Data And Methods

This section deals with the procedure to conduct this study setting, study design, technique of data collection, pre-test, data analysis as well and field experience. A proportionate random sampling technique was used to draw a sample size from the total population. An interview schedule was used to obtain the relevant data from the students. The interview schedule consists of both open and close-ended questions. Data was collected from the students who are currently enrolled at the University of Gujrat. The sample of the respondents was 289. Data analysis is Univariate and bivariate analyses were used for the process of data analysis. Statistical package for social science (SPSS) was for this purpose.

4. Results and Discussion

Table 4.1 Distribution of the respondents with respect to demographic profile

Variables	Frequency	Percent
Faculty Name		
Social Science	110	38.1
Science	81	28
Fine Arts	58	20.1
Other	40	13.8
Semester		
2	56	19.4
4	123	42.6
6	88	30.4
8	18	6.2
10	4	1.4
Gender		
Male	90	31.1
Female	199	68.9
Age of Respondent		
18-20	146	50.5
21-23	127	44
24-26	13	4.5
26+	3	0.9
Family Occupation		
Agriculture	74	25.6
Business	95	32.9
Government Employ	52	18

Over Seas	17	5.9
Others	51	17.6
Family Income		
20000-40000	36	12.4
40001-60000	97	33.5
60001-80000	41	14.1
80001-100000	60	20.6
100001+	55	18.7
Number of Siblings		
1-3	103	35.8
4-6	156	54
7-9	28	9.7
9+	2	0.6
Family Size		
2-6	148	51.1
7-11	121	41.9
12-16	16	5.4
16+	4	1.2
Family Type		
Joint	126	43.6
Nuclear	151	52.2
Extended	12	4.2
Residential Area		
Rural	177	61.2
Urban	112	38.8
Total	289	100

Demographic variables play a vital role in analyzing the results from the data. Table 4.1 shows the demographic profile of the respondent i.e. Faculty, gender, age of respondent, family income, family size family, type and the residential area. Data explain that the majority of the students (66.1%) were from Social Science and Sciences faculty. The table also shows the frequency and percentage distribution of gender of the respondent majority of the respondent (68.9%) were female. The table shows that more than half (50.5%) were between 18-20 years, with family income between 40001-60000, and family size mostly between (2-6) family type is usually a nuclear and residential area in most the of cases is a rural area.

Table 4.2 Isolation from Family

Distribution of the respondent by their response towards Isolation from Family

Statements	SD	D	A	SA
	f(%)	f(%)	f(%)	f(%)
You prefer to have less interaction with father	95 (32.9%)	89 (30.8%)	59 (20.4%)	46 (15.9%)
You try to avoid the questions of the mother	89 (30.8%)	107 (37%)	67 (23.2%)	26 (9%)
You prefer to live alone in the family	74 (25.6%)	92 (31.8%)	76 (26.3%)	47 (16.3%)

You have a separate room in your household	51 (17.6%)	82 (28.4%)	98 (33.9%)	58 (20.1%)
You prefer to less communicate with siblings	85 (29.4%)	100 (34.6%)	78 (27%)	26 (9%)
You hide information in front of others	46 (15.9%)	74 (25.6%)	106 (36.7%)	63 (21.8%)
You prefer to listen to songs alone	53 (18.3%)	44 (15.2%)	83 (28.7%)	109 (37.7%)
You have a sleeping problem at night	73 (25.3%)	91 (31.5%)	69 (23.9%)	56 (19.4%)
You use medicine for sleeping	131 (45.3%)	96 (33.2%)	39 (13.5%)	23 (8%)
You are facing stress due to isolation	93 (32.2%)	87 (30.1%)	68 (23.5%)	41 (14.2%)
You lose anger in family matters	77 (26.6%)	89 (30.8%)	90 (31.1%)	33 (11.4%)
You are reluctant to participate in housework	62 (21.5%)	89 (30.8%)	97 (33.6%)	41 (14.2%)

Table 4.2 explain that depicts the findings of Isolation from Family the primary data explain that majority 63.7% (SD=32.9,D=30.8) disagree and less than half 36.3% (A=20.4, SA=15.9) of the respondents agree with the statement “ You prefer to have less interaction with father”. The frequency table explain that majority 67.8% (SD=30.8, D= 37) of the respondents disagree and one-third 9 percent strongly agree with the statement “You try to avoid the questions of the mother”. The primary data elaborate that less than half 42.6%(A=26.3,SA=16.3) of the respondents agree and more than half 56.5 % (SD=25.5,D=31.8) disagree with the statement of “ You prefer to live along in the family”.

Similarly the analysis explain that more than half 54%(A=33.9,SA=20.1) of the respondents agree and one-third 17.6 percent of the respondents strongly disagree with the statement “You have a separate room in your household”. The frequency table shows that majority 64%(SD=29.4,D=34.6) of the respondents disagree and less than half 36% (A=27,SA=9) of the respondents agree with the statement “ You prefer to less communicate with siblings”.

Similarly, primary analysis shows that more than half 58.5% (A=36.7,SA=21.8) of the respondents agree and less than half 41.5%(SD=15.9,D=25.6) of the respondents disagree with the statement “You hide information in front of others”. Similarly, the primary data explain that majority 66.4%(A=28.7,SA=37.7) of the respondents agree and 33.5%(SD=18.3,D=15.2) of the respondents disagree with the statement of “ You prefer to listen to songs alone”. The primary data explain that more than half 56.8% (SD=31.5,D=25.3) of the respondents disagree and less than half 43.3%(A=23.9,SA=19.4) agree with the statement “you have a sleeping problem at night “. The frequency table elaborate that high majority 78.5(SD=45.3,D=33.2) of the respondents disagree and one third 8 percent of the respondents strongly agree with the statement “You use medicine for sleeping”. Similarly the primary data depicts that majority 63.3%(SD=32.2, D=30.1) of the respondents disagree and less than half 37.7(A=23.5,SA=14.2) of the respondents agree with the statement “You are facing stress due to isolation”. The frequency table illustrates that more than half 57.4%(SD=26.6,D=30.8) of the respondents disagree and one-third 11.4 percent of the respondents agree with the statement “You lose anger in family matters”. Similarly it explain

that less than half 47.8% (A=33.6,SA= 14.2) agree and more than half 52.3%(SD=21.5,D=30.8) disagree with the statement “You are reluctant to participate in housework.

5. Conclusion

This study concluded that digital media have been causing the radicalization among youth. The conclusion of the studies indicates that increased time on social also affects your learning loss. The finding of the study have been asserting that media and other sites affect young people to engage in unethical activities like the spread of terror and violence. The findings show a significant relationship between media and the violent behavior of young people.

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