An Empirical Study on the Causes of Intolerance among the Youth of Karachi

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The present study explores various factors that manifest intolerance in youth in the society. The factors exhibiting intolerance are categorised into four sections: economic, demographic, socio-political and cultural factors. Economic factor includes unemployment of individuals and perception of economic threats to the country. Demographic factors comprise of age, education, and socioeconomic status of individuals. Beside this, socio-political factors are political orientation, welfare system and citizenship government. While the cultural factors include social trust, outgroup contact and perception of ethnic threat. The area of the study was the University of Karachi. The calculated sample of 170 respondents was taken from all departments of the University of Karachi. Stratified equal proportionate sampling was used for the distribution of the respondents. A questionnaire was used as a tool for the data collection. Hypothesis were tested through SPSS software. It was observed that multi factors were responsible for intolerance of youth. Those factors included age, family, economic, social, educational environment, religious factors, political factors and media were found to be the cause of intolerance among youth of the Karachi.

Key words: *Youth, Age, Family factors, economic factors, political factors, religion, social Factors*

Introduction

Pakistan is confronting various challenges such as terrorism, ethnic and religious conflict, intolerance, violence, political upsurge, deprivation of basic rights, and so on. However, youth's intolerance in the Pakistani society is a leading social problem.

A huge population of Pakistan consists of youth. CIA world fact book 2017 showed that around 21.31% of population of Pakistan falls in age group 15-24 and it forms around 53% from the total population of the country.

Consequently, Pakistani society is experiencing great socio-cultural changes such as revenge, jealousy, competition for material attainment, social unjustness and frustration. Furthermore, prevalent psychological conditions are gallantry, gangster behaviour, and chauvinism, while socio- economic deprivation envisages unemployment, cast system, social taboos and social discrimination that are occurring in society(Mushtaq. M, Kiyani, M.M., 2013).

Overpowering the greater parts of radicalised youth are found to have a solid feeling of being oppressed and are distanced from larger society. This is widely accepted to be an element of financial hardship. Poor education system, absence of financial openings, and unequal access to pathways for social and monetary preparation are normally present in nations that experience radicalisation among youth. The issue is regularly complemented in the social order which shows cultural polarisation. Shockingly, Pakistani society shows in every practical senseall of these indications (Yusuf, 2008).

Causes of intolerance among youth of Pakistan

The Cambridge dictionary online defines "intolerance is the fact of refusing to accept ideas, beliefs, or behavior that are different from your own". The history of denying others ideas, beliefs or behaviour is long lasting in Pakistan. Historical intolerance started when minorities were denied access basic rights in the constitution and policies of 1970s and 1980s in Pakistan.

The researcher investigated the causes of intolerance sepatated into three broad categories economic, social and family factors. Economic factors include poverty, unemployment and political conditions of the society. Social factors are inequality, concentration of power, lack of support to families and neighborhoods, inaccessibility to services, weak communal leadership, neglected children and individual well-being, the overexposure to television, social environment, and school and community environments. In educational environments deviant behaviour of children and lack of commitment in academic activities is widespread. While community environment encompasses lack of cohesion in the society, disorganisation and neglect especially for youth, easy availability of drugs, high population turnover (number of children), corruption and weak organisation of law enforcement agencies. Finally, family structure which includes criminal parents, poor parental supervision, parents negligence, harsh

treatment from parents, low family income and isolation, conflict or lack of communication between children and parents, lack of respect and responsibility amongst family members, child abuse, and family breakup (Ali, 2008). Therefore factors greatly inducing intolerance are economic, demographic, socio-political and cultural factors (Rubin, et.al. 2014).

Literature Review

Abro, Fateh and Saeed (2017) discussed intolerance in urban centers among youth. They found push factors such unemployment, religious extremism, ethnicity, political relationships and print, electronic and social media as a pull factor in increasing intolerance among youth in urban areas of Sindh as well as Pakistan. Fatima and Malik (2015) found that boys use abusive and foul languages or physical fights more than compared to girls. The main causes of aggressive behaviour among students are; family environment (broken and divorced parents and family problems), unfriendly parents' behaviour, authoritative and dishonest behaviour of teachers, poor teacher-student interaction, pressure of studies, unfriendly relationships with peers, and injustice in society. Kaukab and Saeed, (2014) found education and unemployment are main reasons increasing intolerance and extremism among university students. The support of extremist political parties who use weapons to resolve all issues, distance from religion and wrong interpretation of Islam can cause dissatisfaction and frustration in the lower class and arrogance in the upper class. Media portrayals of violence, political involvement in student groups; and disregard of merit again result in aggravation of the youth who seek intolerant and extremist methods to display their anger. Beside these, aggressive video games, parental negligence, social networking websites, sectarian differences, and lack of civic education and curriculum deficiencies are contributing to intolerance. Noor & Lodhi (2014) and Akram, et.al. (2013) found that the roots of violence are inculcated in the social, cultural and economic fields of human life. Nonetheless factors such as age, education, family size, father income, self-control, self-esteem, life satisfaction, family management, family practices, parental monitoring, community factors, educational attainments and gang/group membership factors were associated with violent behaviour of youth. Mushtaq and Kayani (2013) explored the two kinds of aggression among students. The first one is physical aggression which is pushing, shoving, hitting, slapping, biting, kicking, hair-pulling, stabbing, shooting, and rape, and the second one is verbal abuse which comprises of threatening and intimidating others and engaging in teasing, taunting, and name-calling.

Khan, et.al. (2012) highlighted injustice, unemployment, ignorance, illiteracy, sectarianism incompetent leadership, the Taliban, Alqaida and tribal leaders are factors of influence, however the most significant is Islamophobia by the West. These factors are radicalising youth inside and outside Pakistan. Imtiaz, Yasin, and Yaseen (2010) explored that the majority of people feel guilty for their aggressive behaviour because it is destructive to people themselves and for their social relationships as well. Shields and Pierce (2001) found that the exposure to verbal aggression at home, exposure to community violence, family structure, and peer

behaviour are promoting violent behaviours. However, the multivariate analyses showed that family arguments had a strong negative effect on both attitudes and behaviour, positive peers had a strong positive effect on behaviour, and age had a strong negative effect on self-control.

Objectives of the Study

➢ To explore the various factors of intolerance among youth.

➢ To find out the relationship of factors and intolerance among youth.

➢ To provide effective measurement regarding the youth intolerance.

Focus of the study:

The present study under the title of "A sociological study on the causes of intolerance among the youth of Karachi, with special reference to general public universities of Karachi". The youth (15-24) of Karachi whom are enrolled in the general public universities will be focused on, in order to find out the reasons for their intolerance in society. Opinions of youth regarding intolerance, their feelings, experiences and observations are essential.

Research Method and Procedure

The present study was quantitative in nature and has a explanatory design. The area of the study was the University of Karachi and the target population were students enrolled in the University of Karachi. The sample size was 170 who were selected through multi-stage sampling technique. The researchers had access to the enrolment of the students from the administration of University of Karachi. A stratified equal proportionate sampling was used by selecting randomly three students from each department of the University of Karachi. The allocation and distributions of the units were selected through convenience sampling. The data were collected through a self-administered questionnaire. Data were analysed through SPSS by applying the test of Pearson's chi-square and phi-value test for the significance of the relationship.

Instruments of the Data

The researchers used Thomae, Birtel, & Wittemann, (2016) Interpersonal Tolerance Scale (IPTS): Scale Development and Validation. This scale consisted of three parts. The researchers used the second part which is intolerance and brought a minor modification to it. This scale is comprised of 13 items and the responses of the items were rated through 5 points from strongly agree to strongly disagree. Researchers made another scale for the factors of the intolerance which consisted of 50 items; family factors, general factors, religious factors, education factors, and political factors, social and economic factors. The items responses were rated on a 5 point scale as 1 to 5. 1 shows strong disagreement and 5 shows strong agreement.

Findings from the Sample Tables

Table 1 indicates the demographic data of the respondents. However, the UN, for statistical consistency across regions, defines 'youth', as those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years (UNESCO). The Ministry of Youth Affairs, Government of Pakistan defines youth as the population in the age group of 15 to 29 Years. The period of life which youth represents is most productive and useful by virtue of the nascent energies they are endowed with (Government of Pakistan, 2010). Table 1 indicates that the majority of the respondents i.e. 46.5 % ages were between 20-24years old, while 37.1% of the respondents ages were 15-19 years old and 16.5% of the respondents ages were 25-29 years old. The majority of the respondents 61.8 % were undergraduates, while 28.8% of the respondents were post-graduate students and 9.4% of the respondents were doing masters students. The majority of respondents 54.1% were male and 45.9% of the respondents were female. The majority of the respondents 42.4% were Urdu speaking, 31.2% combined to Sindhi and Balochi speaking and others spoke different languages such as Punjabi, Pashto etc. The majority of the respondents 58.2% had a joint family system and 41.8% were from a nuclear family system. Majority of the respondents 46.5% family monthly income was between 50,000 or less, 24.1% of the respondents' monthly family income was 80,001 and more, while 11.8% of the respondents' monthly family income was between 50,001-60,000 and 17.2% of the respondents' monthly family income was between 60,001-80,000. The majority of the respondents' 42.4% level of intolerance was moderate, 32.4% was high and 25.3% of the respondents' level of intolerance was low. The majority of the respondents' 37.6% believed that intolerance has multiple causes, while 33.5% moderately believed intolerance has multiple causes and 28.8% of the respondents slightly believed that intolerance has multiple causes.

Table No. 1

Characteristics of the respondents= 170

Indicators	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Age			
15-19	63	37.1	37.1
20-24	79	46.5	83.5
25-29	28	16.5	100.0
Education			
B.A	105	61.8	61.8
M.A	49	28.8	90.6
MS/M Phil	16	9.4	100.0
Gender			
Male	92	54.1	54.1
Female	78	45.9	100.0
Language			
Urdu	72	42.4	42.4
Sindhi	24	14.1	56.5
Balochi	29	17.1	73.5
Panjabi	16	9.4	82.9
Pashto	12	7.1	90.0
Any Other	17	10.0	100.0
Family Type			
Nuclear	71	41.8	41.8
Joint	99	58.2	100.0
Family Income			
Less Than 50,000	79	46.5	46.5
50,001-60,000	20	11.8	58.2
60,001-70,000	15	8.8	67.1
70,001-80,000	15	8.8	75.9
Above Than 80,001	41	24.1	100.0
Intolerance Level			
High	55	32.4	32.4
Moderate	72	42.4	74.7
Low	43	25.3	100.0
Multiple Causes			
High level of agreement	64	37.6	37.6
Moderate level of agreement	57	33.5	71.2
Low level of agreement	49	28.8	100.0

Discussion and Conclusion

Table 2 indicates that there is relationship between the age and intolerance among youth. The chi square value 36.5 at the degree of freedom 2 and level of significance 0.05 is higher than the table value of the chi square which is 5.991. The P-Value 0.00001 shows significant relationship between the age of the youth and level of intolerance among youth. Thus, it is widely observed by the researchers that the youth aged between 15-29 years were widely intolerant in society on all aspects whether that is based on ideologies, religion, nationalism, or ethnicity. They showed their aggression and intolerance on aforementioned aspects.

Table No. 2

Level of Intolerance	Age			Total
	15-19	20-24	25-29	
High	14 (32.2)	50 (40.4)	23 (14.3)	87
Low	49 (30.8)	29 (38.6)	5 (13.7)	83
Total	63	79	28	170

Table 3 indicates that there is no relationship between gender and the level of intolerance among youth. The chi square value 0.643 at the degree of freedom 1 and level of significance 0.05 is lesser than its table value of the chi-square which is 3.841. The P-Value 0.974773 shows an insignificant relationship between gender and level of intolerance. Thus, intolerance specifically does not belong, or could be related to, any gender of the sample. Both genders show intolerance equally at all levels of society. However, males owing to the perception of having tendency of showing masculinity resort to showing their anguish in intolerant behaviour which in fact is not the case.

Table No. 3

Level Of Intolerance	Gender		Total
	Male	Female	
High	47 (47.1)	40 (39.9)	87
Low	45 (44.9)	38 (38.1)	83
Total	92	78	170

Table 4 indicates that there is no relationship between cultural background and the level of intolerance among youth. The chi square value 0.54 at the degree of freedom 1 and level of significance 0.05 is lesser than its table value of the chi-square. The P-Value 0.462433 shows an insignificant relationship between the cultural background and level of intolerance among

youth. Therefore, profiling of people based on their cultural background is a flawed and forced narrative to actually hide the problem.

Table No.4

Level Of Intolerance	Cultural Background		Total
	Rural	Urban	
High	34 (33.3)	53 (53.7)	87
Low	31 (31.7)	52 (51.3)	83
Total	65	105	170

Table 5 indicates that there is a relationship between the father's educational attainment and level of intolerance among youth. The chi-square value which 10.3 at the degree of freedom 3 and level of significance 0.05 is bigger than its table value which is 7.815. The phi value 0.016 shows a significant relationship between the father's educational attainment and level of intolerance among youth. Thus, researchers analysed from the data and observed from the field that socialisation plays a vital role in the upbringing of youth regarding the society. The imprints of a civic sense and moral education in the minds of the youth is the responsibility of the parents and parental control and supervision is needed to make the youth tolerant in society.

Table No.5

Level of Intolerance	Father's Educational attainment				Total
	Illiterate	Matric	Graduation	Madrassa	
High	20 (15.9)	15 (14.3)	42 (50.7)	10 (6.14)	87
Low	11 (15.1)	13 (13.7)	57 (48.3)	2 (5.86)	83
Total	31	28	99	12	170

Table 6 indicates that there is relationship between the mother's educational attainment and level of intolerance among youth. The chi-square value which 8.90 at the degree of freedom 3 and level of significance 0.05 is bigger than its table value which is 7.815. the phi value 0.016 shows significant relationship between the mother's education and level of intolerance among youth. Thus, researchers analysed from the data and observed from the field that socialisation plays a vital role in the upbringing of the youth regarding the society. With the first contact being with the and then schooling bears the major brunt of upbringing; society expects mothering to be at the forefront in dealing with most of the socialisation demands, which in itself looks unjustified.

Table No.6

Level of Intolerance	Mother's Educational attainment				Total
	Illiterate	Matric	Graduation	Madrassa	
High	46 (36.8)	12 (14.8)	23 (29.7)	6 (5.63)	87
Low	26 (35.2)	17 (14.2)	35 (28.3)	5 (5.37)	83
Total	72	29	58	11	170

Table 7 indicates that intolerance is the result of multiple factors which lead towards intolerance. The Pearson chi-square value 16.589 is higher than its table value at the degree of freedom 1 and level of significance 0.05. The significance value which is 0.001 shows that level of intolerance is directly related to its multiple factors. Phi-value 0.312 shows the relationship between intolerance and its multiple factors is significant. The multiple factors include; refusal od basic rights, religious, educational, family, social, media, political, community and economic factors. However, the researchers had observed from the field that youth intolerancw is heightened when their basic rights, like education, food and opportunities are taken away from them. Kukab and Saeed (2014) supported this finding that the refusal of basic human needs like education, employment, food and basic opportunities leads to youth intolerannce in society. Regions of society show a significant upsurge in non-conformable trends with the authority for the reason those communities have been stranded, devoid of and denied their basic fundamental rights.

Table No.7: Showing Relationship between Intolerance and Its Factors among Youth

Level of Intolerance	Multiple causes of Intolerance		Total
	High level of Agreement	Low Level of Agreement	
High	81 (70.6)	6 (16.4)	87
Low	57 (67.4)	26 (15.6)	83
Total	138	32	170
Pearson Chi-Square:16.589&Phi value:0.312			

Further, religious teachings provoke youth to be intolerant with other religions and even other sects. It can be said that youth are groomed to be used for the vested interests of religious groups because youth at a certain age can easily be molded and used. Educational institutions' failure also leads youth towards intolerance because educational environments fails to let the youth socialise, according to the various moralities and ethics of the societies. Teachers provoke youth against their opponents based on professional, ethnic, sectarian, religions and even geographical differences. Family factors which lead youth towards intolerance were found to be broken families, separated families, families where domestic violence and negligence is high and poor parental supervision. Beside these, other social factors include

class differences, discriminatory behaviors of the society, injustices and poor law regulations. The community environment also effects the behaviour of youth. This finding is supported by the Akram, et.al (2013) who states that community disorganisation significantly effects the behaviour of youth and leads to intolerant behavior. The media is the strongest tool to provoke youth towards hatred against each other. Abaro, et.al (2017) found that media is rapidly changing the behaviour of youth and leading them towards intolerance, because the media is powerful enough to catch the focus of youth. The selection of the ideal characters by youth in media are; films, dramas, animated movies, cartoons, and various games which are based on fighting, wars and car driving animations. These all create a negative behaviour in youth.

Apart from the above, economic factors especially unemployment significantly correlate with intolerant behaviour of youth. This finding is supported by the study of Noor and Lodhi (2014) that unemployment remarkably played a significant role in encouraging youth towards crime. As 90% of youth agreed to the fact that unemployment in the city is pushing the educated youth to commit crime.

Recommendations

- Government should implement youth programs countrywide by monitoring and evaluating youth program efficiently.
- Different programs, skill development programs, civic sense program should be arranged countrywide for youth.
- Parents' supervision and control over their children should be friendly and firm.
- Educational institutions should devise strategies to target inculcating civic sense in the students.
- A joint collaborative effort should be put together by all social components to start a drive "Pehly Aap" means "You First" to induce society to show a patient character, especially youth.
- Civil Society should engage youth in their different social and economic activities.
- Religious scholars should interpret the religion on the basis of the research with emphasis on research based teachings of the religion.
- Religious scholars should be discouraged in speeches of hatredand madrassas syllabus should be uniformly made under the supervision of government.
- Media should stop propagation and hatred materials against the diversity of society.
- NGOs should run mass awareness campaigns and community level activities on youth.

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