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## THE AWARENESS OF PERSONAL AND FAMILY SECURITY IN THE CRISIS REPORTING AND PERFORMANCE OF JOURNALISTS IN KP, PAKISTAN

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KEYWORDS	ABSTRACT
Personal & Family Security Awareness, Media Professionals, Performance, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan	Pakistan has been declared as most dangerous country for media professionals all over the world, like, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) is the riskiest place due to militancy and insurgency. For this purpose, this research has been conducted to investigate the phenomenon. The research has been conducted through quantitative methodology, while survey technique was used for data collection. Questionnaire was used as data collection tool, while data was collected by simple random sampling method from three main press clubs of Peshawar, Swat and Charsadda districts of KP. The results revealed that most of media professionals have lack of personal and family awareness due to the lack of training and proper knowledge about crisis and conflict zones coverage. Results of correlation test significant value of .000, in regression analysis the value of R is 0.194 which shows the capacity of relationship and ANOVA analysis significant value 0.000 confirmed that there is strong relationship amid awareness of personal and family security in crisis reporting and performance of journalists in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan.

### INTRODUCTION

Journalism is a challenging profession nowadays as Haak, Parks and Castells (2012) claimed that journalism has always been the profession to serve the public by giving information at mass level. Journalism is enormous field now and to be a journalist is a challenging job today. On one hand, extremely powerful information technology has put extra demanding pressure on the shoulders of media and media professionals. On other hand, law and order situation is also worrisome these days. On one hand, journalism informs the society, while on other hand it is challenging task. In modern society, journalists perform multi tasks as Fonnelop (2015) argued that journalists are mostly task-oriented as they don't lose track in getting information, even in hazard and risky situation. They are also dedicated to their job, whether they are well

qualified or not, and most of time they learn from different situations and tasks. Patel (2004) said that social scientists, media professionals and policymakers have an important role in the coverage of conflicts. Similarly, the war reporting is used for improving rating and increasing circulations.

Farrell (2013) said that the staff reporters and freelancer of the war and the conflict reporting faced different issues and problems during the coverage. The media organizations are “relying on the freelancers rather than staff reporters to provide content”. The journalists are not only performing multiple tasks but they are also facing problems such as International News Safety Institute (2007) identifies that two types of groups of journalists in the world facing problems and risks; one is those covering business or corruption of individuals, groups or government, while the others are those reporting insurgencies, armed conflicts and war situations. Price and Thompson (2002) described that media and violence have close link for the last 15 years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Cottle, Sambrook and Mosdell (2016) said that media workers have always taken risk to report the conflicts, wars and insurgencies from the different parts of the world, but face problems due to blurred lines amid media professionals and citizens, conflicts factors and non-serious response of the media organization towards the awareness and training for their security.

Tait (2007) said that journalism is a field which changes with the passage of time, but it was dramatically changed when high-profile journalists were killed in Pakistan like Daniel Pearl, the South Asia Bureau Chief of the Wall Street Journal, in 2002, Terry Lloyd and two other members of Independent Television News in 2003 in Iraq and the BBC Gaza correspondent in 2007 were kidnapped. Hoiby (2019) reported that Pakistan has been declared as one of those countries where a lot of journalists were killed. Harrison, Jackie, and Stefanie (2018) argued that Pakistan is most dangerous country for the journalists where they faced threatened from militant, terrorist and government by reporting the facts. These cases raised awareness among the journalists, media workers' unions and governments that safety of the media professionals is a big issue while their role is important since they are providing information to the public. It is concluded that the media professionals are exposed to threats and risks, but the issue came under the discussion, when the high-profile media workers were targeted in different parts of the world.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Due to the terrorist attacks, violence against different communities and nations, sectarianism, radicalism, news technology of wars and communication in the 21<sup>st</sup> century created problems for every person, but most vulnerable are those who are reporting these actions and attacks. The media professionals and their families are running with misery all over the world. Richard (2007) explored that 21<sup>st</sup> century is the most dangerous era for journalists due to the terrorism and misuse of new technology in the world. In this context, journalists are also facing security and safety issues in their respective regions. He presented statistics that 448 journalists were killed in different parts of the world in 2004, 2005 and 2006, while 128 journalists were killed

in the middle of August of 2007. He maintained that Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl who was killed in Pakistan in 2002, while on other hand Terry Lloyd member of Independent Television News team was killed in Iraq 2003. He disclosed that safety issues are not only related to war zones journalists, but associated with investigative reporters in different parts of the globe.

Further cited a study conducted by international news safety institute which has been explored that a large group of journalists were killed during investigating journalism during covering different social issues. All murders, kidnapping, abduction for ransom and threaten to the journalist only due to the lack of awareness and safety training in the journalists' community. Some suggested to journalist unions, media organizations owners, experts and government organizations to train the journalist to avail the opportunity to safe his/her life. It shows that awareness and training about the safety of journalists is required for the coverage of crisis and conflicts. For covering conflicts, it is necessary of the journalist to have in depth knowledge of first-aid medication, Smyth (2012) recommended to media professionals that to take first aid equipment's like; identification card, passport or travel documents, including immunization card, two photocopies of every travel document stored in diverse locations and extra passport-size photos. He also suggested that the journalists have to a reflective safety vest, maps of the surrounding areas, blankets, drinking water, basic tool kit and inflated spare tire and jack in the vehicle.

Freedom of expression is basic right of everyone under the Geneva Convention 1949. Article 19 of convention said that everyone has the right to speak and move everywhere in the world, but the targeting media professionals are against act of freedom of information. Henrichsen, Betz and Lisosky (2015) exposed that killing of the journalists are against the freedom of expression in the world. They argued that a number of journalists were killed in the war zones during the last twenty years. They said that due these situations different organizations have established which are working for the protection of journalists. They explored the phenomenon under the project of the Geneva based an international independent, nonprofit and non-governmental organization "The Press Emblem Campaign". They interviewed internationals stakeholders to find out methods of safety for journalists. They explored that there is no universally accepted strategy has been made for protection of the reports in world. Proper training and awareness is very necessary for protection of journalist and families; with sufficient knowledge it is hard to face complications.

Saul (2009) explored that in armed conflicts and other situations of discriminating violence, 172 journalists and media staff workers were killed all over the world in 2007. 245 journalists died from 2003 to May 2008 in the Iraq conflict particularly. 20 journalists died in Iraq from March to October 2003. Australian journalists injured in conflicts of Vietnam and Rhodesia, East Timor, Thailand, Iraq and Afghanistan, while the safety of journalists is also a big issue nearby countries such as Philippine, Indonesia and East Timor. The United Nations Security Council condemned such attacks as threats to international peace and security and Council

has called on belligerents to accord civilian protection to journalists under humanitarian law. He recommends to media organizations to provide risk awareness training to media experts, as well as protective health and safety equipment, like medical packs, helmets, respirators and flak Jackets. He exemplified Australian broadcasting commission which has done all-inclusive training and developed policies and actions for journalists who deployed in dangerous areas of the world.

Journalists are facing physical problems during coverage of crisis and hazardous situations. The findings of a survey demonstrated that majority of journalists working on sensitive stories were slightly stressful, while, mostly reporters being wound or killed as highly stressful. The report recommended that to do work as team, do reporting as responsible. The report also suggested to media professional to do self-defense training, to do refresher course for covering hostile environment, first aid, physical and sexual threats worst situations. In the report, it has been also recommended to conduct stress awareness training and more training on local customs and language. Media professionals were targeted in international conflicts as there is state-actors and non-state-actors were involved. Tang (2008) expressed that United States of America (USA) started several wars which are a perfect illustration of the growing threats faced by journalists performing their duty in situation of armed conflict. It`s necessary to call for renewed interest and awareness to this issue in order to promote better protection of the media professional.

Being a part of humanity, media professionals should need safety and security of their lives and family. Fournier (2014) described that journalists need safety and protection against any kind of oppression. The provided protection should not only ensure physical safety, but also safety from threats without any actual physical injury. Physical safety means that journalists must not be threats, kidnapped, arbitrarily detained, tortured and murdered. This is not a complete list, because any attack against their person is prohibited under international law. Journalist`s safety also includes any other means to prevent journalists from more exercising their profession in conflict area/elsewhere. Rubin (2013) stated that there are clear problems of deliberate targeting which have discouraged war journalists to do exercises their profession. War journalists are not for all time wanted spectators and frequently have to deal with threats against themselves/their relative attacks. Militancy, insurgency and terrorism is a remarkable issue for media professionals in Pakistan, where they are facing various personal, family and cyber risks. Pakistan is declared as most dangerous country for journalists as study of Sultan (2010) explored.

To find out the reality about the safety of journalists in the country. He collected data from the federally administered tribal areas journalists who were covering the war. He revealed in his study that journalists belonging to FATA following their self-made policy for protection in the war zone, while they have no any training of safety journalism. He exposed that due to the control of the militants, tribal leaders and political administration in the area they can't highlight the burning issues of FATA. He found that due to the controlling act in the area the

journalists suffering of personal and families' threats and physical and mental pressure. Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (2012) reported that Pakistan in 2006, three journalists were killed, two beaten, abducted and tortured, whereas, the five media workers were threatened, while, 65 others were arrested. International news safety institute (2013) organization working for the safety training, the awareness and education of the journalists and other organizations workers reported that the journalists in the large numbers killed in the past 10 years around the world.

Khan and Rehmat (2011) conducted a survey with cooperation of inter-news an international organization working for the uplifting of the media workers all over the world. They collected data from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and federally tribal administered areas from 45 journalists. The survey revealed that various kinds of threats were faced by journalists such as life, family and property. It disclosed that in January 2006, a reporter of Urdu newspaper daily Ausaf and freelance for foreign news organizations Hayatullah was kidnapped after covering a story on first drone attacks in North Waziristan. After Six months, was founded dead. Many journalists in Pakistan, especially those living and working in tribal borderlands of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Baluchistan are in fear that they will be killed as like Hayatullah's. Journalists were also threatened and harassed through intent for reporting. Survey revealed that tribal journalists haven't formal journalism training and lack of safety training to cover hazardous situation. There had been obvious rise in numbers of attempts by the government to stop and interrupt TV transmission.

It had been observed that official written directives to TV channels were emphasized to stop broadcasting certain current affairs programs and others influencing content that against the government policies. It had disclosed that banning publications, internet websites, shutting down radio stations, attacking presses, instituting cases against journalists, restricting media from going about their duties included aggressively keeping journalists out of large swathes of territories, particularly Tribal Areas in northwest bordering Afghanistan. "Reporters Without Borders", an organization working for the protection and development of the journalist (2014) disclosed that Pakistan is the world's deadliest country for journalists and armed groups posed main threat to Pakistani media officials, intelligence agencies, like Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), Taliban, jihadist and other armed groups, continue to pose threats. Journalists who dare to speak out accused the military of spying on media personnel, abducting them, torture them and killing them. According to IFE (2011) all citizens of Pakistan can face violence and other humiliations, like murder, physical violence, abduction and abuse of power, like the police and intelligence agencies.

Conflict reporting is considered specialized beat in journalism and mass communication field as Tahir (2009) explained, which is not still developed in third world countries like Pakistan. The course of safety Journalism is concerned it is not still become the part of academic mass communication and journalism curriculum in Pakistan. He mentioned that the journalists are facing hurdles and problems like personal safety, risks, authentic and un-authentic info, and

lack of skill and training of conflict reporting due to unawareness. He stressed that the media persons should know about human rights, journalist rights, safety and codes of ethics of the journalist to follow accuracy, objectivity and responsibility. He advised safety measure tips to journalists who are working in conflict regions. He suggested that the journalists should learn about first-aid treatment, and have advance plan of escapes routes. Therefore, before covering crisis situations measure risk and story worth, identify yourself clearly, wear organizational identification card, inhabitant clothes, shoes and have no subspecies material that marked them alleged.

The main objective of this paper is to analyze the level of awareness/knowledge of journalists in KP regarding personal safety, family safety and field security. The article explores the effects of journalists' awareness/knowledge towards personal and family safety measures on their professional practice/performance during crisis situations.

### **Research Questions**

- ✓ What is the level of level of awareness/knowledge of journalists in KPK regarding personal safety, family safety and field security?
- ✓ What kind of relationship exists between awareness of journalists'/media professionals to personal and family safety measures during crisis reporting and their performance?

### **Research Hypotheses**

**H1:** There is a strong relationship between awareness of the journalists'/media professionals to personal and family safety measures during crisis reporting and their performance.

**H2:** Media professionals in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa confront personal and family threats, risks and harassment due to lack of awareness and safety knowledge.

**H3:** Media professionals' performance is affected due to fear of personal and family risk, threat and harassment in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

### **RESEARCH DESIGN**

A quantitative research method was used, while the researchers collected the data by Survey technique from three Press club comprises Peshawar, Swat and Charsadda districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province of Pakistan to measure level of awareness regarding their safety and families. Multistage sampling method was used, whereas in first stage, country was divided in clusters on the bases of conflict zones including Baluchistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, in this stage KP was selected, while in the second stage another clusters were made comprises settled areas, FATA/FR and PATA, in which the researcher selected one each press club from the areas including Peshawar and Charsada from settled, whereas Swat from PATA. In the third stage, data was collected from 635 media workers by the use of questionnaire through random simple sampling methodology. Total respondents of Peshawar, Swat and Charsadda were 430, 135 and 70 respectively (n=635), while the response rate was 73%, (n=469). Data was analyzed through Statistical Package of the Social Sciences (SPSS) through correlation, regression and ANOVA.

## DATA ANALYSIS

Personal and family protection awareness is also having relationship with the job performance of the media professionals in selected areas. The researcher conducted this study to investigate the personal and family awareness, they how much they aware about their safety and their families.

Table 1 Correlation amid Awareness about Personal and Family safety towards Performance

		Performance
Personal & Family Security	Pearson Correlation	.206**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000
	N	469

To find out the relationship between personal and family and performance of media workers, the researchers used correlation test The Table 1 reveals the values of the Personal and family security as .206\*\* with a significant value of .000 with journalists' performance.

Table 2 Regression Analysis about Personal and Family Security with Journalists Performance

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error Estimate
1	.194 <sup>a</sup>	.038	.031	.28717
a. Predictors: Personal and Family Security				

The Table 2 shows the model summary, where the value of R is representing the impact of Personal and family security and performance of journalists. R square value is representing the variance. The value of R is 0.194 which shows the capacity of relationship between Personal and family security and with the performance of journalists. Further the R Square value is 0.38 which means that it will bring thirty-eight percent changes in the performance, either positive or negative, if we want to bring changes in personal and family security and performance of the journalists. The value of Standard Error is 0.28717 which is also very less and confirming the strong relationship of personal and family security and performance of journalists.

Table 3 ANOVA Analysis regarding Personal and Family Security with the Performance

	Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	1.496	3	.499	6.048	.000 <sup>a</sup>
	Residual	38.347	465	.082		
	Total	39.843	468			
a. Predictor: PFS b. Dependent Variable: PERF						

The Table 3 illustrated the significant value (0.000) of ANOVA which is less than 0.05. Hence it also confirmed that there is significant relationship among personal and family security and performance of media workers. When value of significance decreases the level of significance

between the selected variables increases and when the value of significance exceeds from 0.05 the level of significance decreases.

## **DISCUSSION**

To measure the respondents' personal and family safety awareness, the researcher inquired if journalists of KP were facing threats? Majority 50% of them replied that media professionals of KP were facing personal and the family security issues and problems. The situation for the reporters and media workers was not workable in Pakistan, mainly in KP, this is confirmed by the other studies as well (International Federation of Journalist, 2016, The News International (November 02, 2015). This also stated by Yusufzai (Jan, 30, 2017) in his study that some of the journalists targeted in Pakistan have sensitive contact and meeting with wanted personalities. The journalists are facing various threats including detention, harassment and arrest situation in different parts of world, (Saul, 2008, Fournier, 2014) An organization working for freedom of mien named international freedom of expression exchange (2011) claimed that criminals and government agencies were targeted journalists in different parts of the world, which show a hurdle for freedom of information and freedom of media professionals to cover information easily and accurately.

It has been also revealed that 37% frequently faced face negative consequence because of their journalism in past 12 months, while those who were threatened after reporting and blogging in the last year. Militants, Taliban, government agencies and other criminal groups are threatening the journalists and their families (Internews, 2011). Henrichsen et al. (2015) whom stated that media workers are pressurized through phone calls, emails, SMS and sometimes face to face. Rubin (2013) stated that militancy, insurgency and terrorism is remarkable issue for the media professionals in Pakistan, where they are facing various personal, family and cyber risks. Khan and Rehmat (2011) claimed that lack of crisis coverage skills also affecting the performance of the media workers in the country. The HRC of Pakistan (2012) reported that media workers were beaten, threatened, tortured and arrested but none reported it for action. The example has been given of Dilawar Khan Wazir who was working for Voice of America and Daily Dawn, whose house was blasted. At the time, there were 19 members present in the house, but no one was harmed.

## **CONCLUSION**

It is concluded that journalists have lack of crisis in reporting due to which they are facing problems in conflict and red zones. This is concluded that majority of the journalists of the Peshawar, Charsadda and Swat are of the view that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is a danger place to work in for the media professionals. The study also explored that journalists of these areas are facing personal threats, arrest and detention due to unawareness and lack of knowledge. The respondents replied that they had been facing these problems for the last one year due to the reporting and blogging. It is revealed that they faced different risks such as throwing of hand grenades on them, suicide, IED's, and bomb blasts. They and their families faced harassment,



warnings, pressurizing, censorship and target killing due to the crisis reporting in different situations and circumstances over direct phone calls, SMS, and sometimes over their friends and colleagues.

This is also concluding that media professionals used different strategies for personal safety such as following ethics and laws, kill or change the story, not to go again for coverage in crisis areas, and sometimes they have to follow norms and culture values and keeping in mind the location sensitivity which creates hurdles for their professionalism. The results of the research also uncovered that reasons behind involving threat, problems and risks are lack of security training and awareness, lack of knowledge about national and international laws, lack of issue, lack of experience and lack of investigative skills. It is concluded that they didn't communicate about such problems from their high authorities including head of organization, journalist's unions, local press club, state authorities and colleagues, while sometimes whom are informed by high-ups verbally never in written. The study exposed that awareness and safety trainings, experiences and crisis coverage skills, understanding of issue and problem, ensure objectivity and balance in news report are remedies to overcome problems faced by media professionals in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

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