Terrorism: A challenge to world peace and security

Dr. Alpana Sharma
SSR College of Arts, Commerce & Science, Sayli, Silvassa. Affiliated to Savitribai Phule University, India

Terrorism is as old as recorded History. In the modern time terrorism began during the French Revolution. That time it was considered as a positive concept, which was useful in consolidating power and imposing order in the nascent revolutionary state. In the current era, terrorism is a harsh term. Terrorism is a special type of violence. It is a tactic used in peace, conflict and war. The threat of terrorism is ever present and an attack means the event that marks the transition from peace to conflict or war.

The definition of terrorism is “The Systematic use of violence to create fear or terror among people to fulfill their goals that are generally political, religious or Ideological.”

Terrorism is the threat or use of systematic terror and unpredictable violence by an individual or group for attainment of political aims. Whether terrorism is utilized for or in opposition to an established governmental authority, it is intended to influence the attitudes and behaviors of a target group wider than the immediate casualties of those terrorist’s acts.

Terrorism is one of the major factors affecting global security during the twenty first century. Terrorism is not limited to regional or territorial conflicts but often relates to cultural and religious difference. Terrorism is the biggest challenge to the world peace. Due to this Whole humanity is in danger. It is affecting both Psychological and Physical health of human kind. Today in the world there is no peace and security.

Causes
The problem of terrorism should be studied at all the angles and we should take all its dimensions into considerations and then we understand the gravity of situation especially in context of peace and security. The whole world is burning in the fire of terrorism. We cannot sit like spectators. In every part of world terrorist groups are expanding their power on the name of religion and human rights. They are playing with the emotions of innocent people and using religion as tool. Poverty and problem of unemployment is creating dissatisfaction and frustration among youth and terrorists are taking undue advantage of this dissatisfaction.

Involvement of educated and high class people in this activity is arising big question on the system as well as on the social values. State sponsored terrorism is the major obstacle in prohibiting terrorism. To fulfill their national interest and conquer other nation’s land some countries are sponsoring these terrorist groups. In this form of terrorism some country’s government provides weapons, training, false documentation and diplomatic support.

Poverty
Poverty is one of the root causes of terrorism but it is not the sole reason because today we are seeing that many developed countries are facing this problem. Terrorist organizations target poor youth. These poor youth are those who don’t have any employment and their family needs are more. To provide good facilities to their families and solve financial crises some poor people indulge themselves in this dirt.

Parochial nationalism
Parochial nationalism is the feeling which is infuriating terrorism. Many nations are having this kind of attitude. Their nationalism is limited with their own nation. They cannot tolerate any other nation’s development. To create hindrances in the path of others these parochial nationalist countries promote terrorist activities. Monetary support, asylum to terrorist groups and supply of weapons are main strategies of these nations. Feeling of parochial nationalism is spoiling humanity and feeling of co-existence.
Religion

In our human society religion is the base of our culture and social values. Many religions, creeds and sects are there. Teachings of these different faiths are very much pious and guideline to live happy life. But on the name of religion some people are misleading society and standing them against each other. They want the existence of their religion and followers of their religion. Due to blind faiths on religion and leaders, people are fighting from each other. Terrorist groups are formed to protect and promote religion. Sending suicide bombers, explosion of bombs, targeting innocent people and hijacking aircrafts are very common activities of these terrorist groups.

Political Grievances

A lack of political inclusiveness in states or grievances against a certain political order may cause individuals to join or create terrorist groups. Terrorists often hunt for a political system. Frustrated expressions of political aspiration can turn to violence as a substitute to exclusive political systems. These political grievances are not born from the desire to create a new state but to change the order within the current one.

Discrimination

It is noticed that feeling of discrimination felt by Diasporas, particularly those living in Europe as a driver of terrorism. Many times these groups face discrimination in the countries they reside, leading to further feelings of isolation. They commonly move from poorer countries, particularly Muslim states in the case of Europe, to wealthier ones to go to school or find work these groups may become fed-up towards society around them as they don’t fit in and feel excluded. Growing sentiments of discrimination can lead groups to look to more conservative, and eventually, extremist ideologies. These extremist can easily catch by terrorist groups. Terrorism takes help of these groups to spread violence.

Effects

Terrorism is affecting human beings life in various aspects. There is no single sign which is showing that terrorism is the solution of all problems. We can see its dangers on every spear of life. Psychological implications of terrorism are very dangerous. It has created atmosphere of suspicion, fear and panic all around the world. People are living in an unknown fear of something wrong which can occur any time. Politically terrorism has created a huge pressure on governments. On one hand governments are having challenges of development and on another hand terrorists are damaging all the system. It has made world of politics so complicated and difficult. This is because terrorism can cause very important problems even though terrorist groups are not clearly linked to states. The presence of non-state actors who can have a real impact on the world makes world politics more difficult.

Economically, terrorism is destroying our basic infrastructure and wealth. We can see that every terrorism event always killed the innocent people, destroyed public properties, and individual properties. The large amount of money has been used to repair the loss of infrastructures. The investigators are afraid to do the business because they worry about safety. Government spending on security has also increased.

Socially it is hampering harmony and unity. Terrorism poses a serious law and order problem and leads to disintegration of society. People from different class or caste are not united. Social institutions and values are in danger. The incident of murder, torture, mutilation, kidnapping, arson and extortion create atmosphere of suspicion, fear and panic all around. Life becomes uncertain. The terrorists kill unarmed civilians including women and children.

Measures

Terrorism can be controlled to a certain extent, but there are times when the threat becomes more deadly than anyone could imagine. There are ways to try and prevent an attack, but the best thing to do is to be prepared, watch the news, and be aware of our country’s current situation with other nations. The government must stress on modernization of law, strengthening judiciary and other broad aspects of governance. Authorities must adopt the effective intelligence and law enforcement mechanism. The mechanism of sharing information and consultation must be encouraged so that the designing of strategies and implementation becomes easy. The governments should take necessary steps to increase security in public buildings, airports, markets. The national governments must take steps in promoting
anti terrorism treaties and must also initiate military actions against a state sponsor terrorism to prevent attacks.

Education is a primary solution to terrorism. The government should educate the people to understand the differences in culture, religion, belief, and human behaviors. All people should think of the peace, freedom and equality of all human beings, not just “their group of people” Through education we can develop the understanding of co existence

Governments should eliminate the root of terrorism. The way this world is attacking terrorism is funny. Every country is doing something to kill terrorism, but they still cannot eliminate all terrorist. They can kill some terrorists today, but they cannot kill the other terrorist tomorrow or after tomorrow. They should try to find the root of terrorism, and they have to eliminate it. Black money is the main root cause of terrorism because terrorists can do nothing without money, so the government should find who support the terrorist.

Mahatma Gandhi’s ideology about patience, persuasion and perseverance being the three crucial elements for attainment of peace and harmony, have become the need of the time. Truth and non-violence alone can fight the existing global intolerance and hatred. These types of values should be inculcated among children so that future of the nations does not engage their selves in such type of evil activity. Issue of terrorism is the major obstacle for peace and security. If governments will fail to limit this problem, no wonder very soon this world will be the standing at the edge of end.

References: