

Department of Development Studies

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Thematic Focus: Conflict and Security

Socio-economic Impact of Militancy on Local People (A Case Study of Darra Adam Khel, Federally Administrated Tribal Area (FATA), Pakistan) - Adnan Khan (2012-2014)

This survey based study is an in-depth analysis of the pre and post conflict situation in Darra Adam Khel with a major focus on the socio-economic impact of conflict on the local people. The fieldwork for this research was conducted in Darra Adam Khel which is a town in FATA located between Peshawar and Kohat. Darra Adam Khel is inhabited by the Afridi tribe. The tribe is divided into different lineages which include ZarghonKhel, Akhorwal, Sheraki, Bostikhel and Thorchappar.

Key Findings

1. Since independence FATA has remained a socio-economically backward area of Pakistan. Even before militant attacks in Darra Adam Khel (and other areas in spatial proximities) the locals were socially and economically backward and had no proper hideout. The conflict, further, deteriorated their social, economic and cultural lives.
2. Field survey, structured interviews and participant observation were used as data elicitation tools for this research. Qualitative data analysis techniques were employed which helped in generating the themes of securitisation of development, typological classification of social activities in pre and post conflict transitions, contextual qualitative correlates for lost livelihoods in post conflict situation, and changing dynamics of post conflict economy and repercussions of these on local people.
3. Militancy has dramatically changed Hujra system after conflict. Hujra, in the local context, is the centre of reciprocity in Pakhtoon society where men get together every evening to discuss social issues and politics and entertain guests. The survey conducted through this research highlights that post conflict Hujra activities have substantially gone down.
4. The research findings have also alluded to the declining trends in the number of entertainment programmes, the role of Malaks in decision making in the study area, people mobility (day and night), and livelihood sources (agriculture, construction, manufacturing, transportation, wholesale and retail trade, employment status, and business) due to conflict.

Policy Recommendations

1. Peace and stability process should be started on the basis of ground realities prevailing in the locale of this research.
2. The destroyed infrastructure which is the result of militancy should be rebuilt on priority basis by increasing the number of developmental projects in the study area.
3. On institutional level, the government should extend credit extention programmes and educational facilities to the backward areas of FATA in response to meeting livelihood needs of local people.