

Arms Race and Socio-economic Development of South Asia: A Case Study of Armament between India and Pakistan

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ABSTRACT

The South Asia region consists of approximately one-quarter of the world population. The region is plagued with social, economic and political issues like illiteracy, poverty and other conflicts. Particularly its two larger countries India and Pakistan have long history of conflicts and wars. The hostility between India and Pakistan is believed to have led to an arms race between the two countries, which might have contributed to their retarded economic growth. This research explores the impact of arms race on economic growth of these two countries and analyzes how prosperity of the region is depended on Indo-Pak peaceful relations. The study is qualitative in nature. The research concludes that arms race between both countries has deeply affected social and economic development of these countries.

Key Words: Arms race, Economic growth, Social development.

Introduction

South Asia is consisted of seven countries: India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri-Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and Maldives. The region has the large number of poor population of the world (Thakur, 2004). It comprises approximately 1/4th world population, its Socio-economic and human indicators are very discouraging. It consists of 43% of the world's poor and shares only 2 percent of world's gross domestic product (Pasha, 2004). Armament in South Asia is the result of traditional mutual hostility between the two big countries. Huge spending on defense has worsened the socio-economic development in Pakistan and India. Both states are facing numerous social and economic problems and huge budget deficits (The World Bank, 2006).

Significance of the study

- The research will contribute in the existing knowledge in a way that it will fill the gap and try to answer all the queries that are not addressed. The study is significant in this way that South Asia is a densely populated area but living standards of the population are very low as well. The prosperity of this region is linked with peace between India and Pakistan.

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- This study will be beneficial for policy makers, administrator, law makers members, of civil society and media persons to understand the arms race between Pakistan and India and its impact on their social and economic development.

Statement of problem

This study analyzes the impact of armament between India and Pakistan on social and economic development of these countries.

Objectives of the study

- To highlight the issue of arms race in South Asia.
- To analyze the effect of Indo-Pak arms race on social and economic development of these countries.

Research questions

- What are the effects of Indo-Pak arms race on social and economic development of these countries?
- How prosperity of the region is depended on Indo-Pak peaceful relations?

Research methodology

Nature of the study

Epistemology of this study is positivist. Because Epistemology has a direct influence upon methodology, whereas methodology influences methods (Bown & Batch 1981). For this research case study method is adopted.

Research design of the study

The study is qualitative in nature because it helps to describe comprehensively as well as supports interpretive goals.

Nature of data and data collection

The study is qualitative in nature hence qualitative research techniques are used for data collection and interpretation. The data source is secondary in nature. For data collection print and electronic sources are used. Print material like books, published reports, research journals, Newspapers, previous studies are reviewed and electronic source like internet source in which websites, e –books ,etc. are included are also used.

Social and economic condition of South Asia

South Asia is a thickly populated with low living standard. It is characterized by political instabilities, ethnic or religious complex issues, asymmetry of power structure, issues of governance and interstate conflicts make this catastrophic and unstable region of the world. (Shehbaz, 2013). Major countries of region Pakistan and India are investing on arms making, exporting and development at the cost of their socio-economic development and progress. Both countries are spending more and more money to purchase dangerous weapons and building their military power. Their defense spending is rooted in threat perception to their national security. Conflict over Kashmir is primary reason of hostility between them and both states are treacherously involved in conventional as well as nuclear arms race. (Bhanot 2012)

According to United Nations Development Program's Development Index 2001 most of the countries of the region acquire low status among the 162 countries. They stood by rank range from 115 for India, 132 for Bangladesh, 127 for Pakistan, 81 for Sri Lanka, 130 for Bhutan 129 for Nepal, 77 for Maldives. Progress in human development sector is not encouraging and challenges are facing in sectors of education, health and nutrition. Majority of children mostly girls, have not access to schools. Socially this region is plagued by illiteracy, malnutrition, poverty, and majority of population are living below poverty line.

In spite of this fact that South Asia has sufficient physical and human resources has become most malnourished and most deprived area of the world. Majority of population has no proper health and sanitation facilities and safe drinking water. On the other side two core states of the region India and Pakistan are spending a high percentage of their Gross Domestic product to purchasing arms. (Aziz, 2004) and India is the second largest importer of the weapons in the world. In spite of the fact both countries are trying to improve the condition of health and education for their population and are struggling to reduce poverty still is facing the challenge to enhance the quality of life of their population. (Singh, 2000)

Human development in South Asia

Human Development Report in South Asia presented by Dr. Mahbub Ul Haq described the situation of human deprivation in South Asia. According to report a next majority of the region are facing the issue of poverty and misery. He highlighted the significance of human dimension in planning for development. People should be focused instead of production. (Rampal, 2000) Millions of children are deprived even to attend primary education, majority of population lack basic medical facilities, there is a wide gulf between rich and poor that has become more deepened with the passage of time.

According to findings of Report instead of bitter facts that Pakistan and India are investing more on weapons as compared to health and education. It consists of approximately 22% of world population but only generate 1.3 % of the world's total income and approximately 500 people are living below poverty line. (Human Development Foundation, 2004). Literacy rate is only 48% that is lowest in the world. 46% of world's total illiterate people are living in South Asia. (Bhanton, 1999)

If development of East Asian nations compared with South Asia it will be highlighted that basic reason behind their economic development is that these countries invested in human development. Sectors which were given priority were basic education, health facilities and they addressed the issue of malnutrition. The report has also given statistics for investment required for achieving the objectives and has given some suggestions about the ways of attaining the fund. Such proposals include the possible redistribution of financial allocation for different priority sectors. (Human Development Report 1999). This idea has unfortunately not reached the policy makers in South Asia. As a result, all countries in South Asia (except Sri Lanka) fall into this category of Low Human Development (Human Development Foundation, 2004).

In this report issue of human deprivation and defense expenditure in also highlighted. According to report in South Asia over 400 million go hungry each day but there is a large amount is allocated in budgets for army and modern weapons.

Table- 1 Defence Expenses As % of Gdp

Sr #	Year	Pakistan	India	Neppal	Bangladesh	Srilanka
1	1995	5.3	2.2	0.8	1.4	5.3
2	1996	5.1	2.1	0.8	1.4	5.0
3	1997	4.9	2.2	0.8	1.4	4.2
4	1998	4.8	2.3	0.8	1.0	4.2
5	1999	4.6	2.3	0.9	1.4	3.6
6	2000	4.5	2.3	0.9	1.4	4.5
7	2001	4.7	2.3	1.1	1.3	3.9
8	2002	4.7	2.1	1.5	1.2	3.1
9	2003	4.4	2.1	1.6	1.2	2.7

Source: Sipri Yearbook 2005

Table-2 Military Expenses (In U.S \$ Million)

Sr.No.	Year	Pakistan	India	Srilanka	Nepal	Bangladesh
1	1995	3020	9042	749	42.2	524
2	1996	3016	9286	699	42.0	548
3	1997	2889	10091	621	44.5	582

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4	1998	2885	10178	651	45.1	591
5	1999	2911	11364	586	48.8	612
6	2000	2920	11821	784	53.6	639
7	2001	3125	12357	655	69.2	639
8	2002	3358	12342	542	104	620
9	2003	3002	12698	487	105	622

Table-3 At Birth lfe Expectancy (Years)

Year	Pakistan	Bhutan	India	Bangladesh	Nepal	Sri lanka
1995	62.8	52.0	61.6	56.9	55.9	72.0
1996	64.4	61.2	62.9	58.6	57.8	73..7
1997	64.0	60.7	62.6	58.1	57.3	73.1
1998	64.3	61.2	62.7	58.7	57.1	72.5
1999	59.6	61.5	62.9	58.9	58.1	71.9
2000	60.0	62.0	63.3	59.4	58.6	72.1
2001	60.4	62.5.4	63.3	60.5	59.1	72.3
2002	60.8	63.0	63.7	61.1	59.6	72.5
2003	63..0	62.9	63.3	62.8	61.6	74.0

Source: <http://hdr.undp.org>

Poverty in South Asia %of population below poverty line

Country	\$1.25	\$2
India	59.2	23.6
Nepal	56	23.7
Bangladesh	76.5	43.3
Pakistan	50.7	12.7
Sri Lanka	23.9	4.1
Bhutan	15.2	2.4
Maldives	12.2	1.5

Source: World Bank

Social and economic status of South Asia

South Asia accounts for 23% of globe’s population but it accommodates 40% of world’s poor.

Human development index

Country	HDI	Rank	Life expectancy	Adult Literacy	GDP per capita
India	0.611	126	63.6	61	3139
Pakistan	0.539	134	63.4	49.9	2225

Both nations are high risk for numerous diseases including hepatitis A, E and C, bacterial diarrhea, dengue and malaria fever. India that is spending only 1% of GDP on health is the country spending on public health lowest in the world.

Defense spending versus socio-economic situation of India and Pakistan

Huge spending on defense has worsened the socio-economic development in India and Pakistan. Both countries are facing numerous social and economic problems and huge budget deficits. More than 40% of total population of India and Pakistan are living below poverty line. Rapid population growth is causing severe environmental problems in the region. Moreover the literacy rate of India is about 60% and the literacy rate of Pakistan is about 50%, which is very low. In the Human Development Index, Pakistan stands at 135th position and India stands at 127th position out of 177 countries (Bhanot,1999).

Indian huge spending on arms buildup has threatened Pakistan's security in particular. In limited resources and in difficult socio-economic situation Pakistan has to spend more on defense than on social sector. For example in the fiscal year of 2005-2006, Pakistan had allocated rupees 224 billion on defense where only rupees 73 billion were assigned for social sector. Pakistan could double its spending on education, health and on other social sectors provided if the defense budget is reduced marginally. On the other hand the situation is not different in India.

In developed countries governments are spending a sufficient amount to improve the living qualities of their people. Pakistan and India should also work for the stability, economic welfare and peace of the region. They can achieve this aim by mutual disarmament or arms reduction policy. Arms control can bring a strategic stability resulting economic development in both countries. In the time of atomic South Asia any conventional arms conflict can escalate to nuclear arms conflict. Thus arms control can reduce the danger of nuclear conflict. But in spite both countries are spending large amounts on weapons. India is the largest importer of weapons in the world. India purchases 12 percent of global weapons.

The World's Top Five Arms Buyers the World's Top Five Arms Suppliers1

- | | |
|----------------|-----------|
| 1 India | 1 US |
| 2 China | 2 Russia |
| 3 Pakistan | 3 Germany |
| 4 UAE | 4 China |
| 5 Saudi Arabia | 5 France |

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Country	Arms Imports	Ranks	Per Capita	Rank% of GDP	(per \$1000)	Rank
India	\$2.375billion	1	2.199	48	716	28
Pakistan	\$344million	6	2.118	39	0.99	21

Table 4

Military Resources	India	Pakistan
Army: Air Defense	5895	4890
Army: Artillery	11258	4291
Army: Helicopters	222	161
Army: Personnel Carriers	1786	1265
Army: Tanks	4047	2461
Air Force: Air Craft	1126	379
Navy: Air Craft	94	12
Navy: Air Craft Carrier	1	0
Navy: Corvettes	24	0
Navy: Destroyers	8	0
Navy: Frigates	12	7
Navy: Helicopters	107	10
Navy: Landing Craft	6	0
Navy: Mine Warfare	10	3
Navy: Patrol and Coastal Combatants	28	8
Navy: Submarines	17	8

Source: Anthony H. Cordesman, Arleigh A. Burke, and Robert Hammond,(2010),The Military Balance in Asia:1990-2010, Washington,DC:Centre for Strategic and International studies,pp.94-108.

The above chart illustrates the gap in military equipment's between India and Pakistan and that each year the gap is gradually widening with the steady increase in defense spending by India. Pakistan with its limited resources is trying to bridge the gap at minimum credible level.

Nuclear arms race between India and Pakistan

Armament in South Asia is based on traditional antagonism between core states of region India and Pakistan. Defense policy of Pakistan is Indian centric so, any enhancement or development of weapons by India perceived as a threat from Pakistan that leads towards arms race. Nuclear arms race started in South Asia when India in 1974 at Pokhran exploded nuclear device. In response Pakistan also started its nuclear exploration program. In 1998 on May 11 and 13 India tested of five nuclear bangs. This action disturbed the balance of power in the region and Pakistan in response conducted nuclear explosion in 1998 on May 28 and nuclear arms race was started in the region.

**Table 5: India-Pakistan Nuclear Forces
Nuclear Forces of Pakistan and India 2013**

Country	Warheads	Deployed Warheads	Total 2012	Total 2012
India	90-110	-----	80-100	90-110
Pakistan	100-120	-----	90-110	100-120

Source: Sushil K.Singh,(june 16,2013),China, India, Pakistan Increase Nuclear Weapons, Asia Pacific Defence Forum.

Although the exact detail about the number of warheads is not known but it is estimated that both countries possess more than one hundred nuclear warheads.

Fissile material production

According to the International Panel on Fissile Material (IPFM) report, India is approximately to produce a stockpile of 0.5-0.15 tons of weapon grade plutonium.

Pakistan’s nuclear program is chiefly uranium based which it obtained from uranium enrichment centrifuge plant at Kahuta. The volume is estimated between 9,000 SWUs Kilogram Separative Work Unit per year) to 15,000 SWUs and might be producing HEU 100 Kg per year.

According to the estimates by Alexander Glaser and Zia Mian, there is a 12 Kg per year plutonium production capability of Khushab-I reactor. Khushab-II and III would add the production into threefold (36 Kg /year)(Mian,Z.&Glaser2008)

Table 6

India-Pakistan missile race

Year	No. of Tests by India	No. of Tests by Pakistan
1998	0	1
1999	1	3
2000	2	1
2001	6	0
2002	2	4
2003	10	4
2004	9	6
2005	5	3
2006	5	6
2007	3	6
2008	4	6
2009	4	1
2010	3	3
2011	2	5
2012	4	6
Total No. of Tests	60	55

Source: Toby Dalton and Jaclyn Tandler,(2012).Understanding the Arms Race in South Asia, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace ,retrieved from <http://m.ceip.org/2010/09/13understanding-arms-race-in-south-asia/dtj8>,accessed on September 24 2019..

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Both India and Pakistan possess the technology of detecting the enemy’s aircraft by the use of ground based radar. Although both countries have a limited capability to detect an incoming missile but neither country is capable of tracking the adversary’s initial missile launches.

Arms violence and loss of life

Total	Militants	civilians	civilians	policemen
	21,323	killed by	killed by	killed by
43,460	Militants forces	Security	Militants	
	13,226	3,226	5,369	

Fatalities in Terrorist events in Pakistan 2003- March 11 2018

Civilians	Security Force Personnel	Terrorists/Insurgents	Total
2215	6927	33944	63086

Socio-economic effects of the armament violation of Human rights

Human rights violations by security forces and by the non-state actors are rampant. Killing of innocent people, rape and other heinous crimes have been reported particularly in Indian held the Kashmir valley. Not Indian forces are busy in human rights violation but civilians like members of RSS also fueled the situation.

Weaponization of politics

Induction of arms in political parties also reported and use of weapons is progressively Proliferating to achieve political ends as a result democratic institutions are becoming weak. This policy adopted by ruling party Bharatiya Janata party (BJP) in India, motivating the Members of Rashtriya Sawayam Sevak Sangh RSS to use violence against followers of other religion particularly Muslims.

Children and Women more sufferer

Children Women and are worst victims. Situation of Distrust in society increases, these feelings of mistrust even presents among the people belong same ethnic groups, community and religion for example non-touch Hindus also face the

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violent attitude of Brahmins. Stress and droopiness disorders are common in society.

Slow economic progress

Arms race between India and Pakistan affects the economic progress of both countries. Both countries are spending on purchasing and development of modern weapons and are diverting resources from social and economic sectors to weaponization. For Development elimination of poverty is prerequisite that only be achieved by removal of social deprivation and poor economic conditions (Naseem,2004) .

In South Asian region except Sri Lanka and Maldives all countries have low income economies. According to Human Poverty Index 36.6% of South Asia' Population living in poverty. Being core states of the region Pakistan and India can play a significant role in improvement of economic cooperation and development in South Asia. But the decision –makers of both countries are busy in promoting and development of weapons rather than to uplift the socio-economic conditions of the people of their countries. (Harris, G 2002).

Gender and poverty

South Asia is the least gender sensitive region in the world. Women are facing more burden of poverty and are sufferer of poverty. Women particularly those belong to rural areas are much deprived from health, education and other social facilities.

Conclusion

India and Pakistan both advocate the importance of peace but on the other side both are busy in arms buildup, development of modern warfare and unconstrained increase in defense budget. Such double standard approach is initiating an arms race in South Asia. Unrestricted arms buildup by one state is disturbing the equilibrium of power of the region which is causing arms race. While the socio-economic condition of the people of both countries is very low and the majority of people are living in extreme conditions under poverty line. Both states are required to cut their defense budgets for the welfare of their deprived people. Hence both countries can normalize their relations by promoting confidence building measures, risk reduction measures, arms control and disarmament initiatives.

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