ABSTRACT

This study explores and evaluates the effectiveness of the Counterterrorism (CT) policies of Pakistan, particularly, the National Action Plan (NAP) and military operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Tribal districts in the Pakistan-Afghanistan borderland. In this study, I argue that there is dearth of literature on the evaluation of effectiveness of CT policies particularly in the case of Pakistan. Using Eric Van Um & Daniela Pisoiu's Model of Effectiveness (2015), with concepts like *Output effectiveness, Outcome effectiveness* and *Impact effectiveness,* in this dissertation I argue that NAP and military operations in Tribal districts have been partially effective as it restored the government writ in different parts of the country and resulted in a steep decline in terrorist incidents. However, the plan is not highly effective as the threat of terrorism and extremism still exist. I also argue that the hard or military aspects of the NAP was executed soon after the plan was announced, however, to implement the soft aspects of the plan a lot still needs to be done. Nevertheless, CT polices of Pakistan failed to take into consideration the social and cultural aspects of Tribal districts. Therefore, I also contend that NAP and military operations in the Tribal districts resulted into socio-cultural transformation. The study significantly contributes empirical data to the existing literature and is qualitative in nature while based on 30 in-depth semi-structured interviews with policymakers, lawyers, academics, and locals from the Tribal districts. The interviews were conducted virtually through online tools and no face-to-face meetings were held as part of this dissertation.

Keywords: Terrorism & Counterterrorism Policies, Effectiveness, National Action Plan, Socio-Cultural Transformation, Pakistan