

Role of Civil Society (CSOs) in Peace Building in FATA

Coordination among civil society organizations and government is vital component in successfully formulating and implementing development strategy for peace building in FATA, a conflict zone Area of Pakistan

Guest Lecture

"Nothing is more precious than peace. Peace is the most basic starting point for the advancement of humankind"
[Daisaku Ikeda]

About FRC:

FRC is a research organization based in Islamabad, is a non partisan and non-political in its core nature and is working in its full zeal for highlighting the facts and problems of the conflict ridden area; the Federally Administrated Tribal Areas of Pakistan. The purpose of FRC is to help the concerned stake holders better understand this chaotic area of Pakistan with independent research and analysis. We discuss and disseminate ideas related to FATA and provide a forum for technocrats, policy makers, researchers and members of civil society within and outside of Pakistan to suggest solutions and develop road-maps for the development of FATA.

FRC has an access to firsthand information from the field researchers. It's the first ever think-tank of its kind that focuses on FATA in its entirety, by employing professionals and researchers having the greater proximity with FATA. FRC researchers and field officers specified for each sister agency of FATA, closely follow and analyze events and developments taking place in and around FATA.

FRC encourages its researchers to think, write and speak in order to encourage all segments of the Pakistani society including intelligentsia, academia and the government to join their strengths for a peaceful, tolerant, progressive and integrated FATA.

About FRC Publications:

FRC is working on multiple projects at a time that go on around the year with the aim of transforming the information extracted through these projects into a proper publication. FRC main publications are as follows.

Research Studies: Previous research studies that were undertaken by FRC were “An Overview of Social, Political, Cultural, and Economic Landscape of FATA”, “Post US/NATO Withdrawal Scenario in Afghanistan: Impacts on Peace and Development in FATA”, “Impact of Terrorism on Culture of FATA”, “Issues and Challenges: IDPs of FATA”, “Impacts of war on terror on Pashto literature and Art”, “Local Government System in FATA” and “Interpreting ‘The change’ perceptions verses Reality”.

Guest Lecturers Report: Regular guest lectures are delivered by experts who not only share valuable information but enrich participants with latest updates on political, social, economic, cultural and other aspects of the issue in question.

Tigah Journal: This journal takes an account, broadly, of the socio-economic, educational, technological and cultural damages inflicted on the people of this once peaceful area and seek ways and means; how to settle this long standing issue to give people a chance to live with dignity and honor. Tigah is published by-annually with research papers on wide range of important topics.

Seminar Report: FRC Quarterly Security Report reviews trends in conflict such as the number of terrorist attacks, type of attacks, tactics used for militancy and the resulting casualties. FRC publishes a comprehensive Quarterly Security Report four times a year. Along with the comprehensive quarter security report it also updates the monthly, weekly and daily security reports of FATA on its website.

Internship Report: FRC invites young applicants, especially students and fresh graduates from FATA to join its summer internship program run every year in July-September

FRC Website: FRC website (www.frc.com.pk) contains a rich source of information for visitors. Daily and weekly security updates, articles, commentaries and all FRC publications are available for download.

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Acknowledgement

FATA Research Centre was able to hold a guest lecture on a major and most influential issue related to FATA with the collaboration of The Royal Danish Embassy in Pakistan on March 28th 2014.

FRC acknowledges that Pakistan is facing many major security and socio-economic challenges which include inflation, terrorism, social cohesion, poor governance issues, feeble law and justice, weak economy, poverty and lack of education and other facilities. Additionally Pakistan is confronting brutal insurgency in FATA region and in various major parts of Pakistan that has damaged its societal existence and infrastructure.

FRC would like to thank the honorable guest speaker, Mr. Shabahat Ali (CEO, NATPOW) who took out time from his busy schedule and shared his knowledge on the topic “Role of Civil Society in Peace building in FATA”

We are also thankful to our guests from academia, media and various research fields, for their presence and valuable participation in the event. Moreover, the contribution of our FRC team is worth acknowledging for managing the event affectively.

The report is based on the content of speech delivered by the guest speakers and participants at the guest lecture event.

Introduction

Peace building is a term describing interventions that are designed to prevent the start or resumption of violent conflict by creating sustainable peace. Peace building includes a wide range of efforts by diverse actors in government and civil society from local to international level to address the root causes of violence and ensure protection of civilians. Civil society that is considered a Third Sector of the society that is different from the Government and Business Sectors and consists of non-governmental organizations and institutions work for the interests of the citizens independently of the government.

Civil society is widely assumed to be an important actor for peace building. As such, substantive focus has been given towards building and strengthening civil society, especially in countries experiencing or emerging from situations of armed conflict. In such environments, civil society is understood as playing an important role in reducing violence, and in facilitating the conditions necessary for building a sustainable peace.

Civil society advocacy can facilitate the participation of poor and vulnerable populations in the design and implementation of development policies and programmes. This can enhance the delivery of basic social services, such as health and education. Civil society organizations also play a critical watchdog role in public life. Last but not least, members of civil society organizations volunteer their time, skills, and expertise to development.

FATA has been a conflict zone for more than a decade and peace in the area has become a dream. Although the civil society has made intense efforts to bring peace in the area, as many civil society organizations engaged in peace building in FATA by putting efforts for restoring Peace and eliminating turmoil from FATA. But CSOs do not take into account the indigenous institutions of FATA like *Jarga*, which lead to the mistrust of the local masses.

The obvious lofty level of isolation and apprehension with governance and rule of law issues among local communities in FATA, CSOs can play a mainly helpful role in reaching out to local communities and sharing the views and requirements of those communities with national authorities and other decision-makers including parliamentarians.

Keeping the above facts in mind, FRC is conducting a guest lecture with the following objectives:

- To discuss the role of Civil Society in Peace building in FATA
- To analyze and highlight limitations of CSOs in FATA to play their role
- To suggest a way forward in this context

Guest Speakers Profile

Syed Shabahat Ali (CEO NATPOW)

He is serving as a Chief Executive officer in National Trust for Population Welfare (NATPOW), Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation & Coordination Islamabad. He holds M-Phil degree in Peace & Conflict Resolution from National Defence University (NDU), Islamabad. He conducted research study on Social Cohesion Analysis of Pakistan for UNICEF 2013.. He worked on different social development projects, on promoting Safe Motherhood & Child Healthcare and for 2011 Post Rains Relief Activities in Sindh Funded by UNFPA.

He also worked for Religious Leader's Mobilization to promote Responsible Parenthood, Gender equality & equity and eradicate Extreme Behaviors at grassroots level community-Punjab during 2011 funded by CIDA He is frequently Hosting TV Shows and participated in several Radio Talk Shows with different Radio Channels.

Details of projects carried out by Mr. Shabahat Ali are given below;

- Project Officer for “Literacy for Family Health Initiative-LFHI” to promote Safe Motherhood & Child Healthcare, Personal Hygiene Practices through dissemination of relevant information and knowledge to the young girls and mothers of Reproductive age, through Adult Literacy Program of National Commission for Human Development funded by UNFPA
- Coordination Officer for 2011 Post Rains Relief Activities in Sindh Funded by UNFPA
- Facilitator for 2012 Post Flood Relief Activities in Baluchistan (Food Packets & Tents’ Distributions) Funded by Kim Se Yok Mu
- Project Manager for Religious Leader's Mobilization to promote Responsible Parenthood, Gender equality & equity and eradicate Extreme Behaviors at grassroots level community-Punjab during 2011 funded by CIDA
- Collaborated for Interactive Seminar on RH Issues and Dowry Violence under 16-Days Activism to End Violence Against Women-2012, with Pakistan Reproductive Health Network-PRHN (Sachet-NATPOW).
- Convenor for National Literacy Day-2012 on ‘Literacy & Peace’ organized at Lahore-Punjab, Benazirabad-Sindh and Charsada & Kohat –KPK (UNESCO)

He has a deep understanding of RH, FP, MNCH issues, strong communication skills, program implementation and management expertise, monitoring and evaluation proficiency, efficient CSO coordination & management, strong human resource management and an extensive network of contacts in the Government, Media and civil society.

Key Points from Guest Lecture

Peace building is the absence of war or a state of no violence. A lecture provides an analysis of the relationship between CSOs (civil society organizations) and development programs in peace building contexts, it elaborates three main stages and approaches for achieving peace, including prospects and way forward for peace building. Points of the lecture are given below:

Definition, Approaches and prospects of Peace building

Peace is a complex, long-term and multi-layered process. In such a course, it is feasible to determine steps towards peace and compute the decrease of violence and increase of justice. It is multi-layered because peace is not only a matter for diplomats but is an ongoing mission for stakeholders at all levels of society. There are two types of peace; positive and negative. Mostly peace is associated with and is interchanged with positive connotation of peace.

- A positive concept of peace includes the increase in social justice and the establishment of a culture of peace among people within and across societies. A frequent criticism of positive peace is that it lacks conceptual clarity.
- Negative peace is a situation where peace prevails only in the presence of a third party that intervenes for the sake of peace building but as soon as that third party leaves, there are chances of eruption of violent activities again. On the other hand, positive peace is a long term situation where there are no or very minute chances that violence will re occur in the future.
- John Galtung is considered the father of the term peace building that was coined for the first time in his famous writing “*Three Approaches to Peace*” in 1976. The three approaches are as follows:
 - **Peacekeeping** is the use of force to maintain peace in the region. The force used can be in the form of financial sanctions, technically and through the use of guns.
 - **Peacemaking** is a more diplomatic term in which third party intervenes and the issues are solved through conversations and discussions.
 - **Peace building** is a term that is more oriented towards sustainable peace.
- J.P. Lederach described peace building as a full array of processes, approaches and stages that transform conflict into sustainable peace.
- Former UN Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali in his writing “*Agenda for Peace*” (1992), described peace building as a major instrument for securing peace in post-war situations. He termed peace building as ‘an action to identify and support structures which will tend to solidify peace in order to avoid a relapse into conflict’ (Boutros, 1992)
- Boutros Ghali’s document has been considered as a biblical document by the UNDP (United Nations development Programme) that is used to estimate how long term peace will prevail even after the UN moves away.

- Structural peace is closely linked with structural violence. Structural violence is a situation when violence. John Waldon coined the term contrary to structural violence that is 'Structural Peace'.
- When structural violence gets embedded into the structure of society and societal norms encourage injustice and promote violence. As it is a norm in societies like Pakistan where women bear 6-7 children. Although medically it is not feasible but still the society considers it normal.
- Peace building thus has to be viewed as a process encompassing various sectors within objectives to integrate and reinforce the institutional capacity of state, as well as reinforcing of civil society, as it is show in the figure.
- This approach is intended to liberalize communities through civil society and rescuing them from the structural oppressions to set the foundation for a peaceful, nonviolent and development oriented culture which leads to structural peace.

Definition, Role and Significance of Civil Society Organizations

The term civil society refers to the wide array of non-governmental and not-for-profit organizations that have a presence in public life, expressing the interests and values of their members or others, based on ethical, cultural, political, scientific, religious or philanthropic considerations. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) therefore refer to a wide of array of organizations: community groups, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), labor unions, indigenous groups, charitable organizations, faith-based organizations, professional associations, and foundations, definition of civil society adopted by '*The World Bank*'.

- Civil society is accumulation of social organizations with society serving motives, it includes development NGO's, community based organizations, public policy reforms groups, human right groups, media, think tanks, bar associations, philanthropy trusts, religious origination and maddrassa's, advocacy groups, gross roots associations etc.
- The civil society sector attempts to protect the rights of individuals and the common good by adapting approaches beyond politics.
- Civil society organizations (CSOs) have also become significant players in global development assistance, with the organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) estimating that, as of 2006, CSOs provided approximately US \$ 15 billion in international assistance.
- Although it is difficult to find immediate returns on social investments, as the empowerment is a process to enable certain groups including poor and women, who are unable to benefit from the mainstream development.
- The role of the civil society is important in industrial societies to address the needs not to fulfill by market mechanisms.

- Its role in developing societies is more critical because the market and government, even in collaboration are unable to fulfill needs and expectations of people.
- In addition, there is a reciprocal relationship between the civil society and society both depends on each other. As the sustainability of the civil society sector depends on the support of society, while the persistency support of society depends on the accomplishments of the civil society.
- Favorable legal environment and other official support to the civil society sector to progress are provided by government.
- Approximately 70% of population in Pakistan is rural, but unfortunately NGO's are concentrated largely in urban areas, which reflect clear biased ideologies of non-governmental organizations.
- Ground dependency on external donors has not only tented the public credibility but also distorted the social service agenda of NGO's. Success of NGO's mostly depend on the foreign donations, fund collected through the donors of western countries.
- Thus civil society is weekly institutionalized and neither able to work effectively with foreign aid because Civil society is not getting any charity at national level.
- Final Report of PCNA (Post Crises Need Assessment 2011) shows that, In FATA there are minimal avenues of participation of civil society in the public affairs which results in lack of trust between the state and its citizens which consequently contributed in causing crises.
- Enhancing civil society institution familiarity with participatory approach will itself becomes a driver for peace. Moreover capacity constraint in the provision of public services the civil society and public service must be tackled to fully address the drivers of crisis (PCNA 2011)
- In a nutshell PCNA report reflects that civil society is not in its pure form and shape and is unable to perform basic functions. Four strategic objective of peace building for Civil society are originate by PCNA which are as below:
 - Build responsiveness and effectiveness of the state to restore citizen trust
 - Stimulate employment and livelihood opportunities
 - Ensure delivery of basic services
 - Counter radicalization and foster reconciliation

To assist and facilitate the development of these four strategic objectives, need to work in these major sectors which includes governance, rule of law, agricultural and natural resources, non-farm economic development, education, infrastructure (comprising energy, transport and water supply and sanitation), health, social protection and strategic communications for establishing peace in FATA region.

- For peace building in FATA, if we follow the below mentioned model which required strong role of civil society in integrating the four basic components in which market

building and democracy building are civil society oriented, while on the other hand state building and security building are the government building focused assignments.

- **Market building:** For marketing building it is essential to improve livelihood, infrastructure, communication, education etc. In addition by providing employment opportunities and through capacity building of local civil society organization.

- **Democracy building:** For democracy building it is crucial to define FATA as a province or a part of KP, amendment in FCR (Frontier Crime Regulation), local government system and to provide people complete democratic rights. Moreover it is also very important to create a genuine indigenous demand for democratic rights among the communities.



Figure 1

Model for peace building in FATA

- **State building:** To build the writ of state it is necessary to establish all basic Institutions which includes justice, law and order, health, education, infrastructure and communication. Once the institutions established the next stage of state building is the eradication of corruption, reinforcement of significant administrative and economic institutions, and after that preparation and implementation of effective policies.
Monitoring and evaluation along with feedback mechanism on the work of government, moreover the engagement of civil society to promote and accelerate the peace building process can contribute a lot.
- **Security building:** For security building disarmament is the first thing which is considered necessary, then the strong linkages of coordination between communities and security forces, so that there should be no grievances among both parties (security forces and community) and integration of security forces in the reconstruction process (reconstruction of schools, hospitals and other social institutions)

Gap Analysis of Civil society (CSOs) Role for Peace building in FATA

There is a yearning gap between the practices and the theories, same as between the ideas and at ground realities. After a prolonged period of violent conflict recreating a possible market scum's one of the most difficult challenges for peace building in any region of the world. In FATA pitiable governance system and inefficiency of civil society organizations is discouraging for natives of FATA and a trust between the state and common people is shaken badly due to poor work efficiency at national and local level.

Given below are the major flaws and gaps at national and local level with regards to FATA:

- Absence of a central peace building strategy with regards to FATA in Pakistan, because if the central plan is omitted then no war can be end, it is essential to have a formal plan of action then peace is impossible to restore.
- Lack on engagement of indigenous civil society in FATA, as international donors and INGO's are more active in the region which can just contribute in immediate support for real development engagement of civil society at local level is crucial.
- Not for profit organizations (NGO's) turning out to be the most profitable business, foreign funding for FATA region is not being properly publicize as only few influential people are exploiting funding
- FCR(Frontier Crime Regulation) instead of democracy building, a basic gap lies at this juncture which is killing the freedom of FATA people and discouraging the advancement of civil society at grass root level in FATA
- Obsolete PA (political agent) system instead of state building, all basic institutions are inoperative in FATA, bungling justice, inept law and order, lack of health and educational institutions, poor infrastructure and inefficient communication means.
- Destruction of Jarga system high times of reconciliation needed, as the Jarga has a five thousand years of its history and that has remained the pure mean of reunion, the enemies have practically dismantle this system because the Jarga is the one of the leading strength of Pastuns to get rid of tribal feuds and to resolve conflicts, rivals knew that power, in addition they firstly attack on Jarga system to deteriorate Pastun society.
- Absence of centralized strategy for synergic engagement of state and civil society for marketing building, government and civil society both are working inefficiently in FATA without any planning and coordination, resultantly distrust among people increased

These are the gaps which are not allowing the peace to be built on a long term sustainable basis and these are the reasons of the turmoil and causes of repeated failure of restoring peace in FATA region.

Recommendations

Civil societies can play vital role in the development of FATA region in Pakistan, as it can fill the gap between state and common people of FATA by playing its role in the stability and development of the region. As for the development and reconciliation in FATA region it is essential to take appropriate steps at local and national level. To overcome the inefficiency of civil society and government institutions there is a need of a strategy on actual basis and a designed practical plan. Few recommendations to improve FATA region through role of civil society are mentioned below;

- Centralized strategic peace building and development plan for FATA which would be implement by government institutes in collaboration with civil society.
- Empowerment of local civil societies to achieve the goal of long term peace and development in FATA region.
- Role of civil society should be monitor properly for reviewing the development plan progress
- Need to launch local government system in FATA it will encourage democracy in FATA by enabling FATA people to fight for their basic rights and contribute in the development of FATA region.
- Reforms should be made in FCR (Frontier Crime Regulation) law to provide basic constitutional rights to FATA people and it should be implement appropriately
- Basic social institutions (schools, law and order, communication, health etc) should be rebuilt and developed in all agencies of FATA to facilitate every single native of FATA region. It will enhance their confidence on government and civil society, it will also provide them opportunity to nurture and develop their region.
- Jarga system should be revive by the help of civil society in FATA region by providing tribal elders security and boosting up their confidence for the betterment of Pashtuns society and for preserving inherited strength of Pastuns.
- To ensure real involvement of CSO sector representatives in formulation, planning and implementation stages of the national development policy

Conclusion

Peace building through adapting soft tools in FATA would be healthier for the people of FATA and also for the entire region. Firstly it is essential to generate desire among FATA people for development which can leads towards peace building. Secondly government with the support of civil society should launch development movement in seven agencies of FATA which will provide them opportunities of employment and income, conflict transformation, education and grant them freedom from uncertainties and qualms and encourage the natives of FATA region and they will contribute in the development outstandingly.

At present, government should formulate and execute a development strategy for peace building in FATA in collaboration with civil society. Vital element in the effective implementation of peace building strategy should be coordination among civil society and government. This calls not only a consideration of the bigger defy but also an acceptance along with understanding of the need for a diversity of roles, for numerous levels of activity, and for diverse strategies and approaches a strong bond between government and civil society is required. As an author Ralph Waldo Emerson superbly quoted that,

“Peace cannot be achieved through violence; it can only be attained through understanding”

References

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Annexure

Annexure A: List of Participants

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Annexure B: Glimpses of the event



Annexure C: Guest Lecture Agenda

“Role of Civil Society (CSOs) in Peace building in FATA”

Program Agenda

Date: March 28, 2014

Timings: 02:30 PM to 05:00 PM

Venue: FRC Conference Hall
Islamabad

Contact: 051-2112853-4

Guest Speaker: Mr. Shabahat Ali, CEO, National Trust for Population (NATPOW)

Activities	Timing
Arrival of Guests and Registration	02: 00 -02:30 PM
An Overview of FRC projects and Formal welcome to Guest speaker by <i>Mr. Mehran Ali Khan Wazir</i> , Programme Manager FRC	02:30 - 02:45 PM
Opening remarks by <i>Mr. Mansur Khan Mehsud</i> , Director Admin & Research FRC	02:45 -03:00 PM
Role of Civil Society in Peace building in FATA In the current discourse of extremism by <i>Mr. Shabahat Ali</i> , CEO, National Trust for Population (NATPOW)	03:00- 03:25 PM
limitations of CSOs in FATA to play their role along with a way forward to enhance role of civil society (CSOs) in peace building and development in FATA by <i>Mr. Shabahat Ali</i> , CEO, National Trust for Population (NATPOW)	03:25 -03:50 PM
Question and Answer	03:50-04:30 PM
Conclusion, Thanks and Adjournment by <i>Mr. Mehran Ali Khan Wazir</i> , Programme Manager FRC	04:30-04:45 PM
Hi-Tea	04:45-05:30 PM