NUCLEARIZATION: A THREAT TO HUMAN SECURITY IN SOUTH ASIA

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Abstract: Acquisition of nuclear weapons by a state may cause of threat to other state and its people. Human security line extends the possibility of security analysis and policy from territorial security to the security of people. Nuclearization was first emphasized and appeared during cold war when two superpowers installed nuclear weapons to counter each other. Security has become frontline concept in 21st century. Traditionally, physical security was at the heart of social life but recently, various other dimensions of security appeared on socio-political life of the state. Among them, human security is most important as it is a part of human development. Human security has several dimensions i.e. economic, political, and personal, environment, food and community. This research paper aims to see the impacts of nuclearization on human security of the south Asian region. This paper endeavors to search the dynamics of human security. The main question of the paper is to see how nuclearization threatens the people of South Asia with their lives physically and psychologically. And how does nuclearization between India and Pakistan prove unhelpful in managing human conditions of the uneven states. Also, through qualitative and descriptive analysis, it has been inferred that the acquisition and proliferation of nuclear weapons damaging the lives of the people of South Asia specially, India and Pakistan and it may cause further instability in the region. Further, it maintains that there is considerable human resources in South Asia that can be a source of not only for the forte of their respective states but can secure themselves from any kind of human insecurity.

Key Words: nuclearization, human security, human development, South Asia

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Introduction

More than half a century, nations of South Asia has been indulged into a vicious non-stop cycle of poverty and underdevelopment. Further, they are confronting with the problem of human security such as economic, education, food, community and environment related factors/indicators. Deprivation of these factors/indicators basically provides a fragile and leads to the fertility of the factors of intolerance, extremism and violence in the country. Not only this, the country of South Asia has also been preoccupied with the dominating power and external ongoing threats to their national security. Hence, as a result, the ability of the governments of these countries is unable to fulfill their social, political and economic goals to serve their people in the best possible manner. The domination strategy used by one state towards its neighbor basically leads to insecurity and instability which is known as regional politics. This was the main reason when India tried to adopt a status-driven strategy for testing nuclear explosion in 1998, due to which Pakistan was forced to maintain a reliable nuclear deterrent of its own country in order to ensure its security in region. Not only this, India tried to increase its massive nuclear defensive budget to 28%, which is greater than Pakistan’s security budget. India's upgraded conventional nuclear strategy raises a question of adverse and harmful reactions within region.¹

Nonetheless, the new and revised international environment has changed the concept of national security mainly due to globalization and regional integration. The international peace and security concern demands a calculated and amicable confrontation strategies in order to avoid the regional conflict and tensions. There is no doubt that the world full of extremist non-state actors, who are trespassing the boundaries of the countries and threatening international security has created an imbalance which has led to the strategic partnership to protect their countries, and through engaging in limited wars and nuclear deterrence tactic.

There is a need to look in depth for the indicators related to human security such as; economy, politics, food availability, environmental and personal security. The nuclearization and control on its production facilities is having a direct link in effecting these indicators especially in South Asia. This region has witnessed great escalated tensions in growing arm race concern, in limiting the arm conflict race, and in testing of nuclear weapons and facilities. Testing Nuclear

weapons is not bringing any stability in the main countries of South Asia like in India and Pakistan which are involved in continuous conflict in this region for producing nuclear facilities. The arm race between India and Pakistan accounts 93% of the total military expenditures.\(^2\) It is also an irony that ranking of India is at 142 when it comes to per capita income and ranks on 1\(^{st}\) number when it comes to importing of arms. Similarly, Pakistan is ranked on 119 position in terms of per capita income, whereas ranks on 10\(^{th}\) number in importing arms and weapons. The region of South Asia with highest growing population rate, majority of the people are living below the International Poverty Line with dollar 2 per day, 46% of the children are suffering from malnourishment, 35% of the population is travailing from severe health deficiencies (especially in terms of availability of food, water, and building better educated communities).\(^3\)

Hence, in this paper, the trade-offs between production of nuclear weapons versus human security and provision of basic facilities to the people. For example, a modern advanced submarine with associated nuclear technology which could be worth of $300 is enough and equivalent to provide safe and pure drinking water to almost 60 million people. Such figures create questions for increasing expenditures on nuclear facilities as compared to the expenditures on the indicators of human security. This paper has focused on qualitative and descriptive research method with in-depth study of literature review. Main aim of this paper is to focus on how to minimize the nuclear facility production in South Asia region, and how states can make strategies for betterment of the indicators related to human security, especially economy of the countries, political conflict, along with better communities with basic facilities.

**Literature Review**

For the governments of South Asia to achieve the goal of “national security” and “human security”, it is essential to reduce the threat of conflict especially countries like Pakistan and India, and such states to share common concern for the betterment of citizens of their countries. Governments need to seek security from the threat of war, increased nuclear production facilities, extreme forces of non-state actors, environmental degradation factors, social and community injustice meters, economic deficit, and political instability. Hence, bridging of this


gap between the pre-occupation of the states is necessary for maintaining human security indicators which triggers the writ of states in order to withstand and maintain national integrity.  

Human security, in terms of economic, political, social, and legal dimensions, is an essential element for the institutional structure of country where “human functioning” becomes conceivable to attain. There is no doubt that the governments of India and Pakistan have realization to build economic strength for progress of their nations. However, in pursuit of these objectives, dependence has been generated between these countries in terms of economic dealings like trading. But, a high GDP growth rate is still necessary in both the countries for combating indicators like poverty, social and communal imbalance, and in-availability of basic human facilities. Moreover, conflicting structure between the countries of Pakistan and India has created a base to realize the equitable GDP and capital on improving human security indicators.

A.K Sen has proposed a theoretical framework on the basis of “human development” which argues that food, health care facilities, and educational institutions constitutes the basic entitlement of the citizens of any country as these are essential for actualizing and achieving better human functioning role. The author has concluded that not only the basic facilities are essential for achieving this goal, but whole set of effective political and societal institutions are necessary for human functioning in any country.

The peace process especially in countries like Pakistan and India is driven by the objectives of the civil society. However, pace of mediation and dialogue also depends upon the extent of role of bureaucracy of both countries. This requires for the government to move out from the mind-set of the adversarial relation with each other on the expense of the lives of their citizens, and to reduce the production of the arms and nuclear weapons.

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India and Pakistan are focusing on expanding and multiplying the nuclear facilities, producing fissile material, and focusing on delivering and importing related systems, and tools for nuclear production. Such expansion basically motivates the non-state actors in these countries which creates violence, extremism, and vacuum for them to worsen the human security environment. Hence, addressing the vulnerabilities created by the weapons of mass destruction in South Asia requires policy effort by the countries to minimize the threat to human security.\textsuperscript{8}

There is a need of global initiative for serious re-evaluation of the status of expenditures on the nuclear facilities in the countries of South Asia. While nuclear energy and production trading deals with India and Pakistan have remained ineffective, political and economic downfall became expedient in both the countries. There is a myth that lax of the nuclear facility can become a reason that states are incapable to protect themselves, and hence starts to blackmail on the basis of nuclear terrorism. In South Asia, potential for nuclear terrorism has become a special concern for the world, mainly because of the rapid expansion of nuclear programs and facilities. Massive investments in construction of these facilities, and stockpiles of the nuclear fissionable material generates nothing but a threat to human security.\textsuperscript{9}

There are two main challenges for Pakistan and India to assure stability in South Asia region; first is how to break the current ongoing gridlock in strengthening the bilateral relations, the second is how to maintain a creditable deterrence strategy without engaging in arm race. This path requires major political attitudinal transformation in the government of both countries for outstanding resolving strategy. There is a need to create a security balance in South Asia and how to command and create the system for human safety. Both Pakistan and India relies on personal issues more as compared to managing nuclear systems. This creates challenges for human security, and propaganda for countries in not obeying the proliferation treaty. According to past literature, it takes years for the countries to follow confidence building measures and willingness to secure the neighboring countries, and follow an amnestic approach for limiting the

\textsuperscript{8}Chakma, Bhumitra. 2014. \textit{South Asia's nuclear security}. Routledge security in Asia Pacific series.

production of arms or nuclear weapons, as their main aim always remain to protect their national security.10

Methodology

Methodology of this research paper is qualitative, descriptive in nature. This paper includes the variable of human security which is dependent on nuclearization in South Asia. The qualitative method includes the in-depth study of the secondary data gathered from reliable and authentic resources including various websites, books, and journals. Following is the flowchart of the theoretical framework of this research paper which shows various buffering factors working as a cushioning force between dependent and independent variables and increasing the chances for threatening human security indicators in South Asia region. On the other hand, if the same buffering factors can be mediated in between the two main variables, then there can be effective chances for creating stability in this region by focusing on improving human security meters.

Theoretical Framework

Nuclear proliferation had long been considered a strategic competitive advantage. Today, man has reached a state where starvation, famine and instability rule supreme. In particular, the developing third world South Asian region, a hub of 3 nuclear giants, is in no position today to bear the brunt of nuclear competitiveness. Race of dominance in the region, in particular between India and Pakistan, has deprive the masses of both of these countries from basic necessities of life. With a low standard of living, quality of life of these regions is on a continuous decline. Political instability is normal outcome in region adsorbed in race of nuclear weapons.11

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As politics is the key to a nation’s success. Its stability brings about positive and progressive changes in the society. Nuclear race totally distorts the economic ambitions of a
country. Vast budgets are spent on becoming mightier than the competitors, whereas provision of fundamental necessities is not stressed. As a result, masses are forced to live below the poverty line forcibly. Education fuels a country’s development. Exponentially rising defense budgets with not much being spent on educating masses results in low quality and unskilled graduates which has direct negative impact on the welfare of the state and the general public. Reducing budgets on nuclear proliferation and increasing spending of public money for the welfare of the people on chores like education, infrastructure development, better health facilities and expansion of industry seems to be the only way out for resolution of all basic human problems between India and Pakistan. Strategic balance of a country is gauged by its military and nuclear might over other countries. Unfortunately, the fact that the real state dominance lies in indicators like superior quality of living.\(^\text{12}\)

This is the kind of indicator that states should try and compete on. Non-nuclear states like Sweden enjoy a great reputation on the basis of the consummate standard of living that the said state is able to provide its masses. They only have been able to do it because they are not a part of nuclear and military race. Rather they are in competition with other developed countries on the basis of human development. If similar sort of competitive human development model is implemented and tested the Indo Pak subcontinent, undoubtedly the results in terms of individual, societal and collective growth are going to be farfetched. Leadership of both the countries has a key role to play in discontinuation of this arms race in the region. As lack of political will always hampers the solution of strategic problems like nuclear race. Instead of becoming mightier than each other, if both the countries focus on collaboration in economic and human development spheres rather than competition in weapons, provision of all basic facilities to the masses can be ensured within the next two decades. As we begin to emphasize the growth of societies based of focus of their basic rights, it will automatically lead the way towards better community life, a more secure and comfortable environment to live, a prosperous economy and prolific quality of basic commodities of life. On the other hand, increasing nuclear and defense

budgets will keep causing abnormal declines quality of community living in the power lusty and hunger stricken South Asian region.\textsuperscript{13}

**Recommendations**

Since the acquisition and production of nuclear capabilities of Pakistan and India are impossible to reverse back, it is vital to ensure stability and credibility of the deterrence even at the lowest possible chance. Pakistan tried to propose various measures to India in order to commit a formalized strategy for accepting a restraint regime in keeping nuclear deterrents at the minimum level, these propositions include:

- Proper execution of a non-weaponization agreement: There is no doubt that till 1998, the deterrence strategy was maintained by both India and Pakistan. Moreover, at that time, both the countries lack the technological competences as well.
- A proper declaration of an agreement which states “non-deployment assurance” for the nuclear capability missiles.
- An appropriate declaration of the number of operating aircrafts which are responsible for delivering the nuclear weapons along with the specific verifiable procedures.
- Implementation of the “Confidence building and risk production measures” which were constructed in 1999 as a first step in which both the countries could take prior notice about missile testing process.

Such effective measures could be taken as enhancing tool for the control system and command for establishing communication channel between the specified authorities and management of the countries in order to restraint the production of nuclear weapons.

**Conclusion**

Although there have been many confidence building measures established between India and Pakistan, including an agreement for reducing the transportation of the nuclear weapon materials, but it has not brought any significant reduction in the production and threat of nuclear risk. Under such circumstances, especially due to globalization and threat of terrorism from non-

state actors, it has become important for countries in South Asia for contouring the structure of peace negotiation, conflict resolution strategies, to have a remarkable follow-up on confidence building measures and regional stability process. Moreover, facilitation process from third party mediators also results into less friction by making sure to adapt an unbiased approach, for example, US in particular can play an important role for mediator in South Asia. When such measures will be taken, then there can be possibility for countries in South Asia in cutting down expenditures on nuclear facilities, and to focus on the human security indicators more. Top-notch priority should be set for arm control race especially between Pakistan and India in order to attain economic, political, social stability along-with improving the rate of income per capita in both countries.