

Non-Traditional Threats to India's Security

Abstract

In today's perspective, the Non- Traditional Threats to India's Security has become very vast. These threats and security challenges are incessantly changing and this expanding security agenda has gone beyond the state and military security. In my opinion the non-traditional in present era is defined as the obstruction of security and the livelihood of the citizens of the nation.

I specifically mentioned the non-traditional threats as those threats which are emanated by the non-state actors. These are the challenges to the survival of the state and well-being of the people that arises such as Food Security, Climate Changes, Human Trafficking, Water Scarcity, public Health Issues etc.

India has started many policies and successful interventions to curb these non-traditional threats to India's security so that it is possible to enhance gains made in human development and achieve the vision of inclusive development in India.

Keywords: Non- Traditional Threats, India's Security.

Introduction

The historic end of the Cold War, combined with the rise of globalization, environmental degradation and international terrorism, has opened new facts of security. The nature of threats and security discourses are incessantly changing and this expanding security agenda has gone beyond state and military security. This shifted the focus away from military power, as the core determinant of international order and security, to several non-traditional sectors, with a much enhanced role of economic, political, and societal forces. Ever since, advocates of an alternative approach to security studies have questioned the position that security can only be about the military dimension. The end of the Cold War has therefore, marked a shift in the study and analysis of security and world order from a traditional framework to a non-traditional approach. The concept of national security is often invoked by national leaders across the globe. The definition of national security is seriously debated by various scholars, national leaders and members of civil society. Consequently, the concept of national security is no longer strictly confined to traditional state centric security concerns predominantly focused on external threats but now embraces alternative approaches that aim to address fundamental challenges to human security in a given state.

In present era 'Non-Traditional Security' defined as in term of compass various threats that obstruct the security and livelihoods of citizens. While citizens and governments alike face a myriad of challenges to ensure national security. Non-Traditional Security enables participants to view national security beyond conflict and war. Instead, as Professor Mely Caballero-Anthony, secretary general of the recently established Consortium on Non-Traditional Security Studies in Asia stated "These newly emerging threats are referred to as non-traditional security (NTS) threats and they are defined as challenges to the survival and wellbeing of peoples and states that arise primarily out of non-military sources"

In general, non-traditional security threats as those threats which are emanated by the nonstate actors. These are challenges to the survival of the state and well-being of people that arise primarily out of nonmilitary sources; such as food security, climate changes, human trafficking, water security etc. India faces lots of challenges that impede national security. Therefore the following papers to explore India's currently Non-Traditional Security concerns through five crucial interconnected themes: food security, climate change and environmental challenges, water scarcity and public health issues. In conclusion of this paper to offer suitable interventions and policy recommendations that will aid in assisting the discourse on addressing Non-Traditional Security concerns in India.

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Food Security

Food security is a critical condition related to the supply of food, and individuals' access to it. There is evidence of granaries being in use over 10,000 years ago, with central authorities in civilizations including ancient China and ancient Egypt being known to release food from storage in times of famine. At the 1974 World Food Conference the term "food security" was defined with an emphasis on supply. Food security is the "availability at all times of adequate world food supplies of basic foodstuffs to sustain a steady expansion of food consumption and to offset fluctuations in production and prices". The final report of the 1996 World Food Summit states that food security "exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life".

Household food security exists when all members, at all times, have access to enough food for an active, healthy life. Individuals who are food secure do not live in hunger or fear of starvation. Food insecurity, on the other hand, is a situation of "limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods or limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways", according to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Food security incorporates a measure of resilience to future disruption or unavailability of critical food supply due to various risk factors including droughts, shipping disruptions, fuel shortages, economic instability, and wars. In the years 2011–2013, an estimated 842 million people were suffering from chronic hunger. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, (FAO) identified the four pillars of food security as availability, access, utilization, and stability. The 1996 World Summit on Food Security declared that "food should not be used as an instrument for political and economic pressure". According to the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development, failed agriculture market regulation and the lack of anti-dumping mechanisms cause much of the world's food scarcity and malnutrition.

Therefore, what are current challenges that stifle food security in India and how can they be best addressed according to best practices and innovations adopted in other countries. The National Food Security Bill 2013, proposed to counter disparities in access to food and aims to decrease persistent malnutrition experienced by low-income communities in India. The Bill itself is perceived as noble and revealing of how the Government of India perceives the challenges to food security and strategies the government aims to utilize in addressing food security. However, at the opposite end of the spectrum many critics advocate for a far more advanced agenda that includes paying attention to more responsive policy mechanisms, power supply issues and rural development in order to truly harness a proactive food security agenda. Latin American countries face similar critical issues in addressing food security for its citizens; many countries of the region have performed much better than India in

providing critical policy interventions that address food security. Subsequently, perhaps exploring the policy choices made by leaders in the region, would offer alternatives for the current food security dilemma in India. Consequently, India could enhance its own food security interventions by adapting initiatives from a region that has achieved noted successes with regard to food security.

Climate Changes

A climate change is an urgent issue across the world, and devising strategies to cope with rapidly changing climate conditions is a crucial task. The Government of India well aware of the importance of addressing climate change, proposed a National Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC). The plan reiterates the government's stance to climate change which is to encourage development to benefit society erstwhile reducing the impact of climate change to the most vulnerable members of Indian society.

Climate change is a change in the statistical distribution of weather patterns when that change lasts for an extended period of time (i.e., decades to millions of years). Climate change may refer to a change in average weather conditions, or in the time variation of weather within the context of longer-term average conditions. Climate change is caused by factors such as biotic processes, variations in solar radiation received by Earth, plate tectonics, and volcanic eruptions. Certain human activities have been identified as primary causes of ongoing climate change, often referred to as global warming. Some other Factors that can shape climate are called climate forcing or "forcing mechanisms". These include processes such as variations in solar radiation, variations in the Earth's orbit, variations in the reflectivity of the continents, atmosphere, and oceans, mountain-building and continental drift and changes in greenhouse gas concentrations. There are a variety of climate change feedbacks that can either amplify or diminish the initial forcing. Some parts of the climate system, such as the oceans and ice caps, respond more slowly in reaction to climate forcing, while others respond more quickly. There are also key threshold factors which when exceeded can produce rapid change.

Water Scarcity

According to numerous reports India's current water issues stem from an increasing population, increasing industrialization and rapid urbanization. Among these factors, as with other nations, India faces a dilemma whereby water demands override current supply. Besides the internal catalysts for the current water predicament in India, the country also faces an external water security nexus due to its geographical position. Such dynamics calls for India to take carefully formulated initiatives and reforms to what some experts have labeled a 'turbulent water future'.

Water scarcity is the lack of fresh water resources to meet water demand. It affects every continent and was listed in 2015 by the World Economic Forum as the largest global risk in terms of potential impact over the next decade. It is manifested by partial or no satisfaction of expressed demand,

economic competition for water quantity or quality, disputes between users, irreversible depletion of groundwater, and negative impacts on the environment. Two-thirds of the global population (4.0 billion people) lives under conditions of severe water scarcity at least 1 month of the year. Half a billion people in the world face severe water scarcity all year round. Half of the world's largest cities experience water scarcity.

The essence of global water scarcity is the geographic and temporal mismatch between freshwater demand and availability. The increasing world population, improving living standards, changing consumption patterns, and expansion of irrigated agriculture are the main driving forces for the rising global demand for water. Climate change, such as altered weather-patterns (including droughts or floods), deforestation, increased pollution, and wasteful use of water can cause insufficient supply. At the global level and on an annual basis, enough freshwater is available to meet such demand, but spatial and temporal variations of water demand and availability are large, leading to (physical) water scarcity in several parts of the world during specific times of the year. All causes of water scarcity are related to human interference with the water cycle. Scarcity varies over time as a result of natural hydrological variability, but varies even more so as a function of prevailing economic policy, planning and management approaches. Scarcity can be expected to intensify with most forms of economic development, but, if correctly identified, many of its causes can be predicted, avoided or mitigated.

Scarcity as a result of consumption is caused primarily by the extensive use of water in agriculture/livestock breeding and industry. People in developed countries generally use about 10 times more water daily than those in developing countries. A large part of this is indirect use in water-intensive agricultural and industrial production processes of consumer goods, such as fruit, oil seed crops and cotton. Because many of these production chains have been globalised, a lot of water in developing countries is being used and polluted in order to produce goods destined for consumption in developed countries.

Environmental Changes

Environmental change is a change or disturbance of the environment most often caused by human influences and natural ecological processes. Environmental changes can include any number of things, including natural disasters, human interferences, or animal interaction. Environmental change does not only encompass physical changes, but it can be things like an infestation of invasive species is also environmental changes. These factors have caused Earth's climate to change many times. ... In general, climate changes prior to the Industrial Revolution in the 1700s can be explained by natural causes, such as changes in solar energy, volcanic eruptions, and natural changes in greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations. Large-scale and global environmental hazards to human health include climate change, stratospheric ozone depletion,

changes in ecosystems due to loss of biodiversity, changes in hydrological systems and the supplies of freshwater, land degradation, urbanization, and stresses on food-producing systems.

Appreciation of this scale and type of influence on human health requires a new perspective which focuses on ecosystems and on the recognition that the foundations of long-term good health in populations rely in great part on the continued stability and functioning of the biosphere's life-supporting systems. It also brings an appreciation of the complexity of the systems upon which we depend. Environmental issues are harmful effects on human health and activity on the biophysical environment. Protecting health from global environmental change requires management at many levels, from the social and economic drivers of environmental change, to the resulting hazards and exposures for human populations. WHO supports this linkage of environmental and health agendas, for example by providing health expertise into the UN Conventions on Climate Change, Biological Diversity and Desertification, and by advising the health sector on the necessary responses to address the health risks posed by large-scale environmental change.

Public Health Issues

The Constitution of India makes health in India the responsibility of the state governments, rather than the central federal government. It makes every state responsible for "raising the level of nutrition and the standard of living of its people and the improvement of public health as among its primary duties". The National Health Policy was endorsed by the Parliament of India in 1983 and updated in 2002 and again in 2017. There are great inequalities in health between states. Infant mortality in Kerala is 12 per thousand live births, but in Assam it is 56. According to World Bank, the total expenditure on healthcare as a proportion of GDP in 2014 was 4.7%.

In India there are many health issues such as malnutrition, high infant mortality rate, Disease, Poor sanitation, safe drinking water, female health issues (malnutrition, breast cancer, maternal mortality etc).

Malnutrition

A well-nourished child is one whose weight and height measurements compare very well within the standard normal distribution of heights and weights of healthy children of same age and sex. Malnutrition can be described as the unhealthy condition that results from not eating enough healthy food. According to a 2005 report, 60% of India's children below the age of three were malnourished, which was greater than the statistics of sub-Saharan African of 28%. It is considered that one in every three malnourished children in the world lives in India. The estimate varies across the country. It is estimated that Madhya Pradesh has the highest rate of 50% and Kerala the lowest with 27%. Although India's economy grew 55% from 2001–2006, its child-malnutrition rate only dropped 1%, lagging behind countries of similar growth rate.

High Infant Mortality Rate

Despite health improvements over the last thirty years, lives continue to be lost to early childhood diseases, inadequate newborn care and childbirth-related causes. More than two million children die every year from preventable infections. Approximately 1.72 million children die each year before turning one. The under five mortality and infant mortality rates have been declining, from 202 and 190 deaths per thousand live births respectively in 1970 to 64 and 50 deaths per thousand live births in 2009. However, this decline is slowing. Reduced funding for immunization leaves only 43.5% of the young fully immunized. A study conducted by the Future Health Systems Consortium in Murshidabad, West Bengal indicates that barriers to immunization coverage are adverse geographic location, absent or inadequately trained health workers and low perceived need for immunization. Infrastructure like hospitals, roads, water and sanitation are lacking in rural areas. Shortages of healthcare providers, poor intra-partum and newborn care, diarrheal diseases and acute respiratory infections also contribute to the high infant mortality rate.

Diseases

Diseases such as dengue fever, hepatitis, tuberculosis, malaria and pneumonia continue to plague India due to increased resistance to drugs. In 2011, India developed a 'totally drug-resistant' form of tuberculosis. HIV/AIDS in India is ranked third highest among countries with HIV-infected patients. National AIDS Control Organization, a government 'Apex Body' is making efforts for managing the HIV/AIDS epidemic in India. Diarrheal diseases are the primary causes of early childhood mortality. These diseases can be attributed to poor sanitation and inadequate safe drinking water. Indians are at particularly high risk for atherosclerosis and coronary artery disease. This may be attributed to a genetic predisposition to metabolic syndrome and adverse changes in coronary artery vasodilatation. NGOs such as the Indian Heart Association and the Medwin Foundation were created to raise awareness.

Female Health Issues

Maternal deaths are similarly high. The reasons for this high mortality are that few women have access to skilled birth attendants and fewer still to quality emergency obstetric care. In addition, only 15 per cent of mothers receive complete antenatal care and only 58 per cent receive iron or folate tablets or syrup. Women's health in India involves numerous issues. Some of them include the following:

Malnutrition

The main cause of female malnutrition in India is the tradition requiring women to eat last, even during pregnancy and when they are lactating.

Breast Cancer

One of the most severe and increasing problems among women in India, resulting in higher mortality rates.

Maternal Mortality

Indian maternal mortality rates in rural areas are one of the highest in the world.

Aim of the Study

The Non-Traditional Threats to India's Security is one of the major problems confronting our nation today. With vested interests of our citizens and their livelihood which is going all out to internationalize the issue to portray India as the culprit for it, it is essential that we take concrete steps to solve the issue and prove the righteousness of our position to the World.

Conclusion

In essence non-traditional security is an ecology comprising of several facets that operates in a rapidly changing world. All facets of this ecology, whether it be food security or water scarcity are all intrinsically interconnected as they do not occur in isolation and deficits in one facet manifest themselves in another. India is not alone, in facing challenges that fall under Non-Traditional Security and as evidence demonstrates some countries are making immense progress in tackling Non-Traditional Security challenges. Thus in an increasingly interconnected world, success in curbing challenges that present a threat to human security and dignity, there are valuable lessons to be learnt. India works assiduously to safeguard its national security in the coming years, it will increasingly need to take steps to strengthen human security as well. Hundreds of millions of Indians are malnourished, impoverished, illiterate, and ill. Such suffering is compounded by the country's rampant resource shortages (particularly those of water and energy). Due to population growth and climate change, India's resource constraints are likely to deepen in the years ahead. Such shortages have major implications for both national and human security.

Although India has produced many interventions and policies, the gaps in current approaches may perhaps be diminished from learning and possibly implementing approaches that have proved to be successful in other developing countries and developed nations. Evidently successful interventions that have been introduced to curb Non-Traditional security concerns, share certain features. Features include, responsive government institutions, innovative and effective institutional mechanisms, coherent policies based on achievable goals, incremental reforms, and a variety of incentives, technological innovations, effective monitoring and continuous capacity building. Of course, some policies and reforms may be perceived as too lofty to achieve or even strive towards. However given the gallant efforts that India has made in its development trajectory, it is possible to enhance gains made in human development and achieve the vision of inclusive development in India. Thus to conclude, the onus is on all responsible stakeholders of India's development to learn from successful interventions and to apply concentrated effort for their success to be actualized in India.

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