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The Relationship between level of individual Participation and Social Disintegration: a study of different Occupational Groups Working at Sargodha City

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Abstract

The aim of the present study was to find out relationship between adherence to core democratic values & social disintegration. Present study was conducted on people belonging to different occupational groups. The research paper clearly depicts the picture of situation of democratic values and social integration in Pakistani society. A sample of 90 respondents was taken. A comprehensive interview schedule (questionnaire) was prepared in the light of objectives. The sample was taken by using cluster sampling method. In this study the respondents were analyzed in order to assess their level of adherence to core democratic values and its relation with social disintegration. The data was analyzed by using descriptive and inferential statistical techniques. Association between participation in the activities of common societal good and social integration showed non significant relationship. Association between fairness and justice in treating the people and social integration showed highly significant relationship. Association between ethnic and sectarian tolerance and social integration showed highly significant relationship.

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Introduction

Human beings adopted group life in the beginning of the olden times because the survival in isolation was unfeasible. The interdependence forced them towards mutual cooperation. With the passage of time these simple groups evolved into complex societies. Society can be defined as “The aggregate of people living together in a more or less ordered community” (Oxford, 2011). Man was wanderer at the early stage of his times past. Society itself has been going through the process of evolution. The first form of society was hunting and gathering society (Macdonis, 2008). Every form of society has its own political, economical and social systems. Every form of society has its own tackles to bind it together. As Ferdinand Tönnies talks

about *Gemeinschaft*, tied up with kinship and tradition and *Gesellschaft*, tied up with self interests. Emile Durkheim also presented similar view point about mechanical and organic solidarity. Mechanical solidarity was based on common sentiments and shared moral values, while organic solidarity based on specialization and interdependence (Macdonis, 2008). Same is the case with modern society tied by the forces of integration. Integration refers to the question as how the various elements of society held together and how they integrate with each other (Abercrombie, N., Hill, S., & Turner, B. S., 1994). It also refers to the process by which different races come to have closer social, economic and political relationships (Turner, B. et al., 1994). According to Anshu, R.S. and Heitmeyer, W (2003) social integration stands for “successful

relationship between freedom of an individual & his/her attachment with society.” Hogan (2005) defines social integration as the uniting of formerly separated groups into one group with the obliteration of any previous social and cultural group differences as well as the obliteration of separate group identification. The society not always remains integrated. Sometimes due to multiple reasons the binding forces of the society becomes weak. In such a situation the society become less stable. Society loses its peak of functionality. Society is caught up by immense problems which make it much weaker. Society becomes more vulnerable to decay and dangers from outside. This situation is called disintegration.

According to the world English dictionary (2009) disintegration means “to lose or cause to lose cohesion or unity”. Cockburn, T. (2008) defines social disintegration as a failure of social institutions & communities to deliver existential basics, social recognition & personal integrity. To dissect the concept more narrowly, we can see how the people are attached with each other and the broader system, society, other social groups & institutions. As described by Anhunt, R.S. Heitmeyer, W (2003) and Cockburn, T. (2008) Social disintegration theory further intricates the concept in three dimensions:

- Social Structural Dimension.
- Institutional Dimensions.
- Socio-emotional Dimensions.

The entrance in the market will be on the basis of merit. People will find the fruit of their input accordingly. Political awareness creates a sense of equal power distribution and eradicates the sense of powerlessness. Such kind of person demands his equal participation in political discourses. Political equality helps as a regulatory force for politicians and political system. Justice is the subsequently pillar of society. People take their revenge by self if the existing justice system fails to deliver. Equality before law is very much necessary for the peace of society. A politically socialized person will always strive for a just legal system. Politically socialized person know about his rights and duties.

Fulfilling duties and demanding rights in a good manner brings integration to society. Modern state is a collection of heterogeneous groups having conflicting interests. Politically aware people manage conflicting situations & resolve the problems according to the rules & regulations. They strive for fair & just system. They give equal worth to their own and other’s rights & interests. On the other hand politically aware individuals may also become a casual agent of disintegration when they perceive that their basic rights are been violated. Anhut, R. Heitmeyer, W. (2008) & Cockburn, T. (2008).

Exploring the psychopathology of social disintegration, Rustomjee, S. (2007) says that social disintegration occurs due to dehumanization & anti professionalism. Shortell, T. (n.d) relates anomie, with social disintegration. He says that in the period of rapid social change, the individuals may lose cohesion with group goals and values. They don’t bother about shared interest and mutual dependence. Group’s norms become less rigid people become more self-centered. In this situation people favor their own interest then group interest. Cohesion become impossible and the common bond become weak resulting social disintegration.

Disintegration marks the failure of social institutions and communities to deliver basic material needs, social recognition, and personal integrity. This is claimed by Heitmeyer, W. & Anhut, R. (2008).

According to Kposowa, J. A. (2008) basic need like health care and access to this need is very important in the context of social disintegration. It is the right of every citizen to have the basic societal need, known health. And it becomes the first and foremost responsibility of the government to make its access easy and affordable.

According to Rebecca, S. K. Li. (2002) it is very necessary that the institutions of any country must be free of corruption and political interference in the consideration of merit. If these institutions are influenced by political authorities then it will digest the rights of the common people.

Table-

Social structural dimension	Institutional dimension	Social emotional dimension
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Participation in material and cultural goods of society. ○ Equal access to housing, education, work and consumer goods. ○ Individual satisfaction with one's own social and occupational position. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Socialization towards democratic values. ○ Institutional and political participation. ○ Participation in political decisions and discourses. ○ Awareness about rights and duties. ○ Attitude towards others integrity and moral status. ○ Adherence towards democratic values. ○ View point about personal and others interest. ○ View point about fairness and justice of the system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Emotional attachment with other individual to make self realization and emotional support. ○ Belongingness to group creates identity. ○ Acceptance towards group identities. ○ Emotional recognition creates sense of self esteem.

Möller, K. (2008) in his article focused on worth and importance of social work in order to keep the society integrated and united.

Speaking about social disintegration, I. T. STONE (2009) is concerned with the interdependence of behaviors and the functional interdependence of persons in a social system. Such that individual needs are supplied through participation in the group and the group is maintained through such collective support of each of its elements. In much of the literature, social disintegration, disorganization, disruption, and anomie have been considered apart; but these concepts are not distinct from the idea of integration, in as much as they implicitly refer to a relative.

Bradshaw, C.P., Sawyer, A.L. and Brennan, L.M. (2009) focused upon the different attitudes of the people in a society. He says that as there are many sects in a society so many are attitudes. Talking about values we can say that values are those things that really matter to each of us, the ideas and beliefs we hold as special (Lewis P., 2006). The core

democratic values as defined by Alvaro, J. & Vredevoogd, K. (2001) are as follow:

- Freedom of personal, social and political participation
- Participation in the activities of common societal good
- Fairness and justice in treating the people of country
- Political, social, legal and economic equality
- Tolerating ethnic and sectarian diversity
- Pursuit of personal happiness

Objectives

- To find the level of integration in respondents due to core democratic values
- To measure the relation between participation in social activities and social disintegration
- To see the role of justice system values in social disintegration

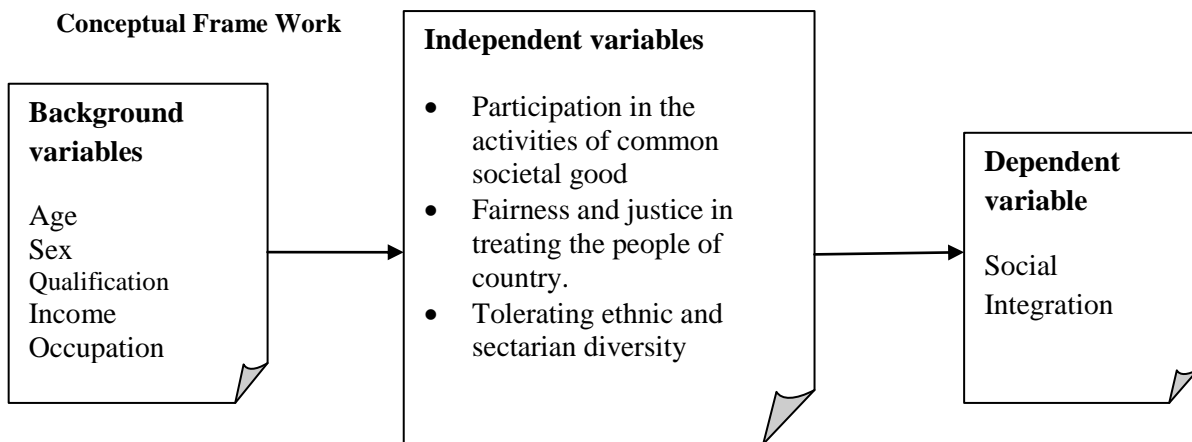
- To give some suggestions to the government about the problem focused in the study.
- Tolerance gears up social integration

Hypothesis

- Good participation towards common good causes social integration
- If people are treated fairly then chances of social integration are high

Materials and Methods

Methodology is the science of studying how research is done objectively & scientifically. Methodology is particular set of procedure used by researcher for the study of a Particular topic (Babbie, E., 2000).



Survey research is a quantitative social research in which one systematically ask many people the same question, then records and analyses their answers (Neuman, L.W., 1997). The present study is conducted through survey method because our population was too large; secondly the researcher is concerned to find out the adherence to democratic values. Basically this is an opinion measure which can better be measured through survey method. The research design is a plan, process or procedure of study through which a problem is diagnosed and suitable suggestions are extended to solve it. It is a catalogue of various phases Dr. Alam, A. (2009).The researcher is using descriptive research design in current study. universe of the present study is Sargodha city. The target population of present study is different occupational groups for example Government employ, private employ, business man, manual labor, teachers etc. It is done to ensure the heterogeneity of sample. The researcher was willing to include different segments of society to gain more accurate and realistic insight of the study. A sample of 90

respondents was collected through cluster sampling. The data collection method is questionnaire. Different techniques used to analyze the data are described. The study employed descriptive statistics to summarize and describe the data whereas inferential statistics such as Chi-square and Gamma test were used to examine the relationship between predictors and response variables. Frequencies and percentages were also taken.

To study the combine effect of all the variables in predicting the response variable all the statements in matrix questions are combined together to form a single prime or main variables known as index variable. However, before the development of index variable, it is pre-requisite to ensure the element of consistency among all the items in the matrix question. For this purpose, a reliability check is carried out and the value of Cronbatch Alpha is determined. The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) used to find Cronbatch Alpha values. During the reliability

check, if the value of Alpha remains in the range 0.8 to 1.0, because all items or statements or matrix questions are highly correlated and representing one idea. This facilitates the study of combine effect that otherwise is not possible.

By adopting the principle as discussed above, the index variables were subsequently used during bivariate analysis.

Variable	No. of items in Matrix Question	No. of categories in Index variable	Min. Score	Max. Score	Mean Score	SD	Alpha value
Social integration	24	5	44	100	73.86	10.67	.7734
Participation in the activities of common societal good.	3	5	6	15	10.98	2.23	.6558
Fairness and justice in treating the people of country	4	5	4	20	8.30	4.05	.7882
Tolerating ethnic and sectarian diversity	10	4	20	44	32.41	4.97	.7193

Indexation of variables

Results and discussion:

Here is statistical description of results of people’s views about participation in community welfare and sectarian mentality. 65% of respondents have been involved in activities for public good. Only 9% respondents have never participated in any activity which could be beneficial for other members of their community. It shows that a major portion of society is available for their community to do something helpful foe others.

60% respondents think that jobs are not given according to merit. 71% respondents argue

that the rich and poor are not treated equally by law enforcement agencies. 64% respondents say that the facilities like health, education and infrastructure are not distributed equally by government. Only 8% respondents consider that Government institutions are fair.

11% respondents feel hesitation in making friendship with people of other sects. 26% respondents want the supremacy of their specific sect. 44% respondents favor their sectarian group even if that do something wrong. Researches show that such mentality in sects arose during late 1970s and early 1980s, with the success of Iranian Revolution and Zia’s Islamization projects, the conflicts spread to national level (Ali et al, 1999).

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Table-1 Association between participation in the activities of common societal good and social integration

Participation in the activities of common societal good.	Social integration			Total
	Low	Medium	High	
Low	7	13	3	23
	30.4%	56.5%	13.0%	100.0%
Medium	10	30	3	43
	23.3%	69.8%	7.0%	100.0%
High	5	13	6	24
	20.8%	54.2%	25.0%	100.0%
Total	22	56	12	90
	24.4%	62.2%	13.3%	100.0%

d.f. = 4 P-value = .286^{NS} Gamma = .195 NS = Non-Significant

Table-2 Association between Fairness and justice in treating the people of country and social integration.

Fairness and justice in treating the people of country	Social integration			Total
	Low	Medium	High	
Low	20	42	2	64
	31.3%	65.6%	3.1%	100.0%
Medium	2	9	4	15
	13.3%	60.0%	26.7%	100.0%
High		5	6	11
		45.5%	54.5%	100.0%
Total	22	56	12	90
	24.4%	62.2%	13.3%	100.0%

d.f. = 4 P-value = .000** Gamma = .755 ** = Highly -Significant

Table-3 Association between ethnic and sectarian tolerance and social integration

Tolerating ethnic and sectarian diversity	Social integration			Total
	Low	Medium	High	
Low	7	11	1	19
	36.8%	57.9%	5.3%	100.0%
Medium	11	38	3	52
	21.2%	73.1%	5.8%	100.0%
High	4	7	8	19
	21.1%	36.8%	42.1%	100.0%
Total	22	56	12	90
	24.4%	62.2%	13.3%	100.0%

d.f. = 4 P-value = .001 ** Gamma = .411 ** = Highly -Significant

Table 1: P-value ($P = .096$) shows a non-significant association between participation in the activities of common societal good with social integration. While Gamma value shows a positive relationship between the variables. Above table indicates that all categories of participation had similar impact on social integration. So the hypothesis "Good participation towards common good causes social integration" is rejected.

Table 2: P-value ($P = .000$) shows a highly-significant association between Fairness and justice in treating the people of country with social integration. Gamma value shows a strong positive relationship between the variables. Above table indicates majority of the respondents who had low fairness and justice they had also low to medium level social integration on the other hand if the respondents had high fairness and justice then they had medium to high level of social integration. So the hypothesis "If people are treated fairly then chances of social integration

Conclusion

The study reveals that democratic values play considerable role in construction of social integration among members of a society. Association between freedom of personal, political, social and economic participation and social integration showed highly significant relationship. Association between participation in the activities of common societal good and social integration showed non significant relationship. Association between fairness and justice in treating the people and social integration showed highly significant relationship. Association between ethnic and sectarian tolerance and social integration showed highly significant relationship.

Recommendations

1. People are not too much aware of democratic values so it is suggested that the awareness of democratic values should be given to the masses.
2. People are not so much willing to participate in political processes. It

are high" is accepted. Inequality and unfairness can cause alcoholism, crime rates, lowered reading scores, drug offences, family dysfunctioning and social disintegration (Wilkinson, 1996).

Table 3: P-value ($P = .001$) shows a highly-significant association between Tolerating ethnic and sectarian diversity with social integration. Gamma value shows a positive relationship between the variables. Above table reveals majority of the respondents who had low Tolerating ethnic and sectarian diversity they had also low to medium level social integration on the other hand if the respondents had high Tolerating ethnic and sectarian diversity then they had medium to high level of social integration. So the hypothesis "Tolerance gears up social integration" is accepted. In another research, 80% respondents comment that if there is no freedom of expression and tolerance for differences then no existence of social integration can be made (Whitefield, 2011).

might be due to their lack of awareness about democracy or their lack of confidence on the existing system. Masses should be politically activated.

3. Step should be taken for the economics security of the people.
4. Here is lack of sense of collectivism. Both government and society should work on these aspects.
5. An anxiety was felt in the masses about lack of equal social economics, legal and political treatment. Government should to work on all these aspects.
6. More work is needed to neutralize the sense of sectarian and ethnic supremacy. Society should take steps to promote the tolerating behavior.

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