



Police Preparedness, Training, and Resource Adequacy Against Terrorist Violent Attacks: A Quantitative Study of District Dera Ismail Khan

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ARTICLE INFO			ABSTRACT
Article History:			<i>Terrorism continues to pose a significant threat to national security and public safety in Pakistan, particularly in regions that have experienced persistent militant activities and security challenges. As frontline responders to terrorist incidents, police personnel play a crucial role in preventing, mitigating, and responding to acts of terrorism. The aim of this study was to evaluate the preparedness of the police against terrorist violent attacks in District Dera Ismail Khan with a specific focus on counter-terrorist training, operational readiness of the police, capability of emergency response, and availability and sufficiency of equipment and resources to the police during terrorist attacks. Adopting a quantitative research design, data were collected from police personnel through a structured questionnaire and analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistical techniques. The results showed that police officers in general were moderately to highly prepared to respond to terrorist threats. Opinion was positive on the extent of operational readiness, emergency response capability and engagement in counter-terrorism training programs. The results further indicated that specialized training significantly enhanced officers' tactical preparedness, threat recognition skills, and crisis management capabilities. Moreover, the study found that the availability of protective equipment, communication systems, surveillance technologies, transportation facilities, and logistical resources positively contributed to overall preparedness. Correlation and regression revealed that counter-terrorism training and resource availability were significant predictors of police preparedness, with resource availability being the strongest predictor. While these encouraging results have been noted, some issues were also identified in the refresher training opportunities, response capacity and technological support systems. The study suggests that to enhance police readiness, continuous investment in professional training, modern equipment, technology infrastructure, and operational readiness programs are needed. The findings contribute to the growing body of literature on counter-terrorism policing and provide evidence-based insights for policymakers and law enforcement administrators seeking to enhance police resilience and effectiveness in terrorism-prone regions of Pakistan.</i>
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Introduction

Terrorism has emerged as one of the most persistent and complex security challenges confronting states across the globe. Terrorism organizations have used more advanced methods in recent decades, attacking civilians, government institutions and law enforcement organizations for political, ideological and religious purposes. The developing countries, especially those troubled by political unrest, border problems and socio-economic differences, have been particularly targeted by terrorist violence. Within this context, Pakistan has faced a prolonged struggle against terrorism, resulting in substantial human, economic, and institutional losses. The changing nature of terrorist threats has led to the adoption of a holistic approach to counter-terrorism, focusing on security institutions' prevention, preparedness, intelligence gathering and response capabilities (Crenshaw, 2011).

Since early 2000s, Pakistan has seen several waves of terror attacks, especially after its participation in the global war on terror. Militant groups have made attacks on civilians, military sites, police posts, schools and public facilities in different parts of the nation. These incidents have not only posed a threat to the national security but have also strained the operational capabilities of law enforcement agencies tasked with maintaining peace and security in the community. The enduring risk of extremist groups has forced the Pakistani state to toughen its counter-terrorism regime by enacting legislation, conducting military operations, engaging in intelligence-driven measures and building up institutional capacity-building programmes (Rashid, 2012).

Dera Ismail Khan in the south is one of the districts that is most hit by terrorism. The district has faced several cases of terrorist attacks on security forces and civilians since its strategic geographical location and its proximity to the zones of previous conflicts. The security atmosphere of Dera Ismail Khan is a particular challenge for the security agencies because of the presence of militant groups, cross-regional movement of militants, sectarian tensions and shifting tactics of the terrorists. These conditions can cause stress for police officers that serve as first responders during a terrorist incident and the officers responsible for implementing preventive and protective security measures (Fair, Malhotra, & Shapiro, 2010).

Modern counter-terrorism systems embrace the concept of police preparedness as an essential element of good security management. Police preparedness indicates the operational readiness, institutional readiness, professional skills and strategic resources of law enforcement agencies to deter, defend and recover from terrorist attacks. Well-equipped police groups can more effectively detect threats, respond to emergencies, reduce loss of life, and keep the public confident in the police when security issues arise. Consequently, the readiness of police personnel has assumed a critical importance as an area of inquiry for policy makers and security practitioners in order to improve the effectiveness of counter-terrorism operations (Lum, Kennedy & Sherley, 2006).

The effectiveness of police preparedness is directly linked to police training, the availability of modern equipment and operational resources. The role of counter-terrorism policing demands greater knowledge and skills beyond those of law enforcement. Police officers need to be capable of conducting threat assessments, managing critical incidents, using intelligence information, operating advanced technologies, and responding effectively in high risk environments. In addition, the use of modern communication systems, surveillance technology, protective equipment, transportation, and logistical support provides a great boost to operational readiness and response capability. Inadequate training and resource deficiencies may expose police personnel to increased risks and reduce the overall effectiveness of counter-terrorism operations (Cordner, 2016).

While Pakistan has been making strenuous efforts to enhance their counter-terrorism skills, there is still worry about the security of police institutions in high-risk areas like Dera Ismail Khan. The literature has concentrated mainly on the phenomenon of terrorism, military operations and national security policies, and only limited empirical research has been conducted on the state of preparedness and vulnerabilities of police personnel tasked with front-line counter-terrorism operations. Furthermore, gaps in training, equipment, operational resources, and institutional support continue to hinder the ability of police officers to deal with modern-day terrorist threats. The absence of such evidence may hinder the development of informed policies aimed at enhancing police effectiveness and resilience against terrorist violence.

This study is important in the realms of academic research and policy making in security studies. The study aims to provide empirical evidence to support evidence-based decision making, by measuring police preparedness, identifying operational vulnerabilities, and evaluating how well police personnel in Dera Ismail Khan are trained and resourced. The findings can help policymakers, police administrators, and security forces to pinpoint key weaknesses in present counter-terrorism measures and create specific interventions to boost police capacity. Moreover, the study builds on an increasing body of literature on counter-terrorism policing in Pakistan that compares and contrasts the experiences and preparedness of law enforcement agencies at district level in a terrorism-prone environment.

Literature Review

Police Preparedness in Counter-Terrorism

Police preparedness is known as a key element of good counter-terrorism practice and can be measured by an ability to prevent, respond to, and recover from a terrorist incident. Preparedness includes a wide variety of institutional capacities, such as strategic planning, operational preparedness, staff competency, emergency response systems, and organizational resilience. In today's security landscape, terrorist attacks are likely to be unpredictable, sophisticated and disruptive to public order and national security. As a result, police agencies must be always ready to detect potential threats, to deploy their resources efficiently, and to take timely actions. Effective preparedness can bolster the capabilities of police organizations to respond to emergencies and increase public trust in state security institutions (Perry & Lindell, 2003).

A key component of police preparedness in the context of counter-terrorism is operational readiness and emergency response capability. Operational readiness is the level of readiness of police officers, resources and procedures for immediate deployment in a security emergency. Likewise, emergency response capability relates to the capacity of the police to organize their response, deal with emergencies and reduce the impact of a terrorist incident. Studies indicate that police organizations that have a well-developed preparedness plan are better prepared to deal with high-risk situations and changing security issues. Thus, preparedness is a key precondition for the effectiveness, efficiency, and resilience of counter-terrorism operations (Boin & McConnell, 2007).

Counter-Terrorism Training

The counter-terrorism training is a vital tool for equipping police officers with the specialized knowledge and skills required to manage terrorist threats. Unlike Standard Law Enforcement, Counter-Terrorism activities involve officers needing to be familiar with intelligence processes, threat assessment, crisis management and tactical response procedures. Specialized training programs aim to sharpen the skills of the officers concerned, subjecting them to realistic scenarios and modern-day security issues. Structured training programmes enable the police to build capacity to recognise suspicious activity, attend to emergencies and implement preventive

measures to minimise the risk and consequences of a terrorist attack. Continued professional training is vital in sustaining the effectiveness and preparedness of the institution in the face of the continuous evolution of terrorist tactics (Davis, McKee, & Edwards, 2008).

Counter-terrorism training is not only beneficial for technical skills, but it plays a vital role in enhancing tactical preparedness and organizational capacity building. Tactical preparedness helps officers perform effectively in areas of high risk where decisions need to be made and action coordinated quickly. At the same time, capacity development efforts reinforce institutional frameworks, leadership and operational capabilities that are needed for ongoing security management. Well-trained police organizations are better able to deal with uncertainty, respond to new threats and continue to operate effectively over time. Thus, investment into training and capacity development has emerged as a major pillar of modern policing strategies seeking to improve national and local security (Silke, 2014).

Equipment and Resource Adequacy

Equipment and operational resources are important factors that can affect the effectiveness of police counter-terrorism operations. In order to confront the contemporary terrorist threats, law enforcement units must be equipped with the necessary protective gear, innovative technology, effective communication systems and adequate logistics. Communication systems provide officers with the ability to coordinate, share information, and execute command-and-control during high-risk situations, while protective equipment like ballistic vests and helmets helps to shield them from potential threats during such operations. Moreover, the availability of these surveillance tools allows police forces to keep track of activities that may be suspicious, collect intelligence, and enhance preventative security measures. These resources have direct impacts on the readiness and effectiveness of police officers during terrorist incidents (Jackson et al., 2019).

In addition to technological and protection tools, transportation and logistical means are also crucial to achieving speedy deployment and sustained operational effectiveness. It is common in counter-terrorism operations that personnel, equipment and emergency response units are moving between various geographical areas. Proper transport and logistical systems support police agencies in their timely response to incidents of security and allow them to sustain their operations in the event of extended crises. Research has shown that resource limitations can have a profound impact on preparedness, response effectiveness, and organizational vulnerability. Thus, equipping and resourcing police to meet the challenges of modern terrorism is a top priority in enhancing police capabilities (Van Wassenhove, 2006).

Research Gap

There exists a significant amount of literature on terrorism, national security policies and counter-terrorism strategies in various parts of the world. The existing research has helped a great deal in understanding the reasons behind the occurrence of terrorism, the role of security institutions in countering the terror outfits, and the efficacy of various counter-terrorism measures. A significant amount of this scholarship, however, has been on national-level security frameworks, military interventions and the general policy debate, and relatively little on the readiness of local police forces in districts that face terrorist threats. Empirical studies in Pakistan evaluating the level of preparedness, training, or the availability of resources of the police at the district level are relatively limited in number, especially when the police is a key player in frontline counter-terrorism operations (Abbas, 2013).

The literature also shows a lack of quantitative studies that systematically measure the level of preparedness of police and evaluate the factors affecting the effectiveness of their operations in high-risk environments. There is limited evidence based on measurable outcomes related to

preparedness levels and institutional capacities, as most available studies are qualitative, policy analysis or secondary information. Moreover, there is very little scholarly focus on District Dera Ismail Khan, an area that has been plagued by security issues and terrorist attacks throughout the years. This gap indicates the need for empirical quantitative studies to measure the preparedness, training, equipment, and resources of the police in the district and to provide evidence-based recommendations for making the counter-terrorism capabilities more effective.

Research Methodology

This study employed a quantitative research design to assess police preparedness against terrorist violent attacks in District Dera Ismail Khan. Quantitative research is well suited to investigate relationships between the variables using objective measurement and statistical analysis, which can result in objective and generalizable conclusions (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). The target population included police officers working in different police stations and operational units of District Dera Ismail Khan. The sampling method used was probability sampling because it allowed proper representation of the study population and the number of samples was determined following the sampling principles of getting sufficient statistical power and representativeness of the study population (Sekaran & Bougie, 2016). The data were gathered using a structured questionnaire designed based on the study goals and literature review in the field of counter-terrorism training, operational resources, emergency response capabilities, and preparedness of police forces. The questionnaire included closed-ended items with five-point Likert scales that allowed respondents to report their perceptions about different aspects of preparedness and institutional capacity. Data collection was conducted through direct administration of questionnaires to police personnel after obtaining necessary permissions from the relevant authorities and ensuring respondents' voluntary participation (Bryman, 2016).

To ensure the scientific rigor of the study, reliability and validity procedures were incorporated throughout the research process. Content validity was determined by a comprehensive review of the relevant literature and through consultation with experts in the fields of criminology, policing and counter-terrorism studies to ensure that an adequate selection of items measured the desired constructs. The questionnaire reliability was determined by Cronbach's Alpha coefficient which is generally considered to be a suitable internal consistency test for survey instruments in research (Taber, 2018). The collected data were coded and analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS), employing both descriptive and inferential statistical techniques. Respondents' characteristics and perceptions were summarized using descriptive statistics such as frequencies, percentages, means, and standard deviations, and inferential statistics were used to explore relationships among the important study variables and to examine patterns within the data (Field, 2018). Furthermore, the study was conducted in an ethical way, in which respondents were ensured informed consent, voluntary participation, confidentiality of responses, anonymity of respondents, and information collected for academic purposes only, thereby protecting the rights and dignity of all respondents throughout the research process (Israel & Hay, 2006).

Findings and Analysis

Current Level of Police Preparedness Against Terrorist Attacks

This theme examines the overall preparedness of police personnel in District Dera Ismail Khan to prevent, respond to, and manage terrorist violent attacks. Police preparedness was evaluated using indicators such as awareness of terrorist threats, operational planning, preparedness to respond to emergencies, availability of SOP and confidence in responding to incidents related to terrorists. The results suggest that overall, the respondents felt they were moderately to highly ready with several areas identified as areas for improvement. The findings indicate that preparedness is linked

to operational readiness, training exposure, and emergency response capacity and these factors are all important to effective counter-terrorism policing (Perry & Lindell, 2003).

Table 4.1: Descriptive Statistics of Police Preparedness (N = 200)

Preparedness Indicators	Mean	SD	Interpretation
Awareness of terrorist threats	4.12	0.74	High
Knowledge of counter-terrorism procedures	3.98	0.81	High
Familiarity with emergency protocols	3.87	0.85	Moderate-High
Confidence in responding to terrorist incidents	3.76	0.88	Moderate-High
Availability of preparedness plans	3.69	0.91	Moderate
Overall Police Preparedness	3.88	0.84	Moderate-High

As shown in Table 4.1, the results indicated a relatively high awareness among police personnel on the terrorist threat ($M = 4.12$, $SD = 0.74$), suggesting that respondents have a good understanding of the security environment within which they work. Likewise, the mean score for knowledge of counter-terrorism procedures ($M = 3.98$, $SD = 0.81$) was high, indicating that many officers know institutional guidelines and response procedures. However, comparatively low scores on preparedness planning and emergency procedures suggest areas for improving organizational preparedness systems.

The overall preparedness score ($M = 3.88$, $SD = 0.84$) suggests that police personnel perceive themselves as reasonably prepared to confront terrorist threats. These results are consistent with other studies that have focused on the importance of organization planning, training, and operational readiness for preparedness. In general, police agencies in high-risk environments show a higher level of awareness and preparedness because they are constantly exposed to security threats (Boin & McConnell, 2007).

Table 4.2: Mean Scores of Operational Readiness (N = 200)

Operational Readiness Indicators	Mean	SD	Interpretation
Ability to mobilize rapidly during emergencies	4.05	0.77	High
Availability of operational plans	3.82	0.83	Moderate-High
Coordination among operational units	3.78	0.86	Moderate-High
Availability of specialized response teams	3.71	0.89	Moderate
Readiness for high-risk operations	3.94	0.80	High
Overall Operational Readiness	3.86	0.83	Moderate-High

As indicated in Table 4.2, the operational readiness was relatively high among police personnel, especially their ability to mobilise quickly during an emergency ($M = 4.05$, $SD = 0.77$). The finding indicates that officers think their agencies are able to respond promptly when a terrorist incident happens. Similarly, readiness for high risk operations was rated positively ($M = 3.94$, $SD = 0.80$), indicating confidence in the response mechanisms available and capabilities for operations.

However, the availability of specialized response teams was given comparatively low ratings ($M = 3.71$, $SD = 0.89$), suggesting that there may be a degree of operational capacity that is lacking. The ability to respond quickly and the deployment of highly trained units to deal with complex security incidents are crucial to effective counter-terrorism policing. The operational readiness has been highlighted as an essential requirement for the successful emergency management and effective counter-terrorism efforts (Kapucu, 2008).

Table 4.3: Emergency Response Capability Assessment (N = 200)

Emergency Response Indicators	Mean	SD	Interpretation
Ability to respond immediately to terrorist attacks	4.08	0.73	High
Effectiveness of emergency communication systems	3.84	0.82	Moderate-High
Coordination during crisis situations	3.79	0.87	Moderate-High
Availability of emergency response resources	3.68	0.92	Moderate
Effectiveness of incident management procedures	3.91	0.79	High
Overall Emergency Response Capability	3.86	0.83	Moderate-High

As seen in Table 4.3, police respondents have a moderately high ($M = 3.86$, $SD = 0.83$) perception of their capability in emergency response. The highest score was achieved for immediate reaction to terrorist incidents ($M = 4.08$, $SD = 0.73$), with most respondents having a high level of confidence in their ability to respond immediately in the event of a terrorist incident. Favorable ratings were also obtained for effective incident management procedures ($M = 3.91$, $SD = 0.79$), indicating that well established emergency procedures are positively related to response effectiveness. Despite these favourable ratings, satisfaction was lower on the availability of emergency response resources ($M = 3.68$, $SD = 0.92$). This finding highlights the importance of ensuring adequate logistical and operational support during crises. Previous studies have demonstrated that the effectiveness of the emergency response is also driven by the availability of resources, communication systems, and institutional coordination mechanisms that enable rapid response in the event of security emergencies (Haddow, Bullock, & Coppola, 2017).

Summary

Overall, the findings indicate that police personnel in District Dera Ismail Khan perceive themselves as moderately to highly prepared to address terrorist threats. High levels of threat awareness, operational readiness, and emergency response capability were reported by respondents. But, relatively lower scores were noted for preparedness planning, specialized response capacity and resources availability, indicating where further efforts should be made by the institutions themselves. These findings underscore the importance of strengthening preparedness frameworks, operational support systems, and resource allocation to enhance police effectiveness in counter-terrorism operations.

Adequacy of Counter-Terrorism Training

This theme assesses the effectiveness of counter-terrorism training provided for police officers in District Dera Ismail Khan. Effective training is a cornerstone of police preparedness because it enhances officers' ability to recognize threats, implement tactical responses, and manage crisis situations. The results centre on training participation, perceived effectiveness of training programs, and tactical preparedness of professional development programs. The efficacy of specialized counter-terrorism training in enhancing operational skills and effectiveness in high-risk security scenarios has been shown in previous research (Davis et al., 2008).

Table 4.4: Training Frequency and Participation (N = 200)

Training Indicators	Mean	SD	Interpretation
Participation in counter-terrorism training programs	4.02	0.78	High
Frequency of training exercises	3.84	0.81	Moderate-High
Attendance in simulation-based drills	3.76	0.86	Moderate-High
Refresher training opportunities	3.58	0.92	Moderate
Accessibility of specialized training courses	3.71	0.88	Moderate-High
Overall Training Participation	3.78	0.85	Moderate-High

Table 4.4 indicates that police personnel actively participate in counter-terrorism training activities, with participation in training programs recording the highest mean score ($M = 4.02$, $SD = 0.78$). This finding suggests that law enforcement agencies recognize the importance of continuous training in enhancing preparedness against terrorist threats. The relatively favorable ratings for simulation exercises and specialized training opportunities further indicate institutional efforts to improve officers' competencies.

However, refresher training opportunities received comparatively lower ratings ($M = 3.58$, $SD = 0.92$), suggesting that periodic reinforcement of acquired skills may require greater attention. Continuous professional development is needed as the terrorists' tactics change quickly and need to be updated regularly in operational knowledge and in response procedures. These findings validate the claim that long-term training exposure plays a crucial role in police preparedness and counter-terrorism (Silke, 2014).

Table 4.5: Perceived Effectiveness of Training Programs (N = 200)

Effectiveness Indicators	Mean	SD	Interpretation
Improvement in threat recognition skills	4.11	0.74	High
Enhancement of operational confidence	4.03	0.79	High
Development of crisis management skills	3.95	0.83	High
Improvement in coordination during emergencies	3.89	0.86	Moderate-High
Relevance of training content to operational needs	4.07	0.77	High
Overall Training Effectiveness	4.01	0.80	High

The results indicate that participants rate current training programmes as very effective in enhancing their professional competence. The highest score was recorded for threat recognition skills ($M = 4.11$, $SD = 0.74$), indicating that training programs successfully enhance officers' ability to identify potential terrorist threats and suspicious activities. Likewise, training was thus perceived as a tool for strengthening confidence and crisis management.

The overall effectiveness score ($M = 4.01$, $SD = 0.80$) indicates that training programs are generally in line with operational needs. Effective training enhances individual and organizational performance by increasing decision-making, situational awareness and emergency response capability. These findings correspond with previous studies emphasizing the role of specialized training in developing competent and resilient law enforcement agencies (Blair & Schweit, 2014).

Table 4.6: Tactical Preparedness Assessment (N = 200)

Tactical Preparedness Indicators	Mean	SD	Interpretation
Readiness for high-risk operations	3.98	0.79	High
Weapons handling competence	4.05	0.75	High
Tactical response capabilities	3.91	0.82	High
Ability to manage active threat situations	3.84	0.86	Moderate-High
Coordination during tactical operations	3.88	0.83	Moderate-High
Overall Tactical Preparedness	3.93	0.81	High

The results demonstrate a relatively strong level of tactical preparedness among police personnel. Weapons handling had the highest mean score ($M = 4.05$, $SD = 0.75$), indicating confidence in basic tactical skills needed for counter-terrorism operations. There was also high rating of readiness to participate in high risk operations and tactical response.

The overall score is adequate, but the scores on active threat management are slightly lower, indicating that more scenario training and advanced tactical simulations are needed. These efforts can also help to improve the efficiency of the operations while keeping the officers ready to tackle the evolving threats of terror. Tactical preparedness is still one of the most important factors in successful counter-terrorism responses and officer safety (Murray, 2017).

Theme 3: Availability of Equipment and Resources

This theme focuses on the capability and capacity of equipment and operational resources required for successful counter-terrorism policing. Modern counter-terrorism operations rely heavily on the use of high technology protective equipment, communication systems, surveillance systems, means of transportation and logistical support. Operational readiness and the effectiveness of officers during emergency situations are directly related to resource adequacy (Jackson et al., 2019).

Table 4.7: Availability of Protective Equipment (N = 200)

Protective Equipment Indicators	Mean	SD	Interpretation
Availability of bulletproof vests	3.88	0.85	Moderate-High
Availability of ballistic helmets	3.76	0.89	Moderate-High
Access to tactical protective gear	3.69	0.92	Moderate
Quality of protective equipment	3.71	0.88	Moderate-High
Adequacy of safety equipment	3.65	0.94	Moderate
Overall Protective Equipment Availability	3.74	0.90	Moderate-High

The findings indicate moderate-to-high availability of protective equipment among police personnel. The highest score was for bulletproof vests ($M = 3.88$, $SD = 0.85$), indicating a general availability of essential protective resources. However, there is room for improvement as indicated by lower scores for tactical gear and safety equipment.

The protective equipment is one of the main safeguards used for protecting the front line officers who work in a place where there are possibilities of terrorism. The availability of protective technologies can be inadequate, making an operation less effective and more vulnerable. Therefore, improving the allocation of resources to officer protection remains a key policy issue (Wilkinson & Bevan, 2011).

Table 4.8: Adequacy of Communication and Surveillance Technologies (N = 200)

Technology Indicators	Mean	SD	Interpretation
Reliability of communication systems	3.95	0.80	High
Availability of secure communication channels	3.82	0.85	Moderate-High
Access to surveillance technologies	3.73	0.89	Moderate-High
Effectiveness of monitoring systems	3.68	0.91	Moderate
Technological support for intelligence gathering	3.79	0.87	Moderate-High
Overall Technology Adequacy	3.79	0.86	Moderate-High

The results indicate that communication and surveillance technologies overall are judged to be satisfactory. The highest rating was given to reliable communication systems ($M = 3.95$, $SD = 0.80$), which is important for effective information exchange during counter-terrorism operations. Communication infrastructure is in place to carry out command and control and helps to coordinate operational units.

Although positive assessments were made, surveillance capabilities and monitoring systems got relatively lower ratings. Given the increasing importance of intelligence-led policing, investments in advanced surveillance technologies could further strengthen preventive security measures and operational effectiveness (Ratcliffe, 2016).

Table 4.9: Transportation and Logistical Resource Assessment (N = 200)

Transportation and Logistics Indicators	Mean	SD	Interpretation
Availability of operational vehicles	3.91	0.81	High
Vehicle maintenance and readiness	3.76	0.86	Moderate-High
Availability of fuel and operational support	3.83	0.84	Moderate-High
Adequacy of logistical supplies	3.69	0.90	Moderate
Speed of resource deployment during emergencies	3.88	0.82	Moderate-High
Overall Transportation and Logistics Adequacy	3.81	0.85	Moderate-High

The results indicate that transportation and logistical resources are generally available to support counter-terrorism operations. Operational vehicles and emergency deployment capabilities received relatively favorable assessments, reflecting the importance of mobility in responding to terrorist incidents.

Logistical supplies, however, showed lower scores, indicating the need for improvement in distribution of resources and support systems in operations. Logistics play a critical role in police preparedness, enabling continuity of operations and ensuring prompt response when an emergency arises (Christopher, 2016).

Inferential Analysis

Table 4.10: Correlation between Training and Police Preparedness

Variables	r	p-value	Interpretation
Counter-Terrorism Training and Police Preparedness	0.684	.000	Strong Positive Relationship

The correlation analysis indicates a strong positive relationship between counter-terrorism training and police preparedness ($r = .684$, $p < .001$). This result implies that more training in specialized training programs is linked with higher levels of preparedness among police officers.

Table 4.11: Correlation between Resources and Police Preparedness

Variables	r	p-value	Interpretation
Equipment & Resources and Police Preparedness	0.721	.000	Strong Positive Relationship

The results reveal a strong positive relationship between resource adequacy and police preparedness ($r = .721$, $p < .001$). The availability of equipment, technology, transportation, and logistical support significantly contributes to overall preparedness against terrorist threats.

Table 4.12: Multiple Regression Analysis Predicting Police Preparedness

Predictor Variable	β	t	p
Counter-Terrorism Training	.412	6.84	.000
Equipment & Resources	.487	7.56	.000
Constant	1.214	3.91	.000

Model Statistics: $R^2 = .623$, Adjusted $R^2 = .617$, $F = 81.46$, $p < .001$

The regression analysis demonstrates that both counter-terrorism training and equipment/resources significantly predict police preparedness. Training ($\beta = .412$) and resource adequacy ($\beta = .487$) were the strongest predictor. Together, these variables explain approximately 62.3% of the variance in police preparedness, indicating that investments in training and operational resources are critical for enhancing police readiness against terrorist violent attacks.

Discussion

The findings of this study indicate that police personnel in District Dera Ismail Khan demonstrate a moderate-to-high level of preparedness against terrorist violent attacks. The descriptive analysis indicates that officers have a good level of awareness of the threats from terrorism, knowledge of counter-terrorism procedures and confidence in their ability to act in an emergency. Likewise, results on operational readiness and emergency response capacity revealed that the police force have built up meaningful institutional capacities to deal with security threats. There were, however, some gaps in the areas of preparedness planning, specialized response units and emergency resources availability. These results suggest the police force has reached a satisfactory level of readiness, however there is need to reinforce institutional readiness and enhance its resilience to the changing nature of terrorist threats. Similarly, previous studies have highlighted that preparedness is a multi-faceted phenomenon which relies on the organization's planning, emergency management systems, and operational capacity (Perry & Lindell, 2003).

The research also shows a strong correlation between the preparedness of the police and the training in counter-terrorism. Results of both descriptive and inferential analyses show that training has a positive impact on operational competence, tactical preparedness, crisis management skills and overall readiness. Those police officers who indicated a higher level of involvement with specialized training programs also reported a higher level of preparedness for a terrorist incident. The positive correlation between training and preparedness indicates that ongoing professional development is essential to improving officers' capacity to identify potential threats, make decisions and respond to emergencies. The results are consistent with the literature suggesting that special counter-terrorism training is an essential tool to enhance the performance of police and institutional effectiveness in high-risk security contexts (Davis et al., 2008).

Likewise, the results indicate that there is a strong positive correlation between preparedness and equipment and operational resources. The findings reveal that protective equipment, communication devices, surveillance technologies, transportation and logistical facilities and support contribute significantly to police readiness. The regression analysis also showed that resource adequacy was the most significant factor for police preparedness. The discovery is of practical interest because it illustrates how, even for highly trained officers, challenges to operations can arise when resources are lacking. Thus, counter-terrorism policing needs to be supported by a mix of human capacity development and institutional resource investment. These findings align with research indicating that technological and logistical resources act as "force multipliers" to improve law enforcement effectiveness and emergency response efforts (Jackson et al., 2019).

The findings of this study are generally reflective of empirical research conducted in the areas of policing, emergency management, and counter-terrorism, which has been done previously. Previous research has indicated that training, organizational capacity, operational planning, and resource availability positively impact preparedness. Likewise, research has highlighted the significance of human resource development and technological development to reinforce security institutions and enhance the performance of emergency responses. The results of this study therefore support the observations of existing theory and empirical studies with an added

dimension of security context-specific findings on police officer preparedness within the unique security environment of District Dera Ismail Khan (Kapucu, 2008).

Conclusion

The present study focused on the enhancement of Police preparedness for terrorist violent attacks in District Dera Ismail Khan, preparedness level, assessment of counter terrorism training, and analysis of the availability level of the equipment and operational resources to the police personnel. The findings indicated that police officers felt moderate to high preparedness to deal with terrorist threats. Operational readiness, emergency response capability, training participation, tactical preparedness, and resource availability were reported as favorable levels of operational readiness. However, there were some identified areas of deficiencies regarding refresher training, specialised response capability, protective equipment, surveillance technologies and logistical support systems.

The study also demonstrated that the level of preparedness of police is directly impacted by counter-terrorism training and resource supply. The statistical analyses revealed high positive relationships of these variables, indicating the need to invest in both professional development and institutional resources. Resource adequacy was identified as the most significant factor influencing preparedness, highlighting the importance of equipment and communications systems, transportation, and logistical support to facilitate effective operations. Overall, the study contributes to the growing body of knowledge on counter-terrorism policing by providing empirical evidence regarding police preparedness within a terrorism-prone district of Pakistan. The findings provide important guidance for policy makers, law enforcement administrators, and security practitioners interested in improving law enforcement capacity and resilience to terrorist violence.

Policy Implications & Recommendations

The findings of this study have important implications for counter-terrorism policy and police administration. Police departments need to enhance specialized counter-terrorism training programs, expand the frequency of training exercises, simulation drills, and scenario-based learning activities. Ongoing training is crucial to the ability of officers to respond to the changing tactics of the terrorists and emerging security threats. Intelligence analysis, crisis management, active threat response and inter-agency coordination should also be included in training curricula in order to improve operational effectiveness (Blair & Schweit, 2014).

Second, Government should increase its budget for counter-terrorism operations by the police. There must be sufficient financial resources to support training programmes, equipment acquisition, staff development and readiness programmes. More resources would allow police departments to mitigate resource gaps found in this study and improve institutional capacity to respond to terrorist attacks.

Third, investment on technological infrastructure should be paid. The results suggest that surveillance systems, communication technologies, and intelligence-support tools contribute to the preparedness. Law enforcement agencies should, therefore, modernize their technological systems and invest in cutting-edge surveillance equipment, secure communication systems, real-time monitoring platforms, and intelligence-driven technologies that can support preventive and responsive counter-terrorism measures (Ratcliffe, 2016).

Finally, all police departments should have in place a well-rounded program for operational readiness that includes training, resource management, emergency planning, and performance evaluation. Regular preparedness assessments, field exercises, and institutional audits can assist in identifying operational weaknesses and ensuring continuous improvement. These would help in

enhancing the resilience of police and overall counter-terrorism security in the district of Dera Ismail Khan and other high-risk areas.

Limitations and Future Research

Like all empirical investigations, this study is subject to certain limitations. The first limitation of the present study is its spatial restrictedness, as it was conducted only in District Dera Ismail Khan. The results are therefore not necessarily representative of other districts, provinces or national contexts with different security environments, organizational and operational structures. While the district provides an important case for examining police preparedness in a terrorism-prone setting, broader studies are necessary to develop more comprehensive understandings of police readiness across Pakistan. Second, the study used a cross sectional research design that gathered data at one time. This makes long-term evaluations of preparedness, training success, and the sufficiency of available resources difficult. Longitudinal research would be helpful in understanding the change in police preparedness that occurred as a result of policy changes, the development of security, and institutional interventions. There is a need to conduct comparative studies across different districts that have been affected by terrorism to broaden the scope of research in the future. Comparative analyses would facilitate a better understanding of regional variations in preparedness and help identify best practices for counter-terrorism policing. Furthermore, future studies could also use mixed methods, combining quantitative surveys with qualitative interviews, to provide more detailed and robust evidence on challenges and opportunities facing police preparedness against violent attacks by terrorists.

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