

COMMENTARY ON “IMPACT OF STRESS ON STUDENTS' MENTAL, PHYSICAL HEALTH AND ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AT SECONDARY LEVEL DUE TO U.S DRONE STRIKES IN NORTH WAZIRISTAN AGENCY”

SOHAIL RIAZ¹, NOMAN UL HAQ², AQEEL NASIM¹

Sir, with correspondence to the research paper by Ullah M et al entitled as “Impact of stress on student's mental, physical health and academic achievement at secondary level due to US drone strikes in North Waziristan Agency”, we have read this interesting paper and found it a key research for further exploration of effects on mental health by drone attacks but we do have some concerns over this research as well.

Firstly, the students studying in secondary school level cannot understand English and briefing and explanation of questions in local language may precipitate biasness. Therefore, it is necessary that tool should have been translated in Urdu language (national language of Pakistan, understood by majority of population) or in local language i.e. Pashtu. As the author stated that they have developed the questionnaire used in the study the question raised regarding the content and face validation should have been done for newly developed questionnaire¹.

Secondly, it was stated later in introduction that the students living in North Waziristan had stress due to drone attacks, this lacked the supporting reference. Similarly, many claims made in introduction and in discussion are seem to be just as presumptions as these claims had never been supported by appropriate citation.

Thirdly, the conclusion drawn in the study stating that there was association relationship between drone attacks, psycho-trauma effects and student's academic Achievement were not supported by the results presented in the study. As authors described in methodology that Pearson correlation test was applied to show evaluate the relationship between different study variables, it has not been presented in the text of manuscript.

Fourthly, as claimed in the objective the academic performance was affected by stress. Research does not clearly state that how the academic performance was assessed. In addition, there is ambiguity in certain parts of methodology especially duration of study which in different in abstract and in main text of the manuscript.

In Summary this author worked on very interesting and

important issue regarding the mental health and academic performance affected by drone but failed to use the translated and validated questionnaire, with no clear methodology to assess the academic performance and to demonstrate the relationship between drone attacks, psycho-trauma effects and student's academic Achievement.

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THE AUTHOR'S RESPONSE

Respected Sir,

I am highly thankful for your interest and comments about our article published in IMJ. Regarding your different queries and comments my response is as under.

The data is collected from the respondents through face-to-face interview with the help of questionnaire in Local Language (Pashto) as well as in Urdu version also in order to get clear responses of the respondents.

Some psychotraumatic problems are amalgamative explained and mentioned by single author such e.g. if the author has given proper citation about anxiety, depression then the same author has also given the detail about stress under the same reference (It means that a single reference clarify clarifies the detail of anxiety, depression and stress). Therefore, there is no lack of supporting references in the article but different psychotraumatic problems have been described by author under a single reference.

Basically, the words “psychotrauma effects” itself are self-explanatory which automatically show the relationship between U.S drone attacks and students' academic achievement. Some words are self-explained and there is no need to further explain such type of words e.g. Aslam says, “I go to mosque” Here the word mosque is self-explanatory word

1. M-Phil Student, Faculty of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, University of Baluchistan, Quetta Pakistan.
2. Assistant Professor, Faculty of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, University of Baluchistan, Quetta, Pakistan.

Correspondence to:

Noman-ul-Haq
Faculty of Pharmacy and Health Sciences,
University of Baluchistan, Sariab Road, Quetta, Pakistan.
Email: nomanhaq79@gmail.com

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which means that Aslam attends the mosque for religious purposes i.e. praying prayer. Similarly in the above observed statement, students' academic achievements were already supported by the results because the thread of relationship is mainly students' academic achievement.

Of course, the academic performances of Secondary Schools' students were badly affected by stress as the researcher had easily judged and found them fully stressed through psychotherapy techniques which the researcher had already learnt during different seminars with psychiatrists and his experiences with expert psychologists were also quite helpful in this regard.

The author (researcher) conducted several seminars with expert psychologists, psychiatrists and educationists regarding the relationship between U.S drone attacks and students' academic performance and the researcher easily assessed the academic performance of students' by comparing their 9th class marks in gazette before drone-war and their 10th class marks in next year gazette during/after U.S drone war. Consequently, students' academic performance before U.S drone war was far better and brilliant as compared to their academic performance

during/after U.S drone attacks/drone war/war hazards in North Waziristan Agency. The responses of the respondents also showed and witnessed that their academic performances were suffered a lot due to U.S drone attacks and war hazards in North Waziristan Agency.

The researcher (author) used Likert's Type questionnaire of options always, frequently, occasionally, seldom and never for getting clearance responses of the respondents. Although the author (The researcher) had gotten data through questionnaire already translated into local language (Pashto) and national language Urdu also.

I hope that I have clarified all of your queries and responded to your comments. If you have any further comments or queries please don't hesitate to contact me through e-mail given below.

Mati Ullah

Lecturer of Education & Research,
University of Science & Technology, Bannu, Khyber
Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan.

For Correspondence: educationistmrn@gmail.com