Abstract

Unequivocally, the problem of sectarianism in Pakistan is very deep-rooted. The beginning of sectarianism in Pakistan is not a few years old but it is a historical issue that emerged as a major problem in Pakistan. Sectarianism has been a major threat to Pakistan's internal security for many years. The Hazara and the Qandahari community in Quetta have been the victims of unprecedented sectarian violence due to their religious affiliation. This research is a small attempt to look at the socio-economic, religious and political effects of sectarianism on the regular life of both the Hazara and the Qandahari community in Quetta. The Shia community inside Quetta has long been a victim of sectarian violence, and this study is an attempt to gauge their loss in order to identify the main reasons behind it. Apart from the fact that the Shia community allover in Pakistan suffered through sectarian violence badly but a large part of this loss was borne by the Shia community living in Quetta. Paradoxically, on one hand both the Hazara and the Qandahari still facing religious persecution but on the other hand the state looks standing with other claim as taking effective response against the terrorist groups. The question arises as to why the state of Pakistan is failing to give protection to its minorities? The atrocities against the Shia community in Quetta cannot be ignored because in last two decades about 3000 people from Hazara and the Qandahari community have been killed due to their religious affiliation. To find the answers to all these questions the researcher tried to look into a wide context from the historical evolution of sectarianism to its present effects on the Shia minority of Pakistan. The prime focus of this research is to look at and impacts of sectarian violence on the Shia community in Pakistan generally and in Quetta particularly.