

ABSTRACT

One of the most inimical threats faced by Pakistan has been religious sectarianism. So, keeping in view the dangers that it entails, there is a strong need to not only figure out its different causes but also its effects on the society as a whole. District Dera Ismail Khan has been one of the main districts that have witnessed extreme form of sectarian violence, however, despite this fact, enough relevant studies are not available on the issue. Therefore, this study aims to investigate the various causes and effects of sectarian violence in District Dera Ismail Khan. As per the nature of the problem, a qualitative strategy of inquiry has been used in this study. In order to grasp the issue, several structured and Semi-structured interviews have also been conducted. As so far as the causes of sectarian violence are concerned, the researcher has interviewed religious clerics and other academicians from both the Sunni and Shia Sects. While on the other hand, for effects of sectarian violence, the researcher has interviewed family members of the victims of sectarian violence. For proper understanding, the researcher has classified causes and effects of sectarian violence in sub-headings. For causes of sectarian violence, the sub-headings include, Theological Differences, Elite Manipulation, and Social Factors. The researcher found that all the above three factors play their role in escalating violence. On the other hand, as so far as the effects of Sectarian Violence are concerned, the Sub-headings include Social effects, Economic Effects, and Psychological effects. In regard to effects of sectarian violence, this study concludes that it negatively affects every aspect of life including the above three categories.