

THE SILENT THREAT: UNCOVERING WHITE COLLAR TERRORISM IN THE MEDICAL FIELDS

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ABSTRACT

“With guns you can kill terrorists; with education you can kill terrorism.”

Nobel Laureate Malala Yousafzai

It shows a much-repeated belief that low-level education and poverty are the driving forces behind violent terrorism but after the terrorist attack in Delhi on November 10, 2025, which killed at least a dozen people, this belief is not accepted now. Investigating agencies have arrested several doctors on charges of plotting the bomb attack.

INTRODUCTION

White collar terrorism is related to terrorist activities done by highly educated professions like doctors, engineers, professors etc. who use their knowledge and societal position to execute the crime.

White collar crime is different from white collar terrorism as it is financially motivated and non-violent but white-collar terrorism is very serious and dangerous type of crime whose ideology is political and religious belief.

India, a victim of terror activities sponsored from Pakistan experience a new face of terrorism i.e. white-collar terrorism. On November 10, 2025, a car exploded near the parking area of red fort, New Delhi killed 14 people and its occupant Dr. Umar Nabi and injuring many people and causing property loss. After that incident, three other doctors were arrested from Al Fala University, Faridabad related to the same network. It shows that a terror network was operating by highly educated medical personnel who were getting order from abroad also.

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Police also recovered 3000 kg of explosives from their possession clearly indicates their planning of mass destruction. After that NIA and state police raid many places in India resulted recovery of automatic rifles and pistols and inflammable materials also.

India has just witnessed this new terror module based on well-educated professional particularly doctors. The recently identified white collar terrorism is a matter of serious concern.

THE CONCEPT OF JIHAD

The idea of jihad is a focal fundamental in Islam. In opposition to misinterpretations basic in the West, the term in a real sense implies a holy battle or exertion instead of an outfitted struggle or obsessive sacred war. Although a jihad can surely be showed as a blessed conflict, it all the more accurately alludes to the obligation of Muslims to actually endeavor "in the method of God". This is the essential significance of the term as utilized in the Quran, which means an inner exertion to change detrimental routines in the Islamic people group or inside the individual Muslim.

However, when we see a closer look at the examples of terrorism carried out in the name of religion, the purpose behind it reveals that religion is acting as a means on large scale rather than an end. We can hear from terrorist who is under custody of the police that they will go to heaven after their death because they are given training like this. They are manipulated in such a way that they consider act of creating terror is spiritual faith towards their religion. Infect no religion support violence by killing innocent people. The short- and long- term goals of al-Qaeda and other terrorist organization are essential political.²

IMPACT OF TERRORISM

I. Loss of Life and Human Suffering

The most direct impact of terrorism is the death and injury of innocent civilians. Families lose their loved ones, children are orphaned, and survivors often suffer permanent disabilities. This human cost cannot be measured in numbers alone, as it creates lifelong emotional and financial hardships for victims and their families.

II. Economic Damage

² Ahamd, I (2003) Religious Terrorism. Encyclopedia of Religion and Terrorism New York

Terrorist attacks harm the economy by destroying infrastructure, reducing tourism, and discouraging investment. Governments must spend huge amounts on security instead of development programs like education and healthcare. In Jammu and Kashmir, after Pahalgam attack, where tourists were killed by the terrorist, there was widespread fear and many has cancelled their plan in Jammu and Kashmir. In some reports, tourist numbers dropped by more than 90%. Locals offer heavy discount to lure visitors back.

III. Arise of Communal Tensions

Terrorism can increase misunderstanding and lack of trust between communities, especially when attacks are linked to particular religion. This may lead to discrimination, and communal conflicts. Social harmony weakens, and unity among citizens is replaced by suspicion and hate.

IV. Impact on education

In terrorism-affected regions, schools may close or operate irregularly, disrupting children's education. Young people growing up in violent environments may become vulnerable to radicalization or lose hope in peaceful social progress, affecting the future stability of society.

V. Displacement and Refugee Problems

Terrorism forces many families to flee their homes in search of safety. This creates refugee crises, pressure on cities, and challenges in providing housing, jobs, and basic services, further straining social resources.³

INVOLVEMENT OF MEDICAL PRACTITIONER IN TERRORISM

On 10 November 2025, a powerful blast from a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (car bomb) exploded near the historic Red Fort in New Delhi, killing around a dozen people and injuring several others. It was quickly treated by the government as a terrorist activity, with investigators calling it "heinous" and barbaric act.

Unlike most terror attacks where doctors serve as caregivers, several qualified medical professionals were alleged to be involved in planning or facilitating the Red Fort blast. According to official statements and reports:

Three doctors including individuals identified from Kashmir and Lucknow were arrested by India's counter-terrorism agency in connection with the blast investigation. Authorities said they

³ K.N Chandrasekharan Pillai, "Terrorism and Criminal justice system" Eastern book company, 2014.

played “key roles” in the terror plot, though families denied the charges. Investigations suggested that at least one suspect in the blast was himself a doctor, and that others in the network had provided assistance relating to logistics or planning, because of these allegations, the **National Medical Commission** canceled the medical registrations of some of the doctors implicated, pending further legal process.

This aspect was widely covered in the media and became a surprising and disturbing feature of the case — showing that radicalization can influence even highly educated professionals.

LEGAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO TERRORISM

- **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA)** — It is considered the main Anti-Terror Law.
- **National Security Act, 1980 (NSA)**- It allows preventive detention to protect: National security, public order, Maintenance of essential services. In this act - Detention up to 12 months can be done and no immediate trial is required.
- **Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA)**- Under Prevention of money Laundering Act, Terror funding is treated as money laundering in which property can be attached and confiscated. Enforcement Directorate (ED) has power to investigate and take action.
- **National Investigation Agency Act, 2008 (NIA Act)**- Under this act, NIA was established for investigating terror offences. It can take over cases from states and has power to Investigate cross-border terrorism. Special NIA Courts are also established for speedy trial.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR ERADICATING TERRORISM AT THE GLOBAL LEVEL

- I. The **United Nations (UN)**- It plays a central role in global counter-terrorism efforts. In **UN Security Council, the Resolution 1373 (2001)** was adopted after 9/11 attacks, its main obligation is to Criminalize terrorist financing, freeze terrorist assets and deny safe haven to terrorists.
- II. **International Conventions and Treaties**

There are **19 universal counter-terrorism conventions**, including:

Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Financing (1999), Convention against Bombings (1997), Convention against Hijacking of Aircraft (1970)

NEED TO COMBAT TERRORISM

The Challenges of terrorism is so critical and more extensive spread that it comprises a real risk to the human kind and security of any country or it turn the entire world. It has become a global threat which needs to be controlled from the initial level.

Today the rapid use of computers and mobile technology tools are easily connected with global world. It is the easiest way of communication and over 90, 0000 million peoples use the internet and social media daily. *Social media platforms have a huge global reach and audience, with YouTube boasting more than 1 billion users each month. This breaks down into 6 billion hours of video that are being watched each month and 100 h of video are uploaded to YouTube every month. The use of cyber-terrorism through the Internet and social media has been used by extremist groups in order to manufacture a process of online hate. In the case of many of the tweets and videos analyzed in these cases, the Internet and social media sites act as a knowledgeable database on how to promote violence as a strategy through the social learning. The terrorist groups also used these tools to influence more and more people in the global arena.*⁴

In Pulwama's Koil hamlet, 40 to 45 km from Srinagar, people struggle to believe on the news of involvement of Dr. Umar Nabi in Delhi 's suspected car bombing on November 10 near Delhi's Red Fort that killed at least 13 people and injured more than 20. An elderly villager could not believe that it can be Umar. Some refer to a particular area of Koil village as a 'village of doctors'.

"What needs to be understood is the intersection of ideology and theology. The intellectual class is often the source of radicalism. Socialism, philosopher Friedrich Hayek noted, did not begin as a working-class movement. It was a construction of second-hand dealers in ideas, including professional men and technicians, such as scientists and doctors.

WHY DO PEOPLE ENTER IN TERRORISM⁵

⁴ Ashok Kumar & Vipul Anekant, "Internal Security of India", McGraw Hill Education India, 2017.

⁵ Randy Borum, "Psychology of Terrorism", 2004

Injustice- Perceived injustice has long been considered an important cause of terrorism. they have the desire to take revenge not only for injustice done to him but for their whole community.

Belonging- People who joined a terrorist group after a lifelong rejection of their community become the family member of that group.

This strong sense of belonging has critical importance as a motivating factor for joining, a compelling reason for staying, and a forceful influence for acting.⁶

CAUSES OF TERRORISM BY MEDICAL PRACTITIONER

Question can be asked what prompt a doctor to become a killer whose work is to save the people. It is a common belief that religious issues are the main cause of terrorism. There are many evidences to support this statement.⁷

- **Use of Professional Networks:** The recent Delhi blast investigations revealed a "white-collar" terror network using encrypted channels and raising funds under the guise of social or charitable causes. The strange thing about this incident was that it was performed by well educated people. The suicide bomber Umar was an Assistant Professor of medicine. He was a very bright student from his childhood. Other accused were also arrested who were part of the conspiracy including Dr. Shaheen Sayeed, Dr. Muzammil Ahmed. Dr. Shaheen was a class topper. She had cracked union public service commission to join as an assistant professor in Kanpur. They all are radicalized by Maulvi Irfan Ahmad, who was also a doctor. The background of these accused given rise to the term 'White Collar Terrorism' for radicalizing them, social media played very important role.
- **Use of social media:** The internet plays a significant role in spreading extremist ideas. Professional may be exposed to radical ideas because of global network.
- **Feeling of discrimination and anger:** It may push persons to extremist organizations. They can spread extremist ideology under the cover of social respectability.

OBJECTIVES OF TERRORISTS

⁶ Freeman, Liam (Ed.) (2015): The Islamic State and ISIS Crisis: An Examination. (The Middle East in Turmoil).New York: Nova Science Publishers.

⁷ "Public Opinion on the Root Causes of Terrorism and Objectives of Terrorists" by Adesoji O. Adelaja, Abdullahi Labo (Late) and Eva Penar, "Perspective on Terrorism", Volume 12, Issue 3.

In general, it can be said that terrorists work with particular goal. They have religious objective in their mind. Mostly, they use violence for bringing change. Initially poverty and unemployment were the main causes of terrorism but now very efficient doctor who is highly educated are involved in terrorist activities so it can be said that their mentality has grown on violence regardless of their educational qualification. They always target busy public places for terrorist attack like markets, place of worship etc. where casualties on large scale are possible.

Terrorist do not consider them as terrorist but as a warrior who has the legitimate cause behind their crime. The use violence because they are of the view that it is the appropriate method of fulfilling their objective.

Terrorists do not see themselves as terrorists nor do they apply any other socially negative label to their identity. They view themselves as soldiers or warriors with a legitimate cause and, therefore, may share the same psychology as government soldiers. They use violence because they believe it is the only appropriate or available method of achieving the changes they seek.⁸

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Doctors are regarded as a symbol of compassion and humanity with spirit of social service. The main base of medical is to save lives but involvement of medical professionals in terrorist activities shock society because they contradict the ethical foundation of medicine and arise serious issues about misuse of professional knowledge. When we hear the news of their involvement in violent act, it represents a betrayal of public trust. The main reason behind it is ideological radicalization. Education in medicine does not automatically protect a person from radical beliefs.

The Challenges of terrorism is so critical and more extensive spread that it comprises a real risk to the humankind and security of any country or it turn the entire world. It has become a global threat which needs to be controlled from the initial level.

Terrorism has spread its roots not only among poor and illiterate people but among well settled and well-educated professionals.

⁸ Maajid Nawaz, "Radical: My journey out of Islamist Extremism", Lyons Press, 2012.

There is a great need of combating terrorism financing. Terrorist use money by fake currency or by foreign funds so the combating financing of terrorism cell should be strengthened.

Artificial Intelligence should also be used to monitor transaction for terrorism purpose and track terrorist networks. There should be check and balance on social media also who promote online radicalization in society among different religious groups and strict punishment should be given to them.

UAPA, 1967 and NIA Act, 2008 should be rigorously implemented for prosecuting those individuals supporting terrorist activity by any means.

“There is a need to Improve intelligence system sharing between central, state, and specialized agencies (RAW) to detect threats of terrorist activities from academic institutions. Strengthen partnerships with other nations for intelligence exchange and legal cooperation. Ensure speedy trials through specialized courts for terror-related cases”.

The government should Implement programs to prevent educated youth from falling for extremist ideology or cross-border propaganda and provide quality education to reduce vulnerability to extremism.

“The government should take initiative to promote harmony and awareness to prevent community-based, targeted violence. The new global environment and modern technology have enabled terrorists to plan their operation worldwide. Terrorism by educate professionals is a great threat because human knowledge is used in destruction rather than in progress. It is a reminder to the society that education without ethical grounding can be misused. Educational Institutions must actively promote tolerance, constitutional morality and respect for human life, and finally, terrorism is not over yet, in future our governments have to go a long way to end terrorism and for it the government should take effective steps in this direction very soon ”.