

## The Gendered Lens: A Comprehensive Study on Homegrown Terrorism

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### ABSTRACT

Do men and women have different perspectives on domestic terrorism despite similar level of exposure and awareness to they're surrounding? Homegrown terrorism poses a significant and pervasive threat to the country's security authorities. This study looks at how genders' opinions differ despite having the same level of awareness by administering a self-developed questionnaire in to ascertain the outcome. The survey reveals the disparity in gender-based attitudes among south Indian population of certain age and an education background. It has a tendency to focus on the most prevalent external factors, such as socioeconomic issues, religion, media, politics, and psychology, to name just a few. Now, based on this study, we tend to have a different viewpoint on how men and women tend to regard engaging in terrorism as a means of obtaining a living.

**Keywords:** *Homegrown terrorism, Religion, Socio economic, Media, Politics, Psychological*

Homegrown terrorism is a phenomenon that characterizes the commission of terrorist acts against fellow citizens in the perpetrator's own country as a process that is not, by definition, limited to any one nation, political party, religious group, or intellectual ideology. However, in its current form, the term radicalization is most typically used to describe a condition that leads to domestic terrorism. In contrast to domestic terrorism, which involves perpetrators who were born and raised in the same country they desire to target and attack the same. Since a growing number of terrorist actions throughout the world have been linked to local organizations, many of which are unrelated to Al Qaeda but heavily inspired by Al Qaeda, radicalization leading to homegrown terrorism has gotten a lot of attention in the last decade. As a result, homegrown jihadists are now considered one of the greatest risks to national security by various global security organizations.

In the radicalization process, no single element can be considered "responsible." It takes a variety of variables to explain why individuals, are willing to plot and carry out terrorist operations that kill others and eventually themselves. Individuals who are frustrated with their life, society, or their governments' foreign policy are typically the catalysts for radicalization. A common pattern is for these individuals to meet other people who share

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their beliefs, and then they go through a sequence of events and phases together that can lead to terrorism. Only a handful, though, go on to become terrorists.

Many people start the procedure while they are adolescents. Example; individuals seeking a cause and a stronger Muslim identity are increasingly turning to extreme Islamism for answers. Before they engage in the radicalization process, many people are relatively secular. Radicalization occurs mostly among informal social networks of friends and peers. Up to a point, homegrown terrorist groups may emerge and thrive on their own. However, it is largely seen as a sociological phenomenon in which questions of belonging, identity, group dynamics, and values play a key role in the transformation process.

Several counter-radicalization strategies appear to be relevant in this regard Integration strategies, the combat of Islam phobia and racism in society, and the development of ethnic role models are all vital societal initiatives. It is necessary to undertake counter-ideology activities to combat the spread of extremely polarizing and radical viewpoints. It is critical to educate street workers, police officers, social workers, teachers, and religious scholars on the early signs of radicalization.

In this study we tend to determine the clear difference of opinion between men and women. The role of women in terrorism and counter-terrorism issues has received limited attention from policymakers and international counter-terrorism actors. As the government's approach to terrorism shifts from reactive to preventive, the threat of terrorism grows. A more comprehensive approach to addressing these challenges has become more apparent, but little attention has been paid to the gender dimension. Men and women take different positions when it comes to earning a living. However, the factors that influence them differ and can lead to any level of a person, regardless of gender, to engage in homegrown terrorism.

In recent decades, advancements in technology have allowed us to become more aware of various forms of extremism present in our society. Despite both genders having similar levels of understanding and exposure to these acts, they tend to hold differing opinions, indicating a clear divergence in their perspectives. While men may engage in terrorism driven by a need for societal recognition and a desire for a respectable living, women may resort to domestic terrorism as a means to meet their own specific needs. Although it is often perceived that men are more involved in acts of terrorism due to their dominant roles in society, it is important to recognize that women can also play a significant role in initiating and perpetrating attacks. Therefore, it is not accurate to generalize that only men are involved in terrorism. In fact, there have been numerous instances where the involvement of women in domestic terrorism has had a profound impact on society. These cases highlight the importance of considering the potential influence and participation of women in acts of extremism, as they can contribute significantly to the overall threat landscape.

The multifaceted roles assumed by women in the realms of terrorism and counterterrorism necessitate a more nuanced approach that incorporates a gender perspective when addressing issues related to armed conflict and terrorism. This study aims to explore the variations in opinions between men and women within a specific age group and educational background, seeking to determine whether there are divergent perspectives based on gender. However, further in-depth research in this field is required to gain a deeper understanding of the subject matter.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODOLOGY**

### *Objectives*

- To assess the external factors which influence the growth of homegrown terrorism in the South Indian Population. And,
- To study the gender perspectives on the effect of the five factors on Homegrown Terrorism.

### *Research Design*

#### *Aim*

To assess the factors, which influence homegrown terrorism in the South Indian Population and determine any change in perspectives between genders.

#### *Hypothesis*

##### **The hypothesis states that:**

Both Male and Female have similar level of awareness, and both genders' perspectives on Homegrown terrorism do differ.

#### *Data Collection and Analysis*

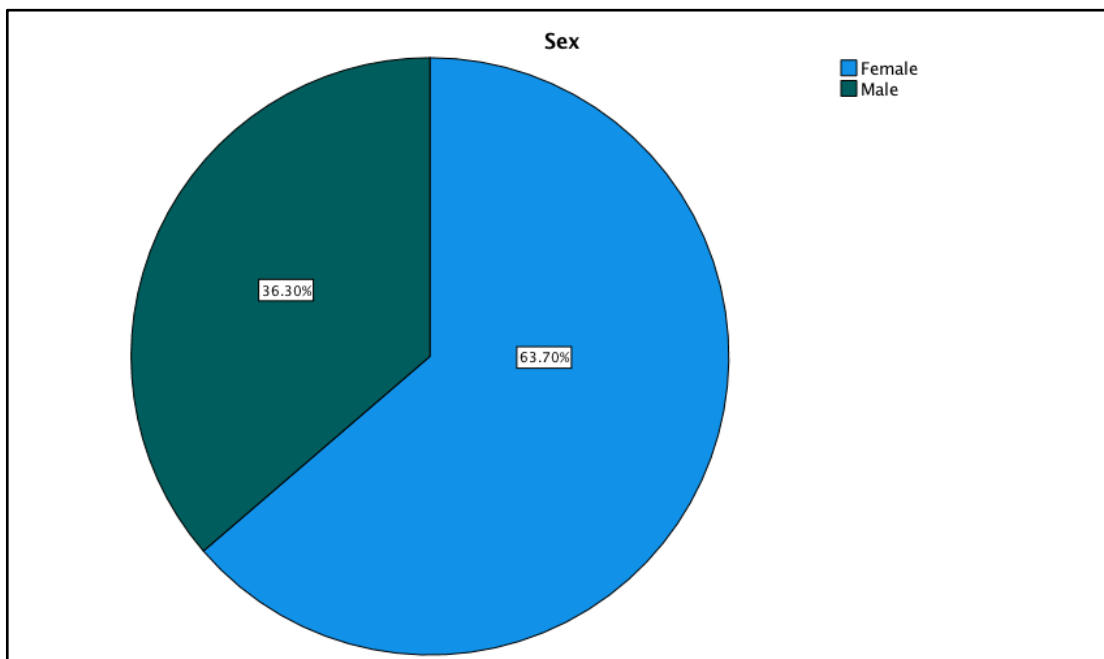
To determine the factors, an online self-made questionnaire was administered to a sample size of 500 individuals; in the Indian population falling in the Age group of 18-30 years. The questionnaire is accessed using google forms. The questionnaire consists of 25 questions from 5 different factorial dimensions with 5 questions from each area. The areas of concern in the questionnaire are Socio economic, political freedom, media's influence, psychological and religion. The subject is asked to take an online survey in which the individual is given 5 alternative options out of which one option is selected by the individual which he/she feels is appropriate for the statement given. Strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree, and strongly disagree are the options from which the subject chooses the most appropriate option for them. Further the values obtained are statistically analyzed using the SPSS software and the Microsoft excel. The Results were obtained and analyzed.

#### *Limitations*

The above-mentioned study only assesses the external factors that influence between genders to indulge into homegrown terrorism and not conclude or give precautionary measures on how to derogue terrorism in our country. It also does not determine the root cause for an individual to indulge in terrorist activities. Also the study does not determine aggressiveness or the rebellious nature of the individual towards terrorism.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

*Data Analysis*



**Fig 1: Frequency Distribution of respondent's Gender**

The Fig1 represents a Frequency Distribution of Respondents' Gender. The total no of respondents was 460. Using these data we find that the over 63.7 percent (293) of respondents are female, and 36.3 percent (167) respondents are male. Among the total 460 samples Females have comparatively have responded more than males.

*Table: Age wise comparison based on Mann Whitney Test*

|              | Sex    | HGT<br>TOTAL | Socio<br>economic | Political | Media  | Religion | Psychological |
|--------------|--------|--------------|-------------------|-----------|--------|----------|---------------|
| Mean<br>Rank | Female | 232.07       | 228               | 231.56    | 229.49 | 230.24   | 233.02        |
|              | Male   | 227.74       | 234.89            | 228.64    | 232.26 | 230.95   | 226.08        |

**Interpretation**

From the given table above, the mean rank obtained from the Mann Whitney test of all the 5 variables for both the sex was compared and it was found that each value varied in between both the gender for every variable. The total sample size was 460 out of which;

Female showed highest for the variable Psychological with a mean Rank of 233.02

Male showed highest for the variable Socio economic with a mean rank of 226.08

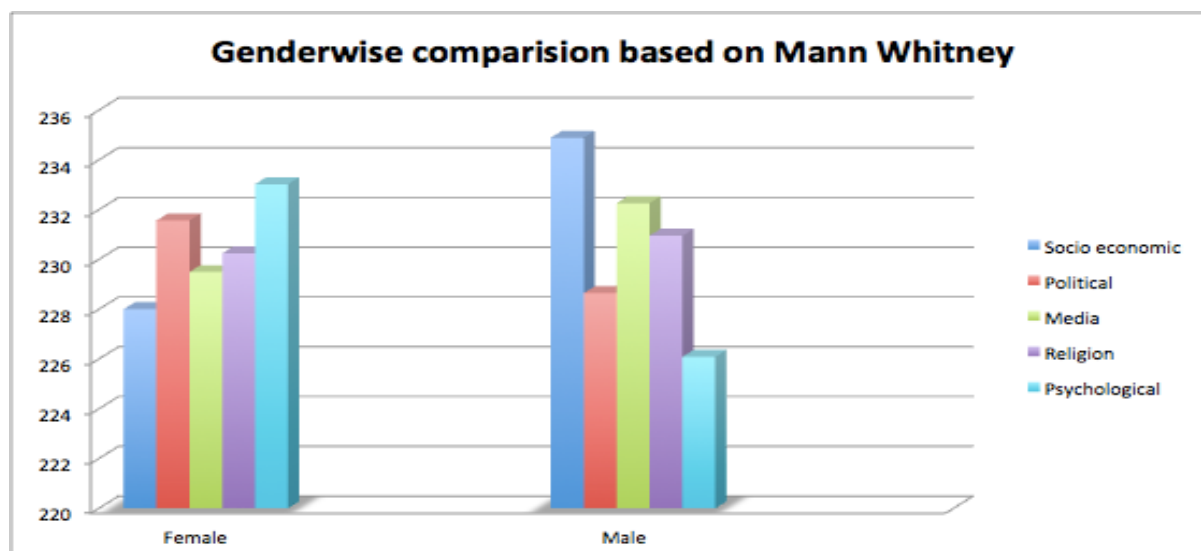


Fig 2: Gender wise comparison based on Mann Whitney Test

### Findings

The study conducted was interpreted using the Mann Whitney U Test that determines the difference in the distributed variables between Male and Female. The interpretation does support the hypothesis, which states that both male and female do have difference in their opinion. The findings show among all the external variables used in the research it was found that the impact of religion is comparatively the highest among all the variables with a sig p-value of 0.956, which accepts our hypothesis and proves **Religious discrimination is one of the main cause for the growth of domestic terrorism.**

Followed by, the test gives a clear difference in opinion between female and male.

**Female** shows highest for the variable **Psychological** with a mean Rank of 233.02 and **Male** shows highest for the variable **Socio economic** with a mean rank of 226.08, which does support the hypothesis that there is a clear demarcated difference in the opinion of both the genders.

### CONCLUSION

Since the 1947 partition, India has always been subjected to terrorist attacks and with the recent development of the new trends; terrorism has become one of the major concerns of the national security agencies in our country. In our purpose of study, we assess certain external factors, which influence an individual to indulge in homegrown terrorism from the south Indian Population and determine external factors shows the higher significance of impact between the genders. Though every state shows a difference in their perspectives **Religion** has always been the main ideology for the development of violent conflicts in the country.

Similar to this, the study demonstrates a very distinct difference between male and female opinion, with female showing higher scores for the external factor **psychology** and male showing higher scores for the factor **socioeconomic**. This illustrates how, despite the fact that both genders are equally exposed to and aware of such delicate subjects as domestic terrorism, their opinions differ. This demonstrates unequivocally what men and women think about what motivates people to engage in domestic terrorism. Men often overindulge in order to increase their economic worth and support themselves, and women are susceptible to psychological manipulation. However, this study only provides an individual's

perspective on domestic terrorism among the genders; unquestionably, more research is required in this area to understand how these factors contribute to the development of this phenomenon.

Although we have implemented some anti-terrorism measures, there are still an increasing number of domestic terrorist attacks in our nation. The nationals appear to be concerned about how the government will respond to these threats, how society will respond to a rebound, and how this rise in cases will affect their perception of attack in their region. All levels of government must address the public's concerns in order to better their circumstances and encourage peaceful coexistence in order to address these societal challenges.

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***Conflict of Interest***

The author(s) declared no conflict of interest.

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