

Reporting From the Frontlines

Research and Analysis on the
Media Landscape in Pakistan's Tribal Areas

Sadaf Baig



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Reporting From the Frontlines

The Tough Working Conditions of Journalists
in Pakistan's Tribal Areas

**Research and Analysis on the Media
Landscape in FATA - 2012**

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This report is part of an effort to support journalists and journalism in Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) bordering Afghanistan through monitoring, research and analysis of the state of media in the region. Intermedia Pakistan seeks to build capacity, awareness and expertise of journalists in FATA, most of whom work in a complete absence of local media infrastructure.

This report combines the findings of ten months of research & monitoring for monthly FATA Media Review Reports conducted in the period August 2011 and May 2012. It is part of an initiative supported by the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office but the responsibility of the research and analysis is Intermedia's alone.

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Executive Summary

For some years now, Pakistan has been termed the deadliest country in the world for practicing journalists. The death toll of journalists killed in Pakistan continued to rise in the first decade of the new millennium. The Federally Administered Tribal Areas, or FATA, along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border remain one of the most dangerous newsbeats in the whole country. A large number of journalists from FATA have been forced to relocate over the last decade in view of threats to life and property, some quitting journalism and others persistent despite the mounting threats.

The number of journalists in FATA, one of the most active newsbeats in internationally, is dwindling. In a region with a population of over 5 million, out of the 250 member journalists of the Tribal Union of Journalists (TUJ), many are forced to report on their region while staying out of the tribal agencies in FATA.

This report, consolidates findings from six months of sustained research and monitoring of issues and threats faced by the journalist community in FATA. The first part, consisting of original research surveys, conducted among a representative sample of FATA journalists, maps the landscape that the journalists are working in and takes a deep look at various factors affecting their lives and professional commitments.

The first research, conducted in August 2011 covers the nature and scale of threats faced by FATA journalists. Amongst the threats identified by the journalists are non-state actors including various militant groups, state actors including security agencies, lack of interest and awareness of threats on the organization's part and the lack of skills in reporting from conflict zones. Journalists also identified factors that threaten their voice as a journalist, including pressures to hold or censor stories, restrictions on mobility and lack of access

faced by journalists in FATA; as many as 79% of the respondents in this survey admitted that they were disillusioned due to the various pressures they face in the line of duty. Amongst the key factors identified by the journalists are lack of organizational sensitivity towards the dangers they face, lack of logistical support, financial security, medical and life insurance and the threats posed to them by both state and non state actors.

In October 2011, Intermedia Pakistan took a look at coverage of non-conflict news from FATA. Reflecting upon the kinds of stories they report on, as many as 56% of the respondents said that at least 75% of their work is directly related to reporting conflict. The most interesting statistic to come out of this report shows that up to 95% of the journalists in FATA believe that women's perspective is missing from the current news coverage.

In November 2011, the research focused on the media consumption habits of journalists from FATA. Unsurprisingly, radio emerged as the most popular medium of information with 62% of the journalists agreeing that it provides the best coverage of FATA related news. From the survey results it is apparent that most journalists are actively consuming all mediums of information, including radio, television, print and internet - 80% of the respondents said that they use the internet daily.

The research conducted in December 2011, brought alarming statistics to light. Focusing on financial and job security conditions of FATA journalists, the survey showed that up to 53% of the journalists in FATA are working without any salary, commission or financial compensation. Despite working in an armed conflict zone, 86% have not been provided any kind of medical or life insurance from their organizations. These and other factors led 93% of the respondents to conclude that they do not enjoy financial or job security their current organizations.

research showed that at least half of the journalists in FATA are working without proper employment contracts; 14% of them never get by-lines for their work and 36% admitted that the lack of recognition on organizational level is affecting the quality of their work. This report includes statistics, conclusions and recommendations on the above mentioned themes.

In February 2012, the research survey was about logistical issues faced by FATA journalists. According to the survey results 97% of the journalists in FATA do not have an official transport and use different modes to commute to and for work. Among the respondents a majority, i.e., 66%, usually commutes to work by public transport, 23% rent private transport vehicles like cabs and the 20% travel by their own vehicles.

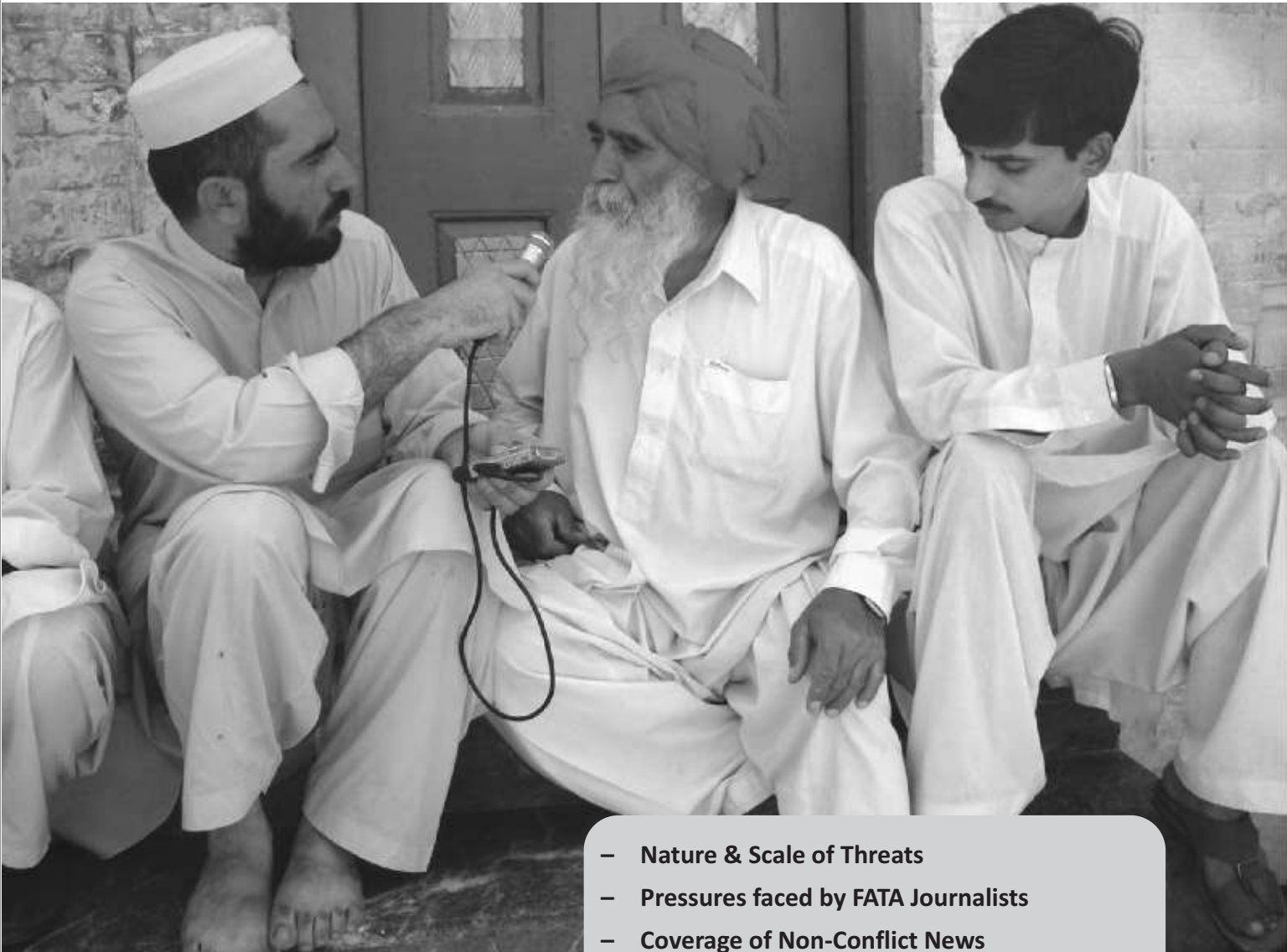
In March 2012, journalists in FATA and political administration became a topic of research. As many as 73% journalists said that political administration is one of their primary sources of news. Other identified sources include military and paramilitary forces, ISPR [the military public relations office], local tribes and people and sources among militant groups and security / intelligence agencies. More than 70% of the respondents indicated that they have actively cultivated sources within the political administration. However, around 73% of the respondents say that the sources are available for news confirmation only 'sometimes' and more than 43% indicated that they have killed stories due to non-confirmation by the political administration sources.

In April and May 2012, the research focus was refined and rather than surveying the state of FATA media as a whole, comparative research surveys were conducted on equal number of respondents from all agencies of FATA. In April 2012, the research focus was on threats and pressures faced by journalists in different FATA agencies. Overall 74% of the respondents had received threats during the last 12 months. Amongst these 100% journalists from Khyber, 90% from Bajaur, 80% from Mohmand and Orakzai, 70% from Kurram, 60% from North

been assaulted in the last 12 months and as many as 75.7% have a colleague who has been attacked in FATA. Among the common types of threats to journalists safety, 54% have been threatened with kidnapping and abduction, 38% have received a threat of attack on their property, 17% have been threatened with detention and 11% have faced the threat of arrest.

In May 2012, media consumption habits and media development needs of journalists based in different FATA agencies were surveyed. Media consumption habits mostly mirrored the findings of earlier survey with slight variance between different agencies and some very important points were highlighted in media development needs survey. Journalists indicated a need for increased financial security, medical and life insurance and trainings on thematic issues to help increase the quality of journalism in FATA. They also identified a need for issuing private licenses to radio, TV and print outlets within FATA and a need to train editorial staff outside FATA to help improve the coverage of the region in national mainstream media.

Research and Findings



- Nature & Scale of Threats
- Pressures faced by FATA Journalists
- Coverage of Non-Conflict News
- Media Consumption Habits
- Financial & Job Security
- Recognition of work
- Logistical Issues
- Political Administration & FATA Journalists
- Comparative Analysis: Threats & Pressures
- Comparative Analysis: Media Consumption & Development Needs

In the Line of Fire; Nature and Scale of Threats

Context

The Federally Administered Tribal Areas have taken the brunt of the conflict in the region. The location and the tribal history of the region make it an ideal hotspot for Afghan insurgents; add the locally grown chapters of militants and the area has turned into an armed conflict zone. During the last decade, the tribal areas have been amongst the most dangerous places in Pakistan.

For journalists, the dangers increase manifold. Reporting on human rights violations from both militants and security agencies exposes them to threats from both sides. Since the start of this conflict the number of journalists in FATA has declined. A lot of the journalists have had to relocate to different agencies or Khyber Pakhtunkhwa due to security threats.

Most of the journalists operating from FATA are not properly equipped to deal with the demands of reporting from conflict zones. They haven't been through proper security trainings, they haven't

been trained to report safely and are unaware of the basic safety precautions that would keep them safe. In addition, the newsrooms and news organizations have so far failed to realize the extent of danger these journalists are constantly exposed to. The news policies haven't been amended to ensure the safety of the tribal journalists.

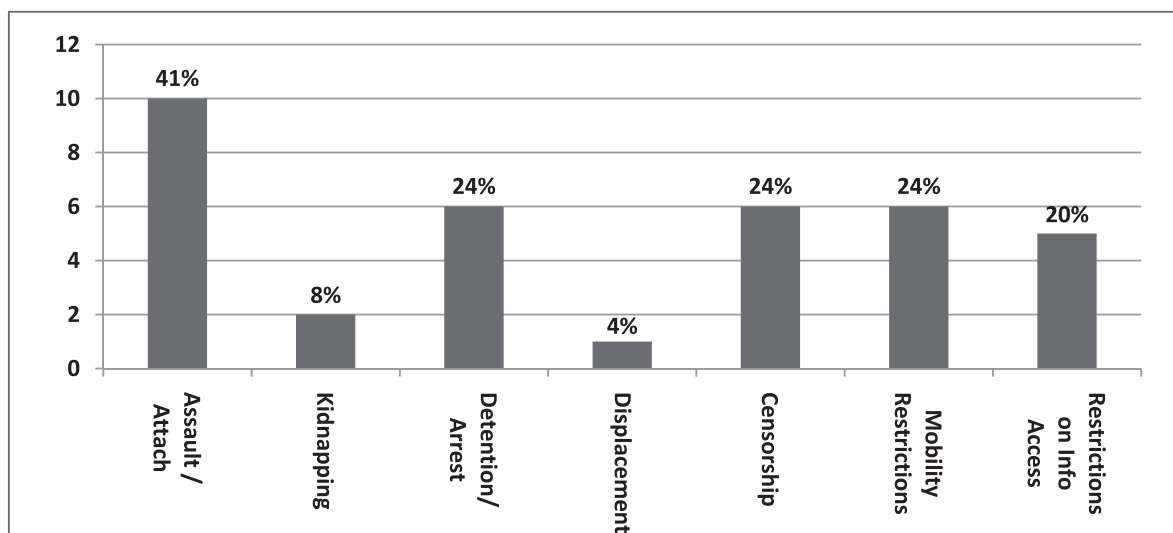
In addition the journalists face serious logistical issues and financial instability due to lack of organizational support, which makes them more vulnerable in face of danger.

This research is an attempt to identify the nature and scope of threats being faced by tribal journalists. A total of 24 journalists, who work from FATA or have been forced to relocate to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have been participated in this survey.

Security Threats in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA

Journalists from FATA and tribal journalists from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are constantly exposed to threats from multiple factors. When asked if they had faced any threats during the last year, half of the

Threats received by journalists



respondents replied in positive. Alarminglly, 20% of the respondents also indicated that they had received threats from within their own organization.

The respondents were further asked to identify the kind of threats they have received during the last 12 months. As many as 33% of the respondents said that they have faced threats of assault.

Judging by the threats that journalists have received, it is fairly obvious that the threats are being posed by both state and non-state actors. Only government authorities can threaten restricted mobility and blocking access to information. Similarly, the threat of censorship can only come from within the organization.

Actors perpetuating the threats in KP and FATA

The respondents were asked to classify the threats they face in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA. The results were extremely interesting.

Both in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA non-state actors i.e. militants and state-actors i.e. security agencies have emerged as the biggest threats. In KP 87% of the journalists have termed militants and security agencies as big threats they face. In FATA all the respondents have termed militants as the biggest threats and 79% feel threatened by military

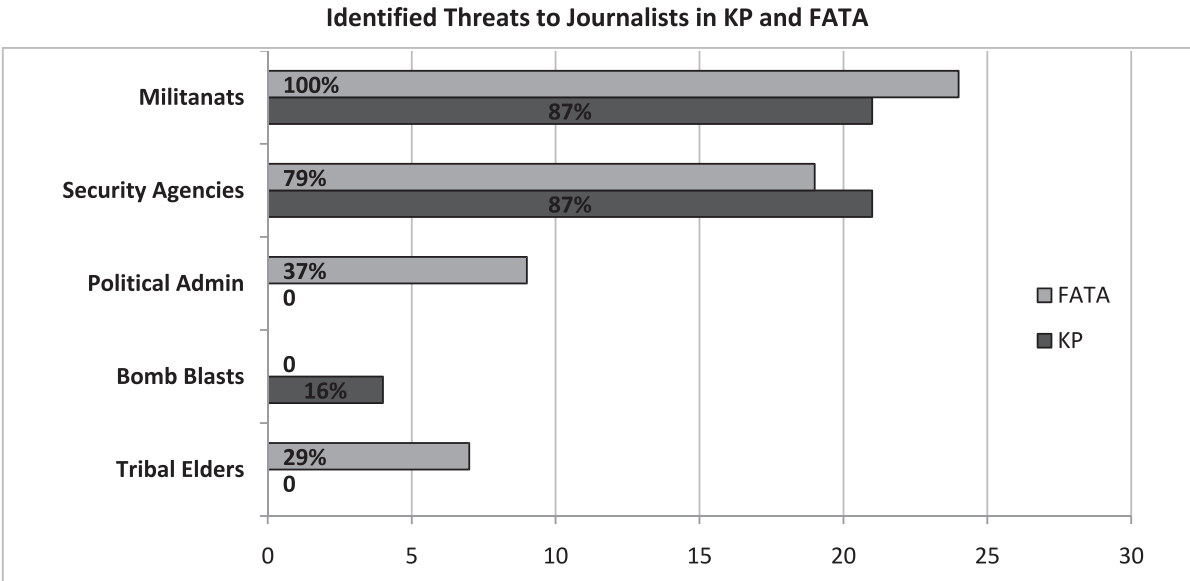
and security forces. Interestingly, some respondents also identified their news organizations as the threatening factors, citing that the lack of professional training and support is resulting in increased dangers and is thus posing as threat to their safety. Lack of professional attitude and work ethic has also been quoted as being a ‘threat’ by some respondents.

Reporting Threats and Responses

Seventy percent of the respondents say that when they received the threats, they reported to one or other organization or institution. When asked to identify the body that they reported the threat to, a majority i.e. 50% of the respondents said that they threat was reported to their own media organization, press clubs and journalist unions were the second refuge for most respondents.

Organization/Institution contacted to report threats	
Employer	50%
Press Club	29%
Journalist Union	29%
State Authorities	16%

Journalists’ reluctance to go to the state authorities is not surprising, considering the fact that both military and civil authorities themselves are being



perceived as threats by a considerable number of journalists in FATA.

Sadly, 33% of those who looked towards these resources for support received only verbal support. A lucky 12% were able to lodge a formal report and another 12% could attain active actionable support. Another 12% were either ignored or are still awaiting the outcome of their complaint.

Response to threat complaints	
Verbal Support	33%
Active / actionable support	12%
Documentation of report / complain	12%
Ignored	12%
Awaiting Justice	12%

The fact that only 12% of the threats are being formally documented shows that the real extent and scale of threats being faced by FATA based journalists is probably way more than the available data suggests.

Minimising threats to journalists

Having identified the threats and the perpetrators of the threats, the respondents were asked to identify steps that would help minimize the threats to them. An overwhelming 83% of the respondents asked for safety trainings and implementation of safety protocols within the media organizations.

Other elements identified as threat minimisers were dialogue between media and state authorities, documentation and analysis and awareness about existing threats and provision of a guidebook on safety.

Steps to minimize threats to journalists	
Safety Trainings	83%
Safety Protocols within media organizations	83%
Documentation of threats	50%
Analysis and publicity of threats	58%
Dialogue between authorities and media organizations	58%
Guidebook on safety techniques	54%
Organizational and community support	16%

The journalists were further asked to list specific items / material that they think would help reduce the risks; as many as 79% of the respondents, expressed a need for life and property insurance. Other factors identified are as follows;

Needed equipment and assistance	
Insurance of life and property	79%
Logistics coverage for travel, research and newsgathering	79%
Organization / Press Card	75%
Helmets and bulletproof jackets	66%
Editorial guideline and support	66%
Directory of key contacts for support	66%
Safety advisory hotline	62%
Better Financial Security	25%

Security Essentials for Reporters in the Field

All the organizational support and trainings would not help the journalists in the field unless they keep basic safety security essentials in mind. The respondents were asked to list the practical steps that reporters themselves can take to be safer in the field. The responses can be classified in broader categories

Keeping self before the story – When reporting from conflict zones, reporters have to be extremely well aware of the dangers. They have to realize when they are putting themselves at unnecessary risk and avoid getting into situations that compromise their safety. If in a dangerous situation, they need to keep their own safety before the news story. Life is precious, know what the risks are and do not follow stories that pose a direct threat to life.

Keeping a low profile – When reporting from conflict zones, scoops might actually be dangerous. Sharing scoops, especially sensitive stories about either the militants or the security agencies and not printing by-lines would ensure that the individual cannot be identified or targeted easily.

Know the environment – Working in FATA is additionally complicated because of the way the tribal society is structured. Knowing the local

culture and working accordingly would also help minimize the risk factor.

Make a support network – Reporter who face the risk of abduction and elimination should always keep a trusted family member or colleague informed about their whereabouts, avoid chasing stories without the support of their organization and avoid going into areas that are known to be extremely dangerous.

Unbiased Reporting – One of the most basic journalism principles takes on a new and critical dimension when reporting from conflict zones. To avoid unnecessarily aggravating any of the conflicting groups, the reporters have to ensure that they do not come across as sympathetic to either side.

The reporters cannot take sides or write stories that come across as being one sided. In other words, they have to avoid being a party to any particular group.

Using conflict sensitive language – When reporting from conflict zones where the conflicting armed groups are extremely sensitive towards the way they are described, reporters need to be extra cautious about the diction, style, phrases and the connotations that they might be using in their copy. Using neutral phrases and words should be one of the essential safety protocols.

Be Prepared – In conflict zones, the reporters in the field have to expect the unexpected and be prepared to deal with it. Being vigilant to safety and threats in surroundings and avoiding confrontation could help them survive in case the situation turns dangerous. Knowing first aid could also be a life saving factor for those who actively work from armed conflict zones.

Role of Media Organizations

The media organizations that send journalists out in the field have a huge responsibility to ensure their safety. In previous sections of this research it became obvious that most of the journalists working in FATA do not enjoy organizational support; they lack medical and life insurance, are

sent to the danger zones without equipment and complain of organizational insensitivity towards the dangers they face.

To determine how the news organizations can help minimize the risks to the journalists in FATA, the respondents were asked to list practical steps that organizations can take to keep journalists safe. The responses can be divided into the following broad categories;

Safety Trainings – It is essential that journalists working in danger zones have been briefed about the dangers they face and are equipped to deal with it. Proper safety trainings, tailored to the needs and demands of FATA based reporting should be periodically arranged by news organizations.

Safety Equipment – Too many journalists are working in danger zones without basic safety equipment like bulletproof jackets and helmets. Media organizations need to ensure that they equip their reporters with basic safety gear as well as first aid kits.

Medical and Life Insurance – A reporter working from an armed conflict zone is constantly exposed to life threats. Providing proper medical and life insurance to these journalists would minimize the risks they face if they are injured in the region. Providing medical and life insurance to journalists in conflict zones is also a universally accepted ethical practice.

Logistical Support – In conflict zones, the availability of transport and communications can mean a difference between life and death. Organizations need to provide proper logistical support to journalists on assignments in FATA. Additionally all efforts have to be made to ensure that the journalists have open access to communication and can contact the organization immediately when they are in need of assistance.

Conflict sensitive editorial policies – The journalists in the field are exposed to danger not just by the virtue of what they report themselves, but also by what their organization publishes or airs. Media houses need to be sensitive towards the dangers

reporters on the field are exposed to. Conflict sensitive editorial policies or organizational level, will help minimize the risk to individuals in the field.

Giving priority to the journalist, not the story – As in case of Musa Khan Khel, too often FATA based journalists venture into areas that are known to be extremely dangerous. Organizations need to make the safety of their reporters a priority and ensure that they are not given any assignments that would expose them to further dangers.

A few respondents have also mentioned that the organizations should make security arrangements for journalists if need be, and be ready to relocate those who are facing threats due to their news stories.

The Role of the Desk

Editors and sub editors serve as final gatekeepers of the news content that is published and aired. Journalists in FATA have often been threatened or even targeted for stories that they themselves did not file, but that were carried by their news organizations. The identification of journalists as a part of their organizations and the fact that they are held responsible for each and every item that is published or broadcast by their paper, radio station or TV channel means that the desk, the editors and the sub editors are all responsible for ensuring the safety of their reporters.

The respondents were asked to identify the basic steps that editors could take to minimize the risks to those in the field. The responses can be categorized as follows;

Constant consultation with the reporter – In order to make sure that the final story doesn't put the journalists in the field at additional risk, the editors and the sub editors have to run the finally story by them. The reporters are better placed to understand the risks that exist and if they are uncomfortable with any changes in the story, their concerns should be given serious consideration.

Developing a conflict-sensitive vocabulary – The editors have to be fairly well aware of the sensitivities of the conflicting groups. They need to

avoid words that might aggravate any of the groups. In FATA's context, special care is needed when using words like militants, extremists, killed or martyred. Respondents have mentioned that a conflict sensitive style book for FATA would be extremely helpful.

Practicing Ethical Journalism – The basics ethics of journalism can often help keep the journalists safer. Avoiding visible bias in the story, rechecking facts, not being sensational and being mindful of cultural sensitivities can go a long way in keeping the journalists safe. When it comes to stories lifted from News Agencies, it is always better to contact your own reporter in the field to confirm both the facts in the story and whether carrying that story would mean any additional risks to them.

Conclusion

The findings of this survey paint a bleak picture – the journalists in FATA are exposed to different kinds of dangers from seemingly all sides including the militants, the military, the political administration and at times even their own organizations. They face life threats, danger of assault, abduction and detention. They work without proper salaries and despite being exposed to so many dangers they do not have medical and life insurance.

There is a need to focus more on their safety and work with their organizations, journalist bodies and unions to ensure that their safety is made a priority.

Recommendations

The security and safety of tribal journalists is an extremely tough goal, one that cannot be achieved without dedicated effort from media, civil society, journalist unions and press clubs. Most of the steps that need to be taken in order to make the environment safer for journalists have already been mentioned in the previous parts. Some additional recommendations are these;

- The documentation and analysis of threats to journalists is extremely important. Mapping the threats and spreading the word about them amongst the journalist community will help the reporters in the field take necessary precautions.

- A guidebook for safety of journalists and a conflict sensitive stylebook customised to the conflict in FATA would be extremely useful resources that could help keep journalists safe.

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Stressed Out; Pressures on the Tribal Journalist

Context

The Federally Administered Tribal Areas have never been known for their stability. During the last one decade the situation in the tribal areas has worsened. With American invasion in Afghanistan, the tribal areas have suffered increasing militancy, seen a breakdown in the writ of the government went through military operations and are now bearing witness to extended armed conflict. The situation of the region makes FATA extremely news heavy; however, news from FATA is fairly inadequate.

This survey aims to map the situation that FATA based journalists are operating in. Journalists have been asked to identify the threats and pressures that have become norm in their line of duty. A measure of common pressures, occupational stress and level of job satisfaction will be used to analyse the effect of these pressures on the future and quality of journalism in and from FATA.

Respondents Demographics

A total of 29 respondents from different news mediums and with varied degrees of experience were contacted for this survey. A majority i.e. 52% of the respondents have had 5 – 10 years of experience in the field, 17% have been working for 10 – 15 years, 10% for less than 5 years while 21% of the respondents have been working journalists for over 15 years.

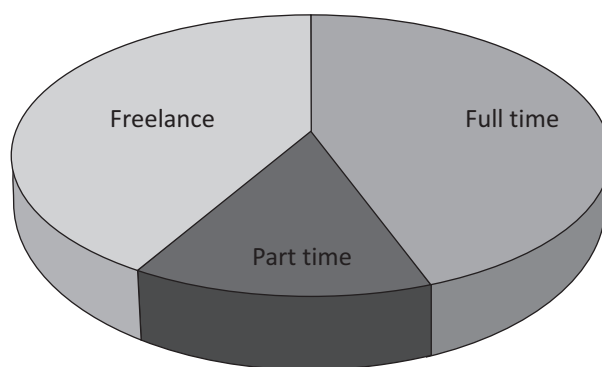
Since the number of journalists in FATA is fairly low, most of the respondents are actually associated with multiple news organization and work for both print and electronic mediums. Amongst the respondents 13% contribute stories to newspapers, radio, television as well as the online media.

Overall, 73% write for newspapers, 65% are associated with radio, 51% are associated with

television and 37% also contribute to online news media.

Journalism in FATA is considered a sporadic profession, thus not all of the respondents have adopted journalism as a full time profession, While 55% do work as a journalist full time, rest are either part timers or freelancers.

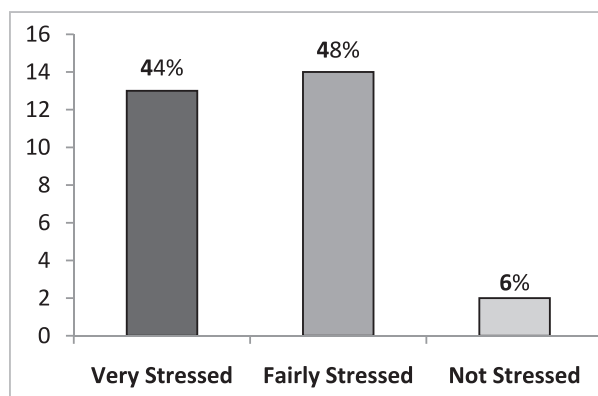
Current Status of Employment



Occupational Stress

The security concerns in FATA combined with institutional oversight towards journalists' safety and well being creates a significant amount of stress for FATA based journalists. Various factors combine to make their jobs more dangerous than their counterparts in non-conflict zones. So it isn't surprising that 93% of the respondents feel stressed out on the job.

Occupational Stress



The journalists were also asked to identify the factors that lead to occupational stress. The respondents were given a list of various stress creating factors and were asked to grade them according to the level of stress they produce. The following factors were identified;

Security concerns in the region

Given the security situation in FATA it is not surprising that a majority of journalist term security conditions as a major stressor. Amongst the respondents 62% feel extremely stressed out due to the prevailing security conditions and the resultant threats to their own safety.

Financial Insecurity

In another research conducted as a part of this report, it was found that more than half of the journalists in FATA (57%) are working without any financial compensation. A majority suffers from delays in salaries and payments and 90% of the journalists believe that the salary or compensation they do receive is not in accordance with Pakistan's general media market rates. Perhaps these are the factors due to which financial insecurity has emerged as the second largest cause of occupational stress for FATA based journalists.

Difficult working conditions

The Federally Administered Tribal Areas are remote and largely underdeveloped. The region suffers from a lack of proper infrastructure and the constant insurgency has made things worse. Working in a remote area where roads and communication links have been largely destroyed is extremely difficult.

Thus, the difficult working conditions have been identified as the 3rd largest factor of stress by majority of the respondents.

Inadequate social and family support and imbalance between effort and reward have also been identified as significant stress factors.

Organizational Factors, Support and Oversight

For journalists working in a conflict zone,

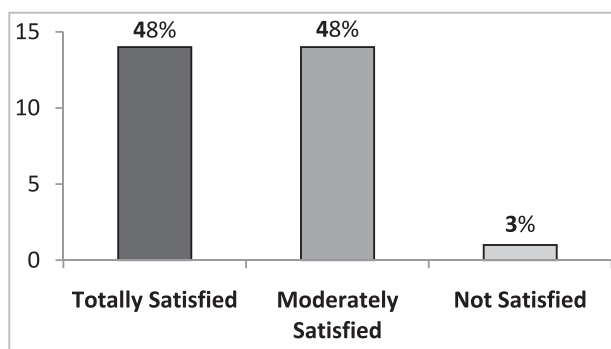
organisational support is extremely important. The respondents were asked whether they have experienced diminished or inadequate organizational support and 58% of them were of the view that their organization does not lend them adequate amount of support.

These respondents were further asked to classify the organizational oversights that they have been facing and once again the lack of financial security emerged as the main area of concern with 58% of the respondents complaining of no or delayed salaries.

Organizational Oversights	
No Salary	37%
Irregular Salary	20%
Lack of security and logistical support	34%
Insensitivity towards security threats	27%
Lack of medical insurance	34%

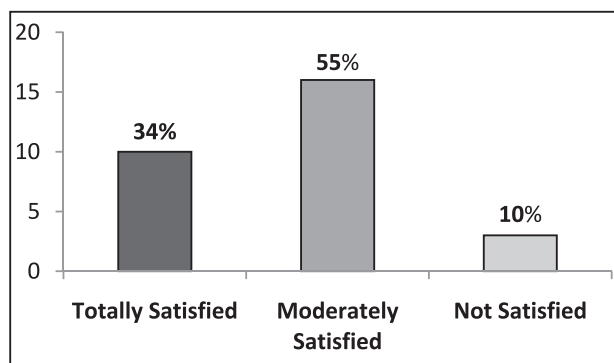
The respondents were further asked whether they are satisfied with the way their organization's policies, specifically the way it chooses to inform the public. A huge majority i.e. 96% of the respondents claimed to be totally or moderately satisfied with the way their news organisations are currently operating.

Satisfaction with organizational news policy



However, the results were slightly different when the respondents were asked whether their organization's work environment and professionalism was satisfactory or not. Only 34% of the respondents were totally satisfied with the organization this time.

Satisfaction with organizational news policy



Job Satisfaction

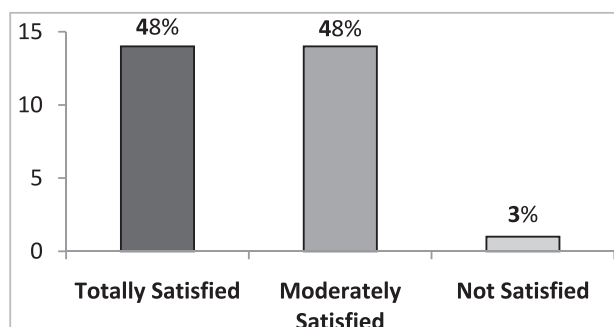
Being professionally involved in a job that doesn't offer job satisfaction brings stresses and pressures of its own. To gauge the level of satisfaction FATA based journalists enjoy, they were asked to identify the main factors that they associate with job satisfaction. Once again, financial security and good salary emerged as the number one requisite for job satisfaction with 47% of the respondents identifying it as the key requisite for job satisfaction. Safety and security was identified as another key factor.

Main requisite for Job Satisfaction	
Good Salary	47%
Safety and Security	23%
Family and social support	14%
Organizational Support	03%
Association with reputable media group	03%

Future as a journalist

The next set of questions revealed a contradicting picture of the journalists' mindset. When the respondents were asked whether they were

Satisfaction with journalistic career



satisfied with their career as a journalist only 3% admitted that they weren't really satisfied.

However, when asked whether they suffered from a lack of motivation or were disillusioned, 79% of them admitted being disillusioned; 72% also admitted that they are feeling a burnout and are increasingly exhausted by the demands of the profession. When asked to identify the reasons for the disillusionment and exhaustion, the security concerns in FATA, stress and workload emerged as the main culprits.

Reasons for disillusionment and Burnout	
Security Threats	62%
Stress	48%
Workload	41%

Despite the gloomy conditions, the heartening fact is that more than 96% of the respondents do not wish to quit journalism and see themselves as working journalists in the next 5 years.

Conclusion

The findings of this survey are both heartening and alarming. The fact that a majority of journalists in FATA is willing to continue reporting from a conflict zone despite the dangers and threats to their lives is extremely uplifting. But at the same time, a look at the pressures they face and the amount of stress they work under is distressing.

Even sadder is the fact that most of the stress factors are not due to external threats; organizational oversight in the matters of salary, medical insurance and sensitivity towards danger seems to be a very large factor in the disillusionment of the journalists.

Recommendations

- Financial insecurity and lack of proper salaries is resulting in disillusionment of FATA based journalists. News organizations employing these journalists can remove this stress by paying them according the market rates.
- Working in armed conflict zones might be less intimidating and dangerous if the journalists are provided with proper safety trainings.

- Medical and life insurance for all the journalists who work in danger zones is an international norm, and is a right of reporters who are working in FATA.

Organizational oversight in the matters of salary, medical insurance and sensitivity towards danger seems to be a very large factor in the disillusionment of the journalists.

Not Just Fire and Arms: Non-Conflict News from FATA

Context

In places like FATA where conflict becomes the hard news, the issues of the people and the society take a backseat in the newsroom. For the last one decade, FATA related coverage in local and national news outlets has focused mainly on the conflict and its effects. While every aspect of life in FATA has been affected by the conflict in one way or other, the barrage of conflict, militancy and terrorism related news has pushed a lot of news worthy stories in the back ground. This research tries to determine the type of news stories that are being reported from FATA and more importantly to identify the perspectives that are missing in the current news coverage. Journalists own perception of FATA related news coverage and the reasons for inadequate coverage of social and local issues have also been sought in this research survey.

Respondent Demographics

For this research, 30 journalists from different agencies of FATA, with varied work experience was contacted. The respondents are associated with newspapers, radio, television and online media.

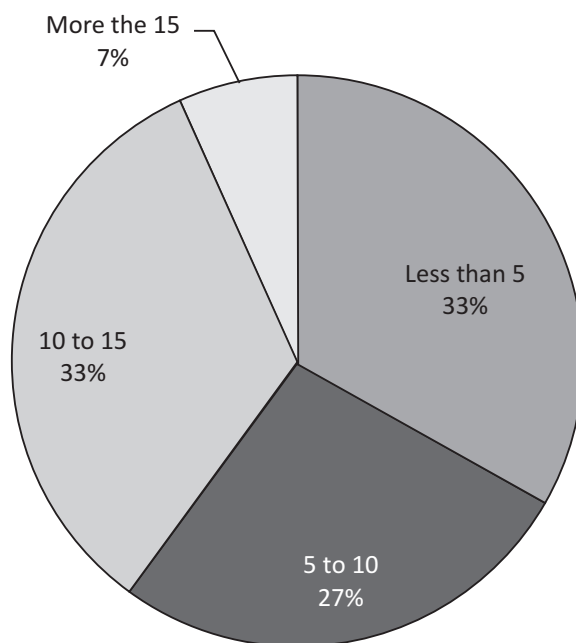
The diversity was deliberately ensured so that an idea of news content being generated for different kinds of media can be drawn. A number of the respondents are associated with foreign radio stations operating in FATA.

Quantity of News Content

Monitoring of the regional and national newspapers and magazines shows that FATA is not in the news as much as its situation would warrant. To determine how much news content is being generated from FATA, the respondents were asked to specify the average number of stories they produce each week.

The data shows that the average numbers of stories the respondents are producing weekly, lies somewhere between 5 and 15. 33% of the respondents produce less than 5 stories a week, while another 33% produce 10 to 15 stories every week. 27% produce 5-10 stories every week, while only 7% of the respondents produce more than 15 stories.

Number of news stories produced weekly



Nature of news content being generated from FATA

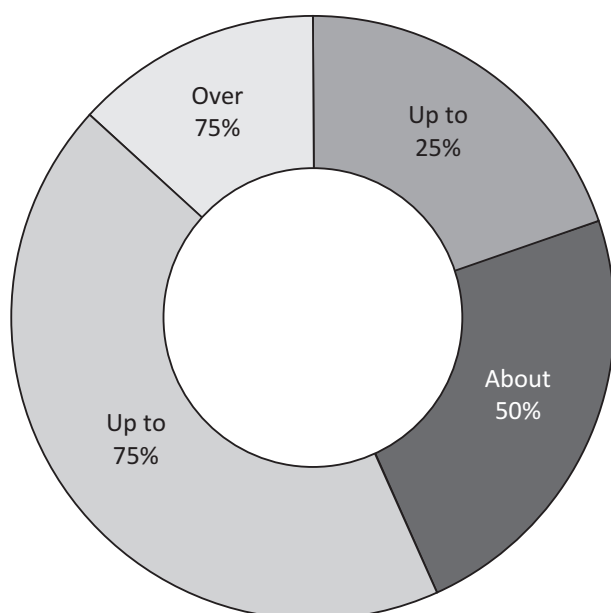
A general look at national newspapers reveals that most of the news items appearing from FATA are related to conflict. To find out whether FATA journalists are producing only conflict related news or if the newsrooms that are ignoring non conflict items, the respondents were asked how much of their own content was related to conflict.

Unsurprisingly, 56% of the respondents admitted that 75% or more of their stories are linked directly

to conflict and terrorism.

25% claimed to produce an equal number of conflict and non conflict stories while only 18% said that up to 75% of the stories they work on is not conflict related.

Percentage of conflict related stories from FATA



The respondents were also asked to signify whether their news organizations easily accepted non-conflict news stories. A majority i.e. 47% said that they mostly don't face issues getting news space for non-conflict items, 33% mentioned that they almost never have trouble getting non-conflict news items published or aired while 20% were of the view that non-conflict news was usually rejected by their news organizations.

Popular non-conflict news beats in FATA

From this research survey Education and Health have emerged as the most active and popular news beats in FATA. The respondents were asked to identify all important news beats that they like to cover; after education and health, politics, infrastructure, sports, culture and women rights have been identified as popular news beats by majority of the respondents.

Quality of reported social Issues

An overwhelming majority of respondents i.e. 83%

Popular Newsbeats

Education and Health	80%
Politics and Infrastructure	65%
Sports and Culture	55%
Women Rights	50%

believe that non-conflict, i.e., social and development issues from FATA are not being given adequate coverage by the media. When asked to classify the areas that are being ignored in the media coverage, a long list of news beats emerges. Above 90% of the respondents were of the view that Women and Children issues plus cultural themes are missing from the news content. 80% pointed out that education, health, environment and youth are not being given adequate coverage while 70% were of the view that business news is also being ignored by the mainstream media.

Issues being ignored

Women Issues	96%
Children Issues	92%
Culture	92%
Education and Youth	80%
Health and Environment	80%
Business	70%

Around 80% of the respondents also pointed out that various local perspectives were completely missing from the current media content. When further asked to elaborate, a majority again agreed that women from FATA were the least represented group in the press. Other missing perspectives were also identified.

Missing Perspectives

Women Issues	96%
Children Issues	92%
Culture	92%
Education and Youth	80%
Health and Environment	80%
Business	70%

Improving news quality from FATA

The situation in FATA would have led one to believe that the on going conflict is the biggest hurdle

towards the production of non-conflict news stories from the region. However, the data proves otherwise. A majority of respondents i.e., 76% blame a lack of training opportunities for unsatisfactory reporting on social and development themes. The second biggest cause identified by 73% of the respondents is the lack of salary and financial stability. Another reason identified by a few respondents was the 'restrictions on the movement of journalists' resulting in a lack of access.

Reasons for subpar social and development stories	
Lack of training opportunities	76%
Irregular or no salary	73%
Threats from militants	66%
Threats from security agencies	63%
Lack of logistical support	56%
Obsolete equipment	53%

Earlier, a majority of journalists had mentioned that they are mostly able to sell non-conflict news to their news organizations; but their instance at better media policies points towards the fact that the demand for social and development stories is not high.

Improving non-conflict news content from FATA	
Thematic trainings	100%
Improved access to information	80%
Logistical Support	80%
Networking with development organizations	80%
Better media policies	63%

Conclusion

During the course of this research it was apparent that FATA based journalists yearn for more coverage on FATA's social and development issues. It is also obvious that as long as the conflict continues, the militancy and its effects would take up the larger part of news content from FATA.

The willingness to focus on local development issues is a positive sign. The journalists have also

accepted their own inability to report on thematic issues due to a lack of expertise. Trainings, increased financial and logistical support and most importantly organizational support will help bring real, human stories from FATA to light.

Recommendations

Keeping in view the finding of this research, here are a few recommendations that could help improve the quantity and quality of non-conflict news reporting from FATA;

- Provision of training opportunities to the reporters, building thematic expertise and linkages with development organization would help them identify local issues and bring them to light.
- Financial strains and logistical issues are creating a state of dysfunction amongst the FATA journalist – Media organizations need to start paying the journalists better and ensure that they are given all the logistical support needed to report from conflict zone.

Provision of training opportunities to the reporters, building thematic expertise and linkages with development organization would help them identify local issues and bring them to light

News Nuts; Media Consumption Habits of FATA Journalists

Context

Journalists are mostly seen only as producers of news content for mass media, but at the same time are also one of the main consumers of media, especially news. In a conflict zone like FATA, where dissemination of information is limited mass media becomes an even more important source of information. This survey – part of the research surveys Intermedia Pakistan conducts in FATA every month for this monthly journal magazine – constitutes a detailed questionnaire including questions about the consumption of various mediums including TV, Radio, Internet and newspapers.

The respondents have been asked about ownership, usage and perceived authenticity of various mediums when it comes to the reporting of local news items.

Respondents Demographics

In this survey 32 working journalists have been asked about various aspects of their media consumption habits. Amongst the respondents, a majority (53%) has had 5-15 years of journalism experience. About 19% have been in the field for 10-15 years and the same number has been working as journalists for over 15 years.

Only 9% of the participating journalists have had less than 5 years of experience in the journalistic field.

The journalists who have taken part in the survey work across a mix of different mediums; with 68% working with newspapers, 37% with television channels and 34% working with radio stations.

The working pattern of respondents shows that most of the journalists in FATA are working for more

than one medium; for example, out of the 22 journalists working with newspapers, 8 are also associated with different television channels and 4 are also producing content for radio stations. This culture of working with more than one medium is perhaps due to limited availability of skilled journalists in the region.

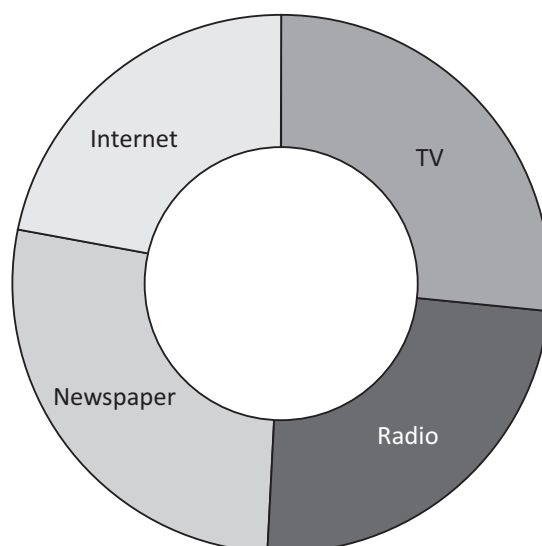
Ownership and regular usage

The current landscape of electronic media in FATA is not promising. There is no widespread cable distribution service for television and only 3 legal radio stations – all government owned – are operating locally.

By law no local publications can be brought out. To fill in the information need, people are constantly turning to international and national radio stations and finding different ways of accessing TV channels.

Amongst the respondents, 79% own a TV set and 87.5% own a Radio. All the respondents are regularly utilizing TV, radio, newspapers and Internet as a medium of information. A graphical representation of the regular usage of different mediums by the respondents is as follows;

Regular Usage of Different News Mediums



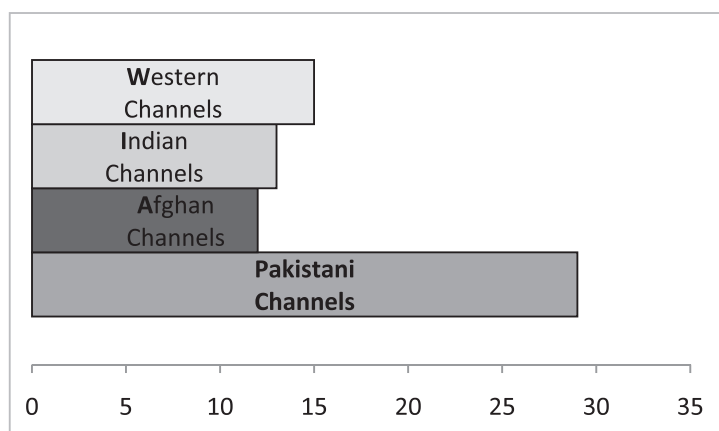
The data collected through the survey also shows that almost all the representative journalists watch TV whether they own a TV set or not. Contrary to general perceptions, the usage of Internet is also quite prevalent in journalistic community in FATA, with as many as 80% of the respondents using Internet regularly.

Television viewing habits

The television landscape in FATA is dismal – there is no widespread legal cable distribution service available in the region and the only way for residents to access a variety of TV channels is either a satellite dish or illegal cable operators in the region. Only the state run PTV can be accessed through normal antenna.

Regardless of these issues, more than 45% of the respondents said that they watch between 5 to 10 television channels almost every day. About 38% of them mentioned that they watch less than 5 television channels in a day and approximately 10% of the respondents said that they watch more than 10 television channels in a day on regular basis. The respondents are not only watching multiple channels, but most are viewing more than just local and national television broadcasts.

Channels being watched by FATA based journalists

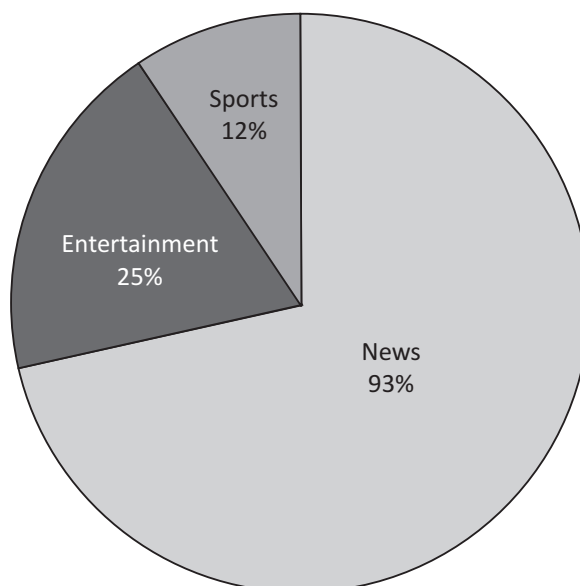


The survey shows that more than 46% of the respondents watch western TV channels, 40% also watch Indian TV channels and 37% are also regularly watching Afghan TV channels.

According to the data gathered through the survey,

television consumption is mostly for news and current affairs related content with more than 93% of the respondents using television as a medium of news and information. However, 25% of the respondents also watch TV for entertainment (drama and films) and 12% watch TV for sports.

Main reasons for watching TV



The responses to all the questions regarding the journalists TV viewing habits show that despite the lack of easy access and availability the demand for the medium of television persists in FATA.

Radio Listenership

Radio being the most easily accessible, affordable and convenient medium of information enjoys massive popularity in FATA region. Most of the radio sets can operate without cables and electricity and are available at easily affordable rates unlike other gadgets, thus making radio the choice medium of information for FATA residents.

The data from this survey shows that more than 90% of the respondents have a radio set and are active listeners of multiple stations. All the respondents listen to multiple radio stations; with 39% listening to at least 3 stations, 28% listening to 3 to 5 stations and 32% listening to more than 5 stations.

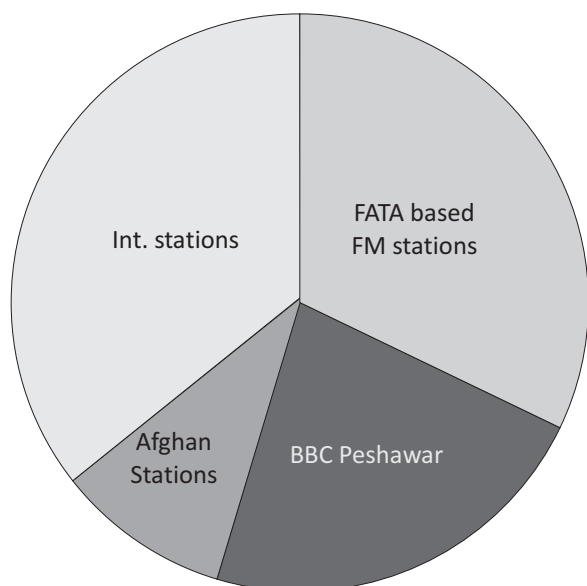
Even though radio is the most popular medium of

information in FATA, there are only 3 local radio stations that are legally operating in FATA.

However, various international radio stations like BBC, VOA, Deeva and Mashal are filling in the information gaps. A number of Afghan Radio stations and Peshawar based PBC are also quite popular.

The international radio stations particularly VOA's Deeva, BBC and Mashal are extremely popular amongst the local populace. These international stations generate more information and backgrounders than local stations and thus enjoy a greater listenership in FATA.

Popular Radio Stations in FATA



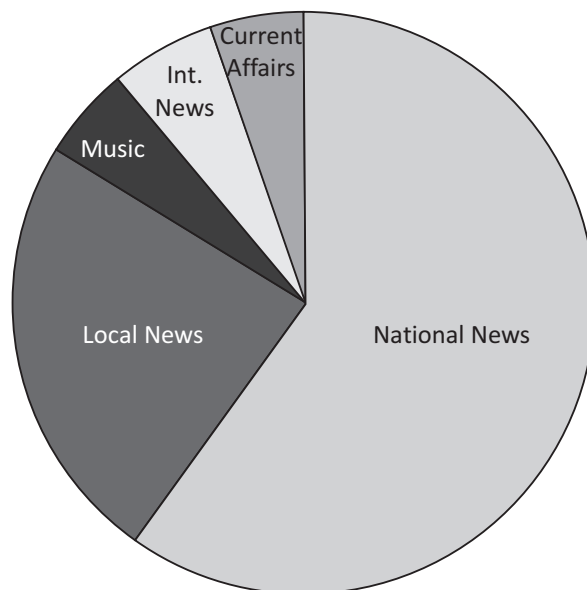
The 3 FATA based FM stations; Radio Miranshah, Radio Razmak and Radio Khyber, are state-run, but are still being regularly followed by FATA residents including the respondents of this survey. Like TV, radio is also being used both as news and an entertainment medium. According to the findings of this survey, 82% of the listeners in FATA listen to radio for national news; 46% listen for local news; and 10% of the listeners tune in for music.

Only 10% of the respondents are interested in talk shows and international news on radio.

Newspapers reading habits

Like electronic media, the newspapers available in

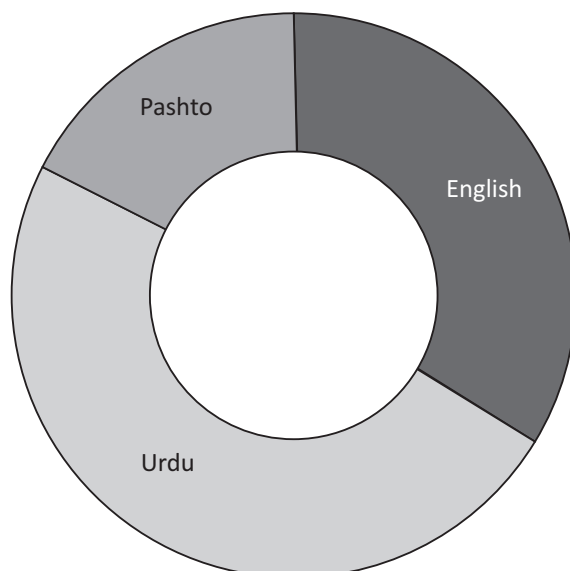
Listener's Interests



FATA are not published locally. However, the medium remains popular amongst journalists and almost all of the respondents regularly read more than one paper on a regular basis.

As many as 40% of the respondents read at least 3 newspapers every day, 15% of the respondents read more than 3 newspapers and 28% of them read 2 newspapers daily. Unsurprisingly, Urdu language newspapers seem to be most popular among the journalist community in FATA. Over 93% of the respondents read Urdu news papers, whole 65% read English newspapers and 34% also read Pashtu language papers daily.

Newspaper consumption



The research shows that newspapers are mostly read as a source of national news; as more than 84% of the respondents read newspaper for national news, 53% of the respondents read papers for local and 37% read newspapers for international news items.

Internet Usage

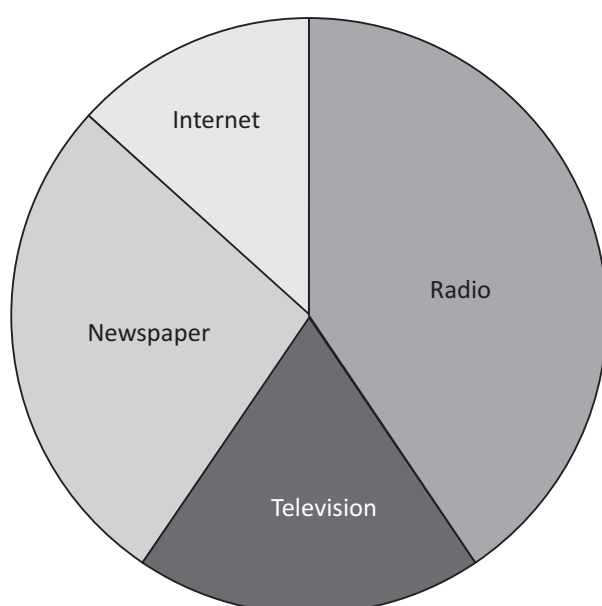
Given the state of security and infrastructural issues in FATA, one would presume that Internet usage in the region would be restricted. However, the survey results show that more than 80% of the respondents are using Internet daily for various reasons.

As many as 85% of the respondents who use Internet regularly use Internet for news and information, 60% use Internet for social networking and only 14% of them say that they access Internet for entertainment.

Reliable Sources of Information

When it comes to reliable sources of information, the radio has emerged as the popular choice amongst the respondents. As can be seen in the graph, more than 46% of the respondents believe the radio is the most reliable source of information.

Reliability of different mediums



About 31% of the respondents also term newspapers to be a reliable source of information. The information available on television and internet is apparently taken with a pinch of salt as only 21% consider TV and 15% find Internet reliable.

Getting a bit more specific, the respondents were also asked to identify the medium that provides the best FATA related coverage. Once again, radio emerged as the popular choice, and more than 62% of the respondents said that radio provides best coverage of FATA specific news.

In addition, about 46% consider that newspapers provide good coverage of FATA specific news. Television and Internet fared low again when FATA specific news was concerned, with 12.5% terming the internet as a good source of FATA related news and just 3% opting for Television.

Conclusion

The media consumption habits and patterns of FATA-based journalists as determined by this research survey show that despite the difficulties in access, journalists from FATA are following all mediums of news and information.

Newspaper reading habits, among the journalistic community are strong, but coverage of FATA specific news is limited. Television is watched regularly, but barely anyone finds FATA related news on TV worthwhile. Similarly, Internet usage is common, but even that medium has much to work upon when it comes to covering reliable, local news from FATA.

Radio is the most popular medium, despite the fact that there are a grand total of 3 stations that air locally. The information need is such that people are gladly consuming the news and information available through international radio stations.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of media consumption survey, it is obvious that there exists a need and demand for news media in FATA. The dependence on national and international news organizations, which are mostly reporting on FATA from a distance, creates information gaps – a gap that can be filled with the start of local, private radio stations and

publications.

Since the current, existing legislative structure does not have space for private local stations, media reforms in FATA are direly needed as a first step towards filling the media and information needs of FATA residents and journalists.

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Money Matters; Financial and Job Security

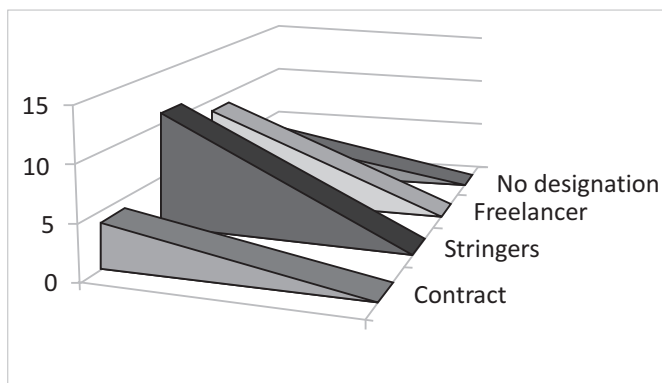
Context

It is a good practice to keep additional dangers and costs of reporting from conflict zones in mind for reporters working in danger zones. No such consideration for journalists from FATA, arguably one of the world's most dangerous places to report from. This survey – part of the research surveys Intermedia Pakistan conducts in FATA every month for this monthly journal magazine – constitutes a detailed questionnaire including questions about the financial and job safety conditions of FATA based journalists. The respondents were asked about the type of their jobs, regularity of salaries or other financial compensation, availability of medical and life insurance and financial reimbursements for various aspects of working in a conflict zone.

Respondents Demographics

In this survey 30 working journalists from FATA took part. Amongst the respondents, a majority (36%) were working as stringers for different news organizations and about 30% were freelancing. Only 13% of the respondents were actually contractual employees, ironically another 13% were working for news organizations for free without any official designation.

Nature of Jobs of Respondents



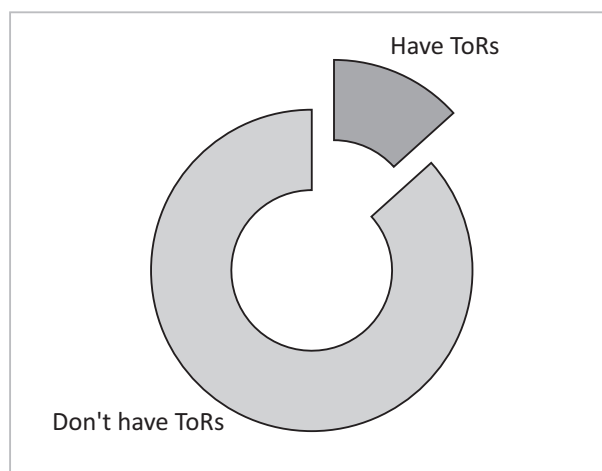
Even for those journalists who are officially involved as stringers or reporters / correspondents with different news organizations, formal contracts and ToRs are a rarity. The majority of the participating journalists (86%) have not signed formal contracts.

Percentage of journalists with formal contracts



The statistics about journalists who have received official terms of references is not much better; as many as 83% of the respondents haven't received any ToRs.

Percentage of journalists with ToRs

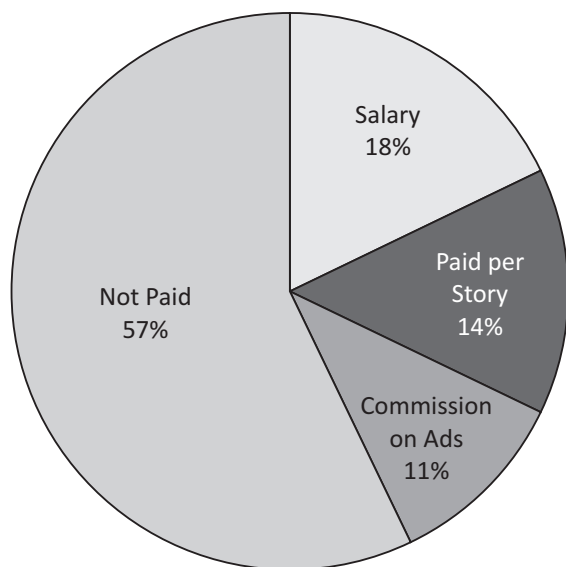


Salary and Financial Compensation

According to the results of this survey, a majority of journalists working in FATA are not being paid at all; as many as 57% of the respondents work without any pay or benefits.

Only 18% of the participating journalists receive monthly salary and 14% are paid per story.

Financial Compensation Structure



Another interesting statistic relates to reporters who are given commission on advertisements; 11% of the respondents double as marketing personnel as well as journalists. They are not paid for their journalistic work, but if they score advertisements for their paper, they receive a commission on them.

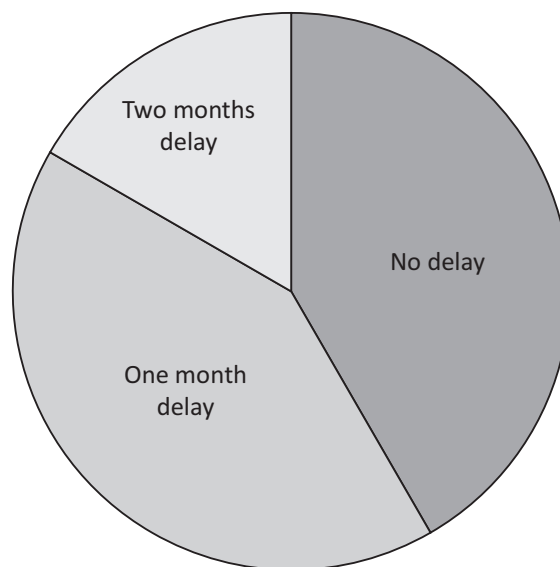
So, in effect, 68% of the journalists working in FATA are not receiving any kind of financial compensation for their professional, journalistic endeavours at all.

Delay in Salaries

The number of journalists who do receive salaries or compensation is already dismally low. But even those who do receive payments face delays in salary transfer.

According to the data gathered, amongst the 43% respondents who do receive salaries, as many as 57% do not receive salaries on time; 41% face at least a month's delay in salary transfer while 16% face at least two months delay.

Delay in salaries



The journalists working in FATA do not only face lack of or delays in the salaries; the survey shows that 90% of the respondents believe that the salaries or compensations being offered to FATA based journalists are relatively lesser than the overall salary structure of Pakistan's media market.

Reporting from FATA is a risky business. Journalists are constantly putting their lives at risk by taking a chance to antagonize either the militants or the security forces. Despite this the lack of financial acknowledgement for their professional contribution is not only unfortunate but also has an impact on the quality of journalism.

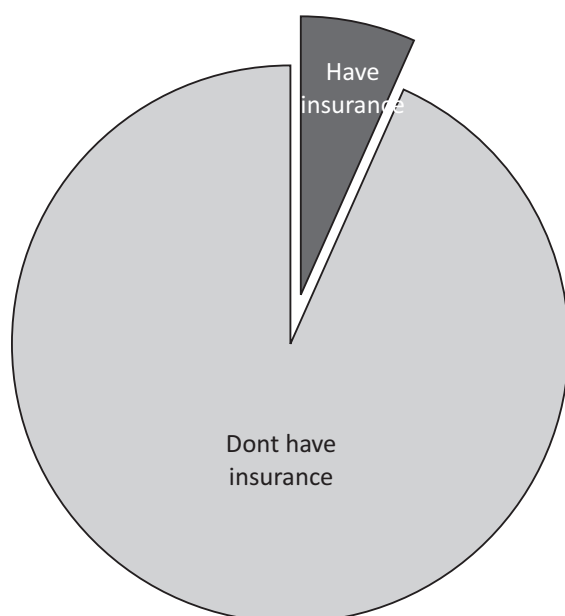
Medical and Life Insurance

During the past decade as many as 11 journalists have lost their lives in FATA. Various international organizations working for journalists' safety term Pakistan as the most dangerous place for journalists and FATA remains amongst the most dangerous zones within Pakistan.

Despite such conditions only a handful of journalists in FATA enjoy a medical allowance or life insurance from their employers.

Amongst the 30 respondents only 6% have a medical and life insurance and 94% are working without basic medical allowance.

Medical and Life Insurance

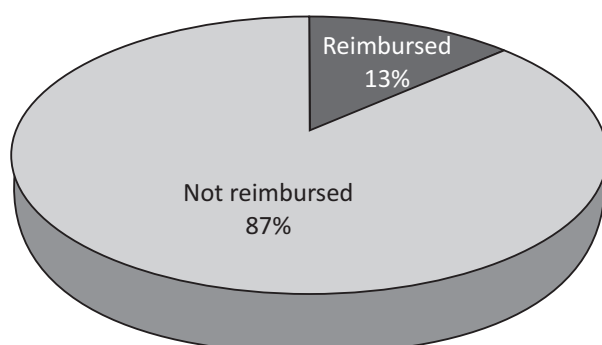


For journalists working from a conflict zone full of risks to their physical safety, the lack of medical facilities and life insurance presents a serious problem, especially considering the fact that they are already not getting paid regularly, according to the market rates.

Reimbursement for confiscated equipment and logistics

Considering the statistics that have been discussed so far, it is no surprise that barely anyone is receiving additional payment for working in an armed conflict zone. Amongst the 30 respondents, only 6% receive additional money as compensation of operating from a very dangerous zone. The rest, i.e., 94% work without any additional payments or as is obvious by the salary graph, without any kind of payment.

Confiscated Equipment Reimbursement



Not just that, if any of the journalists get their equipment confiscated most of them do not have the luxury of having it reimbursed by their organizations.

On top of it all, a majority (93%) of the journalists do not receive any allowance for fuel to cover the cost of commuting while covering news stories. Only 7% of the respondents said that they receive fuel allowance, and the rest have to cover all commute and travel costs on their own.

Job Security and Quality of Journalism

Given the fact that a majority of journalists in FATA are working without formal contracts, without salaries, allowances and benefits, it is no wonder that most of them do not feel confident in their employment conditions. According to the data gathered during this survey, 93% of the respondents feel that they do not have any job security in their current positions.

I would be impractical to assume that the lack of financial and job security, combined with the threats is not affecting the quality of journalism in FATA. Amongst the 30 respondents, 83% agree that the quality of journalism in FATA is negatively affected by the financial and job security conditions of FATA journalists.

The issue of journalist safety and security in FATA is already compromising the quality of news. This additional strain on FATA journalists means that the journalistic motivation and principles are being compromised due to multiple factors.

Conclusion

The data gathered during this survey paints a depressing and an alarming picture. Reporting from a conflict zone is tough at best and journalists who have chosen to continue reporting despite the physical threats they are constantly exposed to, have a right to a decent, reasonable salary package if not more.

However, as one can see, journalists in FATA are not only denied that basic right of having a gainful employment, they are actually supposed to cover the costs of their own logistics and commute and

work under conditions where they cannot rely on their organizations to cover the medical bills in case of any illness or injury.

Life insurance, is again, almost non-existent.

No job security, no guarantee to replace or reimburse confiscated equipment and the lack of formal contracts is not just affecting the quality of journalism in FATA, but is also adding to the insecurities that journalists from that region constantly face.

Recommendations

It is obvious that the situation is bleak. There is an apparent violation of the basic rights of the journalists, the majority of whom are working without salaries, without medical and without the basic allowances that working in a conflict zone should bring. When seen in the context of journalist safety, the survey's findings are even more sobering.

- There is a dire need to structure the salary and financial compensations for FATA journalists. Journalist unions could negotiate with news and media organizations to ensure that all

journalists working from FATA are not only paid, but the payment is also in accordance with the current media market rates.

- Not signing formal contracts and receiving proper ToRs from media organizations also exposes journalists to exploitation. Journalists need to be educated on the importance and significance of formal contracts and ToRs so that they can generate pressure on their respective organizations.
- Journalists unions and associations, civil society organizations involved in media development should get together and campaign for mandatory provision of medical insurance in case of illness or injury and life insurance for all journalists working in armed conflict zones.
- It is an international practice to give additional payments to all professionals operating in conflict areas – journalists from FATA are facing constant threats from multiple elements and they too deserve a little extra for putting their lives at risk for news stories. There needs to be a serious advocacy effort to at least start a debate about this right.

83% of the respondents agree that the quality of journalism in FATA is negatively affected by the financial & job security conditions of FATA journalists.

Name and Fame; Recognition of FATA Based Journalists

Context

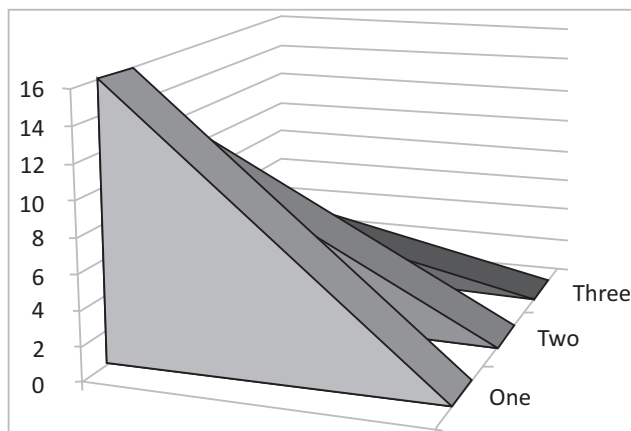
Most journalists in FATA are associated with multiple news outlets. A large number of them work for both electronic and print medium, filing stories for newspapers, radio and television at the time. In January the survey takes a look at how many of these journalists are actually recognized for their work – whether their stories are accompanied by their by-lines, whether their organization actually accepts them as a formal employee and how they are recognized within the journalistic community.

In addition to financial security, job recognition is yet another key area where organizations can wrong their employees and as a result create a negative work environment. The survey also tries to determine if and how the lack of job recognition is affecting the quality of journalism in FATA.

Respondents Demographics

In this survey 30 working journalists from FATA took part. Amongst the respondents more than 46% work for multiple news organization; with 33% associated with 2 news organizations and 10% with 3 news organizations simultaneously.

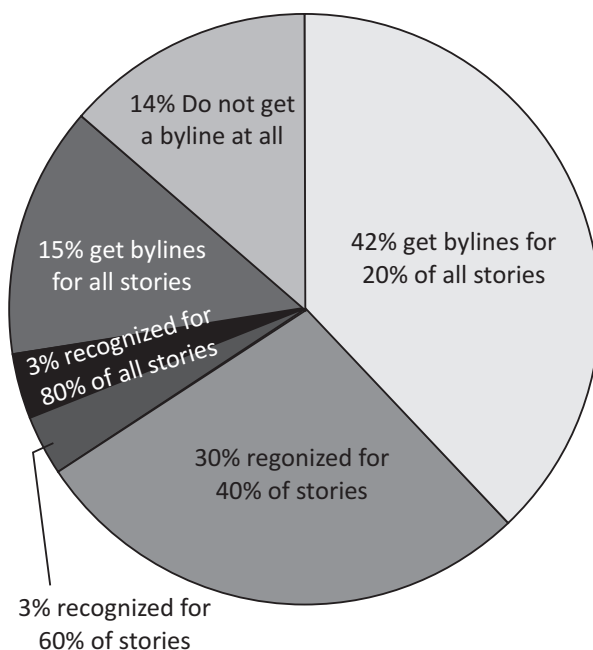
Numbers of news organizations respondents are associated with



Recognition of work

With the exception of 14% of the respondents, a majority does get by-lines on their stories. However, the frequency of published by-lines differs. On a weekly basis 63% respondents file nearly 5 stories and 42% of them get a by-line for one out of those 5 stories, 3% are recognized in 60% of the stories, another 3% get by-lines for 80% of their stories and 15% of the respondents get a by-line for every story they file.

Recognition of work



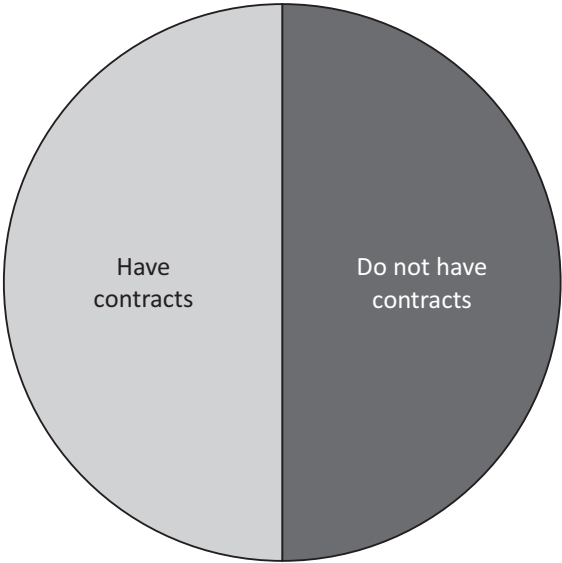
Employment Recognition

As mentioned previously, a large number of journalists in FATA are working for multiple organizations; most work as correspondents, freelancers and stringers. However, not all have the luxury for having signed a formal employment contract.

According to the data gathered during this survey, only half of the journalists in FATA have signed

contracts with their respective news organizations. Not signing a formal contract with news organizations does not just leave the journalists open to exploitation but also denies them the recognition that they rightfully deserve.

Employment Recognition

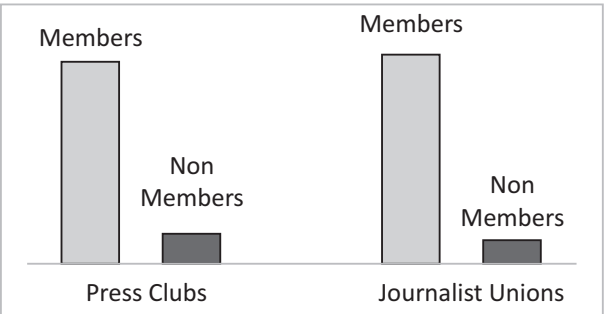


Without a contract to lay out the job description and detail the financial compensation for the journalists’ work, leads to a significant percentage of journalists not being paid at all.

Professional and Peer Recognition

The number of journalists working from FATA is fairly low; around 250 journalists working from all the agencies and frontier regions. However, there are 13 press clubs actively operating from all the agencies of FATA. In addition to these Press Clubs, the Tribal Union of Journalists is also an active body working for the rights of journalists. According to the survey results, 86% of the respondents are members of a press club and as many as 90% also belong to a journalist union.

Professional and Peer Recognition

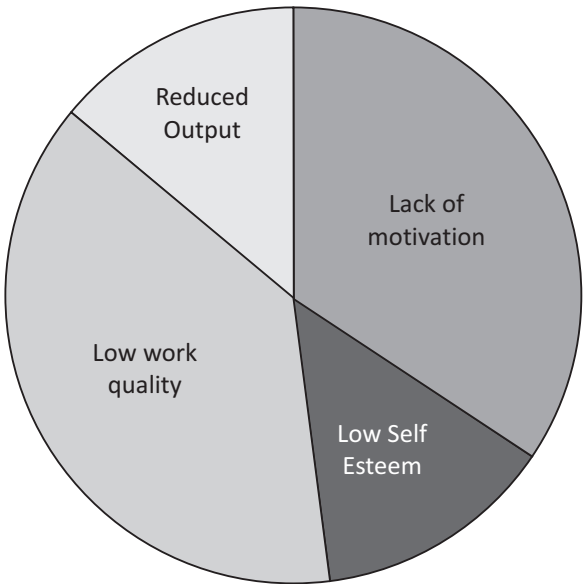


On the plus side, even though almost half of the journalists are working without employment contracts, a majority of them are recognized as and are granted memberships to journalist unions and press clubs. In absence of employer’s recognition, the membership of press clubs and unions can lend the necessary support to the journalists in time of need.

Effect of inadequate recognition of work

The respondents were asked whether they were satisfied with the work recognition they currently receive; 53% of the respondents were satisfied with professional, employee and peer recognition. The 47% respondents who are not satisfied with the amount of recognition they get admit that the lack of recognition is affecting them in various ways, with 78.5% saying that the lack of recognition affects the quality of their work. Here is a graphical representation of how inadequate recognition of work is effecting 47% of journalists in FATA.

Effects of inadequate recognition



Conclusion

The level of recognition might be low on organizational level, but the overall ratio of professional and peer recognition is very high. A majority of journalists in FATA belong to press clubs and journalist unions and most of them also receive

recognition for their work in form of by lines.

However, room for improvement remains. Half of the respondents from FATA are working without formal employment contracts which may lead to exploitation.

Those who are not satisfied with the level of recognition they get for their work admit that the lack of recognition is reflecting badly in their work and is affecting the quality of journalism as well as reducing their output.

Recommendations

The lack of recognition is affecting the work of up to 47% of the journalists; the following

recommendations might help improve the situation.

- News organizations need to ensure that journalists are given by-lines of due credit on TV and Radio as and when justified. While giving by-lines or journalist's sign offs, the safety of the journalists should also be a main concern.
- Journalist unions and press clubs can work with the journalists to ensure that their relevant organizations employ their services after signing a formal contract; this would bring organizational recognition to the journalists and would also ensure that they are not working for free.

Journalist unions and press clubs can work with the journalists to ensure that their relevant organizations employ their services after signing a formal contract; this would bring organizational recognition to the journalists and would also ensure that they are not working for free.

Operating in FATA: Logistical Issues for Journalists

Context

The Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) of Pakistan consist of seven semi-autonomous agencies or administrative units – Khyber, Mohmand, Bajaur, Kurram, Orakzai, North Waziristan and South Waziristan. Additionally, the FATA include 'frontier regions' that adjoin the districts of Peshawar, Kohat, Bannu, Lakki Marwat, Tank and Dera Ismail Khan.

The agencies and FRs are spread over an area of 27,224 sq km and are inhabited by around 3.17 million people. The region has been facing armed conflict for at least a decade. The increase in militancy and the consequent military operations have forced a large number of people to relocate – hundreds of thousands have been displaced so far.

The region is obviously very news rich. However, due to displacement, threats and the overall dismal condition of security and stability, the number of journalists in FATA has dwindled. For a population of over 3 million, there are currently only around 250 journalists covering the region. The journalists who remain are overburdened and are continuously covering news stories beyond their own agencies. Previously we have discussed various issues that these journalists face. This month's survey us about the logistical issues.

Given FATA's uncertain and volatile situation, logistical support is extremely important for journalists. Travelling in armed conflict zones without proper commute would spell added danger. Similarly, given the state of financial insecurity FATA journalists are facing, a lack of logistical support can create additional dangers for journalists and makes their work even trickier.

The questions in the survey try to determine how much does an average journalist in FATA travels for

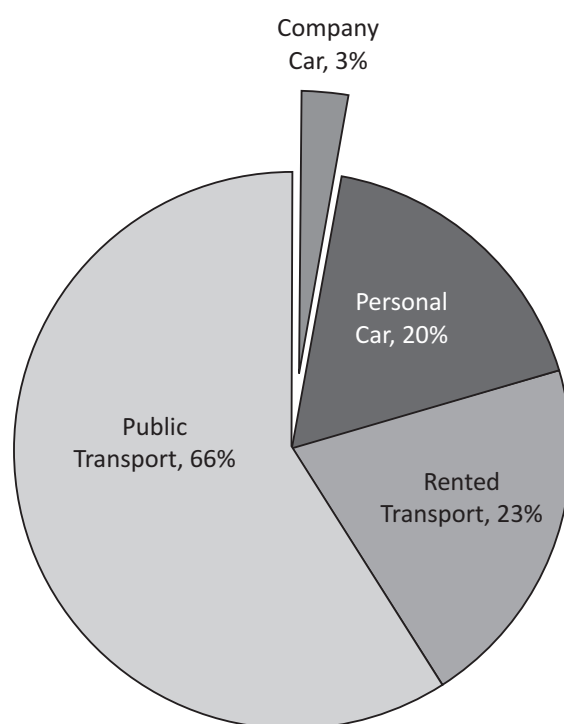
work; and whether the travel and lodging and other logistical requirements are supported by their organization.

Travel and Commute

Among the respondents 83% Journalist cover only one agency, 13% cover two while 3% cover three or more than three agencies on a regular basis. During the course of their work 56% travel up to 10 km, 16% travel 10-20km, 13% travel 20-30km, 10% 30-40km while 6% travel more than 50km on average for a story.

Commuting in a region like FATA rife with conflict has to be difficult. 96% of the respondents say that the security situation in FATA creates additional logistical problems for them and commuting has become difficult. When asked if their organizations make any additional arrangements to cover these difficulties 90% of them responded in the negative.

Modes of Transport and Commute

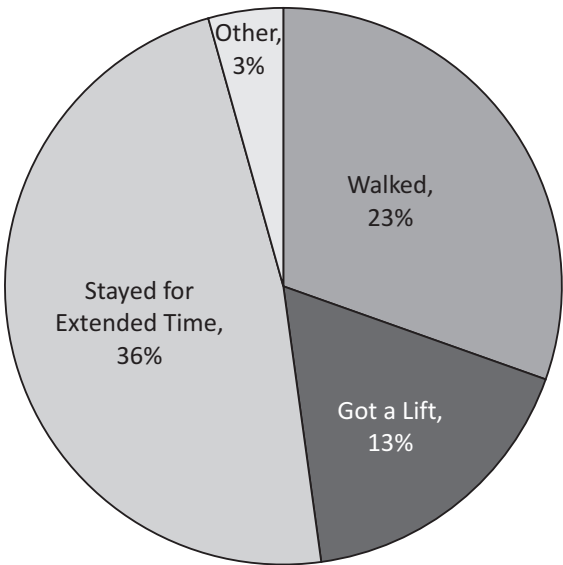


Only 3% of the respondents have been provided a company transport. The rest use different means of transport to get to their news assignments.

Even though most of the respondents are commuting for work on their own, as many as 93% of them do not get any fuel or travel allowance. As expected, most of them have faced difficulties while commuting to work. According to survey results, only a lucky 6% have never faced any difficulties while commuting to work. 46% of the journalists say that they often have trouble commuting to work.

It is no surprise then that 73% of the respondents say that during the last three months they have been stranded without transport while on assignment. The respondents were further asked to elaborate how they managed to commute back; 36% of them said that they had to stay in that location for an extended period of time.

Commuting back from a difficult location

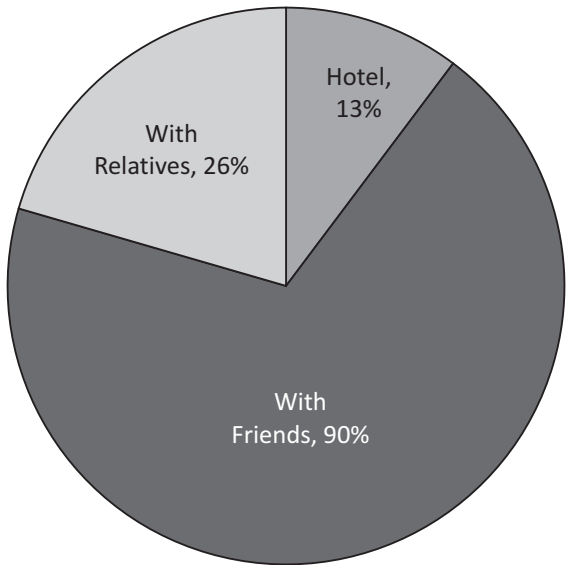


Lodging and Stay

Journalists commuting between agencies for work also find themselves in need of lodging but once again, organizational support is missing. Given the socio economic and security situation in FATA, hotels are not abundant and most journalists have to make alternative accommodation arrangements.

More than 96% of the respondents said that if they

Usual Accommodation Arrangements on Job



are staying somewhere overnight for work, their organizations do not make or support the lodging arrangements – 83% are not even reimbursed when they make their own boarding arrangements.

Conclusion

The logistical support being provided to journalists in FATA is minimal or nonexistent. Journalists outside FATA also face the same issues, but these conditions take a dire turn in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas considering the fact that a majority of journalists isn't even being paid for their work.

The security situation in the region, the threats by militants and other factors plus the danger of being at the wrong place at the wrong time gives yet another dangerous dimension to the issue. Journalists need to have ready and constant modes of transport when on job to avoid unnecessary risk and ensure best safety practices.

A majority of journalists are using public transport for commute; they are not being given any fuel allowance to make up for the cost of travel. Not just that, as many as 73% of the responding journalists have found themselves without transport, stranded in a difficult location. This fact alone spells out the added danger that journalists in FATA are exposed to due to lack of logistical support.

Recommendations

The findings of this survey show that media organizations are not taking the responsibility for logistical arrangement of their reporters in the field, thus exposing them to dangers.

- Media outlets have to understand that basic logistics like transport are even more important when the journalist is operating in an armed conflict zone; reporters, especially those who frequently travel in conflict areas and commute

between multiple agencies need to be provided with commute or at least an allowance that allows them to make decent transportation arrangement for themselves.

- It is apparent that a majority of journalists are staying with friends or family even when they are travelling for work. Proper accommodation arrangements or at least reimbursement of the cost is the journalist's right.

A majority of journalists are using public transport for commute; they are not being given any fuel allowance to make up for the cost of travel. Not just that, as many as 73% of the responding journalists have found themselves without transport, stranded in a difficult location.

Political Matters: Journalists in FATA and the Political Administration

Context

Under the constitution of Pakistan, FATA holds a unique administrative position. The territory is represented in both the houses of Pakistan, but remains under direct executive authority of the President of Pakistan. In other words, the region remains exclusive of all the legislation done by the National Assembly, unless directly indicated by the President. The President, in this case, also is the authority to pass regulations for the “peace and good government” of tribal areas.

FATA continues to be governed primarily through the Frontier Crimes Regulation 1901. It is administered by Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) in his capacity as an agent to the President of Pakistan, under the overall supervision of the Ministry of States and Frontier Regions in Islamabad (Khan, 2005).

In 2002, FATA Secretariat was set up, headed by Secretary FATA. In 2006, Civil Secretariat FATA was established to take over decision-making functions. Each tribal agency is administered by a political agent, assisted by a number of assistant political agents, tehsildars (administrative head of a tehsil) and naib tehsildars (deputy tehsildars), as well as members from various local police (Khassadars) and security forces (Levies, Scouts). The frontier regions are administered by the district coordination officer of the respective settled district, who exercises the same powers in an FR as the political agent does in a tribal agency. Given the administrative system in FATA, the political agents remain one of the key sources of news and information for journalists working in FATA. However, in our previous researches we have also found out that the very

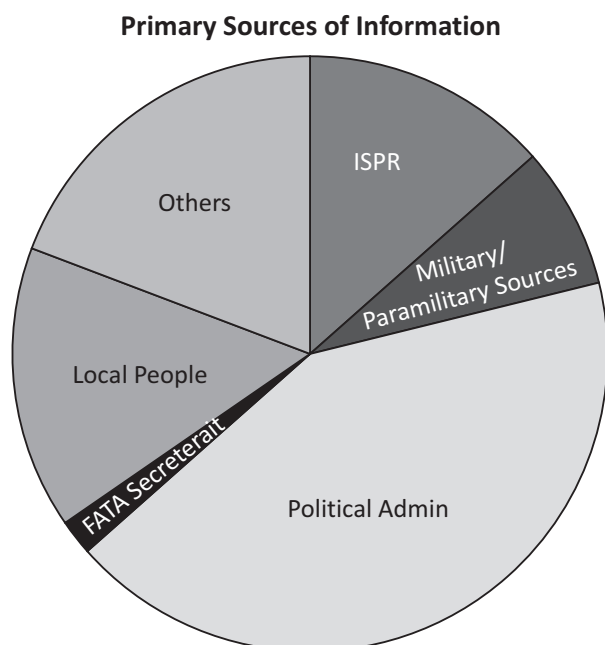
same political administration is viewed as a threat by many journalists.

This month’s survey focuses on the relations between journalists and political administration in FATA. It seeks to determine how the two groups interact and whether the administration remains a reliable source of information.

Primary Sources of News and Information

Among the 30 respondents of this survey as many as 73% count political administration among the primary news sources from FATA. Other important sources indicated include local people and military / paramilitary sources.

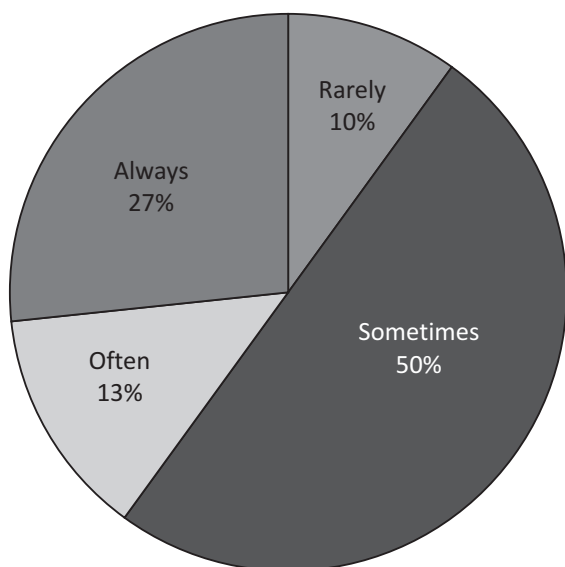
Among the other sources indicated are sources within militant groups, intelligence agencies, tribal



elders and sources in Khassadar forces. While most of the respondents indicated multiple primary sources of information, as many as 33% said that the political administration was their primary source of news information. Among the respondents 70% indicated that they have actively cultivated sources within the political administration whereas 30% of the respondents say that they do not particular sources within political administration. On the other hand, FATA Secretariat does not seem to be a news source of choice – Only 26% of the respondents say that they have actively cultivated sources within the FATA Secretariat while more than 73% of the respondents haven't cultivated news sources within the FATA Secretariat.

The respondents were also asked to indicate how often they approach military and paramilitary sources for news gathering and confirmation. From the responses it seems that only 23% of the respondents always contact military / paramilitary sources for news confirmation.

Frequency of approaching Military and Paramilitary Sources

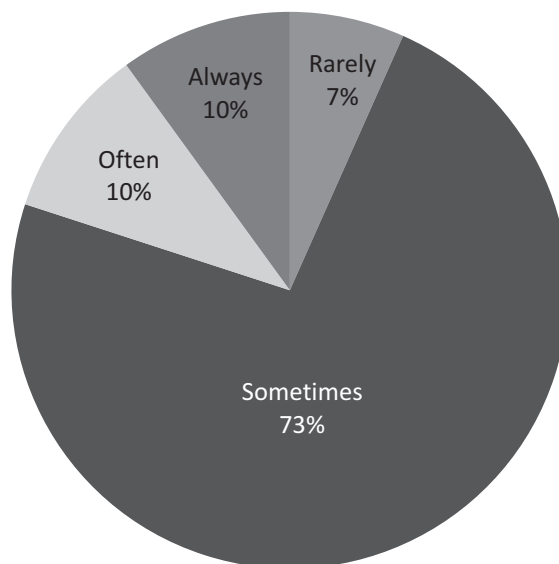


Availability and Reliability of Political Sources

Most of the respondents have said that they see political administration as a primary news source and have cultivated sources within the administration. However, the availability of these

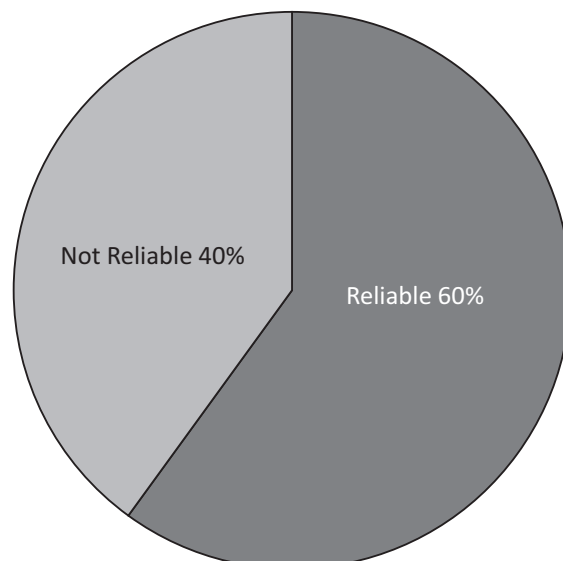
sources is a different question altogether. When asked how often are these sources available for news confirmation, 73% of the respondents said that the political sources are available only sometimes.

How often are the political sources available?



More than 43% of the respondents also indicated that they have killed stories as a result of non confirmation or availability of political sources. A question about the reliability of political administration as a news source generated varied responses from the respondents.

Reliability of Political Administration as a news source

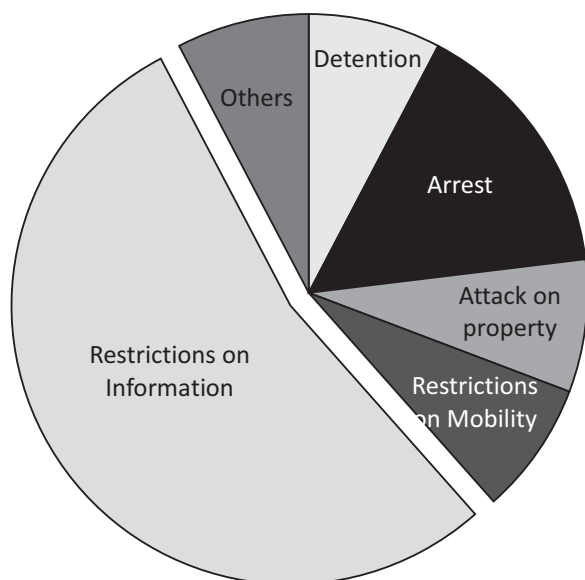


Political Administration as a pressure group

The respondents were asked to indicate whether they have ever been contacted by the political administration to publish or to stop publication of a new story – 33% of the respondents said they have been contacted for the publication of a story while only 16% have indicated ever being contacted by the political administration to stop publication of a news story.

Among the respondents, 30% admit having faced threats and harassment from the political administration. Most of those who were harassed were basically threatened with increased restrictions on information access.

Threats issued to some respondents



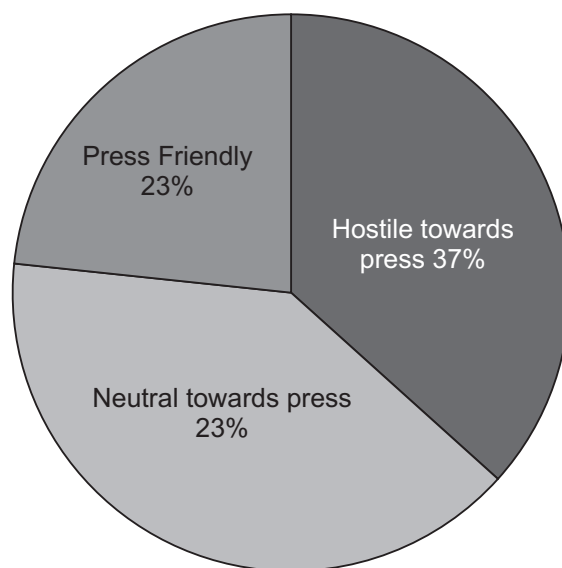
Even though restrictions on information has been the main threat faced by more than half of the journalists who have faced threats; the overall percentage of this particular threat among all respondents is only 23% - barely 3% have mentioned a threat detention or attack on property and 6% have been threatened with arrest.

Political Administration and the Press

In the end the respondents were asked to rate political administrations dealings with the press – 40% said that the political administration was

neutral towards the press while around 37% said that the political administration was hostile towards media practitioners.

Political Administration & the Press



It is a good thing that the biggest group of respondents finds the administration neutral but at the same time, the percentage of respondents who find it hostile is almost the same. This categorization shows that a considerable number of journalists have faced hostile attitudes from the political administration even though they haven't been directly harassed or threatened.

Conclusion

The data gathered during this research shows that the political administration largely remains the main source of news about the region. However, despite the fact that the administration is being actively approached as a news source, the relations between the political administration and the journalist community seem to be strained. A small percentage of journalists have received threats or have faced harassment from the administration but a large number say that the administration's attitude towards the press is hostile.

There also seems to be a lack of trust with a considerable percentage of respondents saying that the news and information shared by the political administration is not reliable.

Recommendations

The survey shows that the political administration is not playing the role of an important news source to the optimum level. In various instances, the unreliability of the political sources as well as the unavailability is undermining its role as one of the most important news sources in FATA.

- The FATA Secretariat seems largely untapped as a political news source. Since the political administrative system in FATA includes both local political agents / administration as well as

the Secretariat, journalists on the field can cultivate alternate sources within the FATA Secretariat as well.

- The political administration has much to gain by ensuring friendlier relations with the press. The bulk of news currently originating from FATA is conflict related. By adopting measures to become press friendly and ensuring reliability the political administration can play a role in the production of non conflict news from the region.

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Among the Agencies; threats to journalists in different agencies of FATA

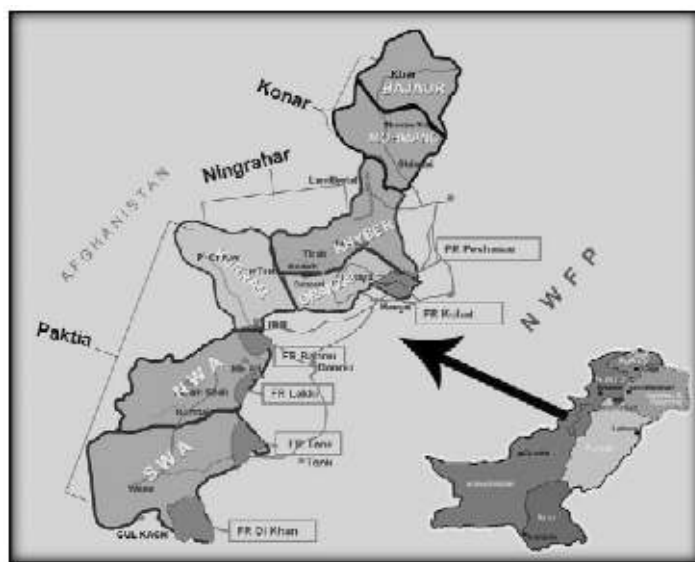
Context

The Federally Administered Tribal Areas of Pakistan include seven agencies and 6 frontier regions. The agencies include Bajaur, Mohmand, Khyber, Orakzai, Kurram, North Waziristan and South Waziristan. The scale and nature of the ongoing conflict in FATA differs from agency to agency and so do the threats to the media. Previously, we have monitored, researched and analysed the state of media in FATA as a whole. But, this research and the next one in an attempt to determine whether there is any difference between the nature and scale of threats and the general state of media in various agencies of FATA. The comparative survey carried out this month, is more comprehensive and detailed than the previous researches published in the FATA Media Review.

The first part of April 2012 research focuses on sources, nature and level of threats to journalists in all 7 agencies of FATA. In the second part of the research, the respondents have been asked to indicate the stress inducers that exist in their agencies as well as the possible psychological effects of the stress. The satisfaction level of the journalists with their journalistic career has also been gauged through a set of questions.

Respondent Demographics

There are a total of around 250 journalists operating in FATA. For the purposes of this survey, 10 journalists from each agency were contacted. Thus, the total number of respondents is 70 with 10 journalists representing each agency. The journalists who took part in this survey belong to both print and electronic media and are associated with both local and international news



organizations working from FATA.

PART I – THREATS TO JOURNALISTS

Sources of Threats

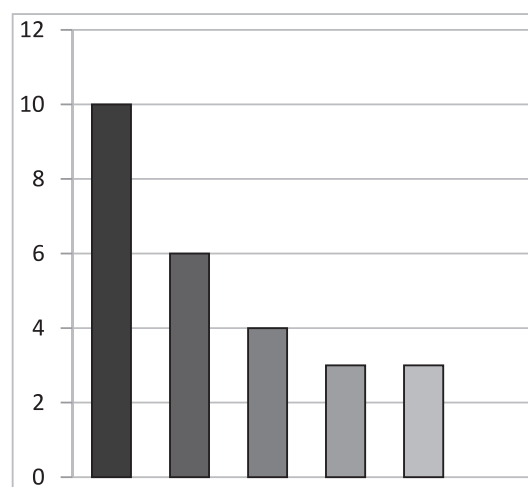
Journalists from FATA are constantly exposed to threats from multiple sources. When the respondents of this survey were asked whether they have faced any threats during the last one year 74% of them said yes.

If we see the breakdown of journalists from different agencies, who have received threats during the last year, Khyber Agency seems to be the most perilous. From Khyber agency 100% of the respondents have received threats during the last year, from Bajaur 90% have been threatened, from Mohmand and Orakzai 80%, from Kurram 70%, from North Waziristan 60% and from South Waziristan 40% of the respondents have received threats during the last year.

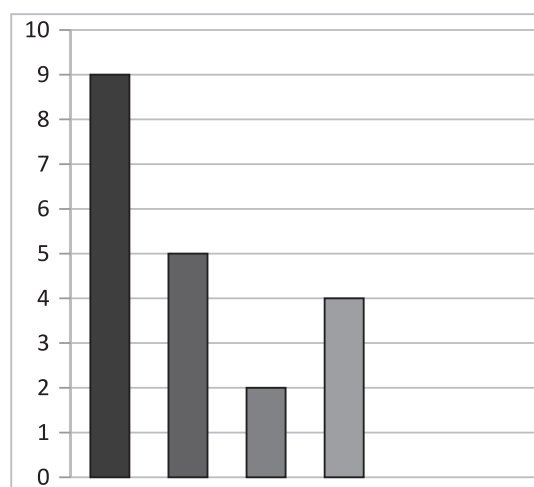
SOURCES OF THREATS TO JOURNALISTS IN DIFFERENT AGENCIES

LEGEND

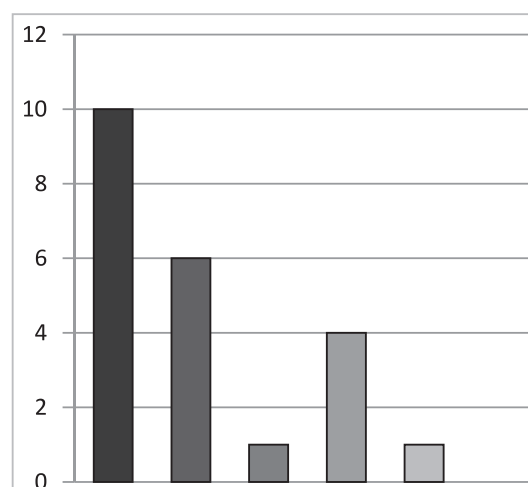
- Militants
- Political Administration
- Civilian Law Enforcement
- Military/ Paramilitary Forces
- Tribal Elders
- Others



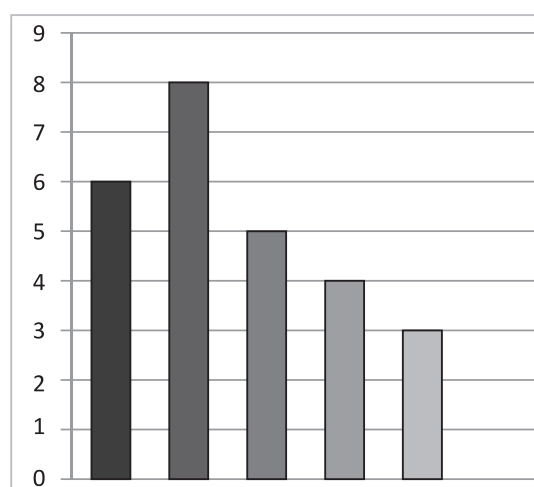
KHYBER



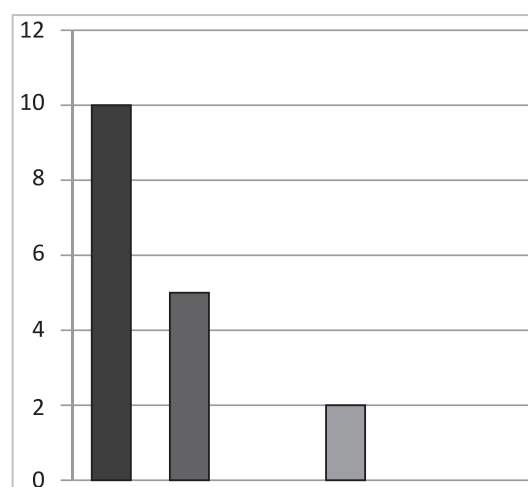
BAJAUR



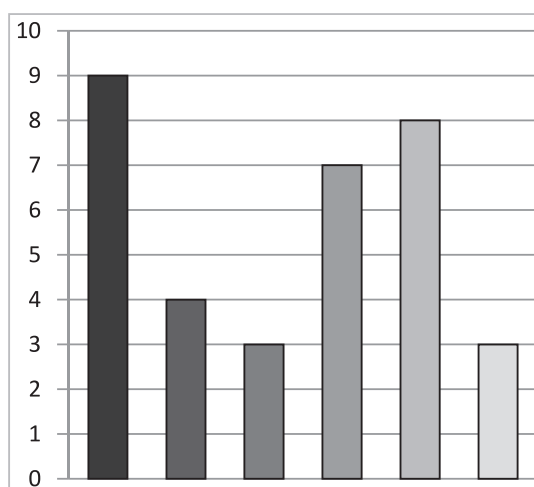
KURRAM



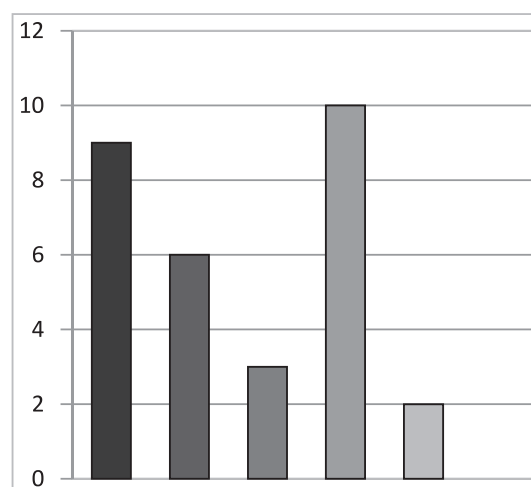
MOHMAND



ORAKZAI



NORTH WAZIRISTAN



SOUTH WAZIRISTAN

The graphs indicate that Militants and Political Administration have been cited as the two main sources of threats in all the agencies. There are slight differences in the number of respondents identifying other sources of threats in their particular agency.

Militants have been identified as threat sources by 100% respondents from Khyber, Mohmand and Kurram Agencies. From Orakzai, North and South Waziristan 90% of the respondents have indicated that militants are sources of threats, while journalists from Bajaur seem to be relatively less harassed by the militants as just 60% of them have identified militants as sources of threat.

Political Administration has been called a source of threat by 80% of the respondents from Bajaur Agency, 60% from Khyber, Mohmand and South Waziristan, 50% from Orakzai and Kurram Agency and 40% of the respondents from North Waziristan.

Collectively around 57% of the journalists have identified political administration as threats; interestingly, only 37% respondents in a similar survey undertaken by Intermedia in August 2011 had identified political administration as threats.

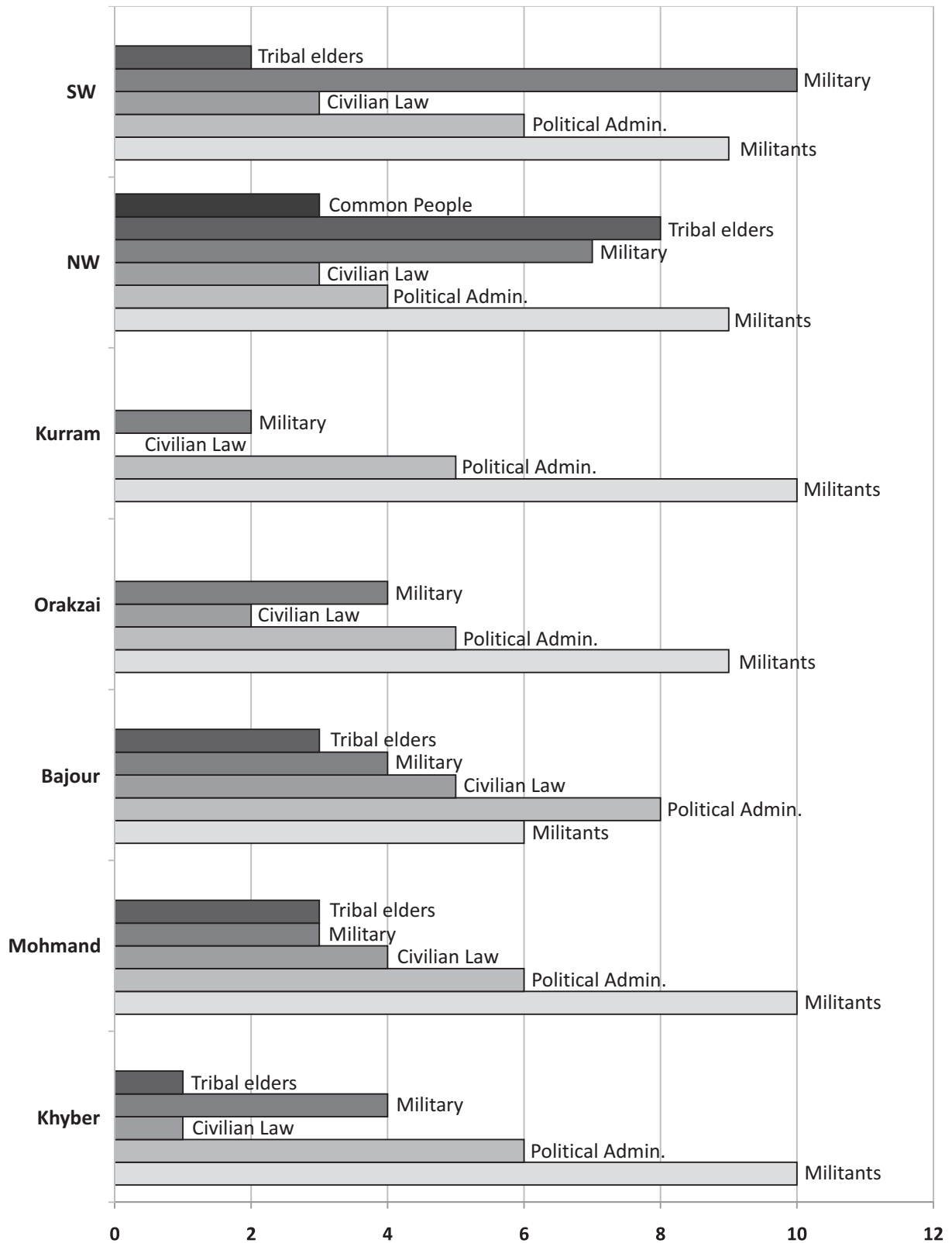
Military & Paramilitary Agencies are next in line with 100% respondents from South Waziristan identifying them as threats, 70% journalists from North Waziristan also identified them as a source of threat.

The percentage of respondents from other agencies identifying military / paramilitary agencies as threats was relatively lower – 40% from Khyber, Bajaur & Orakzai Agency, 30% from Bajaur and 20% from Kurram called them a source of threat.

An interesting observation here is the fact that, in August 2011 79% of journalists who participated in a similar survey from FATA indicated that military / paramilitary and security agencies were posing threats to journalists. But if we take a look at the collective number of people who have said the same this time, the percentage is only 48%.

The reasons for this variation in data might be the fact that previous surveys included random respondents from all over FATA whereas this time, the responses are evenly dispersed over the 7 agencies.

SOURCES OF THREATS TO JOURNALISTS IN FATA AGENCIES

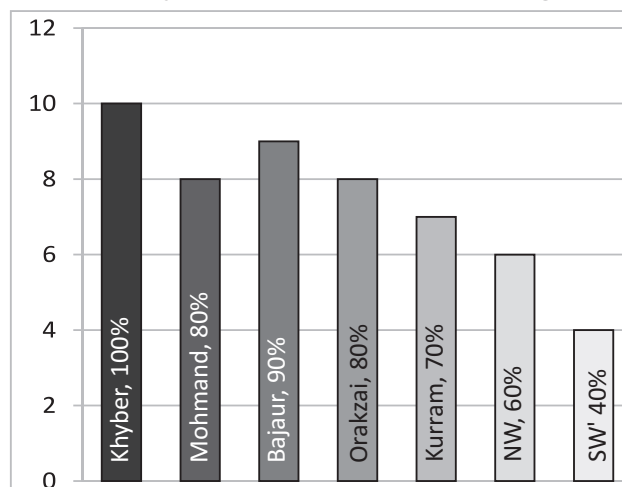


Here is a quick look at the number of journalists who have received threats from outside their organizations in the last one year. Apart from those who have faced threats from external factors 20% journalists from Khyber and South Waziristan and 10% from North Waziristan have also faced threats from within their organizations during the past year

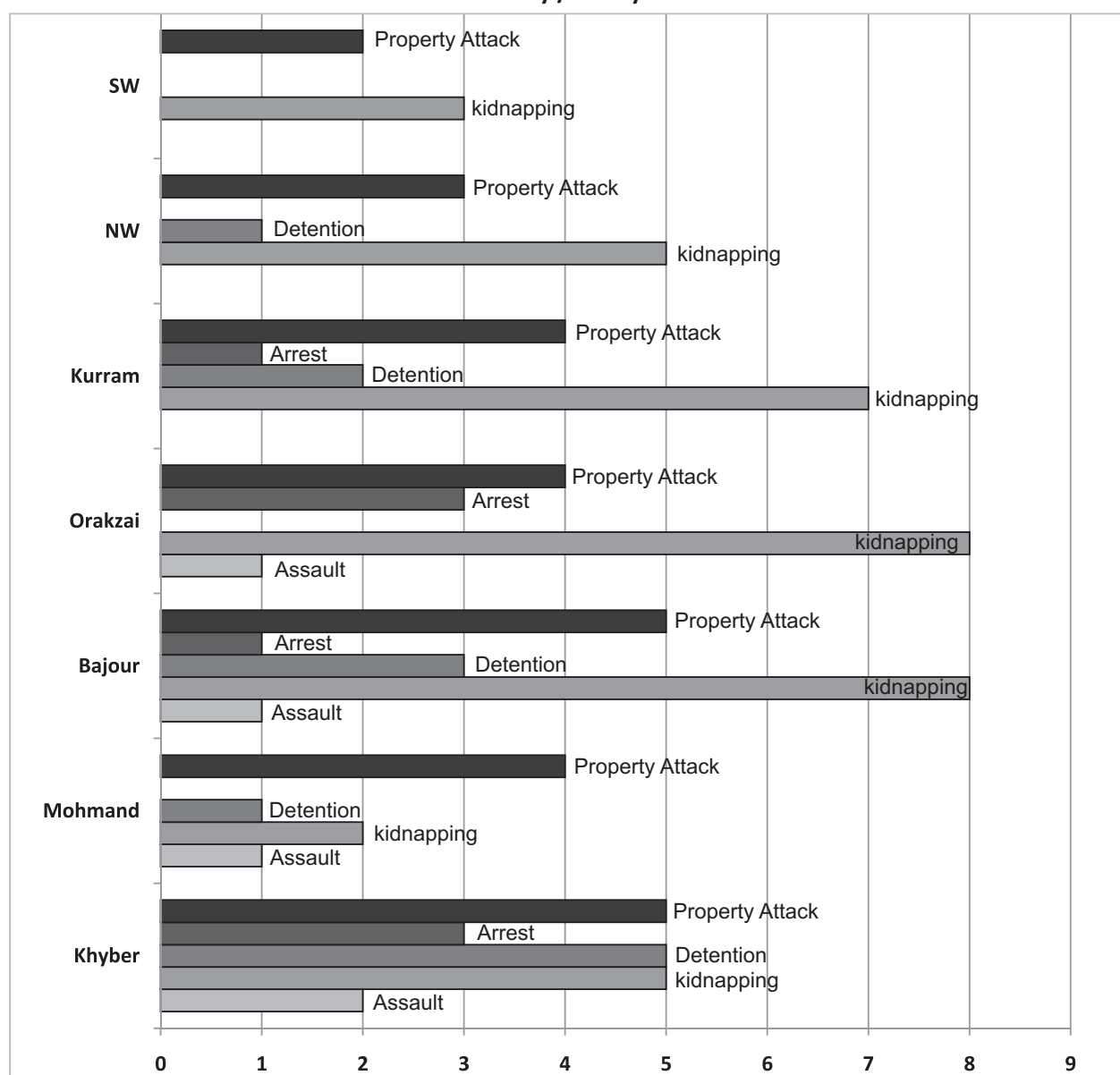
Types of threats faced

The respondents were also asked to indicate exactly what kinds of threats face. The threats indicated can be divided into two broader categories; threats to physical safety and professional threats to journalism quality.

Threatened journalists from different agencies



Threats to Security / Safety of Journalists



Level of threat in different agencies

The respondents were asked to rate the level of threat they face in comparison with threat level in other agencies.

The data shows that journalists from Khyber Agency are being threatened more than journalists from

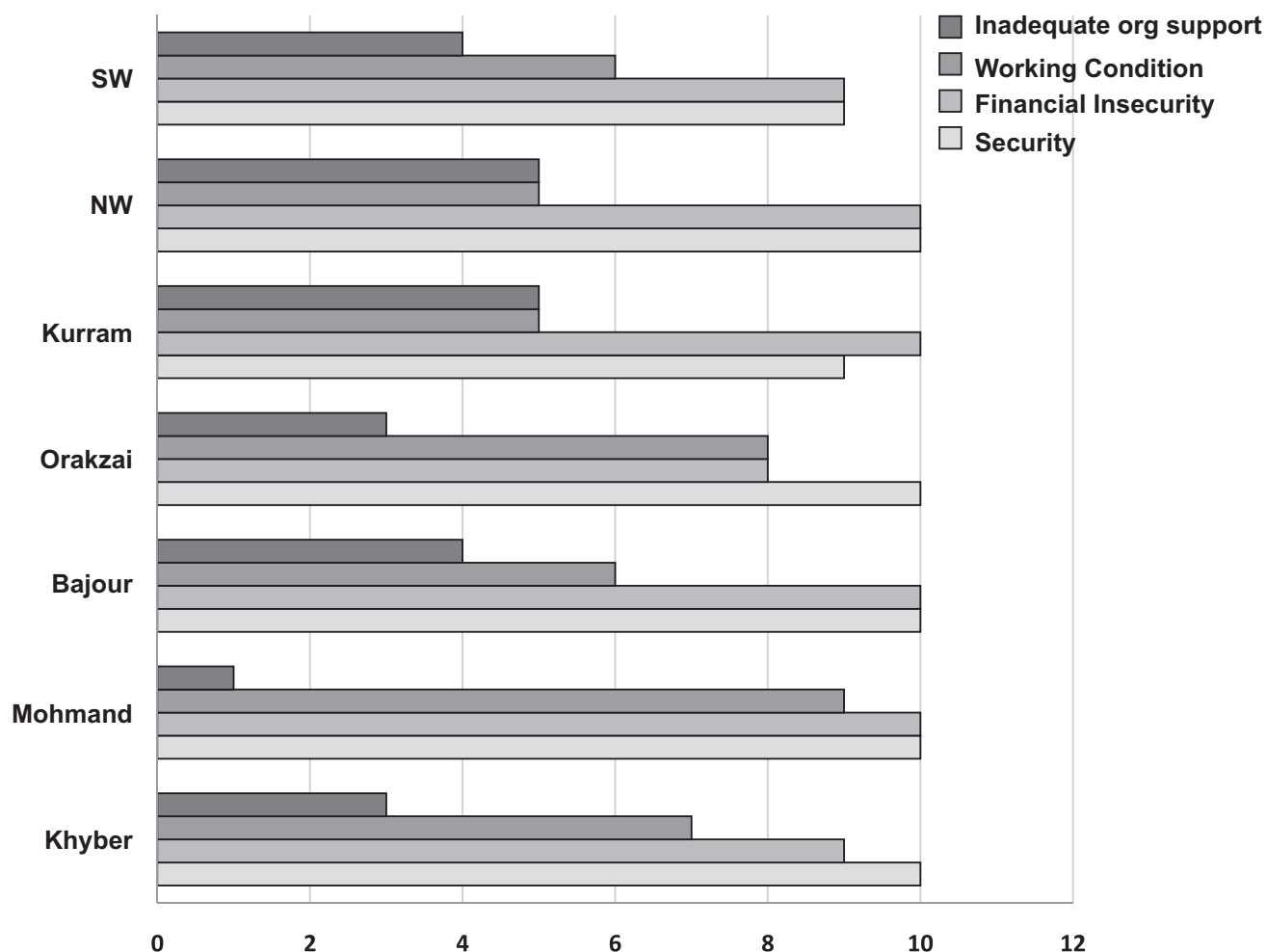
Agency	Lower than others	Same as others	Higher than others
Khyber	1	2	7
Mohmand	6	3	1
Bajaur	5	4	1
Orakzai	1	0	9
Kurram	6	3	1
NW	5	3	2
SW	1	1	8

other agencies. However, journalists from South Waziristan have not indicated the level of threat that relates with perception of higher threat level than other agencies. The possible explanation for the perceived higher level of threat and a lower number of reported threats might be the fact that the news flow from South Waziristan has slowed down due to the level of threat, and the journalists are not being threatened so much due to the lack of sensitive stories being filed from their side.

Main stress inducers

The respondents were asked to identify the main stress inducers in their job. Security situation in FATA and financial insecurity were identified as main stress inducers by journalists from all agencies.

Main stress inducers



Satisfaction with journalistic career

The respondents were asked whether they have felt a burnout tendency due to the stress related with their job. Only 21% said that they are feeling burnt out – despite the threats and the various kinds of stress associated with being a journalist in FATA 67% of all the respondents said that they were totally satisfied with their career as a journalist in FATA.

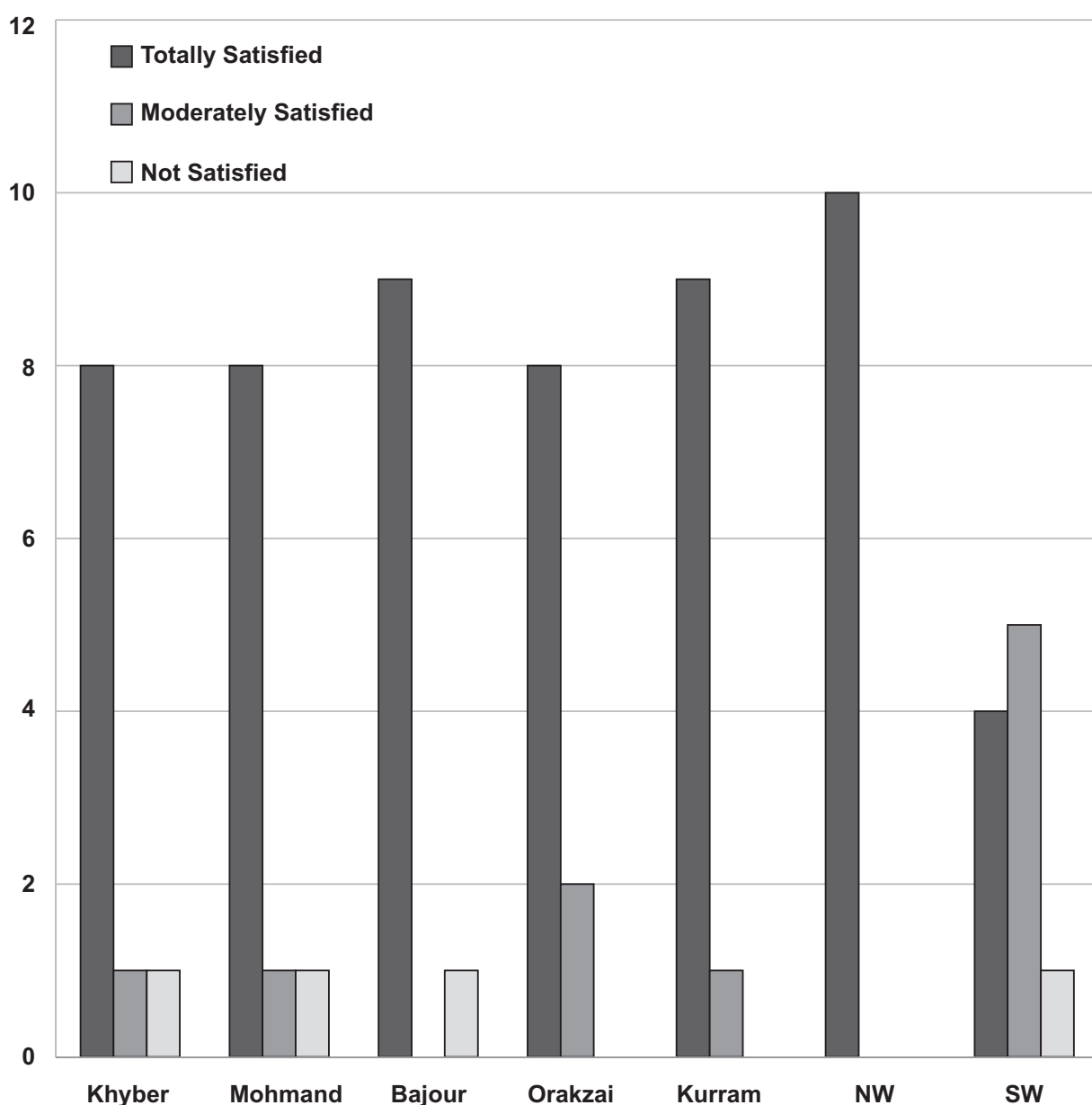
Given the percentage of journalist totally satisfied

with their careers as journalists in FATA it isn't surprising that 98% of the respondents see themselves practising journalism in the next 5 years.

Conclusion

The threats to journalists seem to be almost evenly spread throughout FATA. Journalists from all the agencies have identified similar sources of threats and kinds of threats they face. Khyber and

Satisfaction level of journalists in FATA



Mohmand agencies seem to be the worst when it comes to threats to journalists. In South Waziristan the number of journalists being threatened and attacked seems to be the lowest. Political Administration has emerged as a strong threat factor all across FATA.

On the positive side, despite all the threats and the stress inducers, journalists in FATA seem committed to their profession and see themselves attached to the same profession five years down the road.

Recommendations

The security and safety of tribal journalists is a tough goal, one that cannot be achieved without dedicated effort from media, civil society, journalist unions and press clubs. The data here once again shows that threats and attacks on journalists are prevalent throughout FATA. Some recommendations:

- The documentation and analysis of threats to journalists is extremely important. Mapping the threats and spreading the word about them amongst the journalist community will help the reporters in the field take necessary precautions.
- The fact that political administration is a serious threat to journalists is highly disturbing, civil society organizations, especially those based in the capital can start lobbying to generate adequate pressure on authorities to quell this trend.
- Increased organizational support could help journalists in the field.
- The journalists need both training and orientation on preventive and pre-emptive aspects of safety and security while performing their jobs.

The fact that political administration is a serious threat to journalists is highly disturbing, civil society organizations, especially those based in the capital can start lobbying to generate adequate pressure on authorities to quell this trend.

Where is My News? Media consumption habits of journalists from different FATA agencies

Context

The role of journalists as producers of news has been widely discussed and debated. However, there remains the question of how journalists actually consume news and news content on mass media. As producers of news, the need for current news and information for journalists increases threefold, making them a part of the primary consumers of news. In a conflict zone like FATA, the media and the news media consumption of journalists is a very interesting phenomena.

Due to both legal, infrastructural and security issues in the area access to news mediums is fairly limited. There are only 3 legal local radio stations operating in FATA, no private TV broadcasters are broadcasting from the region, newspapers and magazines are published in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and none are allowed to be published locally and access to internet is often limited due to the lack of electricity and other infrastructural issues.

Previously, a research was conducted to determine the media consumption habits of journalists in FATA. The research showed that despite constant power breakdowns and lack of a proper cable TV network in FATA, as many as 79% of the journalists own and regularly watch television; but only 10% of the respondents had access to more than 10 TV channels.

While unsurprisingly a large majority of the journalists watch Pakistani stations, 46% also watch Western channels and 40% watch Indian channels as well. 37% of participating journalists also actively follow Afghan TV channels. As many as 46% of the

journalists surveyed term radio is the most reliable source of information when it comes to FATA based news.

In May 2012, the theme was revisited once again, this time in order to see whether the media consumption habits among journalists of different agencies differed from each other or are similar all through.

Respondents have been asked about ownership, usage and perceived authenticity of various mediums when it comes to the reporting of local news items.

Specific areas explored include regularity with which a medium is used, the main reasons for utilizing that particular medium, the preferred medium for local and national news and also the level of trust in the news being relayed through different news mediums.

Respondent Demographics

There are a total of around 250 journalists operating in FATA. For the purposes of this survey, 10 journalists from each agency were contacted. Thus, the total number of respondents is 70 with 10 journalists representing each agency.

The journalists who took part in this survey belong to both print and electronic media and are associated with both local and international news organizations working from FATA.

Ownership and regular usage

Media in FATA is yet to be mainstreamed. Currently, the situation is dismal. Radio Miranshah, Radio Razmak and Radio Khyber are the only 3 radio

stations operating locally and neither of them is a private station. All three operate under the FATA Secretariat.

The PEMRA ordinance has not been extended to FATA and currently there is no legal process to licence or run a local TV channel. Not just that, the security and infrastructural problems have hindered access to national and international TV channels and currently there are no legal, proper cable TV service present in the region. A few cable operators exist but they operate in small areas without licences or any infrastructural support.

Needless to say, these meagre news outlets are not fully able to meet the information needs of the local residents. Journalists in the area and other citizens find themselves turning to international radio stations to get their fill of news and information. This dependency on foreign news outlets obviously has its own implications.

While researching media consumption habits of journalists in different FATA agencies, one the basic questions was to determine the ownership of different information mediums.

from Mohmand agency own a TV set. All the respondents from North Waziristan, South Waziristan and Orakzai Agency, 90% from Bajaur and Kurram Agency, 80% from Khyber Agency and 70% from Mohmand Agency also own a radio set.

The usage of radio and TV among the respondents from different agencies is slightly varied.

Respondents from all the agencies were asked to indicate the number of TV channels they regularly watch i.e. the number of channels they watch almost everyday – the responses showed there is a difference in the average number of channels being regularly consumed by journalists in different agencies.

As can be seen in the table, 90% journalists from Khyber and Orakzai agencies watch less than 5 channels regularly, 80% journalists from Bajaur watch 5 to 10 TV channels regularly and South Waziristan has the highest number [40%] of respondents who watch more than 10 TV channels on a regular basis. A graphical representation of the regular viewing of TV Channels by the respondents is as follows;

Number of channels regularly watched by FATA Journalists

	Bajour	Khyber	Kurram	Orakzai	Mohmand	NW	SW
Less than 5	1	9	4	9	5	5	3
5 to 10	8	1	5	1	5	2	3
More than 10	1	0	1	0	0	3	4

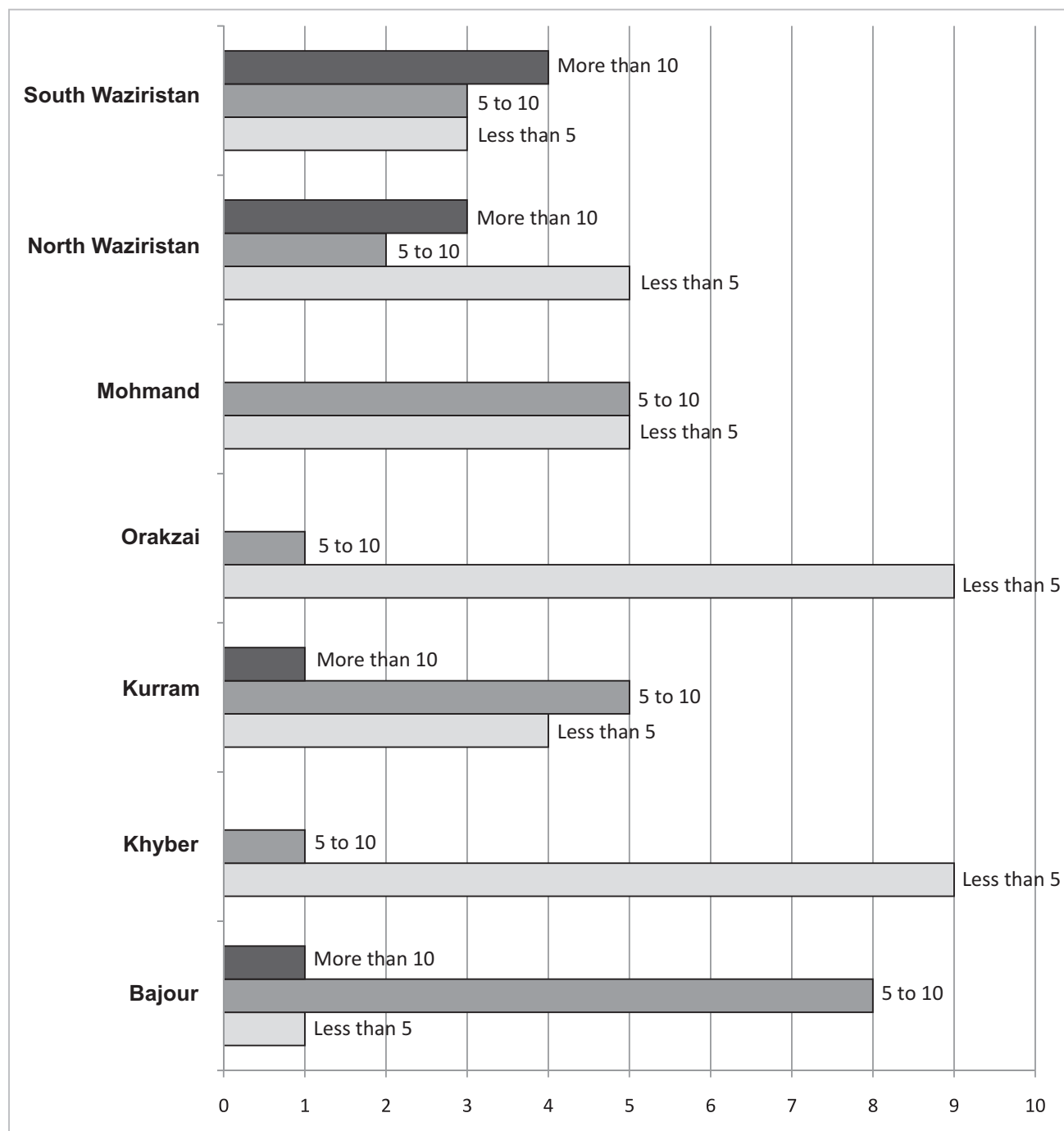
According to the data gathered all of the respondents from Bajaur, Kurram, North Waziristan and South Waziristan, 80% respondents from Khyber Agency, 90% from Orakzai agency and 70%

A similar comparison was drawn for regular radio usage and the respondents were asked to indicate the number of radio stations they regularly listen to.

Number of Radio stations regularly followed in different FATA agencies

	Bajour	Khyber	Kurram	Mohmand	Orakzai	NW	SW
Less than 3	3	8	9	4	6	3	8
3 to 5	5	2	1	5	1	2	2
More than 5	2	0	0	1	1	5	0

Number of TV channels regularly watched in different agencies

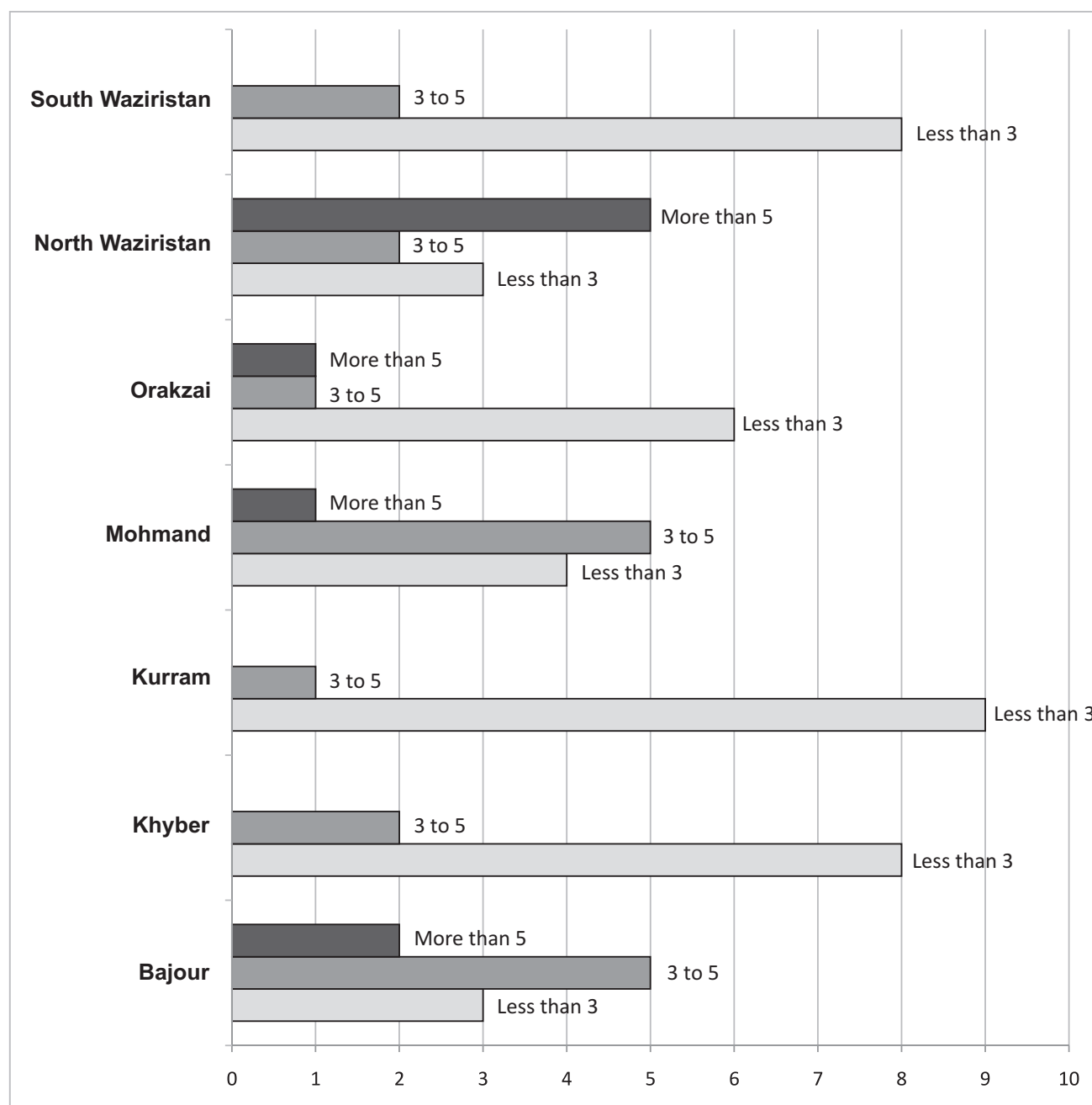


In radio's case, one can see that in majority of agencies, the respondents are regularly listening to less than 3 radio stations. 90% journalists from Kurram Agency, 80% from Khyber Agency and South Waziristan and 60% journalists from Orakzai agency regularly listen to less than 3 radio stations. From Bajaur 50% journalists are listening to 3 to 5 radio

stations while North Waziristan has the highest number of journalists [50%] listening to more than 5 radio stations regularly.

A graphical representation of radio usage among FATA journalists follows.

Number of Radio stations regularly followed in different FATA agencies



The respondents were also asked to indicate the number of newspapers they regularly read.

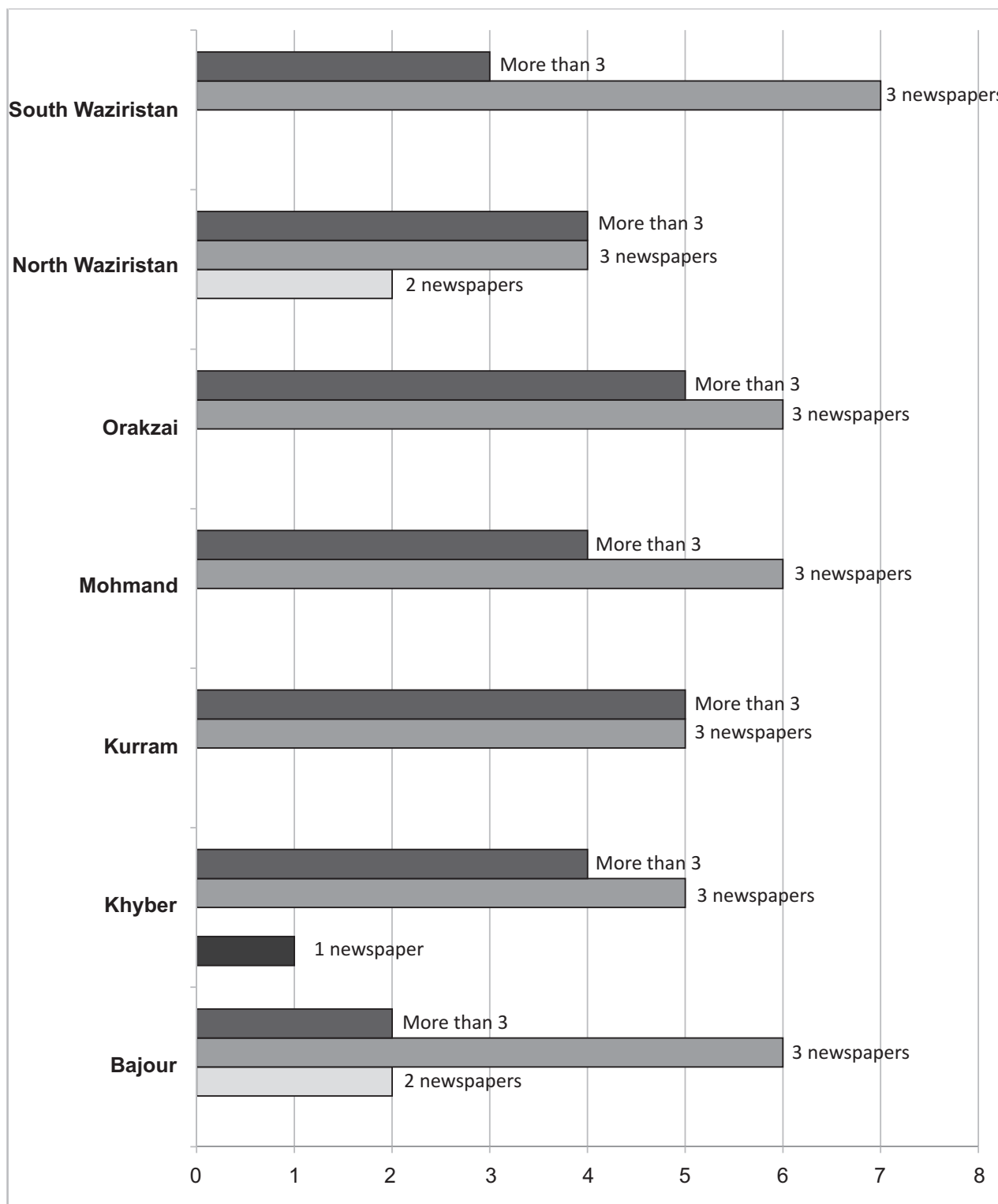
Number of Newspapers read regularly by FATA journalists

	Bajour	Khyber	Kurram	Mohmand	Orakzai	NW	SW
1 Newspaper	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
2 Newspapers	2	0	0	0	0	2	0
3 Newspapers	6	5	5	6	6	4	7
More than 3	2	4	5	4	5	4	3

As is obvious by the table, most of the journalists all over FATA are regularly reading 3 newspapers. A

graphical representation of newspaper reading habits follows;

Number of Newspapers read regularly by FATA journalists



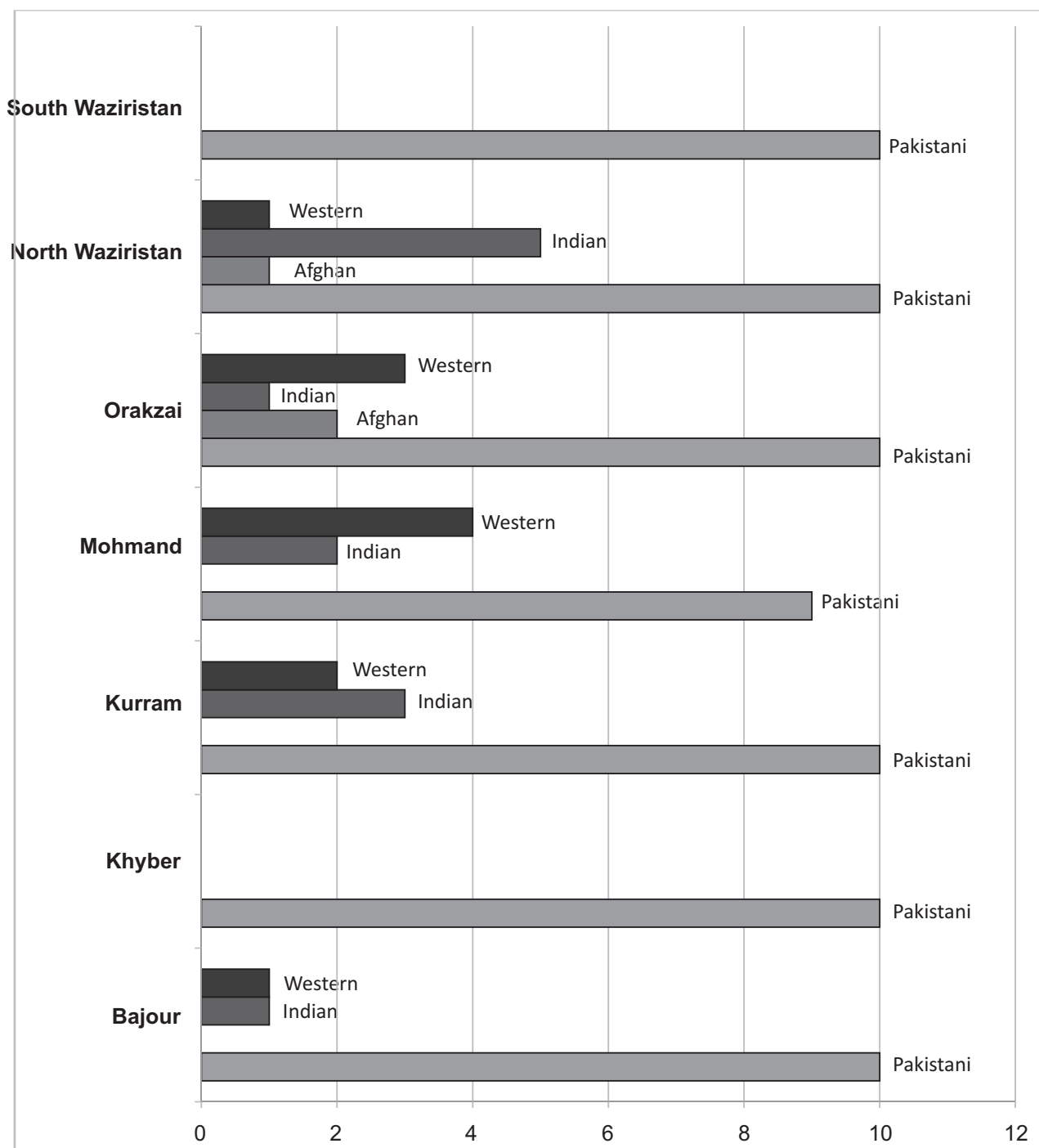
Television viewing habits

It has been established that multiple TV channels are being watched across FATA regardless of the infrastructural issues. The respondents were further asked to elaborate on the kinds of TV channels they are watching.

The survey shows that Pakistani channels are being

watched by almost all the journalists across board, there is also a viewership for Western, Indian and Afghan channels. Surprisingly, the viewership of Western channels seems to be more than the viewership of Afghan channels, 10% journalists from North Waziristan and Bajaur Agency, 30% from Orakzai Agency, 40% from Mohmand and 20% from Kurram watch Western TV channels regularly. While

TV Channels being regularly watched journalists in FATA agencies



only 10% respondents from North Waziristan and 20% from Orakzai watch Afghan TV channels. The reasons for this might be simple access and availability issues, however, the reasons were not explored during the course of this survey, so no definitive statement can be made in this regard.

There also is a regular viewership of Indian channels in most of the agencies. 10% respondents from Bajaur and Orakzai Agencies, 20% from Mohmand Agency, 30% from Kurram Agency and 50% from North Waziristan indicated that they watch Indian TV channels with regularity. South Waziristan remains the only agency where only Pakistani channels are being watched by the responding journalists.

The respondents were further asked to elaborate their main reason for watching television. Amongst the options presented as reasons were news, entertainment [drama / movies / music], sports and any others. Surprisingly, all the 70 respondents from all agencies indicated that their main reason for watching television was news and current affairs. The fact that all the respondents are watching

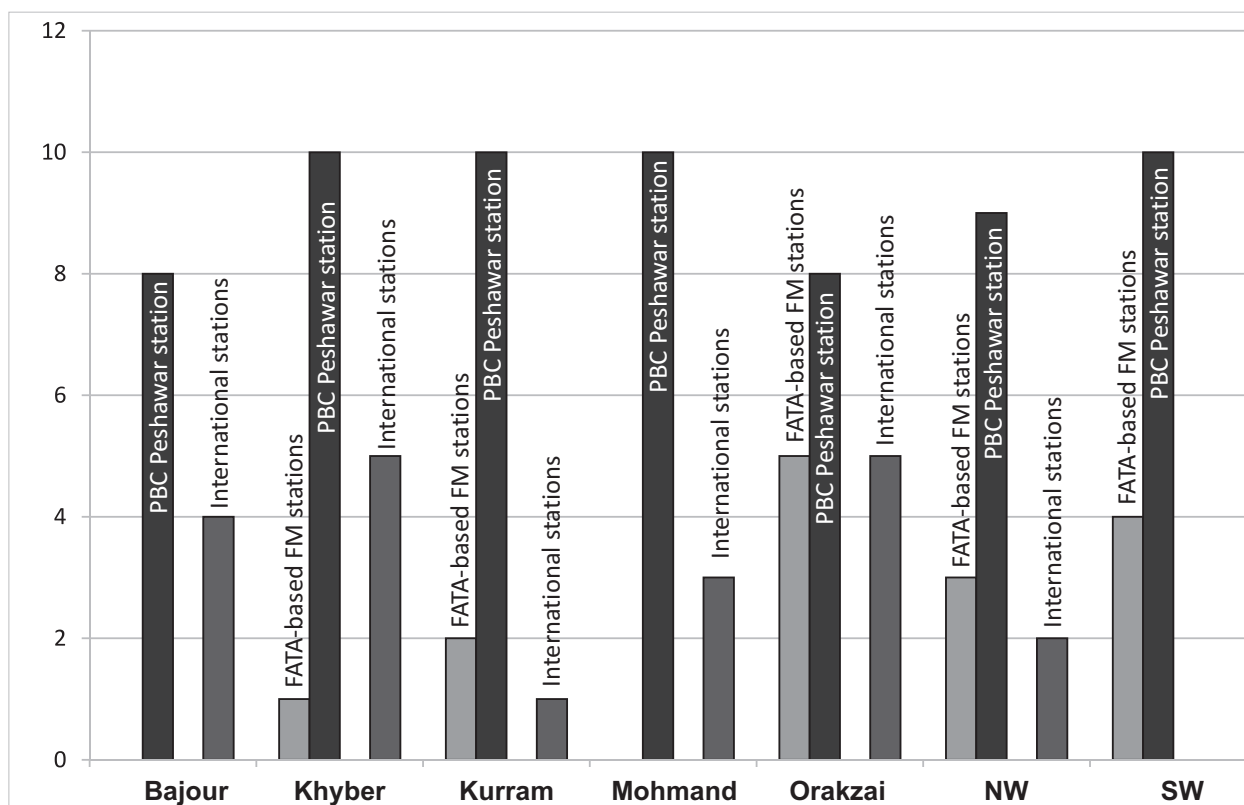
multiple TV channels specifically for news shows that despite the lack of easy access and availability of TV, the demand for television persists in FATA and it is being used as one of the key sources of news and information.

Radio Listenership

The importance of radio as a medium of information in FATA is well established. In the absence of other mediums, radio remains the key source of news for a majority of FATA's population. Radio is also the only medium with a local focus and thus becomes the news medium with the most influence in the area.

The data gathered during this survey shows that more than 91% of the respondents have a radio set and are active listeners of multiple stations. Amongst the 70 respondents nearly 60% listen to at least 3 radio stations and the rest regularly listen to more than 3 stations. Given the popularity of foreign radio stations in FATA, the respondents were further asked to indicate their preferred radio stations.

Preferred Radio Stations in different agencies of FATA



National and local news have been identified as the main reasons for listening to radio. A graphical representation of main reasons for listening to radio in different agencies of FATA follows.

Newspapers reading habits

Like electronic media, the newspapers available in FATA are not published locally. However, the medium remains popular amongst journalists and almost all of the respondents regularly read more than one paper on a regular basis. More than 55% of the total respondents are reading up to three newspapers daily.

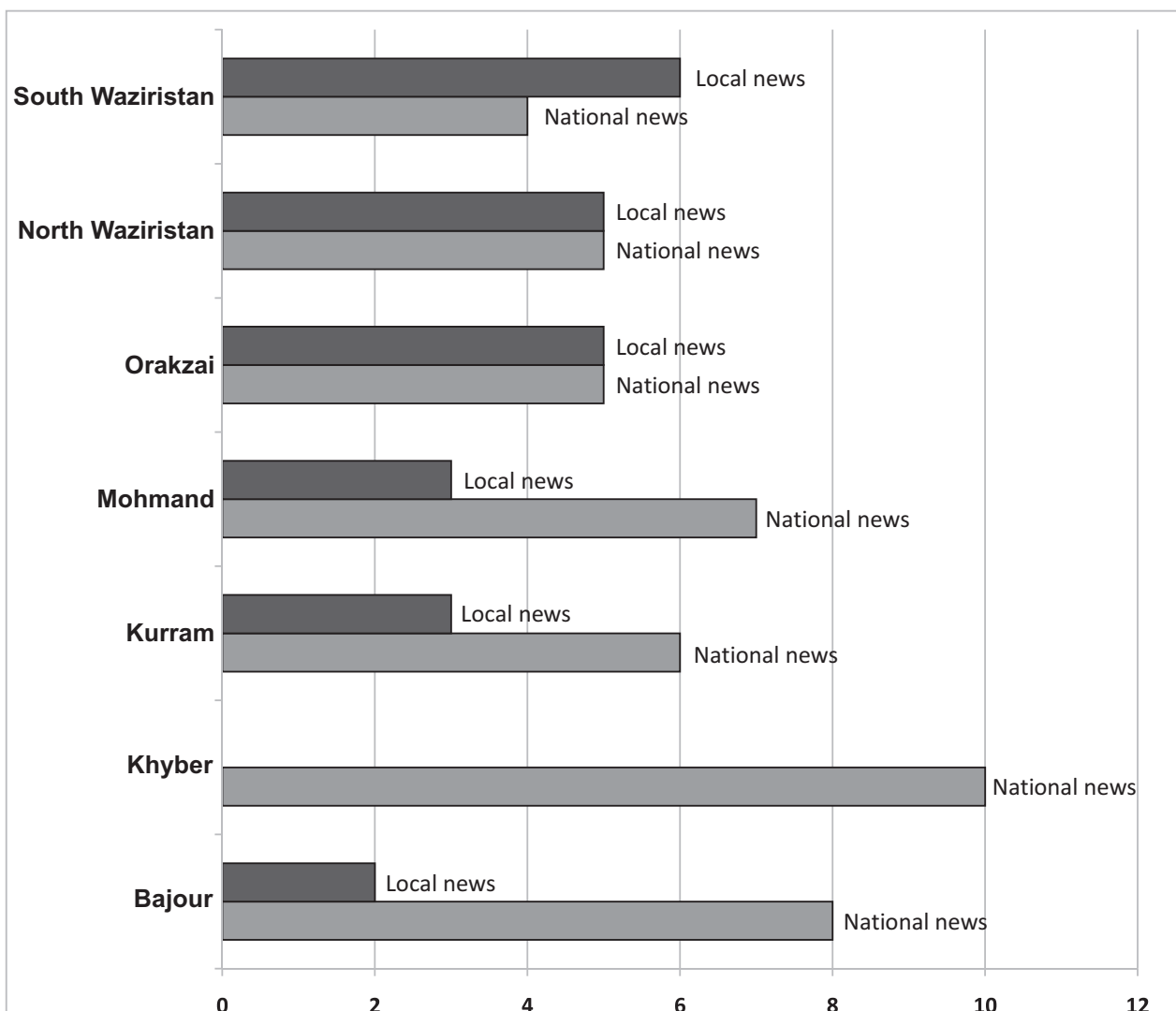
The respondents were further asked to indicate the kinds of newspapers they are reading. All the of the 70 respondents are reading Urdu newspapers and

in most of the agencies, English and Pashto newspapers are also being read.

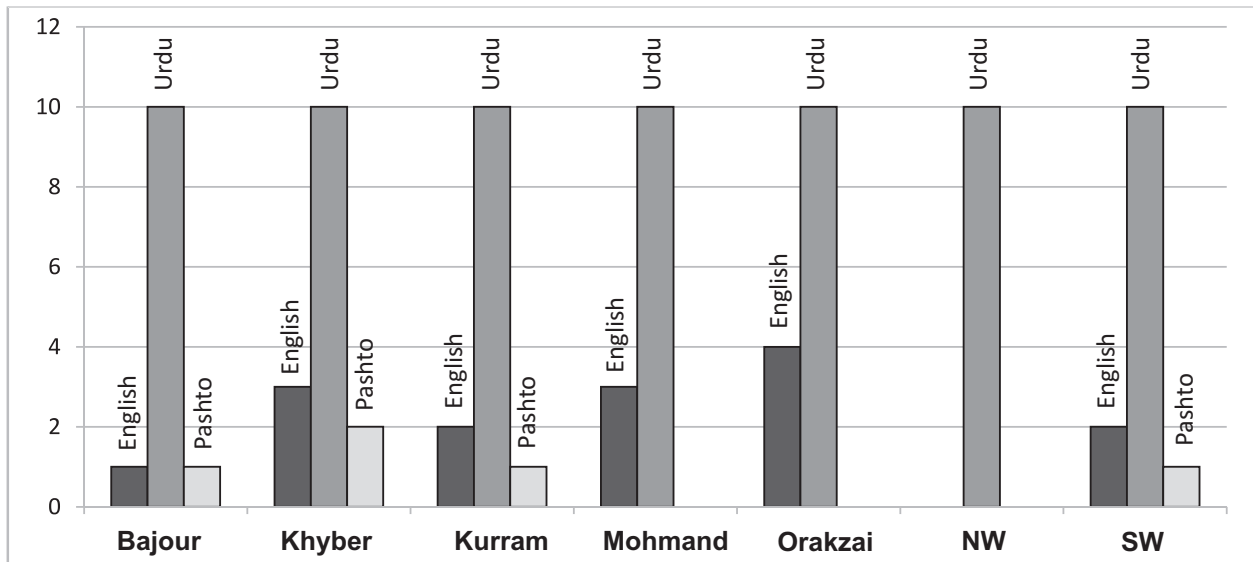
10% respondents from Bajaur Agency, 30% from Khyber and Mohmand Agencies. 20% from Kurram Agency and South Waziristan and 40% from Orakzai agency are reading English newspapers. While, 10% respondents from Bajaur Agency, Kurram Agency and South Waziristan and 20% from Kurram agency also read Pashto newspapers. Again, surprisingly, according to this data, the readership of English language newspapers is higher.

The main reason for reading newspapers was also identified; the majority of respondents from all agencies are reading newspapers for national news. From Orakzai agency, all the respondents indicated

Main reasons for listening to Radio



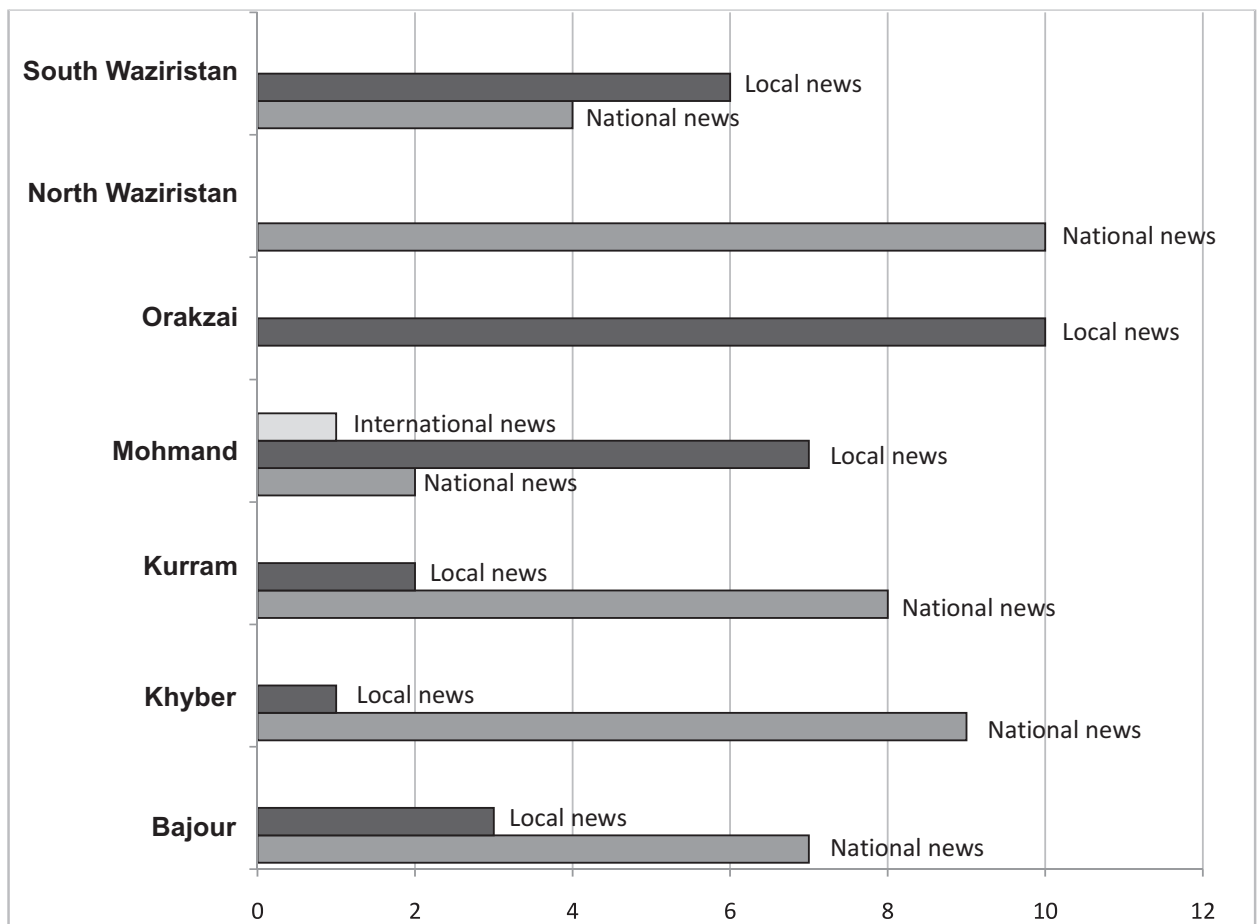
Newspaper Consumption in FATA



that their main reason for reading newspapers was access to local as opposed to national news. 60% of the respondents From South Waziristan, from Mohmand Agency 70% of the respondents, from Kurram Agency 20%, from Bajaur Agency 30% and

from Khyber Agency 20% of the respondents said that the main reason for reading newspapers is access to local news. 10% respondents from Mohmand Agency also showed an interest in International news.

Reasons for reading newspapers

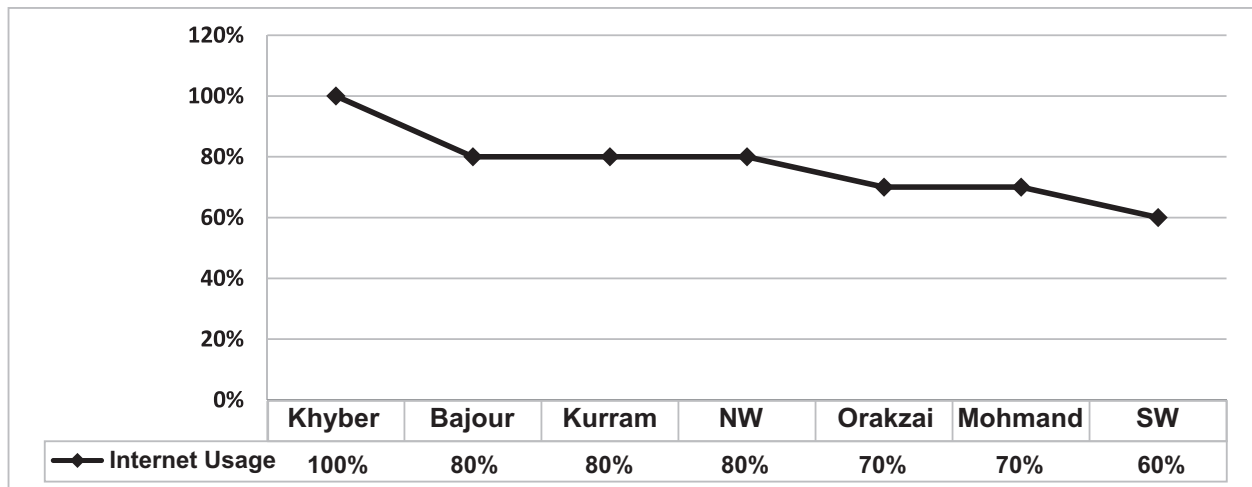


Internet Usage

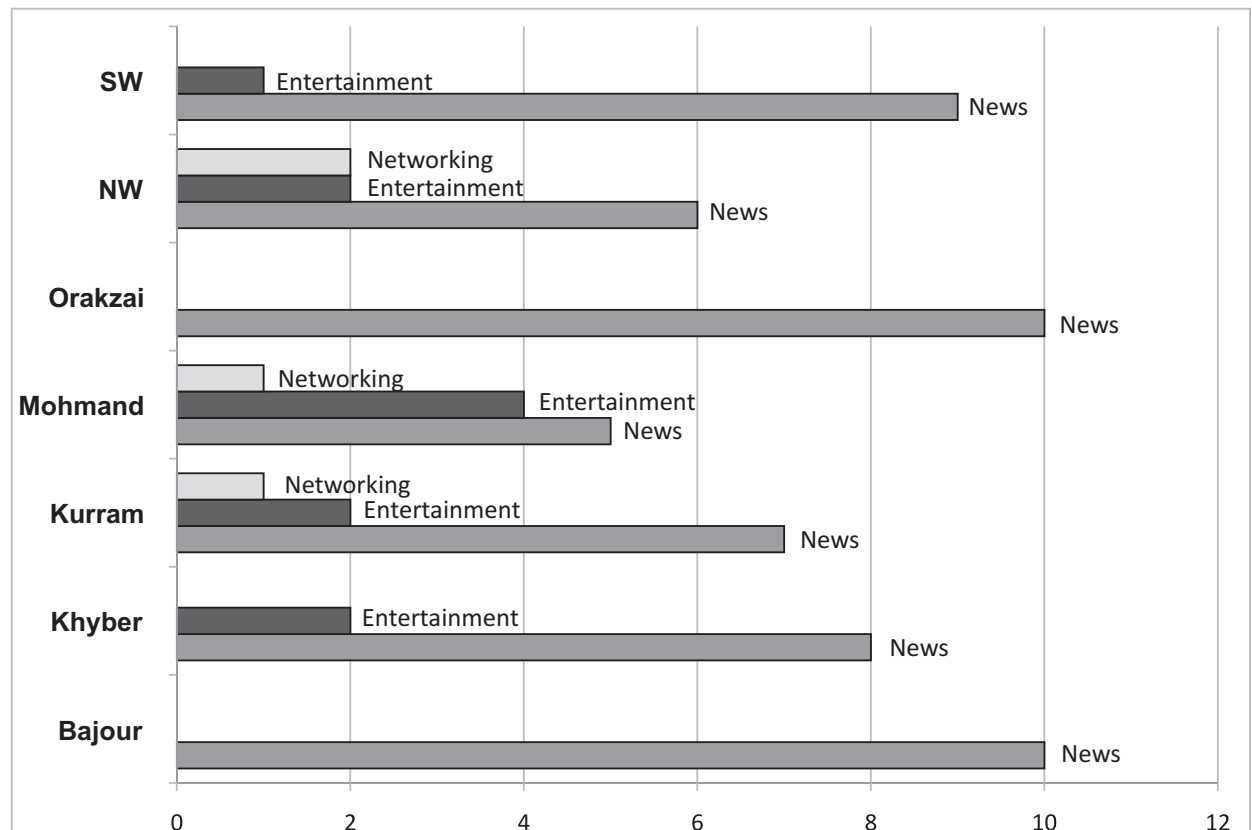
Given the state of security and infrastructural issues in FATA, one would presume that internet usage in the region would be restricted. However, the survey results show that more than 60% of the respondents from all agencies are using internet daily.

Internet Usage is highest in Khyber Agency with 100% of the respondents regularly using internet. From Bajaur Agency, Kurram Agency and North Waziristan 80% of the responding journalists use internet almost daily, 70% respondents from Orakzai Agency and Mohmand Agency have also indicated regular internet usage while South Waziristan has the lowest number of regular

Internet Usage in Different FATA Agencies



Main reasons for using internet



internet users i.e. 60% among all the agencies.

The data also indicates that internet is mainly being used as a news medium by majority of the respondents. In fact, in Bajaur and Orakzai Agencies, news has been identified as the main reason for internet usage by all the respondents.

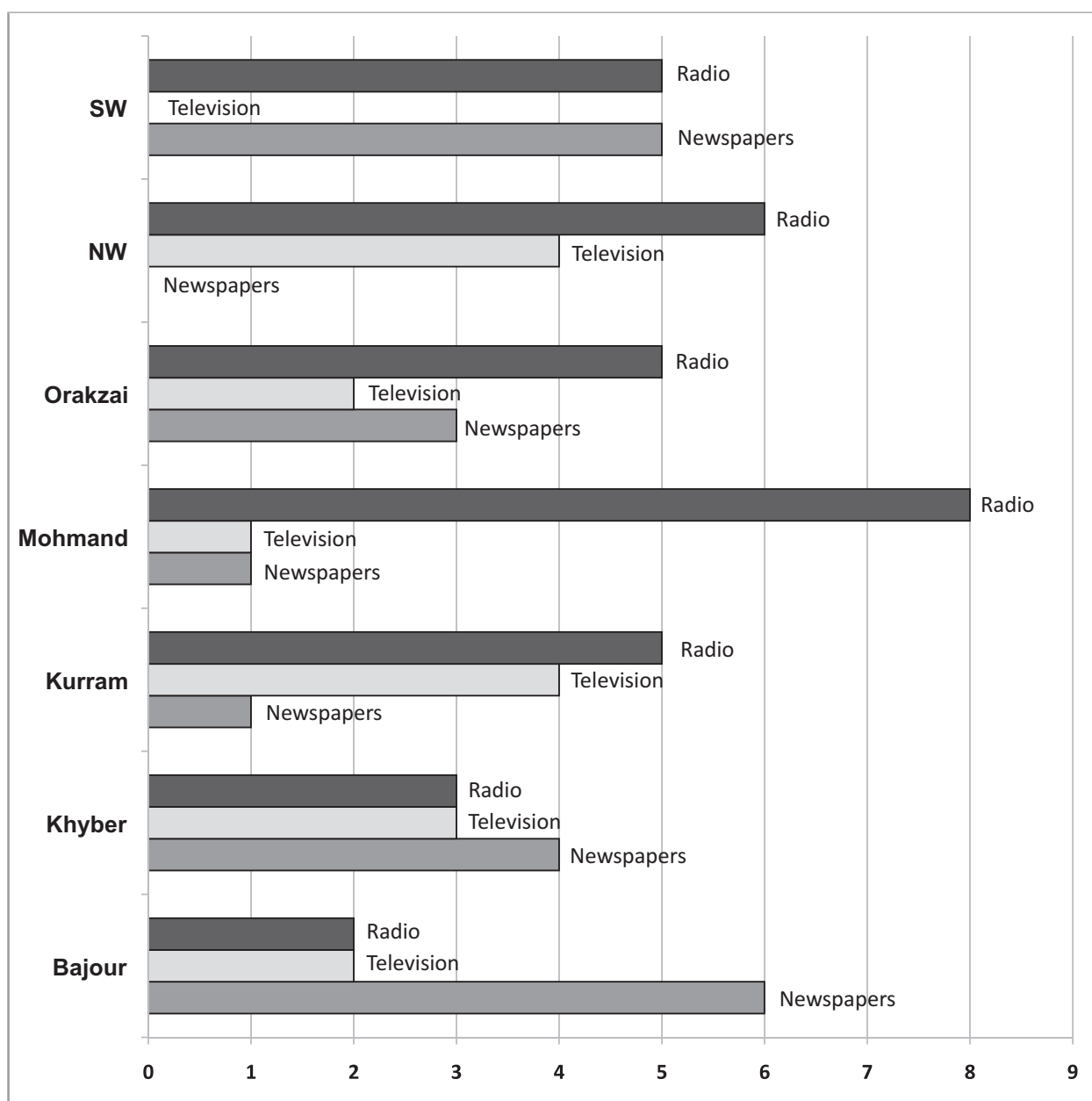
Journalists from other agencies have also indicated using internet mainly for entertainment; 40% journalists from Mohmand Agency, 20% from Khyber, Kurram and North Waziristan and 10% from

South Waziristan have indicated using internet mainly for entertainment. 20% journalists from North Waziristan and 10% from Kurram and Mohmand agencies have indicated that they use internet mainly for networking. A graphical representation of the main reasons of internet usage in different agencies follows.

Reliable Sources of Information

When it comes to reliable sources of information, the radio has emerged as the popular choice amongst the respondents.

Reliable Sources of News and Information



Overall, nearly 50% of the respondents indicated that radio is the most reliable medium of news and information, while almost 30% said that they find newspapers to be the most reliable medium.

80% journalists from Mohmand Agency, 60% from North Waziristan, 50% from South Waziristan, Orakzai and Kurram Agencies, 30% from Khyber Agency and 20% from Bajaur Agency chose radio as the most reliable source of information. Bajaur and Khurram Agencies remained the only ones where respondents seem to rely more on newspapers than radio; overall 60% journalists from Bajaur Agency, 40% from Khyber, 50% from South Waziristan, 30% from Orakzai and 10% from Mohmand and Kurram agencies identified newspapers as the most reliable source of news and information.

Reliability on news broadcast on TV remained low – 40% respondents from North Waziristan and Kurram Agency, 30% from Khyber Agency, 20% from Orakzai and Bajaur agencies and 10% from Mohmand termed TV to be the most reliable medium of news.

Interestingly, even though a majority of journalists using internet regularly do so for the sake of news and information, not a single one of them expressed faith in the reliability of information attained via the internet.

Conclusion

The media consumption habits of journalists from FATA indicate that there is a massive demand for news in the region. Journalists across the agencies are following all news mediums for local and international news. Radio has emerged as the most popular medium of news and information across the agencies and also remains the most trusted one. Regular usage of internet despite infrastructural issues shows that journalists in FATA are actively seeking out news mediums, although the reliability of internet is low but majority of the journalists in all the agencies is using the net as a source of information.

Recommendations

As highlighted earlier, there exists an apparent need and demand for news and information in FATA and media reforms to fill the media and information needs of FATA residents and journalists are essential.

There are slight variances in media consumption habits of journalists in different agencies. Further research into these areas to determine why the variances exist might help pin point the gaps in infrastructure or news / information flow in the region.

Regular usage of internet despite infrastructural issues shows that journalists in FATA are actively seeking out news mediums, although the reliability of internet is low but majority of the journalists in all the agencies is using the net as a source of information.

Improving Journalism in FATA; Media development needs identified by FATA based journalists

So far, the media landscape in FATA has been extensively discussed; each of the 10 researches included previously have highlighted some gaps and needs in the infrastructure of media in FATA and also contains some basic recommendations for stakeholders in media. As a fitting end to this section, the final research has been conducted to identify some of the factors that journalists in FATA themselves think would help improve the quality of journalism in the region.

State of Media and Journalism in FATA

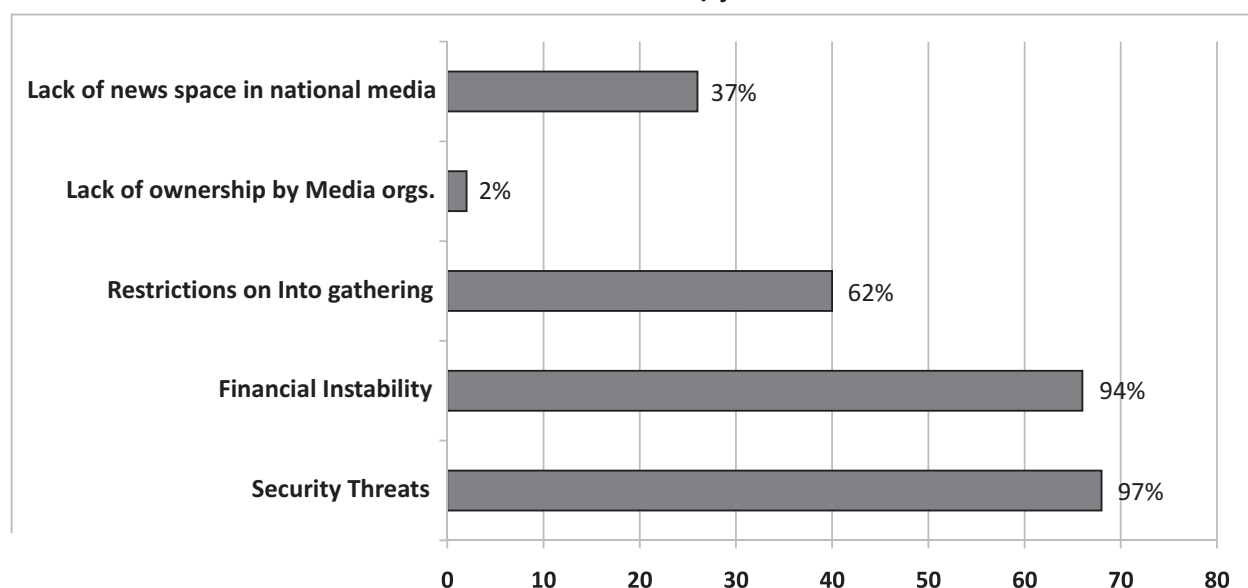
For this research 70 journalists divided equally across all seven agencies of FATA were contacted. The respondents represent nearly 28% of journalistic community in FATA. More than 82% of the respondents expressed a lack of satisfaction in the current state of media and journalism in FATA. Different reasons for this dissatisfaction with the

state of journalism were highlighted.

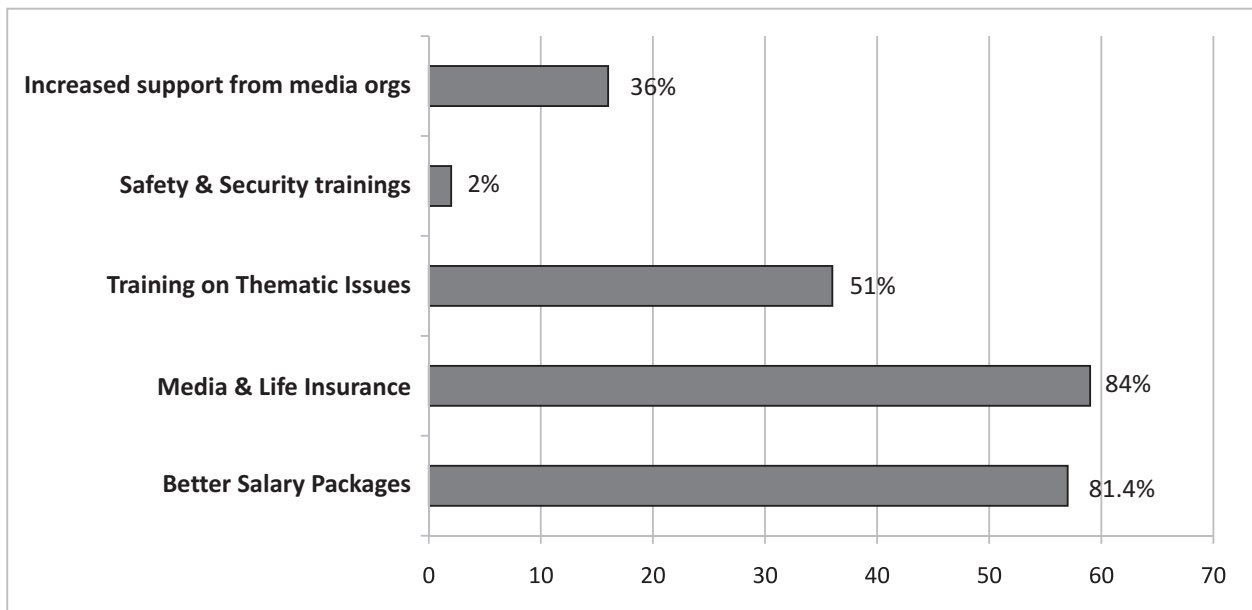
More than 84% of the respondents identified a need for medical and life insurance of journalists. 81.4% indicated that better salary packages and benefits for journalists might help improve the standard of journalism in FATA, 51% identified a need for trainings on thematic issues to enable journalists to understand and better report on local community issues. Nearly 23% of the respondents also highlighted the fact that the quality of journalism in the region could improve simply by ensuring increased support from the journalists' parent media organizations.

Even though security threats in FATA were identified as one of the reasons effecting the quality of journalism from FATA by as many as 97% of the respondents, only 2% also expressed a need for safety and security trainings.

Reasons for dissatisfaction with media / journalism state in FATA



Identified measures to improve journalism quality in FATA



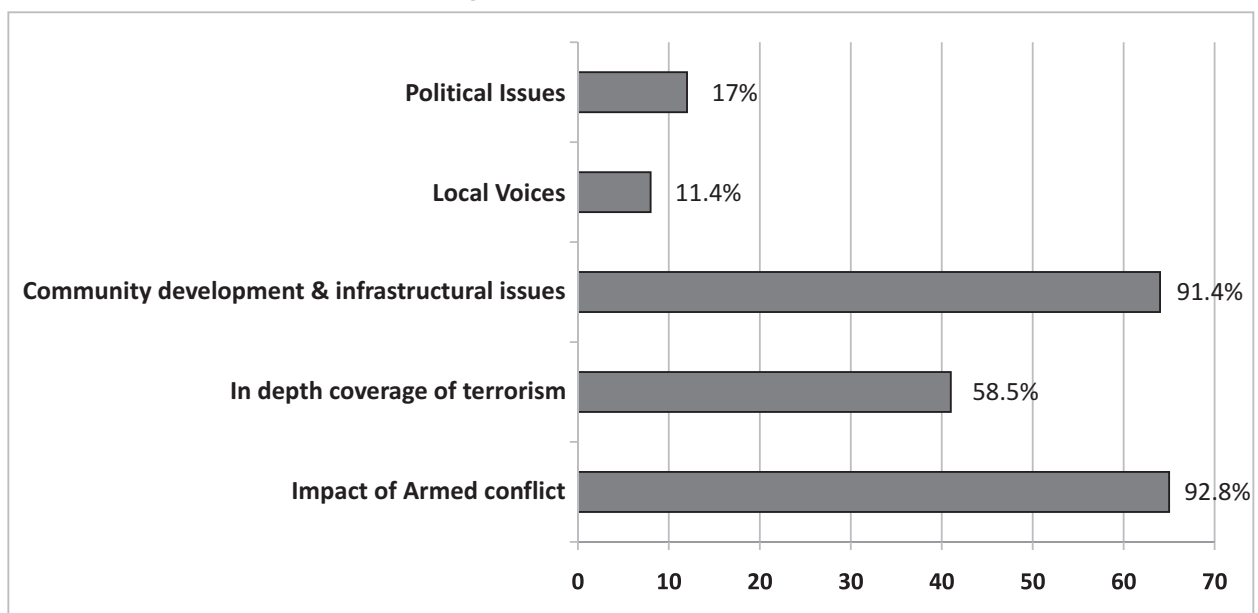
From both these charts it is clear that the quality of news is suffering mostly because of the financial instability and the lack medical and life insurance is keeping journalists in FATA from performing their professional duties well. Medical insurance and life cover is a norm and international practice for all journalists working in conflict zones, thus the demand and the expectation is a totally legitimate one.

than half of the respondents is again a very pressing need. One has to keep in mind the fact that most of the journalists in FATA have not been trained professionally, have learnt on job and have had no formal introduction to the demands of journalism before entering the field. In a conflict situation, the chance of developing thematic expertise on multiple beats is very difficult.

Training on thematic issues as identified by more

Media organizations along with civil society organizations can collaborate to identify key issues

Missing themes from National Narrative



being faced by the communities in FATA and arrange thematic workshops or trainings for journalists to help them understand and thus better report on those community issues and conflicts.

FATA in the national news narrative

Expressing dissatisfaction over the way FATA is portrayed in national media, 77% of the respondents said that the national media outlets are not giving adequate time and coverage to FATA. Amongst the main themes missing from the national narrative 92.8% respondents indicated a lack of news coverage on the impact of armed conflict on local community, 91.2% indicated that community development and infrastructural problems in FATA are under reported and 58.5% respondents lamented a lack of in depth coverage about terrorism attacks.

17% respondents also indicated that political issues in FATA are mostly overlooked by mainstream media and 11.4% said that local voices from FATA are missing from the national news narrative.

The respondents were further asked to identify measures that can help improve media coverage of FATA. A majority of respondents indicated that licensing of private radio stations and TV channels as well as private publications in FATA would help improve the current media narrative about the

region.

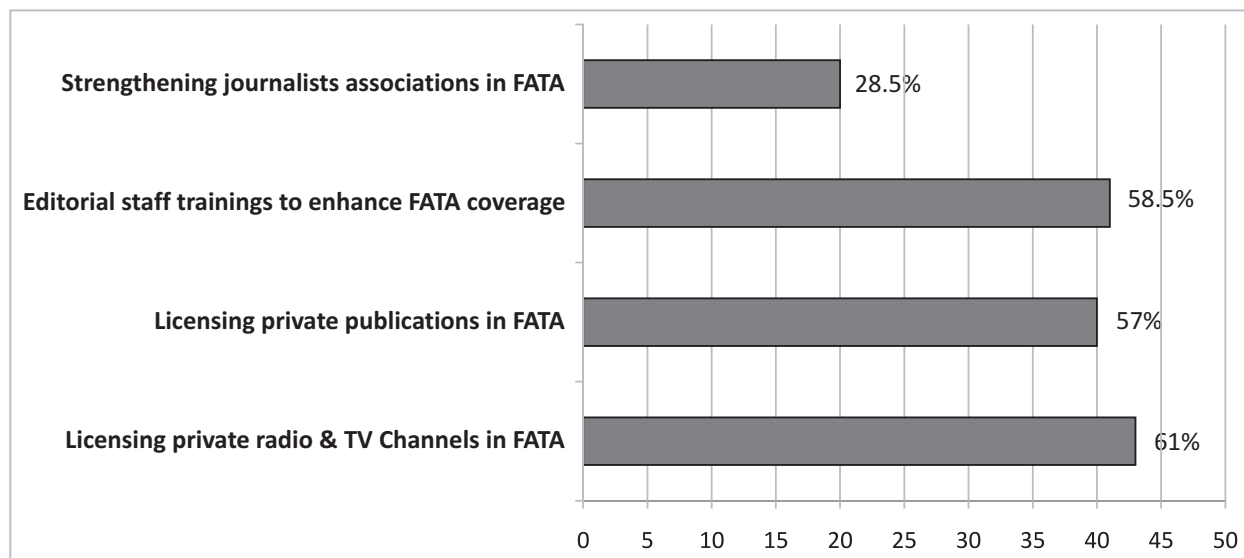
More than 58% of the respondents also stressed the need for trainings of editorial staff in national news outlets in order to help increase and enhance the news space being given to this news rich conflict zone. In previous researches it was identified that editorial staff outside FATA is often blind to the sensitivities of the area and often ends up making grave mistakes, effecting the news quality as well as endangering the local journalists. The editorial staff trainings would help deal with these issues.

Conclusion

This brief survey to determine media development needs in FATA goes a long way in laying out a sketch of a probable development model for FATA journalists.

The respondents have basically highlighted a need for media organizations to step up, own the journalists working in the conflict zone and provide them with basic financial and life security. Financial security seems to be the key to motivating the journalists who cite the lack of job and financial security as a reason for low standards of journalism. The demand for medical and life insurance has been indicated in various other researches as well. Considering the fact that FATA is an armed conflict zone and the journalists are constantly facing a life

Identified measures to improve FATA coverage in media



threat from multiple elements, the lack of insurance is both sad and alarming. Taking care of these basic issues might help improve the standards of journalism emerging from the region.

The need for capacity building and training has been identified both for journalists in the field and for editorial staff outside FATA. Again, this is a very basic need which has been largely overlooked by media organizations so far. One has to keep in mind the fact that the majority of journalists operating in FATA have never studied journalism and their experiences in the field have been their sole teachers. While one can't undermine the importance of learning in the field, the fact remains

that FATA is a relatively isolated region and tribal journalists have minimum contact with senior staffers outside the region. The lack of this contact and feedback obviously limits the learning process. When it comes to thematic issues, the problem is increased manifolds and the journalists have no means to develop thematic expertise on subjects related to their community.

Civil society and media development organizations have responded to the need of security of safety trainings for these journalists, but capacity building in terms of thematic expertise has been overlooked so far. This key area needs more attention from media and media development organizations.

Majority of journalists in FATA have learnt only from their own experiences in the field. While one can't undermine the importance of learning in the field, the fact remains that FATA is a relatively isolated region and tribal journalists have minimum contact with senior staffers outside the region. The lack of this contact and feedback obviously limits the learning process.

Reported and Unreported Threats to FATA Journalists



- Deaths & Assassinations
- Abductions & Arrests
- Threat Documentation

Deaths and Assassinations; Media Content on Journalists Killings

In the year 2011, 10 journalists were killed in Pakistan; making it the most dangerous country in the world for journalists for the second year in a row. The Committee for protection of Journalists, CPJ annual tally of journalists' deaths¹ around the world placed Pakistan at a grim position. As expected, the start of 2012 saw Pakistan slipping on the RSF's annual Press Freedom Index² - Occupying 151st rank on a scale of 179, Pakistan has now fallen behind Afghanistan and is just a point ahead of Iraq.

The Federally Administered Tribal Region remains one of the most dangerous areas in Pakistan, exposing the journalists working there to additional danger. Since the American invasion on Afghanistan in 2011, the journalists in FATA have faced an increasingly challenging job. During the last one decade at least 10 journalists have been killed in FATA alone. The dangers have increased so much, that some have quit the profession and a reasonable number of journalists have been forced to relocate. In a region with a population of over 3.18 million³, there are now barely 250 working journalists.

Despite the special risks that tribal journalists are facing, most of the news organizations continue to be insensitive towards their needs. Financial instability, lack of medical insurance and lack of threat monitoring and perception is leading tribal journalists into additional dangers. However, now media houses seem to be waking up to the dangers. Media groups⁴ have also started to realize that if this absolute for censorship is not stopped now,

journalism is going suffer. But for now the threat continues.

The reality of this threat was brought home yet again on 18th January 2012, when a renowned tribal journalist Mukkaram Khan Atif⁵ was shot dead in Shabqadar area of Charsadda District. Hailing from Mohmand Agency.

Atif had relocated to Charsadda district after receiving constant threats. Unfortunately, the move did not help save his life.

Mukkaram Khan Atif was associated with Dunya News TV and Deeva Radio, VOA. This assassination is the first one for which Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan has openly claimed responsibility saying that he was not adhering to their demands of including their version in his stories.

The admission by TTP has added a new chilling dimension to the journalists' safety concerns in Pakistan. Even though the Taliban and other militant groups have been issuing threats to journalists for a while, this is the first assassination that has been openly declared as the work of TTP. Since Mukarram Khan's tragic demise, a number of journalists working in FATA have received similar threats from the group.

Mukarram's death as with other's before it has not been able to shake the administration into action and journalists killing continue with complete impunity.

¹ Journalists Killed in Pakistan; CPJ <http://cpj.org/killed/asia/pakistan/>

² RSF Press Freedom Index 2011-12; <http://en.rsf.org/press-freedom-index-2011-2012,1043.html>

³ FATA Population Demographics; http://fata.gov.pk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=56&Itemid=92

⁴ Death of a Journalist, The Express Tribune; <http://tribune.com.pk/story/324143/death-of-a-journalist-3/>

⁵ Targeted Attack: Taliban Gun Down Senior Journalist in Charsadda; <http://tribune.com.pk/story/323271/targeted-attack-taliban-gun-down-senior-tribal-journalist-in-charsadda/>

A SAFMA report⁶, released in late 2011 notes that, “Working conditions for journalists in Pakistan were more risky against the backdrop of ongoing conflicts in the vast north and south western regions of the country. While militants target them with impunity, fingers are also raised at the role of security agencies in their kidnapping and killing.”

Despite the mounting number of Pakistani journalists killed in targeted attacks, not a single culprit has been arrested or prosecuted. The high profile murder of Saleem Shahzad and the resulting fury in journalist community led to the formation of an investigative commission. However, six months later, the commission submitted a totally inconclusive report⁷, whose only aim seemed to be the absolution of security agencies which were openly being accused of having a hand in the assassination. The formative part of the report simply said; “Whereas the heinous murder of Saleem Shahzad, a journalist has taken place and cause and circumstances leading to are to be ascertained.”

Some media experts say that while Saleem Shahzad Murder Report did not succeed in ending the prevailing tradition of impunity, it did set a new and startling precedent. Veteran journalist Adnan Rehmat⁸ writes “the commission – and this is the real surprise in the report – calls for greater control and accountability of spy agencies like the ISI and IB, both from within and externally. This is an emphasis that would be astounding even if this were not a probe into the murder of a journalist.”

This could be a big step towards ensuring journalist safety in Pakistan. According to Asian Human Rights Commission⁹; “many cases of involvement of the military intelligence agencies in killing, abduction and disappearances of the journalists were reported [In Pakistan]. 16 journalists were killed, among them five journalists were abducted by the

spies of state intelligence agencies, kept incommunicado in different torture cells, tortured and their bullet ridden bodies were dumped on the road side. Five journalists were killed in bomb blasts while performing their professional duties, six journalists were killed in target killings. One journalist is missing after abduction by the plain clothed person.”

The killing of journalists, accompanied by the fact that the families of the slain journalists are usually left helpless and vulnerable makes the situation extremely bleak. Fund for journalists killed and those in danger are operating privately, but on a state level no such incentive has been taken.

As media is constantly pointing out¹⁰, there is no proper method for a compensation or pension for the children and families of journalists who have lost their lives have been crippled in the line of duty, either of the government level or on the level of journalist bodies and media groups

A fund was dedicated for the welfare of journalists, but the Finance Ministry is still withholding Rs 205.5m¹¹. According to Pakistan Today, “the Finance Ministry has also not released Rs 5.5 million to the information ministry as allocated in budget 2011-12 (current financial year) under head of ‘A05270’ for the welfare of journalists.

The Information Ministry has already moved a summary for the approval of regulations for providing financial assistance to journalists in distress and provision of funds by the Finance Ministry will help the endowment fund become operative.”

However, till the fund actually becomes operative, targeted journalists and their families have extremely limited support. The increase in threats and dangers is not just affecting the journalists, but

⁶ 2012 saw 12 journalists killed in Pakistan; <http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2012/01/2011-saw-12-journalists-killed-in-pakistan/>

⁷ Six Months Later, Saleem Shahzad Commission Finally Submits Report <http://tribune.com.pk/story/319378/six-months-later-saleem-shahzad-commission-finally-submits-report/>

⁸ Its not breaking news; Impunity goes on; <http://tribune.com.pk/story/321352/its-not-breaking-news-impunity-goes-on/>

⁹ Pakistan, the state of Human Rights 2011; http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Full_Report_3065.pdf

¹⁰ Mukarram Khan Atif; another light goes out; <http://www.dailyaaj.com.pk/epaper-detail.php?image=MzkwMzU=>

¹¹ Finance Ministry withholding 205.5 m for journalist welfare fund; <http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2011/12/finance-ministry-withholding-rs-205-5m-for-journalist%E2%80%99s-welfare-fund/>

it is affecting journalism itself.

Another aspect of dangers to media in FATA arises out of the security situation itself. Even when the journalists are not directly targeted, they remain in danger owing to the condition of the area they are operating in. In February 2012, a senior tribal journalist Haji Peer Gul became a target during a cross fire between militants and armed forces.

According to details printed in The News¹²; “Unknown people fired a rocket at the roadside checkpoint of the paramilitary Frontier Corps (FC) at Darpakhel Sarai in Miranshah but it reportedly did not cause any casualty to the security personnel or damage to the post. The area residents said the FC soldiers retaliated and started indiscriminate firing of rockets and mortars, one of which fell on the house of senior journalist Haji Pazeer Gul.” The journalist’s two grandsons sustained injuries in this attack. A news story that appeared in Dawn¹³ says that both children are recovering at home.

This incident once again highlights the fact that the journalists in FATA are facing dangers from multiple dimensions.

In view of the increasing dangers to journalists in FATA, the TUJ has asked concerned authorities to provide bullet proof jackets to Tribal Journalists. According to The News¹⁴, the Union is also looking into life insurance schemes for its members and has asked the members to provide their details by March 10.

However, till those measures transform into reality, the journalists continue to operate in dangerous situations.

In March 2012 a local radio journalist, Sajid Khattak, sustained serious injuries after being targeted in Peshawar. A resident of Chirat, Sajid Khattak is associated with Intermedia as freelance radio journalist. The incident that appears to be a snatching is still shrouded in mystery and the

investigative authorities have not yet arrived at a conclusion. According to the news story, published in The Express Tribune; a case has been registered against unknown persons.

“The attackers could have easily snatched his cell phone as well, but it needs thorough investigation as taking only his laptop raises doubts,” Superintendent of Cantonment Police.

This incident is yet another example of the fact that in FATA, it has become exceedingly difficult to isolate crimes from crimes directly targeting journalists solely on the basis of their professions. Becoming collateral damage is an ever present fear but becoming an identified target is an even scarier one. In this battle between life security and professional ethics, ethics are often compromised.

In an article published in The News¹⁵, Mazhar Abbas points out that journalists often have no choice but to succumb to the will of local militants in order to survive. He says, “Journalists remain under surveillance of both militants and agencies and their telephones remain under observation. Sometimes they were even called and were told what they had been saying on the phone and are often warned to be more careful in their conversations.

The writer quotes a tribal journalist saying that given the conditions in FATA, freedom of the press is nothing but a sweet dream.

Media experts are pointing out that reporters operating in a violent and extremely hostile environment are forced to adopt a different set of principles than other reporters. In regions like FATA where journalists are being threatened by militants, security agencies and political administration alike, all news decisions become extremely risky. Before reporting on sensitive issues, the journalists have to make threat analysis and often choose to reduce the threat by not sharing or diffusing facts that might lead them to danger.

This practice, while necessary for keeping the

¹² Two injured as rocket hits house; <http://www.thenews.com.pk/TodaysPrintDetail.aspx?ID=91487&Cat=7>

¹³ Two children injured in shelling; <http://www.dawn.com/2012/02/07/two-children-injured-in-shelling.html>

¹⁴ Tribal Journalists Seek; <http://www.thenews.com.pk/TodaysPrintDetail.aspx?ID=94502&Cat=7>

¹⁵ Death is the only news; <http://jang.com.pk/thenews/feb2012-weekly/nos-05-02-2012/pol1.htm#3>

journalists safer, also means that the truth is not getting out, As Faizullah Jan¹⁶, a journalist from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, writes “In such a situation, journalists don’t strive for scoops or exclusive news stories; instead, they share their information with their colleagues in other news organisations to avoid being singled out by threatening forces.

This need for ‘preservation’ at the expense of a plurality of opinion eats into the vitals of objective journalism. A single opinion and a single narrative prevails across the mass media landscape where people are exposed to only one ‘reality,’ which is created in an environment of fear”

Environment of fear also silences those who are sceptical of the dominant version of the truth. If journalists in FATA are not provided with necessary security, the number of tragedies would rise; not just that, like Balochistan, FATA might also become a news blackout zone.

As journalism suffers, the Government of Pakistan is proving time and again its indifference towards the safety of journalists. In May 2012, the government of Pakistan refused to endorse a UN draft plan on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity.¹⁷ According to details published in The Nation “UNESCO’s 28th biennial session failed to endorse a plan to strengthen international efforts to fight impunity after the proposal drew objections from Pakistan and two other member nations — India and Brazil — that have high rates of deadly, anti-press violence.”¹⁸

According to Umer Cheema, writing for The News; “In the meeting held on March 23-24, the member-states were asked to inform about the status of inquiries conducted to investigate the murders of journalists killed in the period 2006-9, Pakistan being one of them. Pakistan decided to be among those countries that didn’t produce any report, affirming the indifference of the government.”

This attitude of the Pakistani government is inexplicable especially regarding the fact that Pakistan once again rates alarmingly high on the newly updated impunity index released by CPIJ, which calculates unsolved journalist murders as a percentage of each country’s population. The index shows that Pakistani authorities routinely fail to bring prosecutions in journalist murders, including several with suspected government links.¹⁹

Perhaps it is the ‘suspected government links’ that make our authorities so lax in ending impunity towards journalists targeting. Whatever the reasons may be, fact remains that the lack of honest and diverse journalism affects not just the journalist community but the whole nation.

¹⁶ Dangers of a shared reality; <http://www.dawn.com/2011/12/29/dangers-of-a-shared-reality.html>

¹⁷ Pakistan Refused Details on Journalist Murder Inquiry <http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-6-102719-Pakistan-refused-details-on-journalists-murder-inquiry>

¹⁸ Violence up against journalists in Pakistan; <http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/national/18-Apr-2012/violence-up-against-journalists-in-pakistan-cpj>

¹⁹ Violence against journalists on the rise in Pakistan; <http://dawn.com/2012/04/18/violence-against-journalists-on-the-rise-in-pakistan/>

Abductions and Arrests

On the afternoon of 11 August 2011, journalist Rehmatullah Darpakhel was abducted²⁰ by unknown men as he shopped for groceries in his home town of Miran Shah in North Waziristan, in north-western Pakistan.

According to details a group of armed men with covered faces kidnapped from the main market of the town. He was bundled into a car and taken away in broad daylight. Darpakhel was associated with Aaj TV and Urdu daily Ausaaf. At the time of his abduction, Darpakhel was well known amongst the journalist community and had not received any threats from any of the groups involved in the armed conflict.

Darpakhel's abduction raised serious concerns amongst the journalists' bodies all over the country. The Tribal Union of Journalists (TUJ)²¹, Khyber Union of Journalists (KhUJ), Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) and various other journalist bodies come together to protest against the kidnapping.

For two months, the protest continued²² with journalist bodies demanding concrete action²³ from law enforcement agencies, Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA's political administration. The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, HRCP also issued an urgent appeal²⁴ for the safe recovery of the abducted journalist.

However, the political administration and law

enforcement agencies proved to be futile, and it were the tribal elders who brokered the abducted journalist's release²⁵. Darpakhel was released on 13th October 2011, after spending more than 2 months as a captive.

Rehmatullah Darpakhel's abduction was thankfully the only one that happened during August 2011 – September 2012 and it ended with the release of the journalist.

Rehmatullah Darpakhel's abduction once again brought home the fact that the threat of death, kidnapping and assault²⁶ has become the norm for journalists working in FATA. But militants aren't the only ones who are keeping journalists in custody.

On 14th September 2011, the political administration cracked down on a press conference in Parachinar and arrested several journalists²⁷. Most of those arrested were office bearers of Parachinar Press Club, including President of Parachinar Press Club Azmat Alizai, Senior Vice President Haji Nasir Hussain, General Secretary Haji Sajad Hussain, Press Secretary Rashid Khan, Finance Secretary Said Sajid Ali Shah, President of Tribal Union of Journalists Kurram Agency Hussain Afzal and Senior Vice President Mehdi Hussain.

The journalists were arrested during a news conference by Muttahida Taliba Mahaz²⁸, regarding firing by law-enforcers on a student rally. The journalists were released after a day, but claimed to have been tortured during captivity. After protests

²⁰ Journalist abducted in Pakistan's Tribal Area; <http://cpj.org/2011/08/journalist-abducted-in-pakistan-tribal-agency.php>

²¹ TUJ demands safe release of kidnapped senior journalist; <http://www.tuj.com.pk/news.html>

²² Journalist hold protest demo; <http://www.thenews.com.pk/TodaysPrintDetail.aspx?ID=67895&Cat=7>

²³ Early recovery of journalist demanded; <http://www.thenews.com.pk/TodaysPrintDetail.aspx?ID=67417&Cat=7>

²⁴ Urgent Appeal HRCP;

http://groups.google.com/group/pakistanipress/browse_thread/thread/1e440e601a7e9f0a/7733076f8abac8d%3Fq%3D%2522Rehmat%2BUllah%2522%237733076f8abac8d&ei=iGwTS6eaOpW8Qpmqic0O&sa=t&ct=res&cd=20&source=groups&usg=AFQjCJNFJQtNx-xgFdMD8g6AoNMpgUbdYWg?pli=1

²⁵ Gunman release kidnapped journalist; <http://www.dawn.com/2011/10/13/gunmen-release-kidnapped-pakistani-journalist.html>

²⁶ Quantifying the threats to journalists in Pakistan; <http://cpj.org/blog/2011/08/quantifying-the-threat-to-journalists-in-pakistan.php>

²⁷ Journalists held in Parachinar; <http://www.thefrontierpost.com/2011/09/14/journalists-held-in-parachinar/>

²⁸ 14 journalists held in Parachinar; <http://www.dawn.com/2011/09/14/journalists-held-in-parachinar.html>

from journalist bodies, the political agent of Kurram Agency ordered action²⁹ against the responsible personnel.

However, no action was taken against the responsible officials and journalists had to hold protest demonstrations³⁰.

The arrest of the journalist for the crime of covering a news conference baring the aristocracies of law enforcement agencies proves that the threats to FATA based reporters come from various sources. The threat from political and administrative authorities is perhaps even more dangerous and concerning than the threat from militants, as it stops the journalists from reporting truthfully from the region.

²⁹ Arrested Journalists Released; <http://www.thefrontierpost.com/2011/09/15/arrested-journalists-released/>

³⁰ Journalists hold protest demonstration; <http://www.thenews.com.pk/TodaysPrintDetail.aspx?ID=67895&Cat=7>

Threat Documentation

One of the most important components of threat assessment is proper documentation of the existing threats. Sadly, despite the fact that journalists in FATA are constantly receiving threats, there is no mechanism for mapping threats.

As a part of this research Intermedia Pakistan has also started documenting threats to FATA journalists – during August 2011 – May 2012 some threats to various journalists based all over FATA have been recorded.

Journalist Irfan Ullah Jan of Bajaur Agency received a threat from Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan. The reporter is being asked to give a certain angle to a story. The threats were issued through FM Radio. Law enforcement agencies were notified of the threat, but no favourable action was taken.

The political administration in Mohmand Agency, threatened Jang reporter Noor Mohammad, to stop publication of a story. The threats were given during a telephone call. The reporter has not reported the threat to either Jang group or the authorities.

In September 2011, Rasool Dawar a reporter with Daily Nawa-e-Waqt, received a threatening phone call from a PTCL official. The reporter was threatened with dire consequences for publishing a story about PTCL's mismanagement at corruption in the North Waziristan Area. The authorities were not notified.

In September 2011, Salah-u-Din Orakzai of Geo TV, received a threatening letter from a militant group. The threat was issued in order to stop publication of a story. The reporter informed his organization and received a favourable response from them.

In October 2011, a reporter from The Nation received a threatening phone call from ISPR. The authorities asked the reporter to stop the publication of a story. The reporter informed the organization and received a favourable response.

In January 2012, Ibrahim Shinwari of Deeva Radio, who works from Landi Kotal Khyber Agency has been receiving threats via telephone by some militant groups. The threats are occasionally repeated and the militants are pressurizing Shinwari to give a certain angle to his stories. Shinwari has notified his organization about the threats, but law enforcement agencies have not been notified.

In January, another journalist Shah Nawaz Tarakzai, associated with Radio Mashaal and Free Radio Europe has had to relocate to Peshawar from Bajaur Agency after receiving threats from militant groups. He was threatened over the telephone and pressurized to give a certain angle to his stories. In this case again, the security and law enforcement agencies haven't been notified, which speaks volumes about the lack of trust journalists have on the authorities.

On 7th February 2012, the house of Haji Pazeer Gul was hit by a shell during a cross fire between militants and armed forces. Haji Peer Gul is associated with Dawn and ARY news. The attack occurred in Saraj Shah Darpa KHle village near Miranshah Bazaar and the journalist suffered a loss of around 120,000 Rs. The attack was also reported by the media.

On 6th March 2012, Sajidur Rehman Khattak a freelance journalist working from Peshawar was the victim of what was apparently a street crime. The snatchers shot the journalist, who was seriously injured and sustained bullet injuries to the neck. His laptop, voice recorder and data storage usbs were confiscated. The journalist has now recovered and hasn't received any recurrent threat.

On April 15th, 2012, Khayal Zaman Afridi working with Daily Aaj and Dunya TV was involved in a tribal feud. The journalist was attacked and tortured in Khyber Agency and sustained minor injuries. However there were conflicting reports about the

reasons for this attack and the probability remains that the attack was a result on a personal tribal grudge and thus wasn't linked to his professional duties as a journalist.

On April 21st 2012, Salehu Din Orakzai of Geo TV and The News received a threat on phone from a militant group. The group asked the journalist to give a certain angle to a story he was working on. The threats have been occasionally repeated since then and the journalist has notified his media organization about them. However, so far law enforcement agencies have not been notified.

On May 10th 2012, Abdul Azam Shinwari, associated with ATV Khyber and APP news agency received a threat on phone from the supporters of an MNA Noor-ul-Haq Qadri. The journalist was warned to stop publication of a news story concerning Mr, Noor ul Haq Qadri. The threats have been repeated on a weekly basis. The journalist has notified his media organization but has refrained from contacting law enforcement agencies.

List of Key Media Stakeholders in FATA

Radio Stations

Radio Stations	Agency	Phone	Fax	Email
Radio Khyber	Khyber	091 5827166	091 5827166	Said.nazirafriidi@gmail.com
Radio Miranshah	North Waziristan	0928 312332	0928 312332	Fazalrehman09@gmail.com
Radio Razmak	North Waziristan	0928 230392	0928 230692	Bakhtawar_jan@yahoo.com

FATA Press Clubs

Press Club	Agency	Phone	Fax	Email
Jamrud Press Club	Khyber Agency	091 5827210	091 5827210	amjadaliafridi1@gmail.com
Landi Kotal Press Club	Khyber Agency	0924 211000	0924 211000	wali.shinwari@gmail.com
Bara Press Club	Khyber Agency	No office	-	-
Bajaur Press Club	Bajaur Agency	0942 222333	0942-221964	hasban.bajaur@gmail.com
Ghalanai Press Club	Mohmand Agency	0924-290115 0345-5071717	0924 290015	-
Orakzai Press Club	Orakzai Agency	0300-9150914	-	kuraz22@yahoo.com
Sadda Press Club	Kurram Agency	0926 521251 0926 521351	0926 521251 0926 521351	lqbalhussain_press@yahoo.com
Parachinar Press Club	Kurram Agency	0926 312608	0926 311113	afzalgeo@yahoo.com
Miranshah Press Club	North Waziristan	0928 300191	-	-
Mir Ali Press Club	North Waziristan	No office	-	lhsan_dawar@yahoo.com
Ladha Press Club	South Waziristan	0333-9452636	-	-
Wana Press Club	South Waziristan	0965 210194, 212894, 0301-8796720	-	Journalist1@gmail.com

PRO to Political Agents

Agency	PRO/Contact Person	Phone	Fax	Email
Khyber Agency	Muhammad Ali	091-9212143	091-9212143	Not available
Bajaur	Mustafa Kamal	0942-220294	0942-220294	-
Mohmand	Jamil (PID)	03015906355		-
Orakzai	Luqman	0925-621542	0925-621542	-
Kurram	Zafar ul islam	0926-312463	0926-312463	-
North Waziristan	Manzoor (steno)	0928-300798	0928-300798	-
South Waziristan	Control office	0963-510709	0963-510709	-

Tribal Union of Journalists

Tribal Union of journalists	President	Phone	Fax	Email
	Safdar Hayat Dawar	091 5842188 03015577599	091 5842188	maliksafdardawar@yahoo.com

FATA Media Cell

FATA Media Directorate	Director	Phone	Fax	Email
	Kifayatullah Durrani	091-9212153	091-9210898	Kudurrani_47@yahoo.com

About this Publication

Media in FATA: A Brief Background

Pakistan remains the toughest newsbeat for journalists. In recent years, reporters have fallen with regular and alarming intensity in the line of duty, underscoring the challenges of reporting on militancy and conflict. While the environment has become unsafe for journalists all over the country in recent years, tougher still is reporting from the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). The tribal region along the Pak-Afghan border has been never been easy to report from due to its lawless nature at the best of times. With the militancy-related conflict centered there, the going has got tougher for journalists.

Called upon to report on a vicious, volatile region, a nascent and struggling media has been negotiating a minefield of hostile tribal attitudes and a deadly conflict characterized by information blackout and control. Of the 74 reporters killed in Pakistan since 2001, at least 10 are from FATA and 18 from the adjacent Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

While constantly undermined by a vicious conflict, media in FATA have made immense strides – nothing short of a miracle in the presence of ban on media, freedom of assembly and expression and lack of organizational support to journalists. It is important to protect and defend the space journalists have secured for media against all odds. While journalists living and working elsewhere in Pakistan have the support of their fraternity and media support organizations, those in FATA are handicapped by lack of training, lack of infrastructure, the remote and close nature of the tribal hinterland and an active conflict that restricts mobility and communication. There is little known of the struggles and challenges journalists in FATA face, routinely risking their lives and families to provide the world a window on one of the isolated regions of the world.

About this Report – Reporting from the frontline

This report is part of an effort to support journalists and journalism in Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) through ongoing monitoring, research and analysis of the state of media in the region. By documenting violations aimed at journalists in FATA on a monthly basis, we hope to preserve and protect the space for media that journalists working in the region have won in a complete absence of local media infrastructure. This report combines the data gathered in ten monthly FATA Media Reviews, that have been published every month since August 2011.

PART I: Research and analysis of thematic issues relating to FATA media

This section includes six researches on unique themes conducted each month by Intermedia Pakistan. This has been done principally through seeking feedback on Trend Research Questionnaires produced on the theme and then analyzing the responses. The average Feedback sample is around 30 working journalists.

PART II: Monitoring and analysis of violations against FATA media

This section includes narrative analysis of violations against media based on data collected from monitoring of print and online media and all the press clubs in FATA (see list of monitoring categories/sources at the end of this report) as well as the Tribal Union of Journalists (TUJ).

Monitored News Sources for this monthly report

- ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS: The Frontier Post, The Statesman, Khyber Mail, Dawn, Express Tribune, The News, Daily Times, Pakistan Today and The Nation.

- URDU NEWSPAPERS: Mashriq, Aaj, Jang, Nawa-e-Waqt, Khabrain and Express.
- PASHTO NEWSPAPERS: Wahdat, Khabroona, Hewad and Jirga.
- MAGAZINES: Herald, Newline and The Friday Times.
- ONLINE SOURCES: BBC Urdu Online and BBC Pashto Online

Commonwealth Office (FCO). The views and contents, however, are the sole responsibility of Intermedia Pakistan. The activities outlined in the FATA Media Review (except external sources referenced from media) were also undertaken under the same project.

Monitored Categories of Media Items

- Categories of Violations against Media: Death, Kidnapping, Detention, Arrest, Assault, Censorship, Attack on Property, Threat, Exile/Displacement, Restriction on Mobility, and Restriction on Information Access.
- Categories of Alternative Media: Cinema, Music, Movies, Literature, Theatre, Radio, Television.
- Categories of Online Media: Internet, Telephony, Satellite, Social Media, CDs/DVDs.

Types of Media Items Evaluated

1. Editorial and Opinions: Items in which the journalists or a representative of the media outlet expresses her/his opinion regarding issues, facts or actors
2. Expert Analysis: Items in which the author is an expert not employed by the newspaper or an external analyst and they express their technical advice or opinion on issues, facts or actor
3. News: Items reporting about current affairs and issues of the day
4. Interview: Items in which an actor is interviewed
5. Letters from Readers: Letters and comments sent by readers to newspapers and published

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