Conclusion

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Terrorism has many different features and different authors have given different labels to different forms of terrorism. From the results of this thesis, one can conclude that there are important questions to be addressed with regard to the adoption of specific standards for victims of terrorism. This implies that there is a need to differentiate victims of ordinary crime from that of a terror attack. There is also a need to recognize the specific situation of the victims of terror attack and bring about a set of recommendations to achieve an unequivocal recognition of this situation. The public dimension should also be looked at as an instrument towards quelling this disregard of victims.

One can put forth the argument that social, psychological and financial empowerment of the victims could emanate if there are a specific set of guidelines put forth. The needs of direct victims of terrorism are more often than not similar to other victims of crime; however the difference is noted in the degree of psychological as well as physical trauma. The analysis of results indicates that the impact of victimization is higher in the terrorist attacks than conventional crimes. There is often immediate requirement of financial assistance and there is a need for them to be treated with respect by the criminal justice system as well as the public.
This study is the first of its kind in India, conducted among victims of bomb blasts in the post Babri Masjid Demolition period. Many studies have relatively small sample size (e.g., 10-25 participants) and some consisting of a single case. However, the present study had satisfactory levels of sample to generalize. The quantification of impact of victimization done in this study will be useful for the policy makers in the creation of schemes of compensation to victims of terrorism. Finally, the study findings will guide future researchers who are going to conduct similar kind of studies.

5.1. Recommendations

5.1.a. Health care professionals:

There is a need for health care professionals to prepare for the large casualty loads during bombing disasters. Very few doctors and emergency medical technicians have the field experience in these grave issues. So it is proposed that more education should be provided to fill this gap.

5.1.b. Criminal justice system:

There is a need for a massive improvement in the criminal justice system. It is recommended that several special courts be established dedicated to solving pertaining cases with regard to victim compensation. This will also be useful to cut down the time period it takes to solve these cases. Several such instances have been carried out in other countries and it is suggested that a future comparative
case study with other countries can pave way for a strategic management technique.

5.1.c. Laws on victim compensation:

The current laws of the government with regard to victim compensation are not found to be very standardized. It is suggested that the government puts forth more stringent laws to make sure victims are provided with justice. It is also suggested that the governments finds ways to speed up the process for granting compensation.

5.1.d. Media:

The media by and large has been treating victims of terror with care. However, there have been isolated instances where the victims have not been granted their wish for privacy. The media should empathise with the victims and respect their privacy as well as should be concerned of their health, than highlighting them in Media with injuries. Governments should provide protection to those who do not want to be in the light of the media.

5.1.e. Development of a crisis management system:

A crisis management system should be evolved to manage such emergencies. There should be identification of lessons and practices of crisis management especially with regard to treatment of victims.
5.2. Limitations of the Study

There are several assumptions and limitations present in this study. First, the instrument used in this study is forced choice, which means that victims could not be allowed to answer their views freely and only they could answer within the closed set of questions. Hence, the answers provided may not be as accurate.

Secondly, the sample size is limited to only 317 selected victims and moreover focused only particular period of bomb blast in Mumbai. Hence the views / perspectives reported by the participants in the present study would not be representative of entire bomb blast of the country. Moreover, financial constraints and non availability of required information about the victim of Mumbai bomb blast which all limited the sample size of the current study. Thirdly, the present study is cross sectional in nature, which means that data collected at a particular point of time, thus this may not guarantee that the answers reported by the respondent would valid for longer period. Other factors such as time of day, recent conflicts, fatigue of the participants are outside the control of researchers which all could influence the response (Shell, 2001).

The following are some other limitations.

5.2.1. Number of participants:

Despite the heavy causality lists in the three attacks which have been considered in this study, there have been only 317 cases which have been
considered. This has lessened the chances of establishing a generalized view of the victims on the various subjects discussed.

5.2.2. Selection of victims:

Most of the data related with the victims of bomb blasts were maintained by the Police and Railway department. Due to issues of confidentiality and privacy mentioned by these departments, the researcher was denied access to the data related to victims. Hence, the researcher sought the assistance of a Member of Legislature of Maharashtra Government for getting data of victims who were seeking assistance from the government. Also the researcher visited some hospitals based on newspaper information and met the victims of Mumbai bomb blasts occurred in the year of 1993, 2006 and 2008. If the criminal justice machinery would have supported the researcher in the collection of data on the victims of bomb blasts, it would have been relatively easier and less time consuming in the completion of this study.

5.2.3. Time lapse:

The first attack considered in this study occurred in 1993. Therefore it was difficult to get the victim's agreement to take part in the study as most felt that there was a huge time gap and research now on this issue is not going to help. Also many of the victims could not remember the events that occurred 17 years ago.