

## KURRAM'S PURSUIT OF PEACE: AN ANALYSIS OF CONFLICT, STRATEGIES FOR ENHANCING SOCIAL COHESION, AND ASSESSMENT OF PEACEBUILDING

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### ABSTRACT

This research paper explores the complex dynamics of sectarian violence in the Kurram region of Pakistan. It specifically focuses on conducting a comprehensive analysis of historical peace agreements, with particular emphasis on the 2007 Murree Accord. The study utilises Lederach's transformative peacebuilding model to evaluate the efficiency of current peacebuilding strategies and suggests culturally customized initiatives to strengthen social cohesion. The study utilizes a mixed-methods approach to analyze historical data, theoretical frameworks, and empirical evidence to critically assess previous peace agreements and integrate various theoretical perspectives. The analysis examines historical peace agreements, the role of Jirga in resolving disputes, and the complex relationships between land disputes and sectarian tensions. It takes into account recent events, including the 2023 Jirga, to provide a contemporary context. The research reveals the difficulties faced when implementing historical peace agreement and provides detailed insights and recommendations for policymakers, scholars, and practitioners engaged in conflict resolution and peacebuilding initiatives in Kurram.

**Keywords:** Kurram, Conflict, Social cohesion, Peacebuilding, Resilience

### INTRODUCTION

The district of Kurram, located in the challenging terrain of Pakistan, has a fascinating history marked by conflicts, sectarian tensions, and ongoing efforts to achieve peace. This article aims to explore the complexities of the Kurram conflict, analyzing its historical impact, and examine the various consequences of post-conflict unrest. Furthermore, its objective is to clearly define a practical approach for attaining long-lasting peace and promoting harmonious relationships within the region.

The dynamics in Kurram Agency differ from other tribal agencies of FATA due to the presence of a sectarian divide and its geostrategic location. Kurram is geographically bordered by Afghanistan on three sides, and it has experienced ongoing unrest since 1980, following the invasion of Afghanistan by the Soviet Union. The Kurram Agency has consistently held significant strategic value for Pakistan due to its

location, being surrounded by Afghanistan on three sides. The majority of its borders are adjacent to the politically unstable provinces of Logar, Paktia, Khost, and Nangarhar in Afghanistan. The Tora Bora Mountain range in the Nangarhar Province of Afghanistan is known to have a significant presence of al Qaeda and Taliban. It is situated near the Kurram Agency, which shares its boundaries with the mountain range. In the northeastern region, Kurram shares a border with the Khyber Agency. To the east of Kurram is the Orakzai Agency, while the Hangu District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is located to its southeast. Moving further south, Kurram is adjacent to the North Waziristan Agency. The Kurram Agency serves as a vital link between the tribal areas of Pakistan and Afghanistan, encompassing lower, central, and upper Kurram. The Thal-Parachinar route is considered to be the shortest

route to Kabul, which is an important factor to consider Mohanty, T. R. (2017, April 3).

The region's historical landscape is a testament to the complex interplay of ethnic, religious, and geopolitical factors that have greatly influenced the nature of its conflicts. The Kurram conflict, characterized mainly by sectarian tensions, has had a long-lasting effect on the social, economic, and cultural aspects of the district. Given this context, the consequences of conflict result in a depiction of resilience in the face of adversity. Communities are confronted with the challenges of displacement, a fragmented sense of self, and the urgent need for reconstruction.

The objective of this study is to thoroughly analyse different aspects of the Kurram conflict. This includes examining its origins, understanding the complex dynamics of post-conflict instability, and exploring potential strategies to promote social cohesion and peacebuilding. When exploring the complex interplay of historical grievances, geopolitical dynamics, and communal resilience, our main goal is to offer insightful observations that go beyond the current challenges. We aim to lead District Kurram towards a future marked by unity, prosperity, and lasting peace.

**The study's research question and objective are as follows:**

**Research Question:**

What are the factors that have contributed to the emergence and continuation of the Kurram conflict, and what are the potential consequences of this conflict? Moreover, how can the effective implementation of designed social cohesion and peacebuilding strategies contribute to the region's recovery process?

**Objective of Study:**

The objective of this research project is to thoroughly investigate the Kurram conflict. The specific focus will be on understanding the root causes of the conflict and exploring its different forms and expressions. Moreover, this study aims to acquire a thorough comprehension of the diverse challenges that emerge following unrest caused by conflict. The objective is to suggest targeted strategies that prioritise the promotion of social cohesion and peacebuilding. The ultimate aim is to achieve

enduring stability and cultivate a sense of unity among the communities involved.

**Significance of Study**

The study is significant because it addresses the urgent need for sustainable solutions in the Kurram region. It acknowledges and considers the complex nature of post-conflict situations, thus aiding in the creation of comprehensive strategies that can successfully tackle the challenges involved. The study aims to conduct a thorough analysis of the factors that contribute to the conflict and explore its potential consequences. The main goal is to create customised strategies that prioritise social unity, reconciliation, and sustainable peace within the unique circumstances of the region.

**METHODOLOGY**

The study employs a mixed-methods approach in its methodology. This research methodology involves using qualitative techniques such as interviews, analyzing historical records, and considering community perspectives. These approaches are used to gain a thorough understanding of the complex layers of the Kurram conflict and the challenges that have arisen in its aftermath. This research project involves a thorough quantitative analysis of data related to conflict incidents, casualties resulting from those incidents, and other relevant metrics. The main goal of this analysis is to enhance our understanding of the subject being investigated.

**An Examination of the Past**

To gain a comprehensive understanding of the subject matter, it is crucial to analyze the historical context and events that have influenced its development. By exploring the past, we can acquire a more profound comprehension.

The phenomenon of sectarian violence in Pakistan, particularly the conflicts between Sunni and Shia communities, can be traced back to the historical origins of the country. Pakistan was established in 1947 (Saikal, 2001), and since then, these conflicts have persisted. According to Murphy and Malik (2009), the ongoing ideological conflict between these two opposing groups has caused significant changes within the religion of peace. This transformation has given rise to radicalism and extremism among its followers. The tribal district of

Khyber is known for the widespread misinterpretation of Islam's teachings. In this region, various sect-based organizations and terrorist groups have distorted religious doctrines for their own gain (Nasr, 2002).

### **Factors Contributing to Sectarianism**

Sectarian conflict is a complex phenomenon that can be attributed to multiple factors, including a range of social, cultural, and political influences. These influences have a significant impact on initiating and perpetuating conflicts within societies. The tribal district of Khyber, specifically District Kurram, has been plagued by sectarian conflict. This conflict has been influenced by various factors, including social, cultural, and political aspects. The various influences at play have undoubtedly played a significant role in perpetuating the enduring conflict between Sunni and Shia factions.

The region has experienced a noticeable increase in sectarian violence as a result of external intervention, particularly the US-led war on terror that was initiated in response to the 9/11 attacks. According to Tasneem (2013), there has been evidence of local and transnational terrorist organizations, such as Al-Qaeda and Tehreek Taliban Pakistan, strategically infiltrating District Kurram. They aim to worsen the already existing conflicts between Shia and Sunni groups. Significant financial resources were allocated to cultivate and secure support from the local population, which further intensified the existing sectarian polarisation (Yusuf, 2012).

### **Statistics and their Implications**

A study conducted by Munir et al. (2012) revealed that the South Asian terrorism portal recorded a total of 631 incidents of sectarian violence in District Kurram from 2007 to 2011. These incidents had a significant impact, resulting in a total of 1,649 fatalities. In 2010, 57 incidents occurred, leading to 509 fatalities and 1,170 injuries. These figures are used to indicate the significant impact and seriousness of the ongoing conflict. In 2011, there were a total of 30 reported incidents, which showed a decrease compared to previous years. However, it is crucial to highlight that despite this decrease, the overall impact was still significant, leading to 203 fatalities and 297 injuries. The statistics mentioned above illustrate the growing levels of sectarian

violence that have arisen following the September 11 attacks. The violence in District Kurram has had a significant impact, which is also part of a larger pattern observed throughout Pakistan (Ahmed, 2011; Jones, 2008).

### **External Factors and Historical Context**

Understanding the dynamics at play requires giving paramount importance to the historical context and external influences surrounding the role of Afghan refugees and the Taliban. The Afghan refugees, who have fled their homeland due to conflict and instability, have had a significant impact on both domestic and international levels. The displacement of people from Afghanistan has not only put a strain on the resources and infrastructure of host countries, but it has also led to the spread of cultural, social, and economic influences beyond Afghanistan's borders. Furthermore, the Taliban is a fundamentalist militant group.

Since 1979, there has been an increase in Afghan refugees coming into District Kurram. Along with their arrival, there has been a spread and acceptance of the Deobandi ideology. This ideology has had a major impact on the increase of sectarian violence in the region. According to Wirsing (1998) and Lian (2010), the Afghan Taliban forces have been observed intervening in Sunni-Shia conflicts by providing support to local Sunni tribes, such as the Bangash tribe, during their disputes with the Shia community.

The occurrence of foreign intervention and proxy wars, like the Soviet-Afghan war and the participation of external actors such as Saudi Arabia and Iran, has been noted to greatly contribute to the escalation of sectarian tensions in the region. Their involvement in fueling sectarian divisions has added complexity to the ongoing hostilities, leading to a contentious situation (Nawaz & De Borchgrave, 2009; Waseem et al., 2010).

### **Consequences of the War on Terror**

The period after 9/11 saw a significant increase in sectarian violence in District Kurram due to the War on Terror. Terrorist organizations have strategically identified safe havens in the region, taking advantage of existing sectarian tensions to advance their own goals. The once-peaceful relations between prominent sects have turned hostile, leading to

deliberate acts of violence and targeted killings between the Sunni and Shia factions (Akhtar, 2008; Hilali, 2013; Rumi, 2012).

### **The Devastating Toll on the Shia Community**

Parachinar is currently facing a tragic situation, as the region continues to struggle with a persistent security crisis. This crisis is characterised by frequent acts of violence and targeted attacks specifically aimed at the predominantly Shia community. The series of events, starting with a suicide bombing in 2008 and continuing in the following years, presents a grim portrayal of an ongoing battle for peace and security. Despite the formal conclusion of the devastating Kurram Conflict from 2007-2011, the region has not experienced a sustained period of peace. However, the disturbing trend of violence continued, as evidenced by frequent occurrences of suicide attacks and bombings.

The Shia community in Parachinar has unfortunately been heavily affected by the ongoing violence, enduring a series of tragic events that have caused significant loss of life and injuries. On February 16, 2008, a tragic suicide bombing occurred, resulting in the loss of 47 lives and leaving 150 individuals injured. In the following years, there was a troubling increase in violence, highlighted by the August 2008 conflict that led to the tragic loss of 287 lives and left 373 people injured. The Shia community experienced adversity due to suicide attacks that occurred on December 27, 2009, March 5, 2010, and July 17, 2010. These attacks resulted in further casualties.

In 2012, there were unfortunate incidents that caused distress, including a suicide blast on February 17th and a roadside bomb blast on September 22nd. Regrettably, the toll continued to rise with explosions occurring on 7th February 2012, 13th December 2015, and a series of blasts in 2017. Among these incidents were twin explosions on 23rd June, resulting in the loss of 75 lives and causing injuries to over 150 individuals. The tragic events that have occurred have highlighted the pressing need for collaborative efforts to effectively address and reduce the ongoing violence in the region.

After these events, the statistics show a devastating impact on the Shia community in Parachinar. A total of 571 deaths and a large number of injuries highlight the significant human toll caused by this ongoing

violence. These figures not only represent the lives that have been lost, but they also shed light on the enduring challenges that persist in the region. Addressing the root causes of sectarian violence and promoting lasting peace and security require sustained efforts. The current situation highlights the need for a comprehensive and long-term strategy to address the complex factors that contribute to the violence in Parachinar.

Post-Conflict Unrest: The aftermath of the Kurram conflict has resulted in long-lasting consequences, marked by a pervasive atmosphere of mistrust, widespread displacement, and the breakdown of communal bonds. The region is currently facing several challenges, such as population displacement, deteriorating economic conditions, and an unstable security environment. These factors collectively impede the region's progress in achieving recovery and stability.

The district of Kurram is a significant example of historical sectarian violence. This violence has been influenced by a complex interplay of internal and external factors. The increase in violence in this region can be attributed to a combination of ideological conflict, external interventions, and the consequences of the war on terror. The development of comprehensive strategies that prioritize peacebuilding and fostering social cohesion is necessary due to these factors.

### **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

The theoretical framework for "Kurram's Pursuit of Peace" incorporates various key theoretical perspectives, resulting in a comprehensive and culturally sensitive approach to peacebuilding in District Kurram. The framework is built on foundational principles of tolerance and collaboration, recognising the intricate dynamics of the region. District Kurram places great importance on embracing diversity as a means of fostering unity. Additionally, it promotes a culture of tolerance that allows for the accommodation of differing views, taking into account factors such as religion, ethnicity, and other relevant aspects. Promoting open dialogue and fostering understanding is highly encouraged to build a strong basis for peaceful coexistence. It is important to acknowledge and respect our differences, viewing them as strengths rather than factors that divide us.



Lederach's transformative peacebuilding model is effectively incorporated into the framework, recognising the recurring nature of conflicts and humanitarian crises in District Kurram. This understanding guides the focus towards transformative social change rather than traditional conflict management. The framework places a high priority on developing an infrastructure for peacebuilding. It emphasises the need for a structured process that focuses on creating new patterns, processes, and structures to foster long-term peace. A comprehensive response strategy is being proposed, which includes multiple levels of action. This strategy aims to address conflicts in a holistic way by focusing on short-term crisis prevention, mid-range interventions for social change, and long-term visioning for a shared future. By considering the cyclical nature of conflicts, this strategy aims to provide a well-rounded approach.

Pakhtunwali is a deeply rooted cultural foundation that is ingrained in the fabric of the region. The framework acknowledges the significance of Pakhtunwali in shaping Pakhtun identity. It emphasises important principles including honour, bravery, hospitality, gender boundaries, and the role of jirga in resolving conflicts. The traditional institution of jirga has been further modified to effectively address the unique dynamics of sectarian conflicts in District Kurram. Utilising jirga to resolve conflicts is in line with local cultural customs, as it customises its procedures to ensure that they are both relevant and effective.

The philosophy of Abdul Ghaffar Khan, which emphasises peace, non-violence, and forgiveness, is seamlessly integrated into the framework. This philosophy acts as a moral guide for resolving conflicts, encouraging non-violent strategies to address them. The 'Khudai Khadmatgar' movement, which was founded on these principles, serves as a great source of inspiration for peacebuilding endeavours. Furthermore, the framework recognises the significance of including socio-economic development, education, and women's empowerment as essential elements of the overall strategy for peacebuilding and development.

The framework promotes a conflict-sensitive approach that emphasises policies taking into account the cultural, relational, and structural contradictions present in District Kurram. The

framework aims to prevent future conflicts by advocating for conflict-sensitive policy formulation. It focuses on addressing root causes rather than symptoms. The main objective is to make a positive impact on sustainable peace and development in District Kurram. This involves acknowledging the interdependence of cultural, social, and economic aspects to achieve long-term stability. In conclusion, by integrating these theoretical perspectives, we can develop a comprehensive and culturally sensitive approach that addresses the specific challenges presented by sectarianism. This approach also takes advantage of the Pakhtun society's diverse cultural heritage. The objective of this framework is to support the efforts towards peace, promote social cohesion, and encourage sustainable development in District Kurram.

### **Dispute Resolution Mechanism in Resolving Sectarian Tensions**

The Jirga, which has deep roots in Pashtun tradition, has long been used as a customary method of resolving disputes in Kurram, particularly in addressing sectarian tensions. However, its role proves to be inconsistent when dealing with the complex nature of sectarian conflicts. Although it effectively facilitates the participation of tribal elders and leaders, the deeply rooted sectarian tensions often surpass the capacities of conventional mechanisms. Addressing sectarian issues necessitates a more nuanced and comprehensive approach that goes beyond the conventional methods of resolving disputes.

### **The Murree Accord 2008 Analysis**

The Murree Accord was signed in 2008 to foster peace and reconciliation between the Sunni and Shia tribes in District Kurram, with a particular emphasis on the city of Parachinar. To analyse the accord effectively, it is important to evaluate its strengths, and weaknesses, and consider the broader context in which it was implemented.

### **Strengths**

Local Ownership: The accord was reached through a grand Jirga, which is a traditional and locally accepted method of conflict resolution. Gaining the trust of the involved communities was crucial, and

having local ownership played a vital role in achieving this.

**Focused Objectives:** The accord had clear objectives, which included reopening the Thall-Parachinar road, repatriating displaced families, and returning confiscated territories. The objectives outlined a clear roadmap for addressing important issues.

**Community Involvement:** Representatives from both the Sunni and Shia communities played an active role in the negotiation and signing of the accord. It was crucial to involve the communities directly affected by the conflict to build trust and foster a sense of ownership.

**Acknowledgment of External Support:** The accord acknowledged the significance of government action against those who cause disruption and the requirement to refuse refuge to organizations that are responsible for generating unrest. This acknowledgment demonstrates an understanding of the wider influence of external factors on the conflict.

#### **Weaknesses and Challenges:**

One of the major weaknesses of the accord was its limited geographical applicability. The primary focus on Parachinar city posed challenges in extending its provisions to other areas, where sectarian tensions continued to exist.

**Unresolved Thall-Parachinar Road Issue:** The closure of the Thall-Parachinar Road since 2007 is a significant economic and humanitarian issue that has not been adequately addressed in the initial implementation. The overall peace efforts were hindered by the lack of progress on this front.

**Territorial Disputes and Return:** The return of confiscated territories posed challenges to the accord due to the longstanding territorial disputes between Sunni and Shia communities. This obstacle continued to pose a significant challenge to achieving lasting peace.

**Role of Local Warlords and Militants:** The accord failed to include a comprehensive strategy for dealing with the influence generated by local warlords and militant groups, such as the Taliban. The lack of their support presented a major challenge to the success of the accord.

**Enforcement Mechanism:** The effectiveness of the accord was weakened due to the absence of a strong enforcement mechanism, despite the presence of fines and penalties for violations. These challenges

made it difficult to ensure compliance and hold those who violated accountable.

**Sectarian Tensions:** The accord encountered difficulties in effectively addressing the underlying causes of sectarian tensions, such as ideological disparities and external influences. To address the deeply rooted nature of these tensions, it was necessary to adopt more comprehensive approaches.

#### **The Broader Context**

The Murree Accord occurred within the context of larger regional dynamics, which encompassed the impact of external actors, the war on terror, and the complex security situation in the tribal areas. The presence of these factors introduced additional layers of complexity to the conflict at the local level, ultimately impacting the degree of success achieved by the accord.

Although the Murree Accord had some positive aspects, such as promoting local ownership and setting specific objectives, its implementation encountered significant challenges. The complexities of addressing deep-rooted sectarian tensions were highlighted by several factors, including the limited scope, unresolved road closure issue, territorial disputes, and the influence of external actors and militants. To achieve lasting peace in District Kurram, it is crucial to emphasize the need for comprehensive and sustained efforts. This requires taking into account both local and regional dynamics while analyzing the accord.

#### **Dispute Over Land and Sectarian Tensions**

The situation in Kurram is further complicated by the interplay between land disputes and sectarian tensions. Territorial disputes often become intertwined with sectarian divisions, intensifying the cycle of violence. To effectively address these challenges, it is important to develop strategies that not only tackle immediate conflicts but also address the underlying economic and territorial grievances. It is crucial to acknowledge the interconnectedness of land disputes and sectarianism to develop effective and sustainable solutions.

The 2023 Jirga's Endeavour for Dispute Resolution aims to address and resolve conflicts effectively.

In 2023, a Jirga was called in response to the recent increase in violence, which included a horrifying incident that occurred during wood collection.

Despite extensive deliberations, the attainment of a consensus for peace has proven to be elusive. This highlights the ongoing difficulties encountered in reaching a consensus and resolving the complex dynamics involved. The challenges faced in 2023 highlight the importance of adopting innovative approaches that surpass traditional methods of resolving disputes. To effectively address the current challenges in Kurram, it is essential to combine contemporary conflict resolution techniques with a comprehensive understanding of sectarian dynamics. This approach will enable us to navigate the complexities involved more effectively. The 2023 Jirga is a powerful reminder of the continuous efforts needed to address the complex issues deeply rooted in the region's history and ongoing conflicts.

**District Kurram Social Cohesion Goals & Peacebuilding:**

The analysis of the Kurram conflict reveals that its origins can be attributed to a combination of various factors, such as historical grievances, geopolitical influences, and ethnic complexities. This conflict is characterized by sectarian tensions, which have

further complicated the already intricate dynamics at play. By exploring these underlying causes, we can develop a more comprehensive understanding of the complex nature of the Kurram conflict. The ongoing conflict has significantly affected the social fabric of the region, resulting in fragmentation and division among its residents. The region has experienced negative consequences as a result of this, which have hindered progress, development, and efforts towards stability and reconciliation. Moreover, the consequences of the conflict have led to a period of unrest in the aftermath, intensifying the difficulties encountered by the region as it strives to recover and achieve lasting peace.

The formulation of these social cohesion objectives, drawing inspiration from the theoretical framework, seeks to develop a holistic approach that is specifically designed to address the distinctive dynamics observed within District Kurram. Through the deliberate consideration of cultural nuances, the cultivation of inclusivity, and the active promotion of dialogue, these objectives aim to make a meaningful contribution towards the attainment of sustainable peace and development within the region.

	Goal	Description	Example
1	<b>Promote Inclusive Cultural Awareness</b>	Promote District Kurram unity and diversity through inclusive cultural understanding.	Develop cultural exchange programmes to celebrate and understand ethnic and religious traditions.  Promote mutual respect through community gatherings that highlight local traditions.
2	<b>Enhance Interpersonal Relationships</b>	Improve intergroup relations to foster trust and understanding.	Promote open interactions in the community to exchange experiences and viewpoints.

			To encourage good relationships amongst various age groups, establish cross-community mentorship programmes.
3	<b>Encourage Gender-Inclusion</b>	Promote equality and participation in community-building by encouraging and engaging all genders.	<p>Raise awareness of gender equality and inclusive engagement.</p> <p>Create skill development programmes for all genders and interests.</p>
4	<b>Reform Jirga Conflict Resolution</b>	Improve the jirga mechanism to resolve modern problems in a culturally sensitive manner.	<p>Provide conflict resolution training to jirgas.</p> <p>Technology for virtual jirgas increases accessibility and efficiency in dispute settlement.</p>
5	<b>Promote Nonviolent Conflict Resolution</b>	Promote the principles of non-violence and forgiveness in endeavours to resolve conflicts, drawing inspiration from the philosophy of Abdul Ghaffar Khan.	<p>Facilitate seminars focused on conflict resolution strategies that emphasise non-violent communication.</p> <p>Acknowledge occasions where people or communities successfully resolve problems by</p>



			engaging in constructive conversations and achieving reconciliation.
6	<b>Promote Peacebuilding Education</b>	Promote education as a critical tool for peacebuilding, addressing socioeconomic gaps, and establishing a learning culture.	<p>Establish scholarship programmes to ensure equal access to education for all students, regardless of background.</p> <p>Instill ideals of tolerance, collaboration, and conflict resolution by incorporating peace education into the curriculum.</p>
7	<b>Conflict-Sensitive Policies</b>	Promote policies that address District Kurram's cultural, relational, and structural conflicts.	<p>It is important to conduct cultural impact assessments prior to implementing policies in order to ensure sensitivity.</p> <p>Create a community-led advisory board that will offer valuable insights regarding the potential impacts of policies and provide recommendations.</p>

8	<b>Enhancing Resilience through Crisis Prevention</b>	Create effective strategies to prevent crises and effectively address immediate challenges, while also establishing a solid foundation for long-term stability.	Implementing early warning systems is crucial in detecting and addressing potential conflicts before they escalate.  Develop and implement community-based initiatives aimed at providing support and fostering solidarity during times of crisis.
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**DISCUSSION:**

The analysis of Kurram's pursuit of peace reveals the complex interplay of historical, cultural, and geopolitical factors that have contributed to the enduring sectarian conflicts in the region. By examining the 2007 Murree Accord, subsequent peacebuilding strategies, and the challenges faced during implementation, we can gain insights into the complexities of conflict resolution within a deeply divided community.

A holistic framework for enhancing social cohesion can be developed by drawing from Lederach's transformative peacebuilding model, Pakhtunwali cultural principles, and Abdul Ghaffar Khan's philosophy. The strategies aim to address root causes and foster sustainable peace by emphasising the integration of cultural foundations, adapting traditional conflict resolution mechanisms, and advocating for a conflict-sensitive approach in policy formulation.

The evaluation of peacebuilding efforts in Kurram brings attention to the recurring pattern of conflicts, as demonstrated by the recent 2023 Jirga. Despite previous attempts throughout history, the attainment of long-lasting peace continues to be difficult to achieve. This highlights the importance of adopting flexible strategies that take into account the ever-changing dynamics.

**CONCLUSION**

To sum up, achieving peace in Kurram necessitates a comprehensive approach that incorporates cultural sensitivity, historical knowledge, and modern conflict resolution methods. A comprehensive paradigm for addressing sectarian tensions is formed by integrating theoretical frameworks, cultural foundations, and conflict-sensitive strategies.

Although historical agreements such as the Murree Accord lay a solid groundwork, it is essential to constantly innovate to adapt to the ever-changing nature of conflicts. The challenges faced by the 2023 multiple clashes and several Jirga convened to highlight the ongoing complexities that require an exclusive concentration on dialogue, understanding, and strategic interventions.

Kurram finds itself at a crucial point in its journey towards peace, where it can draw upon the lessons of the past, the wisdom of its cultural heritage, and modern peacebuilding strategies. Achieving sustainable peace necessitates a collaborative and flexible approach that recognizes the specific obstacles presented by sectarianism, while also harnessing the valuable cultural heritage of the Pakhtun society.

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