

## **Jirga: A Traditional Approach to Peacebuilding in Conflict Affected Fragile Communities of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa**

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**Abstract :** This study investigates the peace efforts made by Pakhtun's traditional institution Jirga in conflict-affected communities of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Data were collected through a structured interview schedule from a sample of 278 household members in four selected villages of Dir Upper and Dir Lower Districts. A Chi square test was applied to ascertain relationships between Jirga related factors with the state of peace in the study area. It was found that factors such as Jirga regularly conducted meetings ( $P=.000$ ), it inflicted punishment upon local militants ( $P=.001$ ), ex-combatants were re-integrated through Jirga ( $P=.000$ ) and Jirga ordered the local the defiant to leave the community had a significant association with state of peace in the area. It is concluded that Jirga system had played a vital role in the peacebuilding process of the area through provision of support to government in peace operation and mobilizing local people for peace in the area. It is suggested that Jirga shall to be the part of peace process and government needs to provide its possible support to members of the Jirga in order to enhance their capacity of peace work.

**Keywords :** Jirga, peacebuilding, terrorism, traditional mechanism, conflict affect areas

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