

Emerging Trend of White-collar Extremism and Radicalism: An Academic Perspective

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Abstract

Acumens gathered from the aftermath of the Red Fort blast carried out by doctors and medical fraternities in old Delhi, causing the loss of the lives of 15 innocent persons, to validate the burgeoning threat of white-collar extremism in India. This year, India ranked 14th in the Global Terrorism Index 2025 with a GTI score of 6.411, which is outshone by Burkina Faso with the highest score of 8.581, quite ahead of IS-impacted Syria. Youth radicalization has opened up a new frontier in terrorism and national security. It calls for immediate action from the country's education policy makers, academia, and higher educational institutes for taking preventive steps for countering violent extremism by imparting high-quality education, providing intensive mentoring and counseling through emotional intelligence and neuro linguistic programming techniques and leveraging artificial intelligence-based machine learning algorithms to tackle the susceptible threat. This academic research paper presents an in-depth analysis of the white-collar extremism trending in the developing economies, which is badly upsetting their ongoing developmental projects. This pondered perspective analyzes youth radicalization issues theoretically using descriptive and qualitative methods serves as a value addition for directing future academic research in the sensitive areas of extremism studies, education, psychology, and national security research.

Keywords

Countering Violent Extremism (CVE), Emotional Intelligence (EI), Global Terrorism Index (GTI), Mentoring, Radicalization, Neuro linguistic programming (NLP), and White-collar Extremism (WCE).

1. Introductory Overview

The Red Fort blast occurred in Delhi on Nov 10, 2025, involving highly qualified medical professionals and the teaching medical fraternity of a higher education academic institute, causing the deaths of at least 15 innocent citizens and injuries to more than 35 persons need to be understood differently in light of the emerging patterns of white-collar extremism and globally spreading radicalism. Not only in Delhi alone, but there have been records of earlier terrorist attacks on visiting tourists in the Pahalgam area and on an army camp, such as the one that happened in Pulwama in Jammu & Kashmir, and internationally at Banibangou, Nigeria, or the vehicle that rammed into a crowd in New Orleans. Recently, there have been various terrorist attacks globally in countries like Burkina Faso, Syria, Niger, Mali, Democratic Republic of Congo, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and in South Asian Countries involving radicalized qualified professionals such as doctors, surgeons, engineers, professors, Ph.D scholars, business researchers, chartered accountants, commerce graduates, ICT experts, media personnel, retired army officers and serving military personnel and religious preachers, who may be theoretically defined as white-collar extremism, whereas the violent extremism activities were defined by the USAID as the "advocating, engaging in, preparing, or otherwise supporting, ideologically motivated or justified violence to further social, economic or political objectives" (UNODC, 2025). Historically, the term white-collar crime was first introduced by an American sociologist, E. H. Sutherland, in the year 1949, while deliberating his Differential Association Theory (DAT). He defined white-collar crime as the act of an elite person with high social status in his occupation (Sutherland, 1949).

2. Historical Background

Recalling the unforgettable assassination incident of our beloved father of the nation on 30 January 1948, at the age of 78, in the compound of Birla House in Delhi, it can be cited as one of the forerunner examples of violent extremism and paroxysm of radicalization in India. Apart from this extreme occurrence, there is an endless list of similar types of dreadful happenings across India and abroad. A list of a few selected incidents of violent extremism is selectively tabulated here for the purpose of academic illustration only.

Table 1: - List of Ten Selected Violent Extremism Incident Cases Involving Delhi as Recorded in India

S. No.	Date of Incident	Place of Incident	Details of Extremism Incident
01	30/01/1948	New Delhi	Murder of Father of the Nation
02	31/10/1984	New Delhi	Murder of 4 th PM of India
03	21/05/1996	Lajpatnagar blast	Lajpat Nagar Market Blast
04	22/12/2000	Red Fort Delhi	Red Fort Attack at Old Delhi
05	29/10/2005	Phargunj SNagar	Blasts at Sarojni Nagar Market
06	13/09/2008	KarolBagh Delhi	Blasts at Gaffar Market Area
07	07/09/2011	Delhi High Court	Delhi Bombing at Gate No. 5
08	01/02/2020	Jamia Nagar Delhi	Firing at Shaheen Baugh Site
09	13/12/2021	Parliament attack	Indian Parliament house attack
10	13/12/2023	Parliament House	Indian Parliament Breach

Sources:- Secondary data was compiled only for academic illustration purposes without declaring the names of the involved extremists or victims to maintain anonymity from www.en.wikipedia.org as on 10/04/2026.

Delhi once used to be the country's top choice for higher education owing to the presence of world-class universities and Higher Educational Institutes (HEI) like Jawaharlal Nehru, Jamia Milia Islamia, and Delhi University, IIT Delhi, AIIMS and other research institutes of National Importance. Unexpectedly, the students and research scholars of universities situated in Delhi have become prone to violent extremist activities, and have been convicted for their hate crimes and may pose a threat to Safety and National Security.

On analyzing the above-listed historical evidence of the violent extremism cases involving Delhi alone, it can be said that Delhi has now become "Prone to Hate Crimes" or even it can be labeled as "City of Emerging Hate Crimes" in its regional context though, it proudly the houses President of India, the Prime Minister of India, Chief Minister of Delhi, Central Secretariat, State Secretariat, Embassies of Foreign Countries, Ministry of Home Affairs, Defense Head Quarters and many of India's Paramilitary Bases. Central agencies like NIA, CTCR, NTRO, IDSA, CBI, IB, and State ATS are also situated in the national capital region.

Table 2:- List of Ten Selected Violent Extremism Incident Cases as Recorded Globally

S. No.	Date of Incident	Place of Incident	Details of Extremism Incident
01	09/11/2001	New York City	Twin Tower Blast in the USA
02	07/07/2005	London UK	U/g Public Transport Bombing
03	11/09/2010	Florida State US	Burning of Holy Book Copies
04	07/01/2015	Paris France	Firing at Charlie Hebdo Press
05	03/06/2017	London UK	London Bridge Attack
06	02/10/2018	Istanbul Turkey	Murder of Journo in Embassy
07	15/03/2019	New Zeland	Christ Church Mosque Firing
08	12/08/2022	Amphitheater NY	Attack on booker prize holder
09	07/10/2023	Israel	Infiltration/ Civilian Hostage
10	07/10/On Going	Palestine	Genocides at West Bank/Gaza

Sources:- Secondary data was compiled only for academic illustration purpose without declaring the names of the involved extremists or victims to maintain anonymity from www.en.wikipedia.org; as on 10/04/2026.

On perusing the above-listed historical evidence of the violent extremism cases recorded worldwide, it can be categorically stated that radical hate crimes have become a global phenomenon now. It is being operated through a deep-rooted network by the various extremist groups working across the globe to enable the recruitment of vulnerable youths.

Table 3:- List of Thirty Selected Violent Extremism Incident Cases as Recorded Across India

S. No.	Date of Incident	Place of Incident	Details of Extremism Incident
01	06/07/1987	Lalru Punjab	Bus hijacking and mass shoot
02	21/05/1991	Sri Perumbudur	Murder of 8 th PM of India
03	15/06/1991	Ludhiana Punjab	Train Passenger Massacre
04	06/12/1992	Ayodhya UP	Demolition of Babri Mosque
05	12/03/1993	Mumbai MS	Car and Scooter Blast at BSE
06	31/08/1995	Chandigarh PB	Murder of 12 th CM of Punjab
07	22/05/1996	Dausa Raj	Samleti Bomb Blast Dausa
08	14/02/1998	Coimbatore TN	12 Bomb Attacks at 11 Places
09	27/02/2002	Godhara Guj	Sabarmati Express Carnage

S. No.	Date of Incident	Place of Incident	Details of Extremism Incident
10	28/02/2002	Ahmedabad Guj	Narora Patia Bloodbath
11	01/03/2002	Vadodara Guj	Best Bakery Massacre
12	27/08/2004	Jalna Maharashtra	Kadriya Masjid Blast in Jalna
13	18/02/2007	Samjhauta Exp	Samjhauta Express Bombing
14	18/05/2007	Hyderabad TS	Makkah Masjid Bombing
15	11/10/2007	Ajmer Raj	Ajmer Sharif Dargah Blast
16	13/05/2008	Jaipur Raj	9 Synchronized Blast at Jaipur
17	25/07/2008	Bengaluru Karna	9 Serial Blasts at Bengaluru
18	26/07/2008	Ahmedabad Guj	21 Serial Blasts at Ahmedabad
19	29/09/2008	Malegaon MS	Malegaon Mosque Blast
20	26/11/2008	Mumbai MS	Open Firing at CST Mumbai
21	13/02/2010	Pune MS	German Bakery Bomb Blast
22	13/07/2011	Mumbai MS	Zaveri Bazar Tiffin Box Blast
23	20/08/2013	Pune MS	Murder of A Social Activist
24	20/02/2015	Kolhapur MS	Murder of An Author/ Marxist
25	04/06/2015	Chandel Manipur	Manipur Ambush Strikes
26	30/08/2015	Dharwad Karnat	Murder of Academic scholar
27	28/09/2015	Bisahra dadri UP	Lynching over Beef Rumors
28	05/09/2017	Bengaluru KS	Murder of Activist/ journalist
29	28/06/2022	Udaipur Raj	Be Heading of a Local Tailor
30	03/05/2023	Imphal Manipur	Murder & arson of minorities

Sources:- Secondary data was compiled only for academic illustration purposes without declaring the names of the involved extremists or victims to maintain anonymity from www.en.wikipedia.org; as on 10/04/2026.

The cited list is an indicative one. It does not include naxalism and communal riots, just to highlight the sensitivity of radical hate crimes and violent extremism cases are spreading in India.

3. Theoretical Background

Let us first understand terrorism, radicalization, and violent extremism in light of theory. The Social Identity Theory (SIT), as developed by Tajfel, Henri & Turner, J.C. (1979), suggests that young people strive to achieve or maintain a positive social identity by becoming an active member of a social group for developing a sense of identity and belonging through their association with that

group. Social groups are categorized based on people's ethnicity, religion, nationality, and ideology. This categorization often leads to in-group favouritism and out-group discrimination. Social Identity Theory highlights the role of group membership and intergroup relations in the youth radicalization processes as detailed in the Stair Case Model (SCM), described by Fathali M. Moghaddam (2016). The majority of youths struggle with an identity crisis, unemployment, and marginalization to fill this gap, extremist groups construct an appealing in-group identity based on religious, ideological, and ethnic terms to resist or attack the out-groups. The Dissonance Theory (DT), suggest, that when an individual perceives a contradiction, he experiences a sense of tension and cognitive dissonance arises in the perpetrator as a mechanism to reduce the inconsistency between their positive self-image and the commission of his negative actions, thereby providing a sense of relief to the individual, which leads them to take violent extremist actions and become fanatical. Whereas, General Strain Theory (GST) of terrorism presents violent extremism as a cumulative risk arising from a group of factors that increase the likelihood of individuals to engage in violent extremism (Agnew, R. 2010).

In Political Psychology, it is evidently claimed that different ideologies attract different types, considering the relationship between education and violence, mindset and ideology, one can't deny the fact that there is a correlation between personality traits and ideologies as based on the Principles of Psychology (Diego Gambetta & Steffen Hertog, 2016), and a pursuit to become a Hero in a regional, societal, and religious context strongly motivates an individual for taking the extreme behavior as per the Significance Quest Theory (SQT) as found validated by Kruglanski et al, (2017). The indicators of existential anxiety was also found to support the violent extremist activities of youths. While critically analyzing the correlation between political efficacy, extrinsic religiosity and support for the violent extremist exhibited by youths, the relationship between the indicators of existential anxiety was found to be strongly dependent on the perceptions of political efficacy and religious orientation of youths supporting violent extremist activities (Muhammad Iqbal et al, 2024). Further, the white-collar violent extremist behavior of an elite a person of high social status engaged in respectable and socially valuable occupation was found supporting the Differential Association Theory (DAT), developed by Southerland, which suggests that crime is not inherited in nature but it is learned through social relationships, group interaction, and everyday

communication, which validates Attachment Theory and Albert Bandura's Social Learning Theory, as found further expanded by the eminent scholars like Ronald Aker, John Bowlby, Skinner, Gibbs, Gibson and others, while deliberating its psychology theoretically.

4. Academic Background

Now, let us accentuate the scientific research contributions made by the highly engaged academicians and subject experts. The 2nd Lepsy ceepus network, research and cooperation conference recently held on 12 March 2025, at Ludovika University of Public Service, Budapest, Hungary discussed the law enforcement, psychology and security in dialogue, where Gabor Bognar & Johanna Farkas (2025), the editor of the conference proceedings book published by the Hungarian Society of police sciences, presented an overview of radicalization models to understand the pathways of extremism, and presented three prominent models namely Staircase, 2P and 3N Models for analyzing the complex phenomenon of extremism, and disrupting radicalization for securing more resilient societies by combating it. In an earlier report of the WHO on Violence and Health, a Socio-Ecological Model, was cited by Dahlberg and Krug (2002), which can facilitate the understanding of any form of violence perpetration. The Staircase Model, as developed by Fathali M. Moghaddam in 2005, analyzes the progressive steps of an individual to become radicalized; it is quite effective in preventing the escalation of violent extremism. McCauley and Moskalenko's 2-Pyramids Model was later developed in 2008. It is a combination of two pyramids; one represents radicalization, and the other opportunity, and analyzes all psychological, social, and external factors which facilitate understanding the radicalization process in detail and the Extremism activity of an individual in a complex way.

The latest model, as developed by Webber and Kruglanski (2018), critically analyzes factors related to Need, Narrative, and Networks (3N). In an earlier International Symposium on Radicalization, Extremism and Social Media: The Asia-Pacific Context, which was held at Flinders University in South Australia on 19-23 August 2019, advance research papers on the radicalization in the Asia-Pacific Region was presented, which, discussed the needs and goals of counter-terrorist and countering violent extremism attacks to address a need for explanatory frameworks and future empirical studies to extend help to understand radicalization approaches in relation to the specific contexts in

which it unfolds, where these contexts are characterized by the socio-cultural, situational, ontological dimensions and different temporalities (historical time, organizational life cycle, individual life, and micro-interactions) as compiled in a special issue on Radicalization in the Asia-Pacific Region: Themes and Concepts edited by (Claire Smith et al, 2024) published in the studies in Conflict & Terrorism by Routledge of the Taylor and Francis Group. Sabic-El-Rayess, A, (2021) has also developed an educational displacement and ideological replacement model to illustrate the pathways of radicalization of students in ten sequential steps, and come up with their transformation solution with teachers in the classroom scenario.

Springer Nature has also published a scholarly article based on the research findings made by Monte-Angel Richardson (2023), to predict and prevent the violent extremism called Transparent Reporting of a Multivariable Prediction Model for Individual Prognosis or Diagnosis-machine Learning (TRIPOD-ML). It covers various aspects of violent extremism, i.e., domestic terrorism, mass shootings, violent extremist organizations activities, violent protest, including activities of Radical Islamist Organizations, like Islamic State, Levant, ISIS, and Far-Right White Nationalist Organizations. Another method called Artificial Intelligence for Disaster Relief (AIDR), focuses on the trending crisis-related tweets using crowdsourcing to classify the online activities based on the predefined criteria to predict the online violent Extremism activities using algorithms such as SLDA, SVM, KNN, and Natural Language Processing techniques to predict violent extremism with Machine Learning Algorithms.

Similarly, Haghish et al. (2023) also presented a study on risk and protective factors and examined the relationship between adolescent extremist attitudes and mental health, well-being, psychosocial, environmental, and lifestyle variables, using machine learning techniques. Mayur Gaikwad et al, (2023) also examined the multi-ideology, multiclass online extremism datasets such as ISIS, GAB White-supremacist, and trending Twitter tweets utilizing the Machine Learning classification algorithms, such as Support Vector Machine (SVM), MNB, Random Forest, and XGBoost algorithms using TF-IDF Unigram to evaluate the comparable performance to the existing data set of a single ideology to enhance the accuracy of detection. These scholarly works of academic researchers clearly delineate the act of radicalization theoretically and demonstrate the preventive mechanism practically.

5. Objective of the Study

The core objective of this conceptual research study is to present an academic perspective on the emerging trend of white-collar extremism and radicalism and to spread awareness amongst the teaching fraternity of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to take self-cognizance of the burgeoning threat of white-collar extremism in order to suggest effective measures for Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) and Radicalization, leveraging AI-based latest innovative technologies, Machine learning algorithms, emotional intelligence, and neuro linguistic programming techniques for developing a safe, secure, and resilient society.

6. Research Methodology

The academic perspective presented here on violent extremism and radicalization is purely based on the conceptual research study undertaken using descriptive research methods. As there was no primary data available to find the exact cause of white-collar extremism and radicalization emerging rapidly in India, only qualitative and exploratory research methods were utilized. In order to identify the current research gap, the preferred reporting items for systematic reviews and meta-analysis guidelines were strictly followed. A rigorous online survey of the prevailing literature on the subject heading was conducted by referring to some of the very recently published findings presented in the international journals of repute to compile this systematic review of the literature qualitatively.

The sampling strategy adopted to select the published literature for systematic review was random; it only recently published research works of the last five years were considered, which were carried out after the post-COVID-19 era and were published in standard journals. Crime subject headings mentioning Violent extremism and Radicalization were utilized to include the published papers, and the rest of the papers with repetition of the same findings were excluded for synthesis of available online literature without using any specific coding framework, as findings were not at all empirically tested in the absence of any primary data. Since the theme of the undertaken descriptive research study was quite sensitive and intellectually significant in nature, it was carefully framed with a strong theoretical background, totally in line with Helsinki Declarations as per its latest amendments of 2013.

7. Review of the Literature

To undertake the qualitative and exploratory research on this thematically sensitive and rapidly emerging trend of white-collar violent extremism and radicalization spreading globally, a very extensive survey of literature was carried out to narrow down its focus on understanding the core concepts. To address the available research gap and present the critical analysis of various research findings found published online in the subject domain, the following Sub-sections were selectively framed to summarize the comprehensive details.

7.1 Review of the Literatures on Causes of Youth Radicalization

Hafez Ghanem and Kartika Bhatia (2017) have gathered evidence from the eight Gulf countries to know how education and unemployment affect support for the violent extremist activities of youths. Similarly, Ramesh Ramasamy (2021) presented a study on the pathway of youth radicalization and violent extremism in the post-war scenario of Sri Lanka. Moh Shan J. Abdul Wahid (2023) describes the youth susceptibility to radicalization and found that social, economic, political, and religious factors are strongly related to the youth susceptibility. Their socio-economic considerations, religion-related difficulties and encountered social injustices were found to facilitate the recruitment of young people by the radical extremist groups. While Sebastian Schutte et al. (2023) have collected the evidence from a panel survey was conducted in Uttar Pradesh in India, and analyzed how fear of violence drives intergroup conflicts and predicted that fear for personal safety owing to witnessed violence causes prejudice against the out-groups and enhances the internal cohesion and support for the extremist activity, as found validated by Southerland (1949).

7.2 Review of the Literatures on Psychological & Social Drivers

Muhammad Azam (2024) studied the interconnection between social factors and radicalism found that social issues like weak social bonds, social anxiety, social repression, social instability, social injustice, deprivation, and unemployment were the main factors, which can be well addressed by the parents and teachers showing affection to children and parents shall learn good contemporary parenting techniques to raise happy, healthy children through advocacy, media, and quality education to nurture them as good citizens. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has also listed social drivers such as poor governance,

discrimination, marginalization, lack of opportunities, unresolved conflicts, less rule of law, violations of human rights, and radicalization of criminals in prisons, which were found to be highly conducive for spreading hate crime and violent extremism activities (UNODC, 2025).

7.3 Review of Literatures on the Role of Education, Social Media & AI

Marlies Sas et al. (2020) studied the role of education in preventing youth radicalization and emerging violent extremism cases in the developing economies and published their findings in the reputed Sustainability Journal with strong evidence of unequal access to education, poor quality of education and the relationship between education and employment and recommended aligning the current job market to the education level of graduate students. Samantha de Silva (2025), in a joint World Bank-UN, flagship report, described the role of education in the prevention of violent extremism and discussed the various developmental interventions in detail for preventing conflict, violent extremism, and youth radicalization. While Arkadev Ghosh et al. (2025) have organized an adolescent youth camp experiment in West Bengal, in India, to develop cohesive communities by socializing people of different communities to reduce in-group bias, strengthen intergroup cohesion and enhance psychological well-being and established that it serves as a powerful tool for bridging the deep social divides. Global Network on Extremism and Technology (GNET), London, UK, has also published a book on how young people from Asian countries are challenging violent extremism activities online (Primitivo III Cabanes Ragandang, 2024). Kavita Mittal & Nidhika Arya (2024) have critically examined the evolving role of educational institutions and teachers in combating the complex radicalization process through comprehensive training to equip the students with digital literacy and digital hygiene skills to counter the online radicalization. A case study on the emerging trend of radicalization amongst youth of higher educational institutions was also critically reviewed by Mihrullah et al. (2025).

The Humanities and Social Science Communication Journal of Springer Nature has recently published an open access article detailing radicalization targeting youths in Delhi, India, using social media echo chambers by Abdul Fahad and Siti Ezaleila (2025), which critically examines the present dynamics of social media engaged in spreading hate crimes involving the city youths. Raju J. Das (2024) has very critically examined the attacks on

the ideas of democracy and socialism and establishes the fact with strong documentation evidence that some organizations, with ingenious support, aim to create a negative atmosphere for the minorities living in India. Palgrave Macmillan published a book titled "Education in the Age of Misinformation", which presented philosophical and pedagogical explorations covering Vik Joshi and Amra Sabic-El-Rayess's (2023) pedagogical responses to misinformation, hate, and radicalized crimes.

7.4 Review of the Literatures on Preventive Mechanisms

Journal for De-radicalization, in, its fall issue of 2025, published a research study on preventing violent extremism through mentoring as a social rehabilitation approaches (Bourgeois-Guerin et al., 2025), and preventing radicalization at the local level through municipal and state-civil society collaboration as per the findings made in Germany by (Chiara von Hollen-Pierobon, 2025), while Wiley has presented few detailed systematic reviews of literature on Preventing Violent Extremis (PVE) by (Amit, S. & Kafy, A. 2022) for developing strategies for resilient individuals for taking practical action to prevent violent extremist activities and studies on cognitive and behavioral aspects of radicalization (Wolfowicz, M et al., 2021), to highlight its putative risk and protective factors. Kritika Karmakar et al. (2020) have framed a draft policy brief for strategically countering terrorism and the emerging radicalization of Indian youths by Islamic extremist groups, which were published by the Centre for Security Studies (CSS). For countering the emerging extremism problems in the Central Asian Region, and to prevent the extremist recruitments by ISIS or any other terrorist networks operating globally, it was suggested to improve the economic components, protect the human rights, increase trust, and introduce social welfare schemes to strengthen education and health system for citizens (Farangis Sharipova, 2022).

Chau-kiu Cheung & Cindy Xinshan Jia (2023) surveyed Chinese youth in Hong Kong and observed that radicalism declines with awareness of the law enforcement and law abidance, and agreement on law abidance increases with awareness of law enforcement, and prevents youth radicalism. A scientific study and mathematical statistical analysis of processes of radicalization of military personnel was also presented by Makhmudov Nemadulla Akhmatovich (2023) in the International Scientific Online Conference on the development of pedagogical technologies on

behalf of the Academy of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Tashkent, for the implementation of an effective mechanism to combat the emerging violent extremism and terrorism in the young generation. Caroline Da Silva et al. (2024) have come up with their study on risk and protective factors associated with violent extremism using a multilevel and interdisciplinary evidence-based approach in line with the Socio-ecological Model, as found validated by (Dahlberg & Krug, 2002). Recently, Kannan M., Muhamad Syauqillah (2025) made an extensive comparison analysis of the De-radicalization programs found operating in India and Indonesia, while specific events of religious extremism and terrorism cases in India have been found broadly categorized into several domains by Kanishka Awana (2025) for formulating effective counter terrorism policies. After the infamous 09/11 terrorist attacks in 2001, the UN was mandated to make the world safer from transnational organized crimes and terrorism by helping member states in strengthening their criminal justice systems, preventing youth crimes, and combating global terrorism. On 10 June, 2025, an MoU was signed with Tech against terrorism on counter-terrorism and misuse of ICT and other emerging technologies for terrorist activities.

7.5 Critical Analysis of the Literatures and Synthesis

On critically analyzing the reviewed literature selected for this thematic qualitative research study, it was evidently observed that violent extremism and youth radicalization are emerging globally and posing a threat to the safety and security of developing nations, hindering the ongoing developmental works required for achieving the set SDGs. It is thus synthesized that a strict vigil and check have to be kept at all times on the drivers of youth radicalization for developing a strong counter mechanism for preventing and countering the violent extremist activities by understanding the act of terrorism theoretically and addressing all the conditions found conducive for the spread of terrorist for improving the safety and national security.

8. Discussion and Interpretations

While theoretically understanding the radicalization mechanism based on the aforesaid literature survey, one has to consider its entire process and focus on all its sub-categories as detailed in McCauley-Moskalenko (2008), the two pyramid (2P) Model. It describes that the radicalization of an individual

transpires due to various factors categorized as personal grievance, political grievance, group membership, joining a radical group through the power of love, group radicalization within like-minded groups, group radicalization in isolation: in small combat units, competition for the same support base, and group radicalization against state power, and group radicalization through internal competition schism, mass radicalization in conflict with an external group for judo politics, mass radicalization in conflict with an external group for hatred, and mass radicalization in conflict with an external group for martyrdom. There are known indicators or social drivers, like poverty, unemployment, social exclusion, and peer influence and the psychological drivers, like identity crisis, low self-esteem, trauma, and need for belonging. Psychosocial vulnerabilities are strategically targeted to expand the extremist networks through the exploitation of youths by recruiting them utilizing active social media platforms to disseminate their fake propaganda, glorifying the violent extremist acts of radical figures by the extremist groups for expanding their extremist network globally through rigorous preaching in pursuit of becoming a hero (E. Glad, 2025).

9. Conclusion and Inferences

A holistic approach is thus needed for countering the threat of white-collar extremism and the globally emerging trend of youth radicalization, by thoroughly analyzing it using the Need Narrative and Network (3N) Model as developed by Webber & Kruglanski (2018) and illustrated by Johana Farkas et al. (2025), for developing a safe, secure, and resilient society free from any terrorist activities. Use of the latest emerging technologies for early prediction and countering violent extremism, like Transparent Reporting of a Multivariable Prediction Model for Individual Prognosis or Diagnosis-machine Learning (TRIPOD-ML) Algorithm as statically demonstrated by (Monte Angel Richardson, 2024) may perhaps be made mandatory, since it has been proven as start of art method and well supported by the international organizations, like, International Center for Counter-Terrorism (ICCT), Center for Research on Extremism (C-REX), International Center for Counter-terrorism (ICCT), Counter Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED) and the International Institute for Justice (IIJ).

AI-based Machine Learning Algorithms may perhaps be applied for mitigating the emerging threat of white-collar extremist and the threat of youth radicalization by far-right extremist groups, IS-inspired terrorism networks, and other forms of violent extremism activities happening worldwide. AI-based prediction technologies may also be utilized for the timely detection of future occurrences in advance for taking proper preventive actions with parental, academic, and full governmental support to cut the expanding FIN of terrorist organizations Gerwehr et al. (2006), engaged in youth recruitment and exploitation by the white-collar violent extremist groups as envisaged a decade ago by the United Nations (UNODC, 2017).

10. Socio-political Implications

For implementing the strict law enforcement to counter violent extremism in the Indian Socio-political environment, and in the regional context, the applicable existing statutes need to be strengthened to address the emerging radicalization of highly educated youths by extremist recruiters through social media platforms. There seems to be only three pertinent edicts, which are mostly reported with its gross misuse for the geo-political gains by the authorities in power, namely the Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA, 2002), the Terrorist and the Disruptive Activities (prevention) Act (TADA, 1985), and the most commonly applied in now a days, the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA, 1967) to address the emerging radicalization issues in India. The prolonged detention, life imprisonment, and death penalty sentences to be re-analyzed by taking cognizance of emerging threats from the trending radicalization of highly educated youths for preventing future occurrences of white-collar extremist activities by scrutinizing and briefly amending the Bhariya Nayaya Sanhita, Act (BNS, Act 2023), the prevailing current version of the Indian Penal Code (IPC, 1860). Apart from these three prominent Acts, there are other applicable decrees, which may perhaps be looked into for strengthening the scope for curbing the emerging extremism and youth radicalization, namely the Explosives Substance Act (ESA, 1908), the Explosives Act, (EA, 1884), Indian Arms Act (IAA, 1959), and very recently introduced Ammonium Nitrate Rules (ANR, 2012), Waqf Amendment Act (WAA, 2025), IT Act (2000) and The Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information by the Public) Blocking Rules 2009, Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA, 1973) and Foreign

Exchange Management (Borrowing & Lending) Regulations, 2018 etc., for strengthening the preventive mechanism and intensely handling future such occurrences with strong judicial backup, skintight prosecution mechanism and full governmental support in the interest of strengthening the national security. Opportunities for providing the psychological counseling and academic mentoring must be incorporated for the captured convicts undergoing long-term detention for their psychological well-being and future development through designing rehabilitation programs with social fabric for building, a resilient and strong cohesive society (Ghosh, et al. 2025) equipped with the future ready digital literacy and digital hygiene skills (Kavita Mittal & Nidhika Arya, 2024) for re-shaping their present mental health status to re-convert them to become good law-abiding and law-aware citizen (Chau-kiu Cheung, 2023).

11. Academic Recommendations

Community-centred solutions may be developed to counter the vulnerabilities with the help of academia, policymakers, and all stakeholders for developing an inclusive and holistic social and psychological mechanism to address the unemployment, exclusion, and identity crises. Thus, it is highly recommended to integrate Psychological Counselling with the Skills Development Programs to address the unemployment issue (Eleyi, 2025), with the help of Academia to counter-radicalization of susceptible youths facing marginalization, societal discrimination, and identity-based exclusion due to various geopolitical, regional and most commonly on their personal ethnic factors. Latest AI-based machine learning algorithms for identifying the vulnerable youths for providing them intensive Mentoring and Counselling (M&C) through Emotional Intelligence (EI) and Neuro Linguistic Programming (NLP) techniques may be utilized (Mohammad Iqbal, 2006). Strong counter-narratives are, thus, to be promoted with the help of Academia by imparting skill-based higher education and leveraging the youth, social, and electronic media platforms with family and community structures and full governmental support for stopping the vulnerable extremist recruitment and countering the white-collar extremism and radicalization to develop globally safe and resilient societies. It was also concluded by the researchers that establishing peace, harmony, and cohesiveness is necessary for building a strong countering violent extremism mechanism.

12. Practical Limitations

While presenting this academic perspective on the violent extremism and radicalization, full anonymity of the respondent's name and their affiliations was ensured to ensure the credibility and responsible discourse. In the absence of available primary data, and only those secondary data were interpreted that were readily available in the public domain and referred to with their proper web reference and date of its last access are fully in line with the international research protocols with possible bias and limitations of qualitative review methods, without any conflict or personal interest and without receiving any research grant or availing any type of funding from any of the Higher Educational Institutes (HEI) situated in India or abroad by the author of this article.

13. Future Directions

Future researchers shall explore a structured way forward based on the emerging patterns of violent extremism and radicalization amongst white-collar professionals globally, with a balanced academic approach, and must come up with their new innovative ideas to intellectually counter the trending hate crimes and terrorism in order to save the humanity of developing economies. The 44th President of the USA, Barack Hussein Obama II, once said that "Ideologies are not defeated by guns, but by new ideas". The Next Generation researchers thus must try to at least validate these violent extremism models developed by the present researchers to develop a more effective counter-radicalization strategy to disrupt the radicalization pathways of emerging white-collar extremism to encourage communal harmony and build strong resilience among societies of different faiths and ideologies. Thus, future researchers are directed to undertake evidence-based interdisciplinary research in the areas of extremism studies, education, psychology, and research on national security.

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