

Historical Evolution Of Private Security Sector And Its Emerging Growth In Pakistan

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Abstract

Concept of private security can be traced back to the history of mankind and is not new in the present era. Present day private security industry is the result of gradual but continuous process of evolution and growth which has now attained the status of an independent professional industry and is vital for the security of individuals in their personal, monetary as well as organizational capacity both in physical and virtual form. This paper is dealing in detail with the transition of private security providing a deep insight into its historical background and growth up to the present day development. It is also intended to highlight its emergence as a strong industry in Pakistan and its importance for the security of person and property. The information has been collected⁴ using qualitative approach from various sources including books, research papers, article, news reports and digital sources. The results and outcomes of the research are establishing that the private security sector has become a complete industry in Pakistan but this industry is facing several challenges which are further needed to be discussed and will be addressed in future research.

Keywords: Private security, historical background, growth, physical security, types of security, emergence in Pakistan.

Introduction

The worldwide private security industry has quickly expanded in the course of the last ten a long time. The elements of its advancement shifts from state to state, for example it is distinctive in creating nations, nations experiencing significant change, nations that are in post-conflict period and creating nations. For every one of them there is one shared factor. The privatization of security occurs in situations where the state, as conventional security supplier, can't or reluctant to fulfill this job. In addition, contemplating cost viability, there is an expansion in pattern of employing organizations and work force from outer sources and privatization of state security capacities. Public-private organizations in the field of security are one of the most widely recognized instances of this wonder.

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Over the past decade, the private security industry has noticeably become more professional, skilled, responsive and integrated. As the criminal and security threats facing the public and private sectors become increasingly pronounced and complex, and as the resources of traditional law enforcement and police services become increasingly overstretched, the security industry has had to quickly position itself as a highly effective and responsive alternative (Sundberg, 2020).

Notwithstanding that many jurisdictions around the world have significantly increased the licensing requirements for security services at both the individual and firm levels, the security industry itself has taken on a major role in coming together through various national and international bodies to raise the profile, quality and capacity of security professionals (Sundberg, 2020).

If we talk about security, it mostly refers to protection from hostile forces, but it has a wide range of other senses: for example, as the absence of harm (e.g. freedom from want); as the presence of an essential good (e.g. food security); as resilience against potential damage or harm (e.g. secure foundations); as secrecy (e.g. a secure telephone line); as containment (e.g. a secure room or cell); and as a state of mind (e.g. emotional security) (Wikipedia, 2020).

Security from crime, fear and victimization at the State, local and personal levels is an important basis for economic and social development. As noted in the United Nations Guidelines for the Security, it is freedom from or resilience against potential harm (or other unwanted coercive change) caused by others. Beneficiaries (technically referents) of security may be of persons and social groups, objects and institutions, ecosystems or any other entity or phenomenon vulnerable to unwanted change (Callejas & Cazeau, 2016).

There are three main types of security officers working for private and public businesses and individuals: government, in-house, and those working contractually for private security firms. Within those three main types, there are even more options – armed and unarmed, plainclothes or uniformed, on-site or remote. And beyond that is the wild gamut of workplaces where their skills are put to use (SmartSecurityPros, 2019).

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Prevention of Crime, while States play a primary role, public safety and crime prevention are not the sole responsibility of government or public law enforcement. Indeed, individuals, communities, non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector all play a role in enhancing security and community safety.

It was emphasized in (UNDOC, 2014) that wide-range of activities in which civilian private security services are involved, it is difficult to define them. In fact, often private military security services are included within this sector. These firms tend to operate in conflict or post-conflict zones, in fragile and transitional States, engaging in military type engagements and providing armed services.

According to (Babakhel, 2016) private security primarily consists of two components: **manned security** and **hardware security**. Since the Pakistani private security industry is in its embryonic phase, it is still operating as a human resource-intensive industry, primarily

transforming the traditional ‘chowkidar’ (watchman) system into a modern security system. Apart from these two components of private security, in some countries, professionally qualified private companies are also entrusted with the investigation function. While developed societies have outsourced certain policing functions to the private sector, the real challenge of the state here is not to allow such companies to function as private armies.

The growth and liberalization of the banking and industrial sectors, the expanding role of multinationals and augmented threats in the post-9/11 scenario have provided a conducive environment for the private security industry. However, a majority of private security agencies are focused on profit maximization; hence quality control and service delivery are often compromised. In Pakistan, 250,000 private guards are performing security duties. There are around 150,000 registered private guards deployed in Sindh. In Karachi alone, there are 55,000 to 80,000 private security guards working in 125 companies (Babakhel, 2016).

It was discussed by (Babakhel, 2016) that since the 1990s, the world has witnessed a remarkable increase in private policing. According to an estimate, private security companies in the US earn annual revenues ranging from \$19 billion to \$34 billion. In 2011, there were an estimated 20 million security guards working globally. This depicts an increase of between 200 to 300 per cent over the past two to three decades. Such huge growth has outpaced the regulation and oversight apparatus. To ensure respect for human rights, in 2010, 50 leading private security companies signed an international code of conduct in Geneva.

1. Historical Background of Private Security

People think that the concept of private security was introduced due to the paranoia and fear present in the society after the incident of 9/11 but in-fact it roots back to the ancient times. Man always needed protection of his person and property. He took this kind of services by engaging human being to guard his premises. Cave drawings have been found which can be depicted individuals guarding the livestock and communities of other individual (Robinson, 2019).

1.1 Ancient Egyptian, Greek and Roman Private Security System

As discussed by (Mark, 2017) there was no official police force in old Kingdom of Egypt (2613-2181 BCE). The monarchs of that time used to have their private personal guards to watch over their tombs and monuments. They hired trustworthy people for this purpose with respectable background. By the time of 5th dynasty which was the end of the Old Kingdom, the nobles and kings started choosing guards from military and ex-military warriors of national as well as international background.

During the First Intermediate Period of Egypt (2181-2040 BCE) it was a trend to hire Nubian guards with military experience to safe guard the property of people. In the Middle kingdom of Egypt (2040-1782 BCE) first standing army was created under the reign of Amenemhat I (1991-1962 BCE) consisting of professional warriors who were posted at garrisons along border. They were also sent with royals as guards. They were the informal arrangement and were replaced by a professional police force (Mark, 2017).

(Mark, 2017)also stated that during the Second Intermediate Period of Egypt (1782-1570BCE) some of the Nubians sold their services as mercenaries to the prince of Thebes to become a part of their army who later on formed the core of the professional police force of Egypt. In New Kingdom of Egypt (1570-1069 BCE) this police force was very organized and reformed performing functions of law enforcement, interrogation, and guarding as well. Molossian

became the preferred police dog at that time for guarding tombs and public places. Rural communities mostly used to look after their security issues and to manage those by themselves.

In the later part of the new Kingdom (1100-1069 BCE) crime rate increased and trust on police started to decrease after the repeated incidents of tomb robbing. During the Third Intermediate Period of Egypt (1069-525 BCE) the police force declined due to its inefficiency and corruption. This was the time when private security was used to safeguard private properties and valuables. Pharaohs also used to keep their private security guards (Mark, 2017).

The ancient Greek developed a sophisticated system of security forces. Officials were employed to safeguard the public highway and buildings. Government officials were also provided security in the form of guards (Robinson, 2019). The practice continued in ancient Rome, where private security officials were used to hire by the government and wealthy individuals. During the Byzantine era (400 AD) the emperor established a private force, Varangian Guards, comprising mostly of foreign soldiers, for the protection of himself and his family.

1.2 Private Security System in Middle-Ages

As the middle ages were the violent era during which the private security guards were in high demand for the purpose of providing protection. In Japan and China, regional warlords fought furious battles for dominance and land which made both countries rival and enemies of each other. The Mongol also attacked on the western boundaries of China and became a serious threat resultantly the Great Wall of China was built to stop invaders. The warlords and their wealthy subjects used private security.

In Japan, samurai was formed consisting of semi-religious order of warriors with special weapons and fighting methods who served as private security. The famous Ninja assassins were one branch of Samurai. In that period in Europe also the elites and wealthy people required protection due to warfare and they also hire security guards. In 1214, King John of England signed a declaration named Magna Carta for the rights of free men. It was followed by the statute of Winchester in 1285 AD, which codified security regulations for towns and village making the citizens responsible for participating in the crime prevention activities (Robinson, 2019).

The vassal- lord relationship was introduced for the self help and protection as a private security measure. Small villages used their own policing comprising of citizens during the feudal times. King's-reeves were appointed to look after the business of the king who at later stage during 1000 to 1300 A.D. were developed as the shire-reeves" who were responsible for the law enforcement in English countries or precincts. Later on a system of "watch and ward" was established to aid constables under the Statute of Westchester, as stated by (Explorer, 2015).

Colonial America introduced the system of sheriff, constable and watch as an earlier form of law enforcement. First constable was appointed in Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607. Constable was considered to be the main law enforcement officer for the local American government in 1800's. In 1634, the first night watchman was formed and every male citizen over the age of 18 years was bound to perform duty from 9 or 10 pm to sunrise. They were not the people with high caliber and had limited powers as compared to constables. They were of great importance until the establishment of full-time police force in the middle of 1800's as discussed in (Explorer, 2015).

1.3 Private Security during Industrialization

As provided in (Explorer, 2015) during the industrial revolution crime rate increased due to industrialization and urbanization. People used to manage private security for business and merchant protection. In 1829 the Metropolitan Police act was passed which led to the establishment of the first legitimate police force under the sponsorship of Sir Robert Peel who is considered to be the “father of policing”.

1.4 Private Security Industry a Worldwide Leading Employment Sector

At present private security industry is one of the most progressing employment sectors across the world. It is generating remarkable revenue and the employment opportunities at international level. After the incident of 9/11 due to the prevailing fear factor, this industry flourished rapidly. Private security industry provides multiple types of services as mentioned by (Mazareanu, 2020) and are given below:

- i.** Security System including security devices installation, CCTV cameras installation, security alarms and other modern devices and technologies for homes and real estate
- ii.** Private Security Guards for the purposes of surveillance and to keep watch
- iii.** Security Consulting Services
- iv.** IT Security

IT security refers to the managing of information system. It involves complex undertaking, covering computers, servers, routers, telecommunications equipment and other electronic systems basing on software, hardware, and information management policies to secure corporate data (Liu, 2019).

2. Basic Statistics of Security Service Market Worldwide

As mentioned by (Bruun, 2018) the total worth of international private military and security industry has been estimated to be in the range of £ 69 billion to £ 275 billion a year. According to the report published by (Mazareanu, 2020) it was found that Europe was the largest security service market in 2019 with the value of 36 billion U.S. dollars followed by Asia as the second largest market with 36 billion U.S. dollars which overtook North America in that year.

In the year 2020, the total market size of security services in U.S. is estimated to reach 39.1 billion U.S. dollars as mentioned by (Mazareanu, 2020). Private security industry is the rapidly growing industry in U.S. with a number of leading security companies. According to the report published by (Mazareanu, 2020) the statistics provide that the Swedish security services company, Securitas, contributed about 5.1 billion U.S. dollars to the U.S. revenue.

According to (Mazareanu E. , Information security technology market size 2016-2023, 2020) the global information security market is rapidly growing and it is expected that it would be doubled in 2023 from that of 2016 with an increase in revenue from 75.5 billion U.S. dollars to over 151 billion U.S. dollars.

In the U.S. only around 38, 710 security guards were employed only in general medical and surgical hospitals in the year 2019 as reported in a statistical report published by (Mazareanu E. , Industries employing the largest number of security guards in the U.S. 2019, 2020).

In UK, 232,000 private guards were recruited as security guards in the year 2015 as compared to 151,000 police officials as stated by (Provost, 2017). The number of security guards employed in South Africa in 2015 was 500,000 which was twice the number of police officials employed during that year (Provost, 2017). An estimated suggestion about India was that

around seven million people were employed as security guard in 2013 as compared to 1.7 million police officers (Provost, 2017).

G4S, which is the world's largest private security company, has more than half million employees around the world. It generated revenues of £ 6.8 billion in 2016 with the profit of £ 454m (Provost, 2017).

3. Emerging Scope of Private Security Industry in Pakistan

Pakistan is in the state of war against terrorism for last few decades. The incident of 9/11 has worsened the situations by elevating the fear factors. No one is feeling secure as to his person and property. Continuous and strict surveillance is highly demanded particularly at public places like schools, hostels, offices, industries and hospitals which remained the main targets of terrorists during this period.

In this situation it is not possible for the state to provide security to every citizen. LEA's are engaged in countering such activities in various ways. Therefore individuals have to manage for their private security on their own behalf to run their routine business smoothly and without fear. They have had to maintain the certain security standards to attract and protect their clientele.

In the attacks on NADRA office, Mardan and Bacha Khan University, Char Sadda, private security guards faced the terrorists at the entrance and sacrificed to minimize the casualties as reported by (Babakhel M. A., 2016). As reported in (AP, 2020), 2 security guards and a policeman sacrificed their lives while stopping the terrorists from entering into the Karachi stock exchange building.

Pakistan Law and order situation was fragile after 9/11. Pakistan faced the brutal attacks of terrorism. Pakistan's geostrategic location makes more complications in terms of security situation. Between 2007 -2014 Pakistan declared worst hit terrorism country where state security institutions failed to maintain writ of law. There a decision made to regulate private security for general public safety. Therefore policy on establishment and functioning of **private security companies 2018 introduced by Ministry of interior**, where security institutions can collaborate private security.

People searching closer to non-public security companies for his or her safety wishes Infrastructure spending one of the key drivers for region boom Foreign investment, specially CPEC, to create possibilities Target market – company coins handling Increasing patron expenditure/retail styles High Margins Focus on ancillary offerings, like provision of overnight vault and ATM replenishment Emerging/Growing segment of Pakistan Shift closer to electronic surveillance.

3.1 Growth and Development in Private Security Sector in Pakistan

The large number of security guards can help police in controlling crime at public places if they are trained enough in this regard with professional expertise as suggested by a senior officer in AVCC as reported by (Zuberi, 2008). The number of security guards has increased from 60,000 to 62,000 as compared to the sanctioned police officers in the province of Sindh who are 90,000 among whom 29,000 are deployed in Karachi whereas the number of private security guards in Karachi only is found to be 50,000. This shows the increased trend of keeping private security (Zuberi, 2008).

In a research conducted in Africa by the British Association of Private Security Companies (BAPSC) it was suggested that the PSC's can contribute effectively in improving security situations in African countries. It was also suggested that these companies can also positively affect the economic growth of the state. The study also proposed that private security should not become a commodity to be affordable by the wealthy people only (Bearpark & Schulz, 2007).

There are various factors which are responsible for the growth of private security sector. As mentioned in (NSC, 2017) rise in workplace crime, rise in fear, decreased spending for public protection are few of the factors which are contributing the growth of private security sector.

3.2 Classification and Functions of the Private Security Industry

The private security enterprise weaves its threads into each corner of the American enjoy. Whether through person shipping, proprietary carrier, or under a contractual settlement for offerings, non-public protection touches each factor of financial existence. Contractual services whereby cash is paid for precise safety offerings, promotes protection and protection in a number of locales and settings.

The "personal contractual safety offerings" enterprise encompasses guards, private investigative services, significant-station alarm tracking, armored transport and ATM servicing, security consulting and information security and personal correctional facility management offerings. Niche markets additionally exist for an extensive variety of specialized security offerings, together with: bomb sweeps and metal detection; drug trying out; pre-employment screening; renting of website online comfortable vaults; radon and dangerous gasoline checking out; and defend canine offerings

Proprietary security offerings deliver comparable results. The proprietary zone offers offerings without delay to the public from belongings safety to private historical past checks, from fraud prevention systems to banking protection controls. Propriety security reflects the ingenuity and brilliance of its inventors¹²⁵ with a surge of personal investigators, pc and tech crime specialists, anti-terrorism practitioners, and government safety specialists.

The safety industry, according to its choicest professional affiliation, the American Society of Industrial Security, breaks down the private protection industry into 4 predominant disciplines: Physical safety specializes in the protection of people, belongings, and facilities through using safety forces, safety systems, and safety techniques. Physical safety employees oversee proprietary or contract uniformed safety operations, become aware of safety gadget requirements, check inner and external threats to property, and develop regulations, plans, methods, and physical safeguards to counter those threats.

Physical security can consist of the use of boundaries, alarms, locks, get right of entry to manipulate systems, protecting lighting fixtures, closed circuit televisions, and different state-of-the-art safety era. Information safety includes safeguarding touchy facts. Although statistics safety has traditionally been associated with the protection of U.S. Government categorized statistics, it is able to additionally encompass privateer's facts, proprietary information, contractual data, and intellectual belongings. Information protection offers with problems which includes who need to get right of entry to the statistics and how the statistics are saved, controlled, marked, disseminated, and disposed of. Personnel security deals with making sure the integrity and reliability of an employer's workforce.

Personnel protection encompasses history investigations, drug testing, and other pre-employment screening strategies, as well as adjudication of outcomes and granting protection clearances and other data access privileges. Information structures protection includes keeping the confidentiality, reliability, and availability of facts created, saved, processed, and/or transmitted through automatic facts systems. Information structures safety employees broaden procedures and safeguards to protect in opposition to hackers and other unauthorized efforts to get entry to facts, viruses, and a number of other threats to statistics systems.

Private security industry provides its paid services to the individuals and organizations for providing security. As mentioned by (Sherman, 2017) there multiple ways through which these services are being offered e.g. Corporate Body-guarding, Provision of Internal Security, Provision of IT Security, and Security and Surveillance.

3.3 Private Security Structure

Security companies are inside the commercial enterprise of going for walks an organized business. Their corporation and interest to detail is what keeps their clients safe. Structure is decided via the culture of the business, length of the organization and managerial fashion of the corporation.

Formal Structure: A formal protection structure may also include layers of supervisors assigned to distinctiveness areas. There can be the top safety manager who delegates to his assistant managers in rate of loss prevention or investigations. Underneath those supervisors can be every other layer of middle control who supervise the security of man or woman departments consisting of bills receivables and financial issues, and statistics technology protection supervisor, a heritage screener and a fraud investigations expert. Under those professionals, there can be widespread safety officers and the shift supervisors managing them

Informal Structure: Budget impacts organizational structure. Small safety corporations don't have the posh of such a lot of middle managers. They may be established with the pinnacle safety supervisor and several assistant managers or shift supervisors assigned to managerial obligations primarily based on their work revel in or specialized abilities.

Managerial Style: It is not uncommon for a security enterprise to be the brainchild of a retired police or army officer. The structure of these businesses can tackle a militaristic element in the chain of command or a complete invention of the founder based on previous paintings within the field. There is not any set, required organization shape within the safety enterprise.

3.4 Procedure for Registration of PSC

It was reported in (Siddiqui, 2012) that PSC's are continuously operating without any regulation as there is no effective legislation in this regard. It was also discussed in this report that the private security companies are working only under the NOC issued from the Federal Interior Ministry and are bound only to follow the general standard procedures.

The procedure for registration of a security company is very simple. A business person or group intending to establish a PSC has to approach the Security and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) which registers it after all legal formalities under the Companies Ordinance, 1984. After this the SECP asks the Ministry of Interior to issue NOC after giving clearance by all the intelligence and law enforcement agencies (Siddiqui, 2012).

After issuance of NOC the licence is granted by the respective provincial home department to the company to operate in that province. This licence is also issued under the old ordinance.

4. Conclusion with Recommendations

Through this thorough study it can be concluded that the rapid growth of private security sector cannot be ignored which is strengthening its roots significantly with the revolutionary global advancements. The need, importance and scope of the private security industry are sufficient to bring our attention to the fact that it is the dire need of time to review this sector of the state in order to bring regulatory reforms under statutory umbrella and legislative protection. The progress of this industry is connected to all other sectors of economic development including health, tourism, business, IT and above all the sense of security to attract the foreign investors.

In order to ensure proper security in the state it is very necessary that the LEA's and private security guards work in collaboration with each other. It is also necessary that the trained and skilled persons be employed in this sector with complete training to handle all kind of emergencies including fire-fighting, counter-terrorism and crime scene management as they are the people who are the first to face and handle these issues. They can be the victims, eye witnesses and first responders at the same time.

In developed countries security guards have proper training and qualifications and are working with the law enforcement and are sharing their responsibilities including criminal investigation and law enforcement and thereby controlling the crimes. In 2010, almost fifty leading private security companies signed an international code of conduct in order to make this industry secure and to run it according to the international standards (Baqsovie, 2018).

Security companies are working under the supervision of provinces. There should be a federal and central authority to look after the matter of this sector and to regulate it according to the international standards. Although law requires the proper monitoring and evaluation of these security companies but they are taking it casually. Resultantly the security guards are being hired without any qualification, intelligence or experience as stated by (Yusuf, 2014).

As mentioned in (News, 2010) 220 member companies of APSAA have their proper code of conduct. It is necessary that the private security guards and companies be brought under the ambit of federal and provincial regulation by their compulsory membership of APSAA. Even the armed guards must be registered and uniformed to distinguish them from terrorists. It is necessary to understand the problems of the sector in order to bring effective reforms.

Disclaimer

This research paper has been derived from thesis conducted by the authors along with the other two co-authors on the topic titled "Major impediments in the growth of Private Security Sector: A leading future industry of Pakistan". The thesis has not been published anywhere and this is the original and novel work of the authors. The other two authors have no objection in its publication.

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