

RESTRICTED

ABSTRACT

Terrorism is a serious threat in today's world. In the recent past, the world has witnessed the rise of terrorism that has significantly affected the peace and stability of the countries. It presents greater challenge to the government in combating terrorism. Despite having a homogeneous society, Bangladesh has also witnessed an alarming rise of terrorism in the last two decades. On 17 August 2005, simultaneous series of bomb blast throughout the country shook the world. The recent hostage incident in 2016 in Dhaka which claimed twenty lives including eighteen foreigners has catapulted Bangladesh into the list of countries which suffer from serious threat of terrorism. Several killing incidents preceding this event took place all over the country targeting minority groups, bloggers and foreigners giving a clear indication of rise of terrorism. Countering terrorism has always been a challenging task. Bangladesh government took lot of measures for combating terrorism. But, while combatting against terrorism demands an integrated and synergistic application of all civil and military measures, the ongoing combat against terrorism is apparently insufficient and there seems to be serious lacking in the implementation of CT measures. It focuses most of its efforts on conventional methods of using hard power giving less importance in soft power. This gave some short term achievements, but it could not address the root causes of terrorism. Therefore, the counter terrorism efforts could not progress well as desired and there seems to be are grey areas or gaps in the counter terrorism approach and measures. The Gulshan incident rightly highlighted significant gaps in the country's counter terrorism strategy which needs to be addressed. In this context, this research was carried out to find out the grey areas or gaps or shortcomings in the counter terrorism measures which are affecting in controlling or preventing the terrorism in Bangladesh. This endeavour would eventually suggested the right approach for dealing with the threat of terrorism for sustained peace and security in the country.