



A Comparative Analysis Between Times of India And Danik Jagran In Publishing Crime News Stories Related To Women: Post Nirbhaya

Ramendra Nath Verma

PhD Research Scholar, Department of Mass Communication (SSMFE), Sharda University, Greater Noida, U.P.

ramendranath12@gmail.com ORCID ID-0000-0003-2420-9346

Dr. Dhruv Sabharwal

Associate Professor & Head of Department, Department of Mass Communication (SSMFE), Sharda University, Greater Noida, U.P.

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ABSTRACT

Even after 75 years of independence Women are still treated as second class citizens. Right to equality is enshrined in our constitution of India. But this equality remains on paper only while women face bias and discrimination everywhere. They are treated as inferior and subordinate by men and society. Not only are they deprived and oppressed, but also ignored in public as well as private world. Thus Women are prohibited from decision making as well as living their lives in the way they want. The legal definition of rape is "sexual" penetration of a person by force and without that persons consent". About 91% of rape victims are female, while 99% of perpetrators are male. This shows that there is a gender disparity in this crime. Due to the stigma attached to it, rape is vastly not reported in our society. As per the national data, female rape occurs every 22 minutes. Dhananjay Chatterjee was one accused who was hanged on 14th August 2004 for rape in Alipore Central Correctional Home Kolkata . The famous Nirbhaya gang rape case took almost seven years and at last the four accused were hanged till death on 20th March 2020. From year 2004 to 2020 till date more than 4 lakhs rape cases has been reported from different parts of country in various police station.

Key Words: Women, Rape, Crime, Equality.

INTRODUCTION

Although the Indian constitution prohibits any discrimination on the grounds of sex, it does not work that way. Despite all the special provisions in interest of women made by the state, women are forced to adjust and make compromise with their rights and their voices are silenced by the male-dominated society

forced to follow men and will, they have little decision-making power. In the all round development in all wakes of life, the “woman” has emerged as a key stakeholder in social, economic, political and culture aspects of life. But even their significant contributions fail to give them the much deserved equal status. They are still treated as unequal partners and forced to play the second fiddle to their male partners.

Even though India is emerging as a global super power, still the Indian woman’s struggle for dignity is far from over. They have to struggle for their rights in all fields such as employment, access to health care and even the right to property thus making women empowerment only the shadow of a vision. The constitution enshrines equal rights in the fields of legislation, policies, plans, programmes and all related mechanisms but in reality the gap between the promise and the reality is still very wide females still face discrimination in every wake of life as amplified by the declining sex ratio in India. Women are not welcomed even at birth, also stardom is given to them in stream, but the harassment continues. All manners of crimes such as rape, kidnapping abduction, dowry related crimes, sexual harassments and also and also domestic violence at marital homes. The objectification of women in T.V. / films / social media and the portrayal of increasing violence against them also influence and contribute to the mounting violence against women in this country. It is escalating day by day.

When Mahatma Gandhi started the freedom movement, he supported the liberation movement for Indian women. A new input was gained as Gandhiji’s movement had vast social ramifications which affected the woman of India on a large state to a large extent. The progressive ideology regarding women’s status in India dates back to 1830 when Lord William Bentinck’s rule in India and Raja RamMohan Roy’s Brahmo Samaj movement, his condemnation of the Sati Pratha, propogation of widow remarriage, education and empowerment of women etc.

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

Firstly in the era of modernization and digitalization, still the society in trapped by patriarchal norms and beliefs. As a result of which though the society became modern, but in reality it took up being modern as a fashionable attitude. But even then the present modern culture / society is of the view that a good woman is safely ensconced in her home, and does not go out after dark or visit unsafe places. Housework and housekeeping is for girls, if women are not good, men have a right to “teach them a lesson” by raping them and if that happens a woman being raped has a responsibility to silently accept the assault and if in case being raped, she shouldn’t fight back. She should just be silent and allow the rape.

The **Second** problem which is associated is the Psychological factor or Psychological development. We can also term it as inadequate character development. Earlier there was no technology like T.V. and radio. Thus the work of brainwash is done by the parents and relatives through their patriarchal norms and beliefs. In modern era it is done with the help of technology and cinema played a big role in the line.

Thirdly there is a lack of strong political or legislative will the other big reason - this is so because since the concept of welfare state has emerged there seems to be a flood of legislative enactments to protect the integrity and dignity of the women. There is always a political agenda

during elections to protect women from sexual and other form of violence and crime. But even after having dozens of legislative enactments. Still the situation is same. Though numbers of statutes are there to protect the integrity and dignity of women but at the same time inadequacy of these statutes and Justice Administration System in the country mainly concern the above following three interrelated problems.

AIM

- To examine the issues of women in the mainstream media by taking up the English and Hindi newspapers.
- To compare and contrast the assessment on the coverage of women's issues in the Hindi and English newspapers both in qualitative and quantitative capacities.

OBJECTIVE

- To ascertain the importance given to women's issues in the front page coverage in the newspapers under study.
- To measure space allocated to women's issues on the mainstream Hindi and English newspapers.

HYPOTHESIS

- English daily provides more coverage to women's issues than Hindi dailies.
- Maximum coverage to women's issues is given in the forms of news stories due to their sensational nature.
- Rape and sexual violence gets more coverage in all newspapers and print-media.

TIME LINE

The time-period from December 2012 to December 2017 was taken up for the study. Two mainstream dailies (one from each language) Danik Jagran and Times of India were chosen up for the study.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What are Sexual offences and how prevalent are they in India?
2. What are the causes of sexual offences in India?
3. Are the judicial remedies effective in combating sexual offences?
5. What can be done to deter people from committing sexual offences?
6. What are the challenges faced by victims in reporting sexual offences?

RESEARCH DESIGN

By analysing the English and Hindi language newspaper, I will take a look at the way the cases are framed. I will also investigate how these dominant factors contribute to national debates surrounding role of females in India. For this firstly, I shall try to contextualize the 2012 gang rape case. Secondly I shall seek to establish patterns that have emerged out of media coverage which surrounds the high profile cases of rape. For this I will go through the media timelines of certain cases. Thirdly, I will analyse frames that manifest in news content after December 16, 2012 incidents. Finally, I shall discuss the implications of these frames in the wider context of social change in a neoliberal Indian society of today.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A systematic random sampling method was adopted for this study in this research work. This method depends upon the law of probability. Thus giving an equal chance of selecting each unit from within the population for sample's creation. Content Analysis was done based on the frequency of occurrences of these crimes and its consecutive quantification. A coding sheet was prepared with content categories and unit of analysis. Each story was codified by entering it into data sheet and then analyzed for the purpose of the study. My research methodology consisted of gathering the news articles as a sample of media response to rape and sexual violence and crimes against women. For this I relied on pro Quest News and current events as a source of my news reports and articles. I decided to use the algorithm JSU ("General Interest periodicals – India"). It narrowed down my search to two major, National English and Hindi language newspapers namely Times of India and Danik Jagran. The news papers selected here had both the highest number of articles on sexual violence. They also have the highest readership rates and are immensely popular. The majority of articles used in my research and analysis were published by the Times of India and Danik Jagran.

LITERATURE REVIEW

In order to perform a good literature review, the researcher reviewed all the relevant literature available on the subject area diligently and painstakingly. A literature review is defined as a critical analysis of a portion of published research literature that is pertinent to a topic being considered for research work in order to become familiar with current thinking and research on a particular topic. This analysis may even inspire future research into a topic that has been overlooked or neglected thus far. The literal meaning of the word "literature" means "sources of information research" and literature review was done with this main objective.

The study of relationship between mass media and status of women was researched by Mieke Ceulemans and Guide Fauconer and the conclusion was published on the paper "Mass Media: The Image, Role and Social conditions of Women". In this, these researchers focused on women's image from a developmental or historical perspective by systemic analysis and evaluated knowledge about its central topic. They found that the advertisement industry used the women in twin roles of two-dimensional role, both as a

housewife / mother / wife and as a sexual and decorative item. The commoditization of women is done to sell products by using female body as a source of attraction. Although they talk of sexual liberation, they follow the trend of exploiting the traditional women's role as sex symbol and a commodity. The media also is narrow minded and define women either as a sex symbol or traditional domestic role. They coin the stereotype sexual appeal of women to men and make women as family and house – oriented who live only to satisfy and please their male counterparts / masters. This sexual divide can be seen in work divide in almost all industries such as advertising broadcasting, film and publishing industries. The low-paid jobs devoid of status and power are assigned to females while the most influential positions are given to men (Ceulemans et al, 1979).

The concept of media hegemony and the analysis of logical and empirical adequacy has been undertaken by David L. Altheide. The ideological dominance was explained in the research paper of Altheide prepared "Media Hegemony. A Failure of Perspective". The examination revealed that some earlier studies had taken the "dominant ideology this is of media hegemony" without question. They relied on television news but ignored controversial arguments about the ideology and socialisation of journalists, whether news stories uphold the status quo, and the type and scope of international coverage of specific topics. Although this idea can be contested and the idea of media hegemony has many flaws, attempts must be made to provide an empirically valid theoretical framework for placing the news process in a larger social context and greater/wider perspective. These ideas are extremely biased and constrained because they only consider how television's hegemonic legitimization of ages and societal homogenization influences. This study also made the case that, rather than focusing on the "depending/dependence factor of larger social and economic powers," a developing social justification may benefit from taking into account the change in the social context brought about by the media. It should earn its key position and become a "independent variable." A less global version of hegemony is integrated / requires to be integrated along with the formulated media effects. Hegemonic domains in bureaucracy and ongoing work of pluralism should be played upon to awaken the media's sensibilities. This will result into our greater understandings of the media's role in social life and empirically ground our sensibilities this area.

The study "Sexual Violence in the Media: Indirect Effects on Aggression Against Women" by Neil M. Malamuth and John Briere centred on a model that postulated the collateral damage caused by media sexual assault. In regards to sexual violence against women, just as men's thoughts are where battles start, so too are cognitive processes responsible for controlling sexual aggression. It demonstrated the connection between sexual assault and sexually aggressive behaviour worldwide. The case studies and experiments conducted in the laboratories and under the lab circumstances revealed a variety of signs of

aggression, including making unpleasant noises for the benefit of the women in the labs, self-reported prospective and actual sexual aggression, and status as a convicted rapist.

Roshmi Luthra introduces her work, "Coverage of Women's Issues in the Indian Immigrant Press: A content Analysis," by defining news stories about women using a classification system. She picked and examined women's concerns from January to June of 1983 and 1985 in India Abroad. Stories about women as victims of society, victims of criminal activity as an individual, women's accomplishments, steps to improve women's status, criminal women, and general tales about women as a collective are among the many types of stories that exist. For a qualitative study, the researcher looked at the letters to the editor that were used as the source material. Additionally, there are sections for general and special features, news stories, news briefs, and features.. The sources of information were also marked. Either women are rarely covered or in an idiosyncratic way, denying the larger perspective or not related to social issues or causes. Their views are usually ignored even when given about women related issues. Men are given priority here in expressing their values. The stories related to women are nearly invisible in India abroad, mostly focusing on crime stories. Female views are not given the proper place and men are given priority in expressing their views on the issues related to females. The media content rarely shows them. However, the tone of overall coverage was positive when related to women's stories, as found by this researcher (Luthre, 1987)

Among the topics covered in "Between the Lines: Women's Issues in English Language Newspapers" were dowry deaths, rape, sex tests, and sati. Five daily newspapers, four journals, and two women's magazines covering women's concerns between 1979 and 1988—a ten-year period—were examined for this purpose. Because the general public is interested in learning about their surroundings, proximity has an impact on the coverage area. As a result, there were more dowry deaths reported in the Delhi-based Hindustan Times than in the Calcutta edition of The Statesman. Female foeticide and amniocentesis instances were more prevalent in the newspapers published in Bombay.

Their tales were highlighted in the headlines after the movement against sex-determination tests was started in Bombay. The Times of India and The Indian Express Media outlets across India gave the Roop Kanwar event in the Deorala in Sati concerns a lot of coverage. Hindustan Times covered it more extensively. The above-mentioned political meddling and compliance to the established norms of what constitutes "news" led to it receiving extensive coverage, which increased the quantity of newspapers that hit the stands. The Roop Kanwar tragedy and the Shah Bano issue received extensive media coverage for a number of reasons. These instances received more coverage in the newspapers due to their political relevance, legal implications, and social connotations. The so-called "hard news," like politics, the

economy, and legal matters pertaining to crime or violence, are sure to receive extensive attention. But the so called 'soft news like social and cultural issues are usually ignored by the print media. Yet, the same print media is seen as a saviour when it comes to covering women's issues as it generally adopts liberal and reforms minded approach. This attitude is quiet informative as well as inspiring as it influences/ advises social, political and legal reforms in women related problems and gender based issues.

Women's issues are not given enough serious thoughts in media because of their under-representation in media upto now. Only one female journalist appeared on in any television news in 1940s and the number rose to one per network only. Debroah L. Rhode, in her study, 'Media Images, Feminist issues' analysed the way media preferred to present news about women and its way of monitoring and presenting women's movements. The characterization / characterize way of media's manner of recasting and reflecting feminist issues has seen some improvement in the press portraits of feminism, gender-related issues and feminists. The happenings in the world are known through media by us as it plays a crucial role in shaping public policy and public consciousness. The low representation of female are reflected everywhere. Even after becoming reporters, many females had confined roles such as weather girls and political wives' reporting. But in print media also they did not have a separate or equal status. They were mostly made to work as researchers or confined to women's pages. They reported on food, fashion, furnishings, society's "dots and doings" and other traditional items-how attention was paid to women's movements and issues. Even when analysis took place, its aura was negative the absence of women, their under representation in positions of influences, the not so – benign neglect of women's issues were a regular feature of the news media. The movements of women were declared to be dead "pre-maturely" and the media contribute to its "demise" by its rareastic comments. Later discussions focused on the demonetization, trivialization and in unduly personalized way the media dealt with the struggles for the females. Finally, the conclusion included consoling thoughts and proposals for collective action on these issues. The sensitivity to gender-related concerns have been deemed to become (has been) enhanced after reviewing the forces. Then the discussion suggested further strategies to the end. The attainment of greater understanding of how media images both constrain and construct feminist images and objectives, will make / take us nearer to the realization of these objectives. The basic problem is not only that women are marginalized through failure to represent their perspectives but also that they are judged in relation to their men and not as independent agents. The previous comments have rightly focused on the wrongs in media coverage. A marked difference has been made in the representation of feminist issues as more and more females emerge as journalists, critics and consumers.

The coverage was a mixed blessing as the gender-related topics including sexual violence are still not given their proper place. However, substantial coverage including feminist perspectives shows that there has been much progress in this area. The still remain challenge is to respond to the inadequacies that we can increasingly identify and address. A lot need to be done to monitor biases, organize protest, expand coverage and increase feminist's role within the media and its impact. To realize feminist's potential, a greater voice of feminists is required in shaping its public image by providing them a greater role to the women in media (Rhode, 19954).

To examine the methodological options for investigating the impact on young viewers of sexual content presented by the media, Ellen Wartella and Edward Donnerstein presented a report titled "Measuring the effects of sexual content in the Media" The effect on children and adolescents was studied in this report This article explains the connection between sexual development in childhood and adolescence and the entertainment media. A pre-planned study was conducted on a forum of twenty academics with knowledge and competence in the areas of sexuality, sexual development, media analysis, and media effects on sexual health. Understanding the effects of sexual content in the media and the vast individual differences in how different people react to sexual depictions requires taking into account a variety of outcomes, including cognitive, emotional, attitudinal, and behavioural ones. In the previous two decades, there has been an increase in the quantity of sex depicted in the media. On the one hand, there is sexual morality and a healthy sexual approach, which is advantageous to mental health and promotes healthy romantic relationships. It's crucial to adhere to standards while undertaking significant research, both nationally and locally. The paper recommended that researchers incorporate theories about sexuality, sexual development, and media influences into their frameworks, and that future content analyses should include cable programming, news media, talk shows, and advertising.

John P. Pierce and Elizabeth A. Gilpin presented a study on "group News Media coverage of smoking and Health." It is interesting because it addresses changes in population smoking cessation rates but not starting rates and that it was funded by the cancer prevention research unit in California. The study's authors asserted that it was the first to carefully examine the coverage of smoking behavior. This study sought to understand the association between changes in smoking behavior in the USA and the media coverage of health issues and smoking. To identify the key issues in the US news media, the Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature's index of articles from major magazines released each year was examined. The National Health Interview Surveys from 1965 to 1992 were used to calculate the annual incidence rates for smoking initiation and creation. The NSHI is a trustworthy, widely used, and fair data-base representative index. To explore the patterns and creation, people between the ages of 20 and 34 and 35

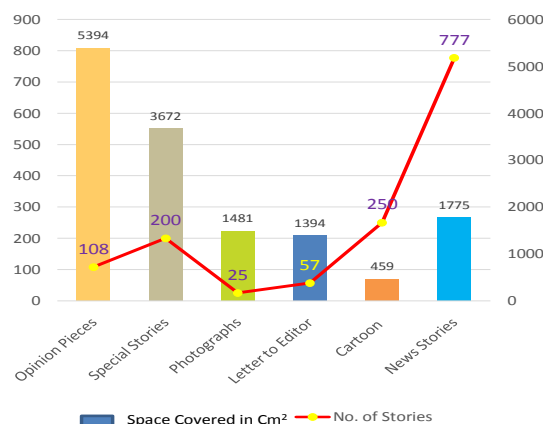
and 50 were recruited. The study of initiation incidence for both sexes—male and female—was conducted among teenagers (aged 14 to 17) and young adults (aged 18 to 21).

Politoff, Violeter and Morgan, Jenny (2010) Newspapers have been put on a high pedestal and revered as an authentic, authoritative and far-reaching sources of public information and knowledge. The complex amalgamation of links between the media, knowledge, public opinion and policy and its execution is well-known, but the media almost always succeeds in reporting matters. The patterns of reporting of on violence against women on an international level were discovered through this analysis. The empirical research on which the findings rested, uncovered how the orthodox Victorian print media represents the violence against women partly some of the major findings of the study has been presented in this report.

DATA ANALYSIS

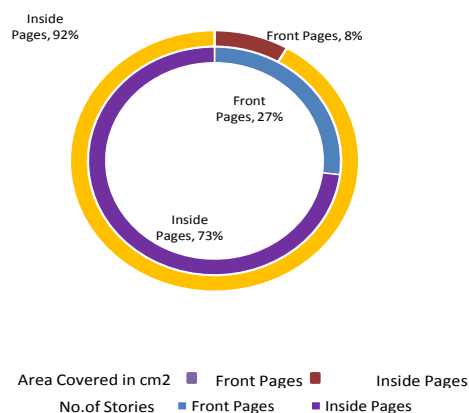
TIMES OF INDIA Relative Importance of Women's Issues

Category	No. of Stories	Space Covered in cm ²
Opinion Pieces	108	5394
Special Stories	200	3672
Photographs	25	1481
Letter to Editor	57	1394
Cartoon	250	459
News Stories	777	1775
Total Stories	1417	14175



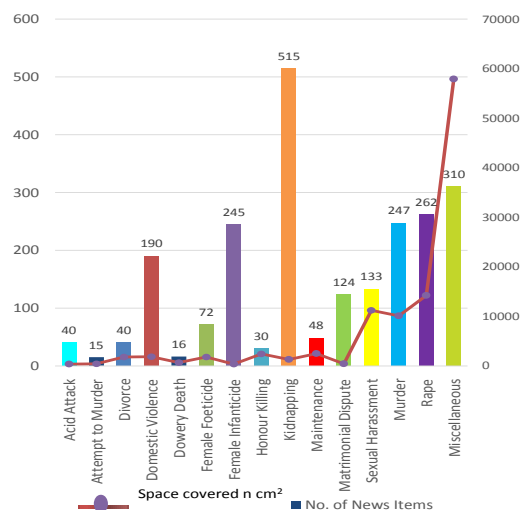
Placement of News Related to Women

Category	No. of Stories	Area Covered in cm ²
Front Pages	247	8630
Inside Pages	670	94507
Total	917	103137



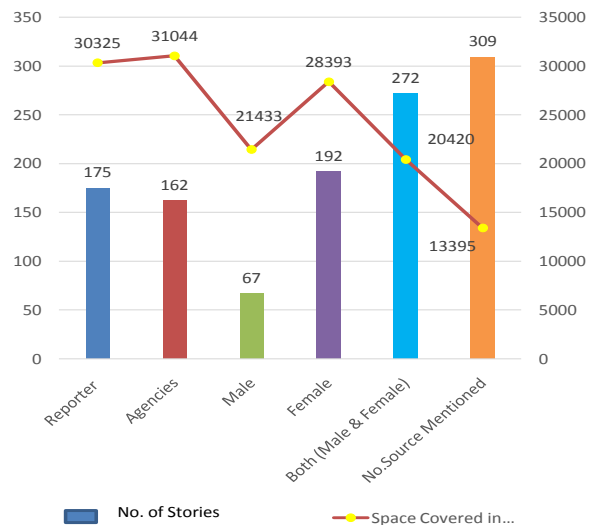
Women's Issues and their coverage

Category	No. of News Items	Space allocated in cm ²
Acid Attack	40	366
Attempt to Murder	15	396
Divorce	40	1774
Domestic Violence	190	1840
Dowry Death	16	655
Female Foeticide	72	1770
Female Infanticide	245	360
Honour Killing	30	2407
Kidnapping	515	1296
Maintenance	48	2497
Matrimonial Dispute	124	438
Sexual Harassment	133	11200
Murder	247	10091
Rape	262	14236
Miscellaneous	310	57918
Total coverage	2287	107244



Sources of News

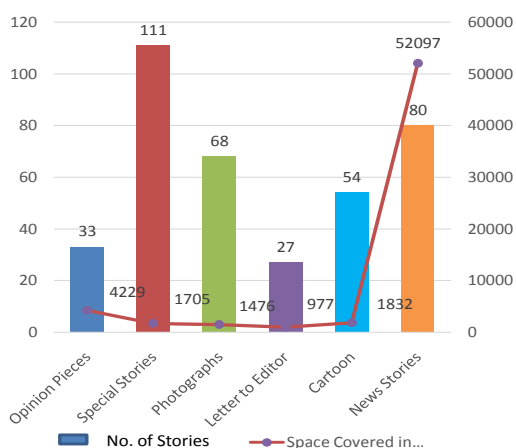
Category	No. of stories	Space Covered in cm ²
Reporter	175	30325
Agencies	162	31044
Male	67	21433
Female	192	28393
Both (Male & Female)	272	20420
No. Source Mentioned	309	13395
Total	1177	145010



DANIK JAGRAN

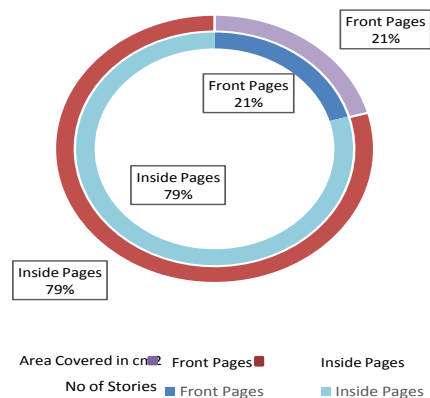
Relative Importance of Women's Issues

Category	No. of Stories	Space Covered in cm ²
Opinion Pieces	33	4229
Special Stories	111	1705
Photographs	68	1476
Letter to Editor	27	977
Cartoon	54	1832
News Stories	80	52097
Total Stories	373	62316



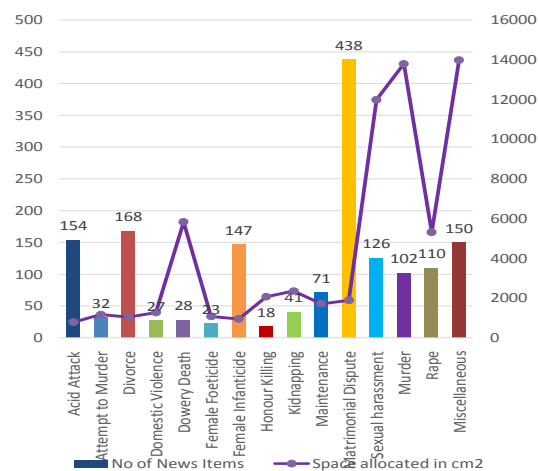
Placement of News related to Women

Category	No. of Stories	Area Covered in cm ²
Front Pages	138	12995
Inside Pages	534	49898
Total	672	62893



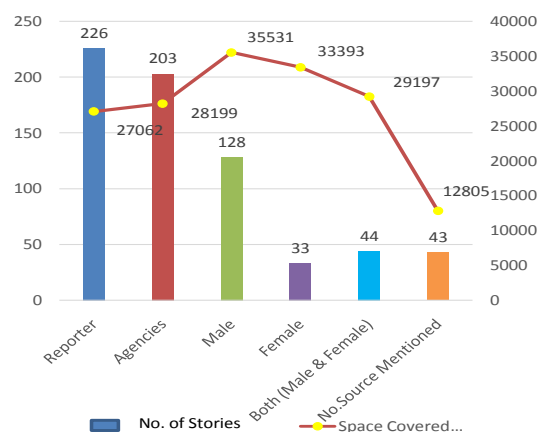
Woman's issues and their coverage

Category	No of News Items	Space allocated in cm ²
Acid Attack	154	781
Attempt to Murder	32	1165
Divorce	168	1039
Domestic Violence	27	1270
Dowry Death	28	5830
Female Foeticide	23	1065
Female Infanticide	147	941
Honour Killing	18	2059
Kidnapping	41	2348
Maintenance	71	1712
Matrimonial Dispute	438	1884
Sexual harassment	126	11977
Murder	102	13789
Rape	110	5308
Miscellaneous	150	13976
Total coverage	1635	65144



Sources of News

Category	No. of stories	Space Covered in cm ²
Reporter	226	27062
Agencies	203	28199
Male	128	35531
Female	33	33393
Both (Male & Female)	44	29197
No. Source Mentioned	43	12805
Total	677	166187



FINDINGS

Both in the terms of space and frequency, the English newspaper Times of India provided more coverage on women's issues than Danik Jagran. The Times of India published more cartoons which are relevant to women's issues, than Danik Jagran during this time-frame. Opinion pieces got more importance in Times of India thus proving its commitment to women's issues in its agenda and paper. It seems that Danik Jagran is not giving adequate importance to women's issues in its news agenda, as seen from its overall coverage of women's issues. A majority of concerned stories were found on the front page of Times of India than the vernacular press Danik Jagran. Times of India led the race with regards to publishing the stories of rape, and sexual harassment got greater coverage in publishing of Danik Jagran. Majority of news stories related to women were generally covered by males. Both the newspapers gave maximum space to sensational stories related to females. The study revealed that in terms of coverage area by the women related issues, English newspapers gave more coverage than the Hindi newspapers. In the six year period covered in the research it was also found that more crime related stories were found in the English newspapers.

CONCLUSION

A broadly generalized assumption is that the press did not take adequate cognizance of women's developmental requirements, but this only half truth. It's wrong to adjudge that all the papers are gender insensitive as revealed by the study of their day to day coverage. Danik Jagran which is published as local edition has been found to be better than the Times of India in this regard. Times of India is pilloried for

advocating sensationalism in its glamorised daily supplements in order to increase its daily circulation. The national capital, state capital and metropolitan cities see some activity on women's issues, but rurally it decreases alarmingly. Like all good business houses, publishers value the confidence of the less privileged sections of the society. They build an image of being the sensitive protector of the marginalized communities. They bring forward the problems of the urban and rural working classes and highlight the plight of the exploited, weaker sections of the society. Legions of the reporters are employed to highlight the problems of the commoners and the community issues too. Human Interest stories occupy an important place, especially dealing with "human interest issues". Sadly, some unwritten rules regarding newspaper publication are prevalent even today. The hierarchical set up decides which story is worth for publication when it comes to women's issues. If it's deemed to be attention – worthy, it gets the first page, or else is relegated to the backspace or section of "features". Sadly, direct or indirect patriarchy dominates and pervades the publication industry. Sexual assault stories always remain a source of attention as they are "female centric" but selective attitude and attention by media is problematic here. The victims belonging to higher and educated circles are treated as "classy" and mass support is expressed through campaigns, articles, analysis of the law and continuous follow up by the media. Unfortunately in the cases of victims belonging to the tribal and poor, marginalised community, mere "lip service" is considered enough. These cases do get a mention in a column or too but soon the issue is forgotten and passes not oblivion.

The media then generally develops a "selective amnesia" towards such cases. To establish the ground realities, the deep studies must focus on finding out the exact reasons for escalating sexual violence. Data base and statistics have been cited by reporters in all cases. It is suggested that further studies can be conducted on the basis of the findings of this study. It can be concluded that media needs to be more sensitive towards coverage of crime against women and general public needs to be more vocal and aware to deal with these cases in more effective manner.

SUMMARY

The image of press is very positive when seen in historical perspective. Its approach is generally liberal and reform-minded which has benefitted the coverage of female issues in the print media. A few editorials focused on the gender question and dealt with the co-relation between violence and female oppression and exploitation of women. It's a good thing that these editorials analyzed women's issues from the women's point of view. As the Indian economy gets more consumer-oriented, the change is noticeable in the presentation of news and views due to the directives of the print media which is progressing through leap and bounds. Another factor which is noteworthy here is the even-growing number of Indian women who have become media persons. They have made a 'mark' in the 'hard' news areas of politics and economics which until recently were all male bastions. Now women are making their own space in these areas as well. Only the "newsworthy" issues which fit the dominant norms of what constitutes news get any significant coverage in the papers. The influence of the media has expanded the scope of how women's issues are covered in the media.

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