

Climate Change and the Commons: Challenges present and the future

R. Venkatesh Aravindh¹, S. Thirupathi²

^{1,2} Doctoral Research Scholars, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication,
Periyar University, Salem, Tamil Nadu
Email - rvenkatesharavindh@gmail.com¹, thirupathi.vellore@gmail.com²

Abstract: *The concept of climate change many centuries ago when Theophrastus told how the draining of marshes had made a particular locality more susceptible to freezing. The most important directions and calls for retrospection into climate change came during the late 19th century in 1896 through geologists and the the efforts of Samuel Pierpoint Langley and Svante Arrhenius who calculated IR radiations and increase of surface temperature respectively. As years went by, there were more calls for addressing the concerns of global climate change around the world. The NATO in 1969, brought about the need to focus on environmental concepts such as acid rain and greenhouse effect. Policy makers and scientists especially in the US and surrounding countries made drastic steps to address the problem of climate change. In 1979, the US National Research Council and at the World Climate Conference, calls were given to identify and address the reasons and minimizing the increasing temperature across the globe. Since 1988, there has had been more efforts from almost all countries in tackling climate change. However, there are challenges that remain at large. The current research paper examines the challenges present in climate change and the necessary directions for the future by analysing news articles of climate change in the newspapers and social media over a qualitatively through content analysis.*

Key Words: *Climate change, Challenges, Print media, News, Social media.*

1. INTRODUCTION:

1.1 Climate change definitions:

Werndell (2014) mentions Todorov's (1986) views on defining climate change as "The question of climatic change is perhaps the most complex and controversial in the entire science of meteorology. There is no unanimous opinion and agreement among climatologists on the definition of the term climate, let alone climatic change, climatic trend or fluctuation. In both public and scientific discourse the notions of climate and climate change are often loosely employed, and it remains unclear what exactly is understood by them.

1.2 Climate Science

According to Parker W (2018) climate science investigates the structure and dynamics of earth's climate system. The field of climate science will help to understand how the aspects of global, regional and local climates are maintained as well as the processes by which they change over a period of time. For the above purpose, it employment of observation and theories from a variety of domains, such as meteorology, oceanography, physics, etc.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW:

2.1 Characterizing and historicizing climate change

According to an IPCC report (2007) in Australia, 'Climate Change' denotes to long-term change in the statistical distribution of weather patterns (e.g. temperature, precipitation etc.) over decades to millions years of time. According to Vlassopolous (2012) the discourse is believed to be started by French mathematician and physician Jean Fourier in 1824 when he described greenhouse effect.

2.2 Climate Change in new paradigm

According to Vlassopolous (2012) firstly, the legitimization of concerned authority's footing, power in the arena, the definition or characterization of the problem and the policy measure comes according to the specific authority's view. Secondly, the manifold problems around further 'Mitigation' measures subsequent to the end of Kyoto Protocol in 2012 were anticipated. Rahman (2013) mentions about the Kyoto protocol problems that while the Kyoto Protocol was appreciated as an acceptable or good first step by some scholars [Grubb (2003) & Michaleowa et., al. (2003)], it was "Deeply Flawed" an agreement to many of the analysts [Cooper (2001), Victor 2001) & Mckibben and Wilcoxon (2002)] due to its ambitious targets applying only to a very short term (2008-2012) and merely to some industrialized nations (Olmstead & Stavins 2012). Thirdly, the significant method to address Climate Change so far has been 'Mitigation' considering 'Adaptation' as a less important one that has been mentioned earlier, but some authors [Parry et., al. (2001)] maintained that 'Mitigation' and 'Adaptation' are complementary to each other.

3. METHODOLOGY:

The study adopts qualitative research approaches through content analysis. Newspaper articles on climate change in the English dailies in the time period of July-September 2018 are taken up for the study.

4. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY:

- To explore the adequacy of coverage given to climate change based news articles by the English dailies in Tamil Nadu.

5. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION:

Table 4.1 Total No. Of articles

Newspaper	The Hindu	Times of India	Indian Express
No. of articles	600	550	475
Climate change articles	180	150	100

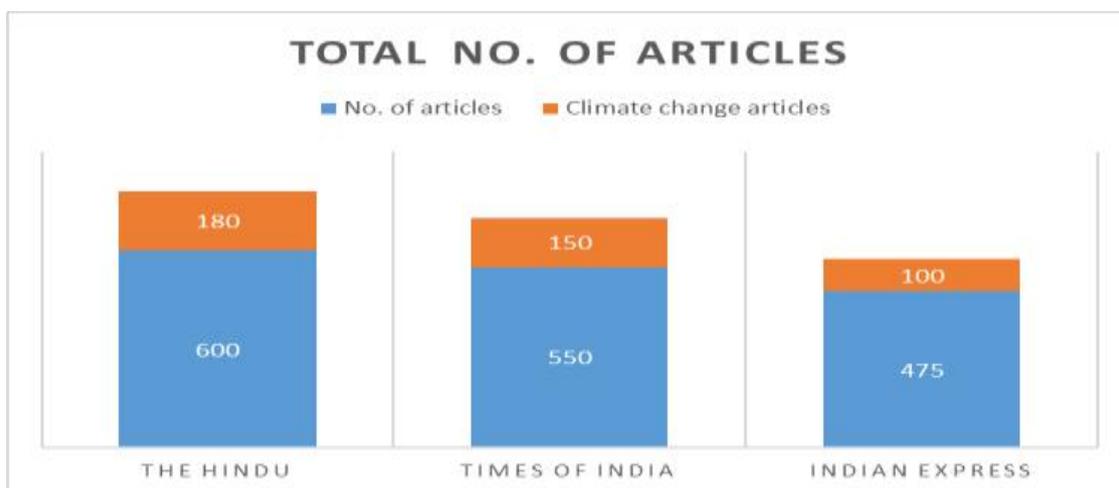


Figure 4.1

Table 4.2 Type of articles

Type of Article	The Hindu	Times of India	Indian Express
News	45	50	30
Features	30	25	15
Letters to the Editor	45	35	25
Comments	30	20	15
Editorials	30	20	15

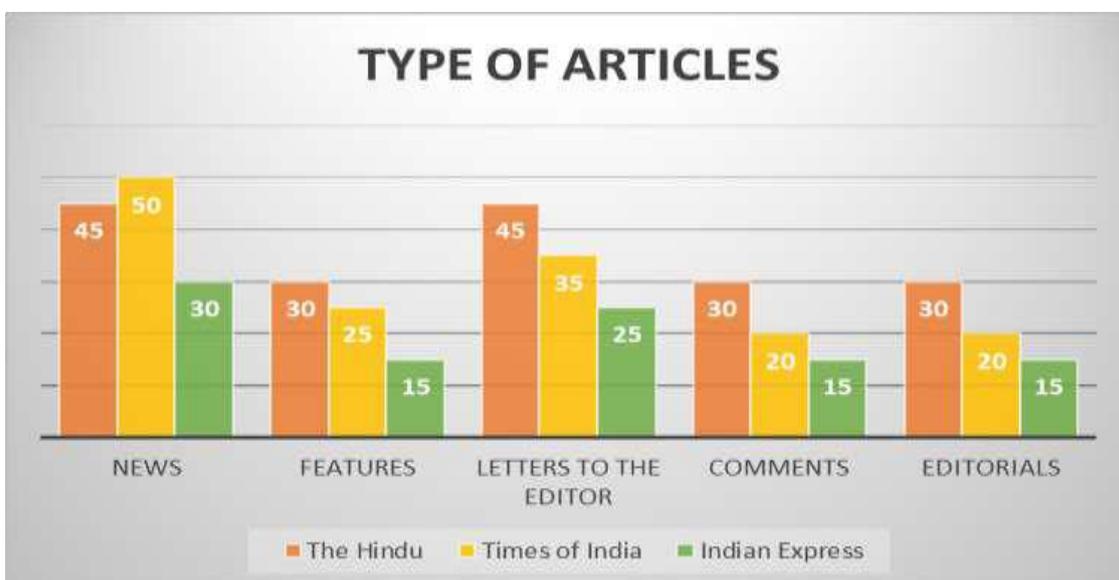


Figure 4.2

Table 4.3 Length of articles

Words	The Hindu	Times of India	Indian Express
>800	30	30	15
450-799	15	20	15
350-450	10	10	10
150-350	25	20	20
100-150	45	10	5
<100	55	60	35

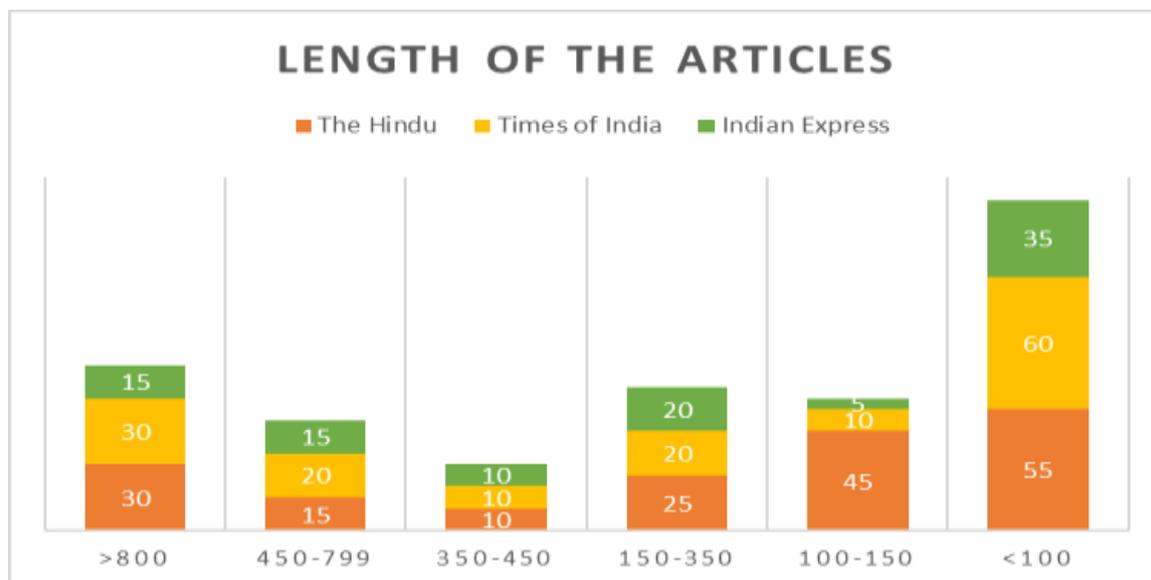


Figure 4.3

6. FINDINGS:

- Regarding total number of articles, The Hindu gave maximum coverage to climate change based news articles with 180 articles followed by Times of India with 150 articles. Indian Express had the least number of climate change articles with 100 articles. (Table 4.1 and Figure 4.1)
- With regards to the type of news articles, The Hindu had 45 news articles, 30 features, 45 letters to the editor and 30 comments and editorials each during the study period. Times of India had 50 news articles, 25 features, 35 letters to the editor and 20 comments and editorials each during the study period. Indian Express had 30 news articles, 15 features, 25 letters to the editor and 15 comments and editorials each during the study period. (Table 4.2 and Figure 4.2)
- As regards to the length of the articles, The Hindu had 30 articles which were more than 800 words in length followed by 15 articles which were 450-799 words, 10 articles which were 350-450 words, 25 articles which were 150-350 words, 45 articles which were 100-150 words and 55 articles which were less than 100 words. Times of India had 30 articles which were more than 800 words in length followed by 20 articles which were 450-799 words, 10 articles which were 350-450 words, 20 articles which were 150-350 words, 10 articles which were 100-150 words and 60 articles which were less than 100 words. Indian Express had 15 articles which were more than 800 words in length followed by 15 articles which were 450-799 words, 10 articles which were 350-450 words, 20 articles which were 150-350 words, 15 articles which were 100-150 words and 25 articles which were less than 100 words. (Table 4.3 and Figure 4.3)

7. CONCLUSION:

Climate change and issues have had been in existence in the globe across societies. There have been many debates and discussions based on the creating and arriving at possible solutions for a betterment of a lot of people as the issues placed millions and billions of people's livelihood and survival at risk. Ever since the 18th century this debate has been ragging on among countries and scholars. However, it is to be noted that the concept of climate change is an issue that needs more understanding among the masses. The current research study was envisioned to look at the adequacy of coverage given to climate change based news articles in English dailies. The study revealed that there is predominant coverage of climate change issues and news in The Hindu newspaper much over Times of India and Indian Express.

The study also revealed that there are more number of news articles which were less than 100 words in length among the English dailies which reiterated that there is not much consideration and space given to the climate change issues as less coverage given means lesser importance to the news stories.

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