

Portrayal of Women related crimes in English dailies

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Abstract: *Crimes against women aren't something new in the contemporary society. Crimes happen against women in varied forms and dimensions and has had been for many centuries. These crimes aren't restricted to a particular geography or location, they happened quite frequently across the globe. 52% of India's populace comprises of women. Women have had to face umpten hardships at various places including their own homes from a plethora of people sometimes even their own fathers or brothers. Print media is one of the trust-worthy outlets according to the masses. They most certainly believe that information been told through these outlets are true. The current research study looks at the portrayal of a daylight murder of a women by the English dailies in Tamil Nadu. The study incorporates qualitative content analysis method to look at the portrayal and coverage given to women related crime news in the English dailies.*

Key Words: *Portrayal, Crime, Coverage, print media, newspapers.*

1. INTRODUCTION:

1.1 Print Media:

A report in Australia titled “Media Representations of Violence against Women” (2015) defines crimes against women as follows: Definitions of what constitutes violence against women tend to differ according to the context in which it is being investigated. For example, the legal sector, researchers, advocates and service providers often define the problem in different ways. These range from broad-based definitions that include “structural violence”, such as restricted access to health care and education (UNICEF, 2000), to more narrow, legalistic definitions that focus on specific behaviours consistent with criminal offending (Chung, 2013). Media representations of violence against women and their children preference because it signifies the broader impacts of violence on extended families, kinship and social networks and community relationships (Cripps & Davis, 2012).

2. LITERATURE REVIEW:

2.1 Women portrayal:

Previously there were research studies conducted that spoke on the change of representation of women in the Indian press since 1988 (Balasubhramanyan 1988, Prasad 1992, Joseph and Sharma, 1991). Their studies spoke on the increase of space given to women's issues. One of the major findings of the study by Joseph and Sharma (1991) was that the hierarchy of news and news values and serious articles on women are covered less in comparison with the overall coverage. Newspapers also gave only selective coverage to the women's issues and often presents distorted feminist views (Balasubhramanyan 1988). Maithryee Chaudhari (2000) ‘Feminism in Print Media’ laid emphasis on two important aspects of the social process in Indian popular media and feminism which augmented women's movement and the process of economic liberalization and how the economic liberalization effects the media. The writer criticized the intellectual paradigm has replaced the traditional system of identifying the middle class and this shift has also introduced the politics of representation.

3. METHODOLOGY:

The research study adopts Qualitative Content Analysis method to examine the kind of portrayal and reportage given to women based issues specially with respect to the specific case study that has been taken up for the research study. The period of study is one month January 2017 among three newspapers viz. The Hindu, Times of India and Indian Express.

4. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

To educe the kind of portrayal given to women based issues.

- To examine the kind of reportage given provided by English dailies to the case study that has been undertaken for the study.

5. DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS:

Table 1: Total No. of Articles

Category/ Newspapers	The Hindu	Times of India	Indian Express	Total
No. of articles	8	12	10	30
Women based articles	12	16	8	36

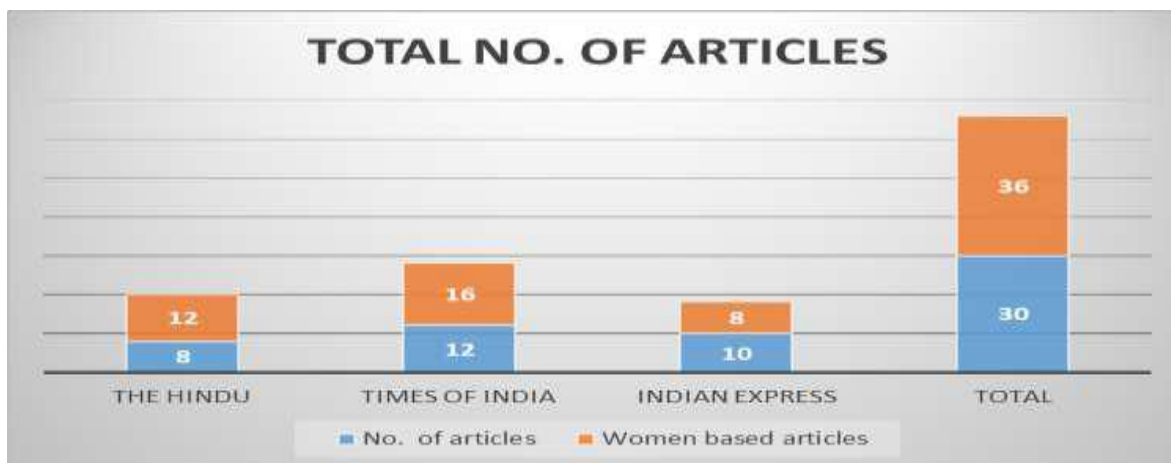


Figure 1

Table 1 and figure 1 shows that, Times of India (12) had more number of articles than Indian Express (10) and The Hindu (8). Times of India also had more number of women based articles in comparison to Indian Express and The Hindu.

Table 2: Articles by Story Type

Newspapers	The Hindu	Times of India	Indian Express	Total
News	8	12	10	30
Features	5	4	3	12
Letters to the editor	4	8	2	14
Editorial	3	4	3	10

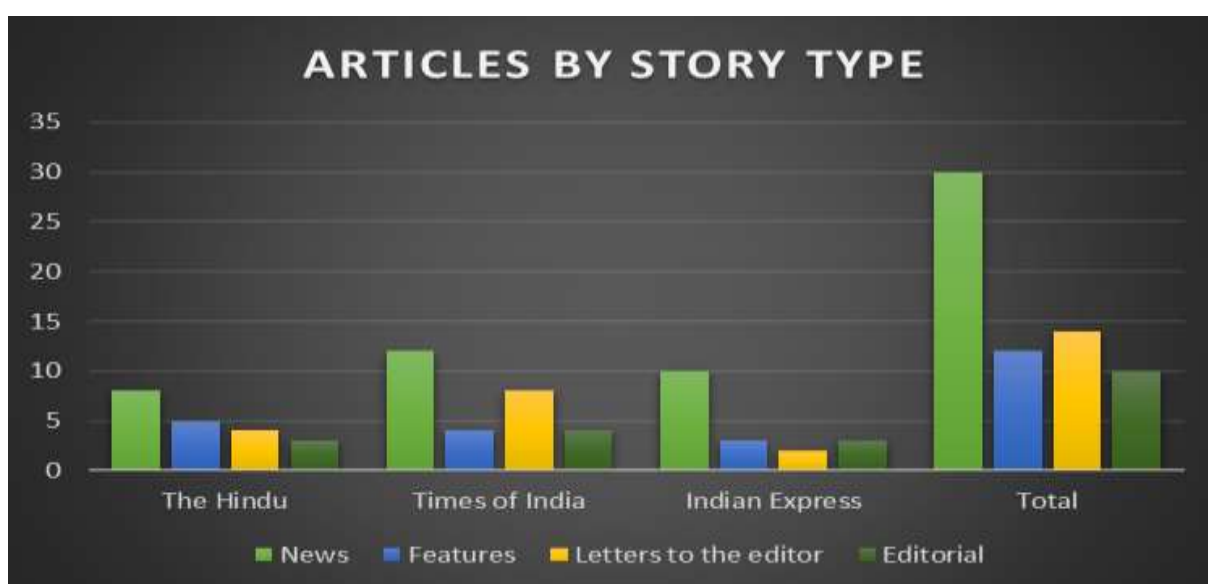


Figure 2

Table 2 and figure 2 shows that, Times of India (12) had more news articles than Indian Express (10) and The Hindu (8). Features were higher in The Hindu (5) followed by Times of India (4) and Indian Express (3). Letters to the editor and Editorials were higher in Times of India.

Table 3: Articles by Length

Newspapers	The Hindu	Times of India	Indian Express	Total
Number of Words	-	-	-	-
>800	2	4	3	9
400-799	3	10	6	19
150-399	3	4	2	9
100-149	7	4	4	15
<100	5	6	3	14

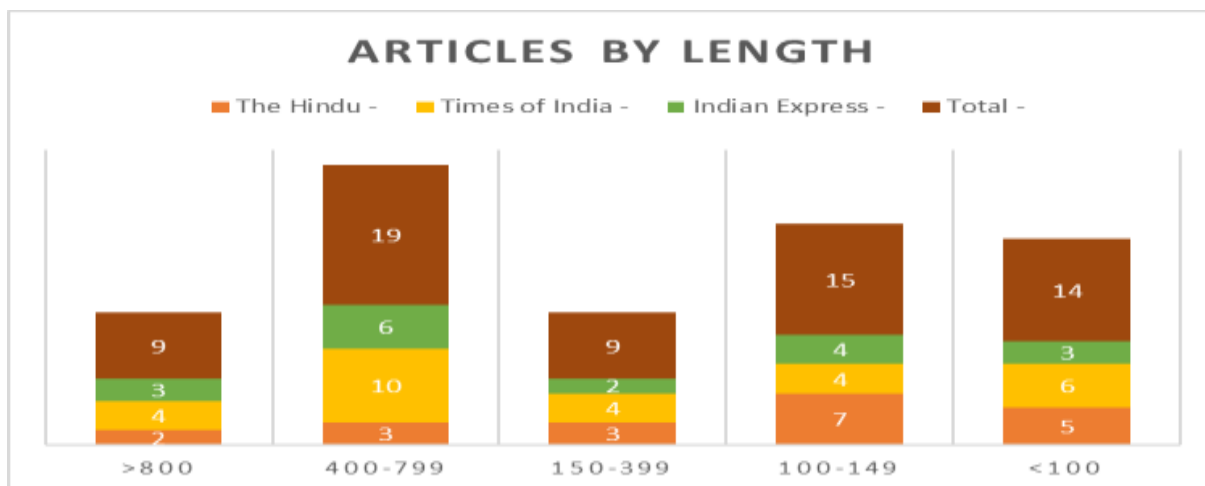


Figure 3

Table 3 and figure 3 shows that Times of India (4) had more articles which were more than 800 words in length followed by Indian Express (3) and The Hindu (2). Times of India had more articles which were 400-799 words in length (10) over Indian Express and The Hindu. The Hindu had more articles which were 100-149 words in length. Times of India had more articles which were less than 100 words in length.

Table 4: Tone of the Headline

Tone of News Headline	The Hindu	Times of India	Indian Express	Total
Sensational	5	2	3	10
Titillation	2	6	8	16
Trivialization	6	8	2	16
Exaggeration	7	12	5	25

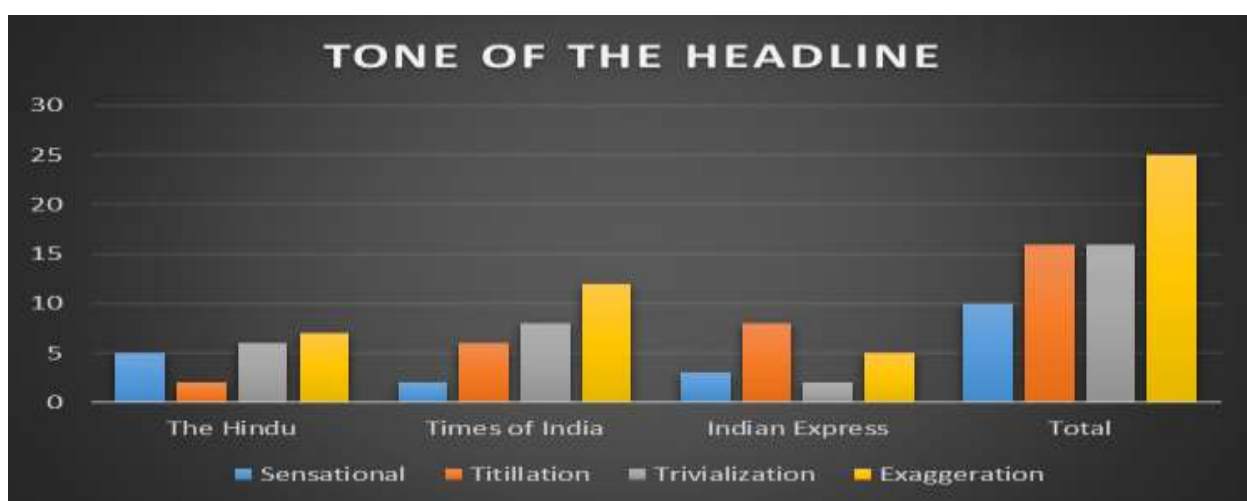


Figure 4

Table 4 and figure 4 shows that, The Hindu (5) had more sensational headlines over Indian Express (3) and Times of India (2). Indian Express (8) had more tititing headlines over Times of India (6) and The Hindu (2). Times of India had

more trivializing headlines (8) over *The Hindu* (6) and *Indian Express* (2). *Times of India* had more exaggerated headlines (12) in comparison with *The Hindu* (7) and *Indian Express* (5).

Table 5: Tone of the Lead

Tone of Lead	The Hindu	Times of India	Indian Express	Total
Sensational	2	8	3	13
Titillation	2	6	3	11
Trivialization	2	2	2	6
Victimization	4	3	5	12
Exaggeration	2	4	1	7
Neutral	8	5	4	17

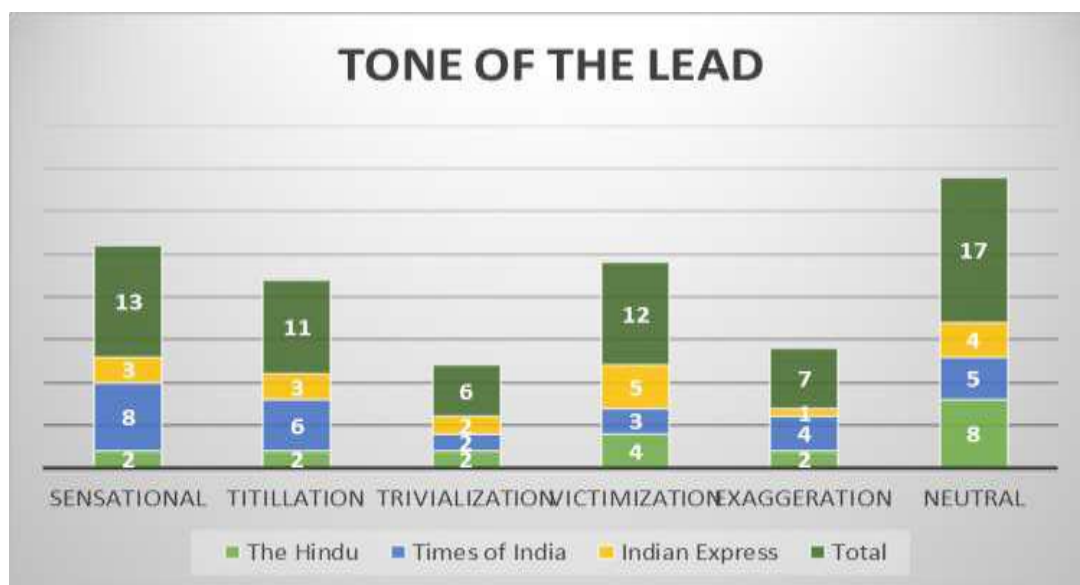


Figure 5

Table 5 and figure 5 shows that, *Times of India* (8) had more sensational leads over *Indian Express* (3) and *The Hindu* (2). *Times of India* (6) had more titillating leads over *Indian Express* (3) and *The Hindu*. There were more victimizing leads in *Indian Express* (5) over *The Hindu* (4) and *Times of India* (3). *Times of India* (4) had more exaggerated leads over *The Hindu* (2) and *Indian Express* (1). *The Hindu* had more neutral leads (8) over *Times of India* (5) and *Indian Express* (4).

6. CONCLUSION:

The primary objective of the research undertaken had been to know about the crime portrayal and reportage of news given to women based news. Dina Karan had given more coverage to the death of 17 year-old Nandini who was gang-raped and murdered by her estranged boyfriend and her friends and found in a decomposed state at a well in Ariyalur when compared with other dailies. The amount of coverage given to the murder of the teenage girl across the three dailies evoked very less coverage and reportage as all or most of the media attention was grabbed by the widespread protests over Jallikattu and its subsequent success in reversal of the ban for conducting Jallikattu. However, it has to be noted that this gruesome gang rape and murder of this Dalit girl was as serious as Nirbhaya's case in New Delhi but the coverage and protests are almost minimal and non-existent in this case. We could argue that there was lethargy on the part of media outlets in the portrayal of the crime as well as the coverage and reportage it garnered.

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