

Analysis of Print Media's Role in Addressing Violence against Women

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Keywords	Abstract
Print Media's Role, Violence Against Women, Causes, Prevention.	<i>Violence against women is considered an issue of international attention or concern. In this study the researcher analyzed the content published in newspapers regarding violence against women. Two English dailies (Dawn and The News) and two Urdu dailies (Express and Nawa-i-Waqt) have been selected. The content analysis approach was adopted to accomplish the research study. A 6-month period of study from January to June 2023 has been selected. Each news story regarding violence against women was treated as a unit of analysis that appeared on front, back and inside pages. In this study we have made seven categories of violence against women to analyze the coverage, i.e., 1. Murder, 2. Suicide, 3. Kidnapping, 4. Rape, 5. Acid throwing, 6. Fire burning, 7. Harassment and others. To read out different documents to gain information about the topic under study, the method of document study is applied. The findings revealed that violence against women is of notable ratio and women are depicted in a passive role. This study is not only helpful for academic purposes but also helps to address actual problems which are being faced by women in this region. The study is also helpful in providing guidelines for the formulation of legislation related to women. This study is a very important addition to the field of research related to violence against women.</i>

INTRODUCTION

Violence against women has been a matter of global concern since the 1980s, when women's groups locally and internationally mobilized to address the physical, psychological, and economic abuses faced by women. Over time, it has evolved into a recognized human rights issue, drawing international attention to gender-based violence. In Pakistan, women face various forms of violence, including physical, cultural, and structural violence from family members, strangers, and state agents (Hadi, 2017). According to the 2013 report from the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, at least 44 women faced acid assaults, resulting in seven fatalities (Atif, 2017). Additionally, 44 women had their clothes set on fire, and 11 of them lost their lives. By the end of July 2013, 451 women had been killed in Pakistan in the name of honor, compared to 918 in 2012 (HRCP, 2013).

International human rights laws and conventions advocate for non-discrimination based on gender, emphasizing equal treatment for all citizens. Unfortunately, women in Pakistan face

inferior treatment, leading to violence and humiliation. Violence impacts women across socioeconomic and educational classes, cutting across cultural and religious barriers and impeding women's full participation in society (Dhal, 2018). Pakistan, with a 52% female population (Ali et al., 2010), witnesses women experiencing various forms of violence at home, in public spaces, markets, educational institutions, and workplaces (Akhtar, 2013).

In patriarchal societies like Pakistan, male dominance prevails, considering females as subordinates (Hadi, 2017). Unfortunately, domestic violence has become normalized, with women affected by domestic violence receiving little sympathy from society members (Renvoize, 2023). According to the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, nearly 400 cases of domestic violence are reported annually, with half of them resulting in the death of women (Daraz et al., 2023). Ellsberg et al. (2015) described the causes and prevention of violence against women; these factors are categorized into four levels: individual, dyadic, institutional, and social. Islamic scholars assert that women have equal rights in Islam (Alhajri and Pierce, 2023), emphasizing equality and freedom without gender discrimination (Shastri, 2014). The Holy Quran addresses women alongside men, applying its precepts equally to both sexes (Barlas, 2019). This study examined the increasing incidents of violence against women and coverage of related news stories in Pakistani newspapers.

Significance of the Study

Mass media, especially newspapers, are considered mirrors of the society. The stories published in media depict the nature of the issue in that society and how society views those issues. Gender violence is a societal issue. Therefore, it is significant to view this issue through the lenses of the society. Content analysis of leading newspapers could enhance our understanding of the issue and can help the researcher to provide guidelines to the authority and law-making bodies to deal with the issue from a legal point of view. Also, this study could provide guidelines for media on how to appropriately give coverage to such issues. The findings of the study could lead to generating ideas for preventing the issues at a societal level. This study could also generate ideas for future researchers who are interested in studying factors responsible for gender violence and modes of prevention of such violence.

Objectives of the Study

This study tried to achieve the following objective.

1. To compare the news coverage of violence against women in different newspapers of Pakistan.
2. To know the coverage of print media on various types of violence against women.
3. Suggestions for media on how it can play its role in the prevention of violence against women.

Research Questions

1. To what extent do leading newspapers give coverage to news about violence against women?

2. How to compare coverage of news regarding violence against women in English and Urdu newspapers?
3. What type of violence against women gets more coverage in major Pakistani newspapers?

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research adopts a quantitative approach, focusing on the content analysis of news articles on violence against women in two English-language newspapers (Dawn and the News) and two Urdu-language newspapers (Express and Nawa-i-Waqt), which are leading national dailies. The study period is the first six months, covering January to June 2023. The entire news articles appearing on the front, last, and inside pages serve as the unit of analysis in this study. To assess the coverage, the research establishes seven categories of violence against women, including 1. Murder, 2. Suicide, 3. Kidnapping, 4. Rape, 5. Acid throwing, 6. Fire burning, and 7. Harassment and others.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The study aims to count the number of news stories in terms of their size, space, and frequency. Content analysis and document study methods are applied. The data is presented in table form along with interpretation.

Table 1: The Dawn Newspaper

Sr. No.	Categories	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June
1	Murder	06	10	07	09	06	13
2	Suicide	0	0	01	01	0	01
3	Kidnapping	01	02	01	01	03	01
4	Rape	01	02	01	01	0	02
5	Acid Throwing	01	0	01	0	0	01
6	Fire Burning	0	02	0	01	01	0
7	Harassment and others	02	01	03	04	01	05
	Total	11	17	14	17	11	23
Grand total		93 News in 6 Months					

In the Dawn newspaper, a total of 93 news stories were published within a span of 6 months. The data for January 2023 indicates that 6 stories related to murder, 1 to kidnapping, 1 to rape, 1 to acid-throwing, and 2 to incidents of injuries, harassment, and others were reported. In February 2023, 10 murder stories, 2 kidnapping stories, 2 rape stories, 2 fire-burning stories, and 1 story related to injuries, harassment, and others were published. March 2023 saw 7 murder stories, 1 suicide story, 1 kidnapping story, 1 rape story, 1 acid-throwing story, and 3 stories related to injuries, harassment, and others. April 2023 reported 9 murder stories, 1 suicide story, 1 kidnapping story, 1 rape story, 1 fire-burning story, and 4 stories related to injuries, harassment, and others. In May 2023, 6 murder stories, 3 kidnapping stories, 1 fire-burning story, and 1 story related to injuries, harassment, and others were published. June 2023 witnessed 13 murder stories, 1 suicide story, 1 kidnapping story, 2 rape stories, 1 acid-throwing story, and 5 stories related to injuries, harassment, and others in the Dawn newspaper.

Table 2: The News Newspaper

Sr. No.	Categories	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June
1	Murder	17	10	11	09	10	15
2	Suicide	07	09	04	07	05	08
3	Kidnapping	10	07	07	09	07	06
4	Rape	05	07	03	05	06	04
5	Acid Throwing	01	01	02	01	01	02
6	Fire Burning	01	02	01	02	01	01
7	Harassment and others	10	09	11	10	12	14
	Total	51	45	39	43	42	50
Grand Total		270 News in 6 Months					

The data from the English newspaper The News indicates that a total of 270 news stories were published over a period of six months. In January 2023, there were 17 stories related to murder, 7 to suicide, 10 to kidnapping, 5 to rape, 1 to acid-throwing, 1 to burning, and 10 to incidents of injuries, harassment, and others. February 2023 reported 10 murder stories, 9 suicide stories, 7 kidnapping stories, 7 rape stories, 1 acid-throwing story, 2 fire-burning stories, and 9 stories related to injuries, harassment, and others. March 2023 featured 11 murder stories, 4 suicide stories, 7 kidnapping stories, 3 rape stories, 2 acid-throwing stories, 1 fire-burning story, and 11 stories related to injuries, harassment, and others. April 2023 presented 9 murder stories, 7 suicide stories, 9 kidnapping stories, 5 rape stories, 1 acid-throwing story, 2 fire-burning stories, and 10 stories related to injuries, harassment, and others. May 2023 published 10 murder stories, 5 suicide stories, 7 kidnapping stories, 6 rape stories, 1 acid-throwing story, 1 fire-burning story, and 12 stories related to injuries, harassment, and others. Finally, June 2023 recorded 15 murder stories, 8 suicide stories, 6 kidnapping stories, 4 rape stories, 2 acid-throwing stories, 1 fire-burning story, and 14 stories related to injuries, harassment, and others in the news newspaper.

Table 3: The Nawa-i-Waqt Newspaper

Sr. No.	Categories	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June
1	Murder	15	12	13	14	09	21
2	Suicide	08	10	07	09	11	09
3	Kidnapping	13	11	9	11	15	08
4	Rape	08	10	07	09	08	06
5	Acid Throwing	01	02	0	01	02	03
6	Fire Burning	01	01	02	02	03	01
7	Harassment and others	12	14	11	17	15	13
	Total	58	60	49	63	63	61
Grand total		354 News in 6 Months					

The data from the Urdu newspaper The Nawa-i-Waqt indicates that a total of 354 news stories were published in the span of these six months. In January 2023, there were 15 stories related to murder, 8 to suicide, 13 to kidnapping, 8 to rape, 1 to acid-throwing, 1 to fire-burning, and 12 to incidents of injuries, harassment, and others. February 2023 reported 12 murder stories, 10 suicide stories, 11 kidnapping stories, 10 rape stories, 2 acid-throwing stories, 1 fire-burning story, and 14 stories related to injuries, harassment, and others. March 2023 featured 13 murder stories, 7 suicide stories, 9 kidnapping stories, 7 rape stories, 2 fire-burning stories, and 11 stories related to injuries, harassment, and others. April 2023 presented 14 murder stories, 9

suicide stories, 11 kidnapping stories, 9 rape stories, 1 acid-throwing story, 2 fire-burning stories, and 17 stories related to injuries, harassment, and others. May 2023 published 09 murder stories, 11 suicide stories, 15 kidnapping stories, 8 rape stories, 2 acid-throwing stories, 3 fire-burning stories, and 15 stories related to injuries, harassment, and others. Finally, June 2023 recorded 21 murder stories, 9 suicide stories, 8 kidnapping stories, 6 rape stories, 3 acid-throwing stories, 1 fire-burning story, and 13 stories related to injuries, harassment, and others in the Nawa-i-Waqt newspaper.

Table 4: The Express Newspaper

Sr. No.	Categories	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June
1	Murder	23	21	21	20	20	38
2	Suicide	13	11	09	14	11	09
3	Kidnapping	09	13	11	14	13	15
4	Rape	10	13	11	09	13	12
5	Acid Throwing	01	01	02	01	01	03
6	Fire Burning	01	02	01	02	01	02
7	Harassment and others	21	23	18	19	16	17
	Total	78	84	73	79	75	96
Grand total		485 News in 6 Months					

The Express newspaper published a total of 485 news stories in the span of six months. In January 2023, they covered 23 stories on murder, 13 on suicide, 9 on kidnapping, 10 on rape, 1 on acid throwing, 1 on fire burning, and 21 on injury/harassment and others. The following month, February 2023, featured 21 murder stories, 11 suicide stories, 13 kidnapping stories, 13 rape stories, 1 acid-throwing story, 2 fire-burning stories, and 23 injury/harassment and other stories. March 2023 included 21 murder stories, 9 suicide stories, 11 kidnapping stories, 11 rape stories, 2 acid-throwing stories, 1 fire-burning story, and 18 injury/harassment and other stories. In April 2023, there were 20 murder stories, 14 suicide stories, 14 kidnapping stories, 9 rape stories, 1 acid-throwing story, 2 fire-burning stories, and 19 injury/harassment and other stories. May 2023 witnessed 20 murder stories, 11 suicide stories, 13 kidnapping stories, 13 rape stories, 1 acid-throwing story, 1 fire-burning story, and 16 injury/harassment and other stories. Finally, June 2023 featured 38 murder stories, 9 suicide stories, 15 kidnapping stories, 12 rape stories, 3 acid-throwing stories, 2 fire-burning stories, and 17 injury/harassment and other stories.

Table 5: Overall Coverage of News of Violence against Women in Percentage

Sr. No.	Months	Dawn (%age)	The News (%age)	Nawa-i-Waqt (%age)	The Express (%age)
1	January	0.22	1.11	1.09	1.29
2	February	0.39	1.12	1.21	1.54
3	March	0.29	0.84	0.91	1.20
4	April	0.37	1.06	1.21	1.35
5	May	0.22	0.91	1.19	1.25
6	June	0.49	1.17	1.17	1.65
	Total	0.33	1.02	1.11	1.38

In January 2023, The Dawn newspaper reported a total of 4,898 news articles, with a minimal 0.22% dedicated to covering issues related to violence against women. Moving into February

2023, 4,270 news articles were published, and only 0.39% addressed concerns related to violence against women. March 2023 saw 4,877 news articles, with 0.29% specifically related to violence against women. April 2023 featured 4,590 news articles, with 0.37% of them addressing issues of violence against women. In May 2023, 4,907 news articles were reported, and once again, only 0.22% were centered on violence against women. Finally, in June 2023, 4,610 news articles were published, and 0.49% were focused on covering issues of violence against women.

Table 6: Categories Wise Murder

Sr. No.	Newspaper	Single Col	Double Col	Three Col	Four Col	Five Col	Six Col	Total
1	Dawn	18	20	11	2		0	51
2	The News	8	36	18	3	2	0	67
3	Nawa-i-Waqt	10	65	8	0	1	0	84
4	Express	23	90	29	0	0	1	143

The data indicates that in the initial six months of 2023, the Dawn Newspaper covered 51 news stories related to murder. Among these, 18 were in single columns, 20 in double columns, 11 in three columns, two in four columns, and none in five or six columns. The News newspaper reported 67 murder stories, including 8 in single columns, 36 in double columns, 18 in three columns, 3 in four columns, and 2 in five columns. Similarly, the Nawa-i-Waqt newspaper featured 84 murder stories, with 10 in single columns, 65 in double columns, 08 in three columns, and 1 in five columns. The Express newspaper documented 143 murder stories in the first six months of 2023, with 23 in single columns, 90 in double columns, and 29 in three columns, but none in four, five, or six columns.

Table 7: Categories Wise Suicide

Sr. No.	Newspaper	Single Col	Double Col	Three Col	Four Col	Five Col	Six Col	Total
1	Dawn	1	2	0	0	0	0	03
2	The News	0	27	13	0	0	0	40
3	Nawa-i-Waqt	19	32	3	0	0	0	54
4	Express	15	43	4	0	0	0	67

According to the data, the Dawn Newspaper featured 3 news stories related to suicide in the first six months of 2023. Among these, 1 was in single columns and 2 in double columns. The News newspaper reported 40 suicide stories, with 27 in double columns, 13 in three columns, and none in four, five, or six columns. Similarly, the Nawa-i-Waqt newspaper covered 54 suicide stories, including 19 in single columns, 32 in double columns, and 3 in three columns. The Express newspaper documented 67 suicide stories in the first six months of 2023, with 15 in single columns, 43 in double columns, and 4 in three columns.

Table 8: Categories Wise Kidnapping

Sr. No.	Newspaper	Single Col	Double Col	Three Col	Four Col	Five Col	Six Col	Total
1	Dawn	8	1	0	0	0	0	09

2	The News	9	26	7	4	0	0	46
3	Nawa-i-Waqt	17	48	2	0	0	0	67
4	Express	37	27	11	0	0	0	75

Based on the available data, the Dawn Newspaper reported 9 news stories related to kidnapping in the first six months of 2023. Among these, 8 were in single columns and 1 in double columns. The News newspaper covered 46 kidnapping stories, with 9 in single columns, 26 in double columns, 7 in three columns, and 04 in four columns. Additionally, the Nawa-i-Waqt newspaper documented 67 kidnapping stories, comprising 17 in single columns and 48 in double columns, along with 2 in three columns. The Express newspaper reported 75 kidnapping stories in the first six months of 2023, with 37 in single columns and 11 in double columns.

Table 9: Categories Wise Rape

Sr. No.	Newspaper	Single Col	Double Col	Three Col	Four Col	Five Col	Six Col	Total
1	Dawn	5	2	0	0	0	0	07
2	The News	4	25	1	0	0	0	30
3	Nawa-i-Waqt	9	38	1	0	0	0	48
4	Express	21	44	3	0	0	0	68

According to the data, the Dawn Newspaper reported 07 news stories related to rape in the first six months of 2023. Among these, 5 were in single columns and 2 in double columns. The News newspaper covered 30 rape stories, with 04 in single columns, 25 in double columns, and 1 in three columns. Additionally, the Nawa-i-Waqt newspaper documented 48 rape stories, comprising 9 in single columns and 38 in double columns. The Express newspaper reported 68 rape stories in the first 6 months of 2023, with 21 in single columns, 44 in double columns, and 3 in three columns.

Table 10: Categories Wise Acid Throwing

Sr. No.	Newspaper	Single Col	Double Col	Three Col	Four Col	Five Col	Six Col	Total
1	Dawn	2	1	0	0	0	0	03
2	The News	1	7	0	0	0	0	08
3	Nawa-i-Waqt	1	8	0	0	0	0	09
4	Express	0	09	0	0	0	0	09

As per the data, the Dawn Newspaper published 03 news stories related to acid-throwing in the first six months of 2023. Out of these, 2 were in single columns and 1 in double columns. The News newspaper reported 8 acid-throwing stories, all in double columns. Similarly, the Nawa-i-Waqt newspaper covered 9 acid-throwing stories, with 1 in single columns and 8 in double columns. In contrast, The Express newspaper documented 9 acid-throwing stories, all in double columns, in the first 6 months of 2023.

Table 11: Categories Wise Fire Burning

Sr. No.	Newspaper	Single Col	Double Col	Three Col	Four Col	Five Col	Six Col	Total
1	Dawn	0	4	0	0	0	0	04

2	The News	0	08	0	0	0	0	08
3	Nawa-i-Waqt	3	7	0	0	0	0	10
4	Express	4	5	0	0	0	0	09

Based on the data, 4 news stories related to fire burning were published in the Dawn Newspaper during the first six months of 2023. These stories were presented in double columns. The News newspaper reported 8 fire-burning stories, also in double columns. The Nawa-i-Waqt newspaper documented 10 fire-burning stories, with 3 in single columns and 7 in double columns. Meanwhile, The Express newspaper covered 9 fire-burning stories, with 4 in single columns and 5 in double columns.

Table 12: Categories Wise Battening, Harassment and Others

Sr. No.	Newspaper	Single Col	Double Col	Three Col	Four Col	Five Col	Six Col	Total
1	Dawn	0	16	0	0	0	0	16
2	The News	13	46	07	0	0	0	66
3	Nawa-i-Waqt	17	65	0	0	0	0	82
4	Express	83	21	10	0	0	0	114

According to the data, during the first 6 months of 2023, Dawn Newspaper reported 16 news stories on battening, harassment, and others, with 13 in a single column, 16 in double columns, and none in three, four, five, or six columns. The News newspaper covered 66 news stories in the same category during the same period, with 13 in a single column, 46 in double columns, 7 in three columns, and none in four, five, or six columns. Nawa-i-Waqt newspaper published 82 news stories on battening, harassment, and others in the first six months of 2023, with 17 in a single column, 65 in double columns, and none in three, four, five, or six columns. The Express newspaper reported 114 news stories in this category during the same period, with 83 in a single column, 21 in double columns, and none in three, four, five, or six columns.

Table 13: Overall Percentage of Category Wise Coverage Violence against Women News

Sr. No.	Categories	Dawn (%age)	The News (%age)	Nawa-i-Waqt (%age)	The Express (%age)
1	Murder	54.83	24.81	23.72	29.48
2	Suicide	3.22	14.81	15.25	13.81
3	Kidnapping	9.67	17.03	18.92	15.46
4	Rape	7.52	11.11	13.55	14.02
5	Acid Throwing	3.22	2.96	2.54	1.85
6	Fire Burning	4.30	2.96	2.82	1.85
7	Injured, Harassment and Others	17.20	24.44	23.16	23.50

The data shows that, in the category of murder and overall violence against women, 93 news items were published in Dawn Newspaper during these 6 months; 54.83% related to murder, 3.22% related to suicide, 9.67% related to kidnapping, 7.52% related to rape, 3.22% related to acid throwing, 4.30% related to fire burning, and 17.20% related to injury and harassment and others. 265 news items were published in the English newspaper. The news during these 6 months; 24.81 % related to murder, 14.81% related to suicide, 17.03% related to kidnapping, 11.11% related to rape, 2.96% related to acid throwing, 2.96% related to fire burning, and

24.44% related to injury and harassment and others. 354 news items were published in the Daily Nawa-i-Waqt Newspaper during these 6 months; 23.72% related to murder, 15.25% related to suicide, 18.92% related to kidnapping, 13.55% related to rape, 2.54% related to acid throwing, 2.82% related to fire burning, and 23.16% related to injury and harassment and others. 485 news items were published in Dawn Newspaper in this 6-month period; 29.48% related to murder, 13.81% related to suicide, 15.46% related to kidnapping, 14.02% related to rape, 1.85% related to acid throwing, 1.85% related to fire burning, and 23.50% related to injury, harassment and others.

Table 14: Comparison of the English Newspaper “the Dawn and the News”

Sr. No.	Categories	Dawn News	The News
1	Murder	51	67
2	Suicide	03	40
3	Kidnapping	09	46
4	Rape	07	30
5	Acid Throwing	03	08
6	Fire Burning	04	08
7	Injured, Harassment and Others	16	66
Grand Total		93	265

Over the span of 6 months in 2023, The Dawn newspapers have reported 51 cases of murder, 3 suicides, 9 stories of kidnapping, 7 rapes, 3 incidents of acid throwing, 4 burnings, and 16 incidents of injuries/harassment and others. In contrast, The News newspapers have covered 67 cases of murder, 40 suicides, 46 kidnappings, 30 rapes, 8 incidents of acid throwing, 8 burnings, and 66 incidents of injuries, harassment and others.

Table 15: Comparison of Urdu Dailies Newspaper Nawa-i-Waqt and the Express

Sr. No.	Categories	Nawa-i-Waqt	The Express
1	Murder	84	143
2	Suicide	54	67
3	Kidnapping	67	75
4	Rape	48	68
5	Acid Throwing	09	09
6	Fire Burning	10	09
7	Injured, Harassment and Others	82	114
Grand Total		354	485

According to the data from the first 6 months of 2023, the Nawa-i-Waqt newspaper reported 84 stories on murder, 54 on suicide, 67 on Kidnapping, 48 on rape, 9 on acid throwing, 10 on fire burning, and 82 on injuries/harassment and others. The Express newspaper, during the same period, covered 143 stories on murder, 67 on suicide, 75 on kidnapping, 68 on rape, 9 on acid throwing, 9 on fire burning, and 114 on injuries, harassment and others.

Table 16: Comparison of four Newspapers the Dawn, the News, Nawa-i-Waqt and the Express

Sr. No.	Categories	Dawn	The News	Nawa-i-Waqt	The Express
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1	Murder	51	67	84	143
2	Suicide	03	40	54	67
3	Kidnapping	09	46	67	75
4	Rape	07	30	48	68
5	Acid Throwing	03	08	09	09
6	Fire Burning	04	08	10	09
7	Injured, Harassment and Others	16	66	82	114
Grand Total		93	265	354	485

During the first 6 months of 2023, the Dawn newspaper reported 51 stories on murder, 3 on suicide, 9 on kidnapping, 7 on rape, 3 on acid throwing, 4 on fire burning, and 16 on injuries/harassment and others. The News newspaper covered 67 stories on murder, 40 on suicide, 46 on kidnapping, 30 on rape, 8 on acid throwing, 8 on fire burning, and 66 on injuries/harassment and others. The Nawa-i-Waqt newspaper published 84 stories on murder, 54 on suicide, 67 on kidnapping, 48 on rape, 9 on acid throwing, 10 on fire burning, and 82 on injuries/harassment and others. The Express newspaper reported 143 stories on murder, 67 on suicide, 75 on Kidnapping, 68 on rape, 9 on acid throwing, 9 on fire burning, and 114 on injuries, harassment and others.

CONCLUSION

This study examined the stories published over a six-month period in these newspapers, employing content analysis to address the study's research questions. The first research question focused on assessing the extent to which leading newspapers in Pakistan covered the issue of violence against women. The findings revealed that, among the English newspapers, Daily Dawn and Daily the News, the latter published more stories on violence against women than the former. Both English dailies allocated more coverage to murder compared to other forms of violence against women. Within the realm of Urdu language newspapers, Daily Express featured more stories on violence against women than Daily Nawa-i-Waqt. Similarly, both Urdu newspapers gave greater prominence to murder stories compared to other narratives of violence against women. The study's second research question examines the comparative coverage between English and Urdu newspapers on the issue. In this context, it was noted that both Urdu newspapers featured more stories on violence against women than their English counterparts. The third research question enquired about the specific types of violence stories against women. The analysis indicated that all newspapers prioritized the publication of stories about the murder of women over other forms of crimes against women.

Implications and Recommendations

It is predicted that the findings of this study will lead to the adoption of more impactful policies and initiatives concerning the portrayal of women in different media programs. As a reflection of society, newspapers, in particular, bear the responsibility of raising awareness about the issue of violence against women through their news stories and articles. These stories should be handled with special care, and efforts must be made to avoid any form of victim-blaming.

Author's Contributions: All three authors contributed equally to the theoretical development, analysis, interpretation, and writing of the manuscript. Exclusive contributions of individual authors should be written.

Conflict of Interests: The authors claim that there are no conflicting interests.

Funding Information: There was no particular grant for this study from any public, private, or nonprofit funding organization.

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