Content Analysis of Crime Reporting in Print Media: Evidence from Pakistan

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Abstract

This research endeavor aims at systematically examining the newspapers' coverage of crimes incidents in Pakistan. A retrospective quantitative content analysis of Pakistani print media was conducted for a period of one year i.e. 1st January 2017 to 31st December 2017. Two reputed national level newspapers; Daily Dawn English-language and Daily Jang Urdu-language, were selected based on newspaper circulation ratings and readership. Descriptive analysis of the study highlights those discrepancies in crime reports exist between Daily Dawn and Daily Jang. Urdu-language newspaper gives more coverage and published articles on many types of crimes as compared to English-language daily. Similarly, English daily newspaper reported urban areas' crimes more frequently in comparison to Urdu daily, however, articles on violation against women and child abuse are equally reported in both dailies.

Keywords: Crime, Media, Newspaper, crime Context

Introduction

Crime has many negative consequences and to a considerable extent it affects the quality of life across the globe in all societies. The effects of crime are viewed from both macro, and micro perspectives. From a macro perspective, crime undermines the state's ability, efficiency to promote and extension of development initiatives across its boundaries. At micro level, it restricts people's mobility, impedes public access to basic services and facilities, retards economic growth, limits the employment opportunities and destabilizes the total peace in a society (Blattman & Miguel, 2010; Cook, 2014; Driffield, Jones, & Crotty, 2013; Enamorado, López-Calva, & Rodríguez-Castelán, 2013). Both developed and developing countries are getting adversely affected by the crimes. According to UN (2005) report, the developing countries are ill-equipped to bear the cost of the

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crimes, particularly the violent crimes. In addition, it has been argued that crime has both direct and indirect costs. Direct costs include medical, legal, policing, prison, foster care and private security whilst, the indirect cost is categorized in loss of earnings and time, lower productivity, lower investment, psychological cost and others non-monetary costs. Moreover, high crime rates can drive out the investment opportunities, can lead to shutdown of industries which negatively affect the economic growth in a country (Bozzoli, Brück, & Wald, 2013; Camacho & Rodriguez, 2013).

Crime itself is a complex phenomenon with unexpected social behaviors, which are mostly difficult to understand, control, and quantify (D'Orsogna & Perc, 2015; Tseloni, 2007). Crime destabilizes the stability of a society by instilling fear and a sense of insecurity among people. One of the most frequently considered causes of fear of crime is media. Media is considered as a medium of social construction, a valuable source of information, and a powerful tool of communication. Media helps in shaping the reality around us and has the capacity to influence audiences and readers' attitude and exert influence on social life (Cissel, 2012; Dwivedi & Pandey, 2013). There is widespread consensus that crime has become an everyday phenomenon, an integral component of media contents (Reiner, Livingstone, & Allen, 2000), and an important source of public entertainment (Garland, 2001). Within criminology, media and crime are vibrant areas of scientific investigation. This is still unsettled debate that the media coverage of crime incidents whether promotes or reduces crime in a society. However, the media immersion and narration promotion to a large extent influence social behavior. Today, criminal behavior and criminal trials are highly publicized in the media in a way that they constitute the fourth largest category of stories for newspapers and television (Barnhurst, 2010). However, reporting of crime stories has been increased in recent years from 10% in the Times and the Daily Mirror in 1940s, to over 20% in 1990s in Britain (Reiner, 2002). Maier and Tucker (2012), illustrate that newspapers provided more comprehensive coverage to an incident such as, context of a story and relevant details, while the online papers provided more latest reporting but lacked contextual information. Traditionally, newspapers have had the sources to do more in-depth and contextualized crime reporting compared to other media sources (Gilliam Jr & Iyengar, 2000). Particularly, with advancement in telecom industry and the mobile news, the landscape of newspapers reporting is being changed. Nowadays in-depth crime reporting is replaced by less comprehensive forms of crime reporting, and coverage (Guskin, 2013). However, still newspapers are considered to be the most authentic, and credible source of news than other sources of communication (Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, 2014)

Chermak (1997) analyzed six prints and three broadcasting media organizations, and found that print media presents nine crime stories a day on average-basis, and electronic media presents four crime stories per day (Chermak, 1997). In a study of 571 newspaper articles dealing with 538 separate cases, Healy and O'Donnell (2010) found that local newspapers reported predominantly on minor offences, focusing on the ordinary, amusing and occasionally ludicrous stories in Ireland. Furthermore, the Evening Herald produced the greatest volume of crime coverage at 36.4% followed closely by the Irish Daily Star at 35.7 % (Healy & O'Donnell, 2010). All news, no matter the source, have a constructed newsworthy quality; an inherent news value which determines why and to what extent a story will gain significance in the public domain, and remain there (Pollak & Kubrin, 2007). Instead of presenting the facts, media purposely chooses to include certain crimes, and not others in their crime reporting (Chermak & Chapman, 2007). Most crime news stories focus disproportionately on the most serious, and violent crimes (Greer, 2006). Crime that is easily explained is also likely to be covered. For instance, Jewkes (2004) argues that the simplicity of an event can affect its status as a newsworthy event. Also, a criminal event that is easily explainable (e.g. murder) will not confuse the audience, and is more likely to become news than a more complex event where the guilty party is not easily identifiable (e.g. stock market manipulation (Doyle, 2003; Sacco, 2005). Furthermore, some criminal acts are chosen over others like serial or mass murder, children as victims of sexual crimes are repeatedly reported compared to corporate or white-collar crimes.

Surette (1998) provides a reason and states that as crime is a hidden activity which is out of sight, hence, individuals become further interested in these unknown activities. For instance, homicide was the most common type of crime reported in newspapers in the United States (US) and the United Kingdom (UK) involving female victims than those involving male victims (Peelo, Francis, Soothill, Pearson, & Ackerley, 2004; Pritchard & Hughes, 1997). Further research demonstrates that homicides involving the elderly, young girls, and strangers are more expected to be reported in the media (Buckler & Travis, 2005; Gruenewald, Chermak, & Pizarro, 2013; Peelo et al., 2004). Children are newsworthy, homicide involving children is usually found to be among the most newsworthy incidents for media. Because being a child victim of homicide is rare compared to an adult victim, and children are often seen as vulnerable which is one of the characteristics of the ideal victim (Gekoski, Gray, & Adler, 2012; Jewkes, 2015).

News content is generated and filtered through journalists' sense of newsworthiness. There are 12 news standards that assist editors and journals when judging whether the story appeals to the public and is subsequently newsworthy (Jewkes, 2015). Some of these stories involve violence, conflict, children, and

social status of the victim etc. In addition, combinations of victim, offender, and situational characteristics raise the newsworthiness of a crime and result in a greater chance of its reporting by the media (Buckler & Travis, 2005; Lundman, 2003; Peelo et al., 2004).

Media and Crimes in Pakistan

Like other developing countries, crime rates in Pakistan is on the increase. According to the official statistics, more than 0.6 million crimes an average per year are reported. The major types of crime are homicide, attempted murder, kidnapping/abduction, dacoity, robbery, burglary, cattle theft, other theft including motor vehicle/motorcycle theft and minor street crimes. In Pakistan, the government dominance and control over media was ended in the year 2002, the media liberalism provided a platform to media, particularly electronic media, to begin operations in the country. However, while electronic media is flourishing, the number of newspapers and periodicals are declining. The official statistics show that the number of periodicals and newspapers was 1,820 in 2007 while, in the year 2016, the number stood at 539 (Udin, 2018). In the contemporary world, the role of media could not be underestimated because advancement in technology enables the media faster than ever before. In Pakistan, media is also creating news for their viewers and readers for many purposes such as, for dissemination of information, raising awareness, promotion of certain cultural values, highlighting issues in governance, and social issues. Crime reporting, and coverage is one of the media houses' main content for creating news for their viewers and readers. In Pakistan, previous studies have documented the content analysis of print media coverage of crime articles such as, honor killing (Nasrullah, Haqqi, & Cummings, 2009), domestic violence (Ahmed, 2014; Tehreem & Raza, 2015) kidnapping, drug related crimes, rape, sexual assault, and child abuse (Jabeen, 2014). However, each of these studies focused on a single crime incident rather than covering all types of crimes committed and reported in different newspapers.

The purpose of this research endeavor was to systematically examine the newspapers' coverage of crime incidents in Pakistan within 12 months' period in 2017. There has been little research conducted so far in Pakistan to disentangle the incidents of major crimes committed and reported by print media. Some notable exceptions exist such as, some studies provided the detailed analysis of crime against women, child abuse, and kidnapping etc., albeit these studies are limited through their focus and scope. It is generally believed that crime has many negative consequences, and high crime rate is considered as a potential threat to the capacity, efficiency, ability of the government, and endangers the total peace of society. Although, media covers wide range of issues including crime, so it is

very important to know how crimes are represented in print media. Is there any newspaper language discrepancy in portraying the crimes? What crimes are more represented than others? All these factors have important implications for public perceptions of safety, and guidelines towards criminal justice policy making in the country.

Material and Methods

A retrospective quantitative content analysis of Pakistani print media was conducted for the period of one year. The sample of the current study was composed of 12 months of the year starting from 1st January 2017 to 31st December 2017. Two national level newspapers i.e. daily Dawn English-language and daily Jang Urdu-language were selected based on newspaper circulation ratings, and readership. Both dailies are the oldest newspapers in Pakistan, daily Jang was founded by Mir Khalil-ur-Rehman in the year 1939, and daily Dawn was founded by Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah in the year 1941. Although newspapers and periodicals are considered as the oldest and the most recognizable mediums of information in Pakistan, due to the prominence of electronic and more recently the social media, the readership of print media is on decline. Overall, Urdu language newspapers have more readers and reach than other language newspapers such as English, and local languages. However, English newspapers are considered more urban centric, progressive and have leverage to reach opinion makers. Both language newspapers are among the top five newspapers in the country in terms of readership, revenue, and news authenticity (Udin, 2018). In addition, newspaper is considered as a useful proxy for news reporting, as newspaper usually sets agenda for other news format (Wakefield, Flay, Nichter, & Giovino, 2003).

Crime reports were retrieved from newspapers archives that are free available and accessible on dailies' websites. The search items include all the derivatives that include the word "crime". We excluded the cases of terrorism, traffic incident, and short-circuit fire/burning from final analyses. Each day of newspapers was searched for the crime incidents. The pieces of information extracted from these newspapers were: 1) the month of crime; 2) localities of crimes, measured in rural and urban; 3) offender's gender; 4) type of crime, measured in violent crime, property crime, drug related crime, child abuse, and domestic violence including honor killing; 5) relation with victim; 6) weapon used in crime; 7) consequences measured in reported, offender killed, escaped and none/no information. Not all reported articles with these details were fit within the criteria for analyses. All those published articles which lacked the required information were excluded from final analyses. Data was coded using the Matthes

and Kohring (2008) coding techniques. Both inter-coder reliability and intra-coder reliability tests were conducted to ensure that the coding descriptors are clear. Descriptive statistical analyses were conducted to examine the frequency, types of crimes, and characteristics of offenders.

Results and Discussion

In a period of one-year, 3014 crime articles were published in total that contained the word 'crime'. All those articles that contained either incomplete or ambiguous information were excluded from the final analyses. Table 1 presents the frequencies and percentages distribution of crimes reported in each month of the year, location of crime committed, offender's gender, type of crime committed, weapon used in crime, relation with victim and consequences which referred to the reporting of crime in the form of First Information Report (FIR), brought in notice of local council *(Jirga/Punchayat)*, media attention, the status of the offender whether the offender escaped or was killed at the time of crime committed.

Table 1 Crime reports details published in daily newspapers (Dawn and Jang) Pakistan

Details of crimes	Daily Dawn	Daily Jang	Total incidents reported
	Incident	Incident	Incident
	(n = 974)	(n = 2040)	(n = 3014)
Total Crime reported			
January	112 (11.5)	163 (8.0)	275 (9.1)
February	37 (3.8)	186 (9.1)	223 (7.4)
March	88 (9.0)	185 (9.0)	273 (9.1)
April	92 (9.4)	182 (8.9)	274 (9.1)
May	93 (9.5)	199 (9.7)	292 (9.7)
June	78 (8.0)	90 (4.4)	168 (5.6)
July	80 (8.2)	228 (11.1)	308 (10.2)
August	75 (7.7)	210 (10.3)	285 (9.5)
September	84 (8.6)	168 (8.2)	252 (8.4)
October	78 (8.1)	168 (8.2)	246 (8.2)
November	69 (7.5)	134 (6.5)	203 (6.7)
December	82 (8.5)	133 (6.5)	215 (7.1)
Location of crime			
Urban	608 (62.4)	1095 (53.7)	1673 (56.5)
Rural	366 (37.6)	945 (46.3)	1311 (43.5)

Offender's gender			
Male	957 (98.3)	1813 (88.9)	2739 (91.8)
Female	17 (1.7)	84 (4.1)	101 (3.4)
Unknown	-	143 (7.0)	7143 (4.8)
Type of crime			
Violent crime	727 (74.6)	1327 (65.0)	2054 (68.1)
Property crime	130 (13.3)	517 (25.3)	647 (21.5)
Drug related crime	52 (5.3)	140 (6.9)	192 (6.4)
Child abuse	17 (1.7)	21 (1.0)	38 (1.3)
Domestic violence	48 (4.9)	35 (1.7)	83 (2.8)
Weapon of crime			
Firearms	307 (32.8)	1365 (66.7)	2194 (72.8)
Physical violence	1 (0.1)	15 (0.7)	314 (10.4)
Blunt/sharp object	15 (1.6)	30 (1.5)	266 (8.8)
Aid/poison	-	4 (0.2)	14 (0.5)
Strangulation	52 (5.5)	266 (11.5)	40 (1.3)
Unknown/no information	117 (12.5)	130 (6.4)	186 (6.2)
Relation with victim			
Family	236 (24.2)	221 (10.8)	457 (15.2)
Romantic	3 (0.3)	30 (1.5)	33 (1.1)
Occupational	60 (6.2)	90 (4.4)	150 (5.0)
Acquaintances	97 (10.0)	421 (20.6)	518 (17.2)
Stranger	571 (58.6)	520 (25.5)	1091 (36.2)
Unknown	11 (1.1)	758 (37.2)	769 (25.5)
Consequences			
Reported	897 (92.1)	1595 (78.3)	2494 (82.7)
Killed	23 (2.4)	13 (0.6)	36 (1.2)
Escaped	35 (3.6)	314 (15.4)	349 (11.6)
None	19 (2.0)	116 (5.7)	135 (4.5)

* all results are presented in (%)

The data shows that most of the crimes were reported in the month of July (10.2%) while June (5.6%) was the least crime reported month. An average 252.2 crimes were monthly reported in both dailies, while the maximum number of crimes reported was 308 while, minimum number of crimes reported was 168. The number of crime articles published in Daily English was 974 while in Daily Jang was 2040 articles. In Daily Dawn, February was the least crimes reported month

(3.8%) while majority of the crimes were reported in the month of January (11.5%). In Daily Jang, least crimes were reported in month of June (4.4%), while July (11.1%) was the highest crime reported month. The extracted information revealed that violent crimes (68.1%) were the most reported crimes in newspapers, 21.5% of the crimes were property crimes, 6.4% were drug related crimes, 1.3% of the cases were related to child abuse and 2.8% were of domestic violence. A contrast in the pattern of crime reporting in both dailies' discrepancies was reflected from the data. For instance, violent crimes (Dawn (78.3%) and Jang (96.9%)) were the most attractive news for both the dailies. However, property crimes were the most reported crimes (25.3%) in Daily Jang as compared to Daily Dawn (13.3%).

In all cases, majority of news reports show that the most alleged perpetrator was male (91.8%) as compared to female (3.4%). The link between urbanization and crime rates could not be underestimated (Brennan-Galvin, 2002; Gaviria & Pagés, 2002). The data shows that most of the crimes were reported from urban areas (55.5%). The data further highlights that variation was found in both dailies in the reporting of crime localities such as, crimes from rural areas were mostly reported in Daily Jang (46.8%) as compared to Daily Dawn (39.6%). Firearms (69.9%) were the most common weapon used in crimes. Physical violence was used in 10.4% of crimes, and 8.8% of crimes were committed with the help of sharp/blunt objects. In majority of the cases, the main perpetrators were found to be strangers (36.2%) while, in 17.2% articles, crimes were committed by acquaintances. The data further shows that most of the crimes were reported (82.2%) either in the form of filing First Information Report (FIR) against the criminal or were noticed by local community in the form of local councils (*Panchayat/Jirga*). In 1.2% cases the offender was killed either at the time of crime committed or was followed by police/victim's relatives after the crime, while in 11.6% cases, the offender was successfully escaped from the crime scene. In 4.5% cases no actions were taken in the form of reporting in police, action by local community or by victim's relatives.

Crimes Characteristics
Crime localities
Table 2 shows the detailed analysis of crime characteristics published in the print media. The data suggests that most of the crimes were reported from urban areas. For instance, the extracted information reveals that except honor killing (38.2%) and domestic violence (44.8%), majority of the crimes were reported from urban areas such as, murder (53.5%), rape and sexual assault (49.1%), robbery (60.5%), aggravated assault (57.1%), attempted murder (55.7%), kidnapping (59.5%),

burglary (56.7%), larceny and theft (54.8%), motor vehicle theft (78.7%), drug related crimes (53.1%) and child abuse (57.7%). The rapid urbanization in both developed and developing countries has created numerous social problems such as, unemployment, poverty, homelessness, drug addiction, economic deprivation, inequality in society, poor living conditions, and deviant subcultures etc. Among these, crime is a common phenomenon. Urban areas are fertile land for diverse socio-economic activities and cultural change, this heterogeneous nature of urban areas provides an array of opportunities to inhabitants including a tendency towards criminal behavior (Soh, 2012). In every big city, there are micro places or "hot spots" that generate disproportionate amounts of criminal activities in city. In addition, in every locality, there are certain spots which are known as crime pockets. These crime pockets are the areas controlled by the criminals and gangs, where the intensity of crimes is comparatively high. Moreover, the processes of urban development and social disorganization of urban society are linked with high crime rate. In addition, urban areas and their peripheries are sometimes considered as safe places for criminals. It is also contended that some crimes remained unreported and hidden which is mostly known as "Dark Figures". The data also indicates that dark figures of crime are reflected from the empirical data because, the newspapers reported those crimes which are informed by some sources, otherwise the crime incidents remained unreported and the culprits benefitted. It can also be argued that such 'Dark Figures" of crimes may give safe exits for the criminals to commit crimes and remained hidden. In Pakistan, both urban and rural areas have such "Dark Figures". For instance, mega cities like Karachi, Quetta, Peshawar, Lahore and the rural areas in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Baluchistan, Sindh and Punjab have such certain locations where majority of crimes are unreported. As compared with urban areas, crime reporting from rural areas is rare due to either cultural and social bonding or incapacity and inefficiency of formal institutions. Therefore, crimes from rural areas are least reported in media. Literature on crimes in urban areas is flourishing and studies have identified that throughout the world, crimes in urban areas are gradually increasing (Ajaegbu, 2012; Amin, Rahim, & Geshina, 2014; Okafor, 2011; Soh, 2012; Usman, Yakubu, & Bello, 2012). The urban crimes have also raised to an alarming level which negatively contribute towards the overall social wellbeing, economic growth, quality of life and peace in the cities (Badiora & Afon, 2013; Marzbali, Abdullah, Razak, & Tilaki, 2011).

Gender and crime

The data further highlighted the gender differences in crime reporting. The empirical evidences show that in majority of the crimes, the main perpetrator was

male e.g. murder (90.9%), rape and sexual assault (91.4%), robbery (96.2%), aggravated assault (95.5%), attempted murder (100%), kidnapping (86.5%), burglary (93.9%), larceny-theft (86.6%), motor vehicle theft (89.0%), drug related crimes (93.8%), child abuse (87.9%), domestic violence (93.1%), and honor killing (96.4%). Crime is not gender-neutral, because both males and females have the tendency to commit crime. However, the gender aspect of crimes is less visible in some crimes and more

Table 2: Detailed Crime Characteristics Reported in Dailies Newspapers (*Dawn* and *Jang*) of Pakistan

Crime Characteristics	Violent Crime Incident (n = 2054)						Property Crime Incident (n = 647)			Drug Incident (n = 192)	Child Incident (n = 38)	Domestic violence Incident (n = 83)	
	H	RS	R	AA	AM	KN	B	LT	MT	D	CA	DV	HK
Location													
Rural	46.5	50.9	39.5	42.9	44.3	40.5	43.3	45.2	21.3	46.9	42.4	55.2	61.8
Urban	53.5	49.1	60.5	57.1	55.7	59.5	56.7	54.8	78.7	53.1	57.6	44.8	38.2
Gender													
Male	90.9	91.4	96.2	95.5	100	86.5	93.9	86.6	89.0	93.8	87.9	93.1	96.4
Female	2.5	4.0	3.8	1.8	-	1.8	-	5.4	0.6	5.2	12.1	6.9	3.6
Unknown	6.7	4.6	-	2.7	-	11.7	4.3	8.8	10.3	1.0	-	-	-
Weapon used										-			
Firearms	76.0	9.1	94.9	75.0	67.2	95.6	75.3	89.7	88.4	17.2	-	10.5	74.5
Physical violence	3.7	90.9	-	2.7	8.2	1.1	13.0	5.4	9.7	-	90.9	57.9	-
Blunt/sharp obj.	16.5	-	2.0	21.0	23.8	3.3	10.8	0.4	1.3	-	-	5.3	10.9
Acid/Poison	0.9	-	-	-	0.8	-	-		-	-	-	26.3	-
Strangulation	3.0	-	1.1	-	-	-	-		-	-	9.1	-	14.5
Unknown	-	-	2.0	1.3	-	-	0.9	4.6	0.6	82.8	-	-	-
Relation with victim													
Family	29.5	14.9	0.4	17.4	6.6	6.6	10.0	3.1	2.6	-	18.2	100	94.5
Romantic	0.6	9.1	-	-	0.8	2.6	0.4	1.1	1.9	-	-	-	-
Occupational	5.8	10.3	-	12.9	5.7	1.5	8.2	6.9	-	0.5	18.2	-	-
Acquaintances	22.6	33.1	2.7	33.0	30.3	35.8	10.0	5.0	1.3	-	45.5	-	5.5
Stranger	20.8	17.7	72.9	24.1	48.4	25.9	48.9	49.8	49.0	27.6	9.1	-	-

	H	RS	R	AA	AM	HK	KD	B	LT	MT	D	CA	DV
Unknown	20.7	14.9	23.5	12.5	8.2	27.7	22.5	34.1	47.1	71.9	9.1	-	-
Consequences													
Reported	83.7	94.5	53.3	95.1	96.7	86.5	79.7	82.8	90.3	81.6	90.9	93.1	94.5
Killed	2.5	0.6	2.0	4.0	-	1.5	1.4	-	-	1.3	-	-	-
Escaped	11.3	3.4	27.5	0.9	3.3	12.0	19.5	12.3	0.6	12.4	-	6.9	1.8
None	2.5	1.7	17.3	-	-	-	-	5.0	9.0	4.8	9.1	-	3.6

Note: H= Homicide; RS= Rape/sexual assault; R= Robbery; AA= Aggravated assault; AM= Attempted murder; HK= Honor killing; KD= Kidnapping; B= Burglary; LT= Larceny-theft; MT= Motor vehicle theft; D= Drug related crime; CA= Child abuse DV= Domestic violence.

apparent in others. For example, the involvement of females in non-violent crimes are more highlighted than violent crimes. This gendered dimension in crime is reflected in table 2. As compared to males, females tend to have less criminal ability, however, studies have reported the involvement of females in property crimes and non-violent crimes (Gavrilova & Campaniello, 2015).

Weapon of crime

Firearms including handguns and shotguns emerged as the major weapons used in most of violent and property crimes i.e. homicide (76%), robbery (94.9%), aggravated assault (75%), attempted murder (67.2%), honor killing (74.5%), kidnapping (95%), burglary (75.3%), larceny-theft (89.7%), and motor vehicle theft (88.4%). Majority of homicides was committed by family members 29% and acquaintances 22.6%. The data shows that firearms including handgun and shotgun are the common weapon used in all type of violent crimes. According to Franklin (2004), guns are used in 70% of all criminal killings. Most importantly, 90.9% cases of rape and sexual assault revealed that women experienced physical violence by acquaintances (33%), family members (14.9%), and strangers (17.7%). The World Health Organization's (WHO) multi-country study findings suggested that substantial proportion of women reported that their first intercourse was forced (WHO, 2012). The media reports show that in Pakistan 93% of women experienced some form of sexual violence in their life time (Kazi, 2017, March 8). The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) reported that in the year 2014, 579 women and girls were gang raped, 828 were raped, and 336 women were stripped (HRCP, 2000). As per staff report of Dawn News on January 12, 2016, that last year, 2000 women were kidnapped and among them 80% were allegedly raped while 15% were killed. According to Human Right Watch, there is rape once in every two hours while a gang rape every four hours and 70 to 80 % women are suffering from some kind of domestic violence.

Domestic violence

Domestic violence was equally reported from both rural (55.2%) and urban (44.8%) areas, where males (63.2%) were the main perpetrators of violence against women. In majority cases, women faced physical violence (57.9%), and acid burning/poisoned (26.3%). In Pakistan, domestic violence is a common practice and it is estimated that 80% of women in their lifetime experienced one or other form of domestic violence, but these cases are seldom reported. For instance, in the year 2013, 7852 cases of domestic violence were reported (Asmat, 2016, February 3). In 2011, the Thomson

Reuters Foundation Poll of experts ranked Pakistan as the 3rd most dangerous county for women in the world (Thomson Reutuers Foundation, 2018). In addition, the data further highlighted that majority of honor killing cases were reported from rural areas 61.8% and the victim was killed by male (96.4%) and usually by family members (95.6%). In Pakistan, several hundred women are killed each year in the name of honor; only in the year 2014, 700 women were reportedly killed (Amensty-International, 2002; Imtiaz, 2016, March 2). Pakistani society is deeply rooted in traditions, and deviations from long standing customs, which are considered as serious violations. Honor killing committed by a family member assumed that the conduct of the women violated the traditional norms, values, and brought dishonor, and disgrace to family, therefore, the killing of women would restore family honor and social standing. However, 94.5% cases were reported either in the form of filling FIR or to a local council/jirga.

Child abuse

The HRCP (2015) reported that due to weak legal and social protection mechanism, children in Pakistan are vulnerable to abuse, violence and exploitation. The data suggested that majority of child abuse cases were reported from rural areas (57.6%). As compared to females (12.1%), males (87.9%) were the main wrongdoers in all cases. In most cases, children were physically abused (90.9%) by acquaintances (45.5%), family members (18.2%) and at workplaces (18.2%). The prevailing weak child protection system in Pakistan is linked with social, structural and institutional factors such as, illiteracy, poverty, corporal punishment at home and school (Aziz, 2017). The previous studies show that interfamilial maltreatment is more common in child abuse including physical, emotional and sexual abuse (Jonson-Reid, Chung, Way, & Jolley, 2010; Jonson-Reid, Drake, Chung, & Way, 2003).

Conclusion

In contemporary world, criminal activities have become more terrifying throughout the world and crime control is considered a serious concern on all discussion forums. However, due to the growing advancements in science and technology, particularly, the developments in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), have offered some key tools in crime prevention, reporting, and policing in the world (Byrne & Marx, 2011). For instance, on one hand, the technological advancement not only increases the capacity of formal police and dramatic changes in the organization of police, but on the other hand, it helps in controlling and prevention of crime. In

contemporary world the Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras, metal detectors, baggage screening at airport, bullet proof vehicles and windows, security systems at home and business, personal protection devices (lifeline/emergency calls mechanism), ignition interlock systems, and new crime analysis techniques have enhanced the crime reporting and prevention mechanism in the world (Chan, 2001; Stroshine, 2005). In Pakistan, crime rate is increasing and certain factors such as, weak institutions, lack of equipped and efficient policing, deficiencies in legal system and lack of speedy justice, increasing inequality, deprivations, unemployment, unplanned growth, illiteracy and poverty are responsible for high crime rate in the country. However, crime creates the valuable news content for media in general and print media in particular. Crime coverage remains one of the attractive areas for newspapers to create news for increasing readership, circulation rating, public awareness, and alerting the concern authorities. The study found that newspapers in Pakistan pay attention to crime coverage and regularly published crime articles on different crimes committed in many parts of the country. However, more focus is given to those crime reports which are violent and of sensitive nature.

Overall, the study highlighted the discrepancy in crime reporting between Urdu and English language newspapers. Both dailies have purposely reported certain crimes than others. However, Urdu-language newspaper has given more coverage and published more articles on different types of crimes than the English-language daily. Moreover, daily Dawn is considered urban centric, therefore, the focus of the daily reports remained on urban crimes. The incidents of violation against women and child abuse are equally reported. The study further informed that English-language newspaper published news articles on those crimes that were reported in the form filling FIR and other relevant forums. Arguably, it can be inferred that English-language newspaper emphasizes on valid and authentic sources of information while reporting crimes.

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