

Kashmir Issue and Media Representation

Aadil Altaf Lone

Dept. of Sociology Barkatullah, University Bhopal, Immamigate Bhopal 462001, India

Abstract: Media is said to be the watchdog of democracy. Media plays a decent role in exploring the idea of a common men but in so-called the paradise on earth (Kashmir valley) this thing is missing badly because due to atrocities, barbarism and restrictions, Acts like AFSPA, TADA, JKPSA, bullets and newly invented pellet guns which not only threatened common men but even journalists and human right activists. Media not only helps us in reaching out or solving the hectic problems but it gives confidence and assurance to get the problems solved at local, national and at the international level, but in Kashmir valley things are quite different the media are under the clutches of New Delhi. They not only banned the local media but also blocked the internet service in the valley recently in 2016 which cost a huge loss of both humans and incomes and enlarge the problems of Kashmiri's. In Kashmir valley where not only innocent people are being killed but even mass rapes, Sopore shoot out, Gawkadal massacre, Asia-Nelofar rape case, the tragedy of Kunan Poshpora and other things remain dark for rest of the world and such incidents not only lower the morale of security personnel but also loses the images of such media houses which shows such insane acts vertically in opposite directions. Media representation which shows one version of reality but in the valley the government put a continuous ban on media because they not only want to control the tense environment but the reality is that they don't want to disclose the high levels of their barbarism at any level local, national and at international. Media representation means to represents individuals, groups, issues and events but in Kashmiri valley it is different and hectic job because of barbaric behaviour of security personals. It is important to note that without media our perception of reality would be very limited and it is a type of recording in which sensory information is described but not in Kashmir valley where everything is decided by New Delhi. In nutshell media is not free and fair in India.

Keywords: Media, Kashmir, Valley, Barbarism, Ban, Delhi, Atrocities, Restrictions

1. Objectives

- To study the perception of Kashmiri masses regarding the media house especially the national media.
- To study why government putting ban on some media houses in Kashmir valley.
- To study why the government drawn a line of demarcation (Laximaan-Rakah) on media in Kashmir valley.

2. Materials & Methodology

As the approach followed in most social science research, present study is based on the both primary as well as secondary source of the data collection. In the present paper entitled as "Kashmir Issue and Media Representation" the samples were taken from north, east, west, south and central parts of Kashmir valley.

3. Universe & Selection of Sample

The selected universe is constituted of ten districts with almost equal population. From each district 20 respondents were selected for the collection of research data in relation to the demographic composition of the Kashmir valley. In this way, 200 respondents were selected in total from the concerned universe. After that with the help of random sampling, 20 respondents from each district are selected for the collection of research data.

Table 1: Profile of Respondents

District	Gender		Marital Status		Educational Status		Age status		
	M	F	Ma	Um	Lit.	Ilit.	18-28	29-39	40-above
Anantnag	9	11	16	4	19	1	7	8	5
Bandipora	11	9	15	5	18	2	5	7	8
Baramulla	10	10	14	6	17	3	7	7	6

Budgam	9	11	14	6	19	1	6	8	6
Ganderbal	10	10	18	2	16	4	5	10	5
Kupwara	12	8	17	3	18	2	8	8	4
Kulgam	11	9	15	5	18	2	7	6	7
Pulwama	10	10	13	7	19	1	9	6	5
Sopain	9	11	17	3	17	3	6	7	7
Srinagar	10	10	10	10	19	1	8	8	4
Total	101	99	148	52	180	20	68	75	57

Note: M=Male, F=Female, Ma=Married, um=Unmarried, Lit=Literate, Ilit=Illiterate, 18-28, 29-39, 40 above Age Group

From each district of Kashmir valley, we have taken 20 respondents, in which 101 are male and 99 are female respondents. On the basis of marital status among 200 respondents, 148 are married and 52 are unmarried and by the educational wise distribution 180 are literates and 20 are illiterates. And the above table graph shows that out of 200 respondents, 68 are belong to 18-28 age group, 75 are belong to 29-39 age group and 57 are belong to 40 above group.

4. Analysis

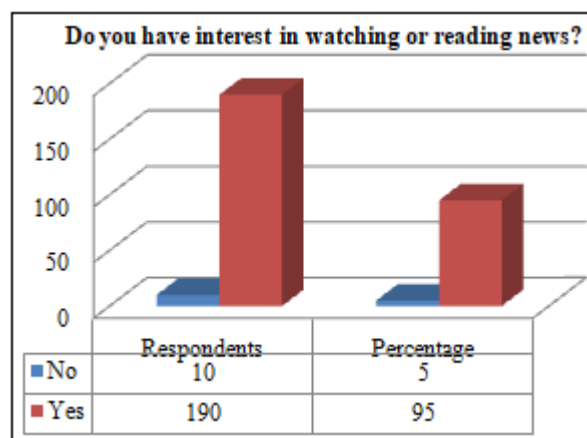


Chart 1

From the above Chart it is clear that 90 % respondents were interested in watching or reading news and rest of the 05 % were not interested in reading or watching news.

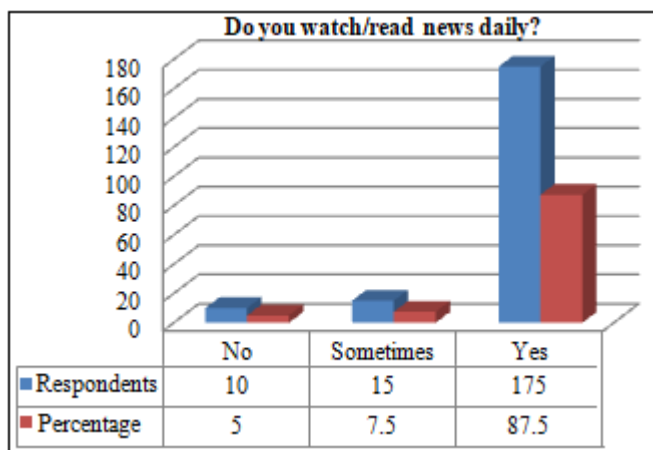


Chart 2

In this chart (chart 02) 175 respondents were reading or watching news daily while 15 respondents were watching or reading news sometimes and rest 10 were not interested in watching and reading news.

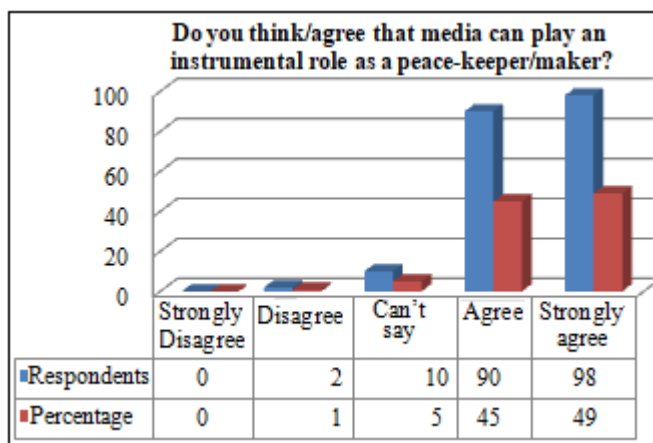


Chart 3

It was pointed out from the above chart (chart 03) that 98 respondents were strongly agreed that media can play an instrumental role in peacemaking and 90 respondents agreed, 10 respondents said can't say, 2 respondents showed their interest in disagree and no respondent was with the strongly disagree statement

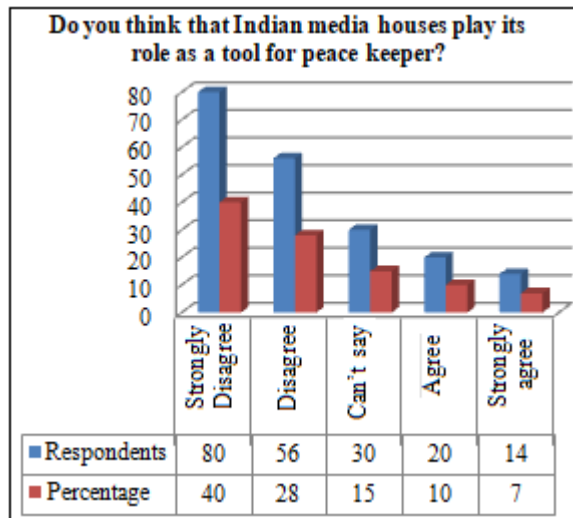


Chart 4

This chart makes it clear that 80 respondents strongly disagreed, 56 respondents disagreed, 30 respondents, said can't say, 20 respondents agreed and 14 respondents showed interest in strongly agreed statement that Indian media house is not interested in playing its role as a peacekeeper or bring peace in conflict areas.

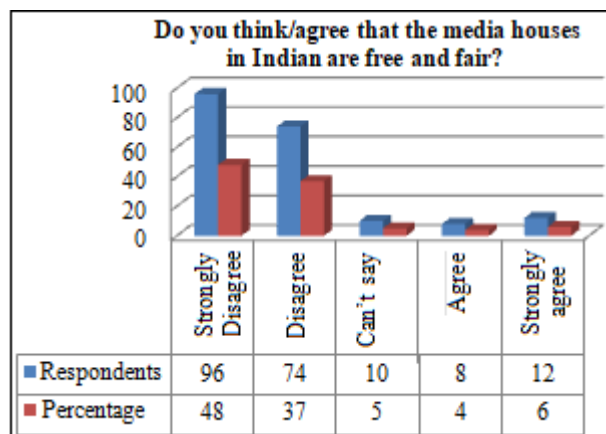


Chart 5

Most of the respondents (48%) from the above table was strongly disagreed the above-cited question, 37% respondent were disagreeing. While 5 respondents say sometimes while a small amount 4% and 6% agreed and strongly agree that media houses in India are free and fair.

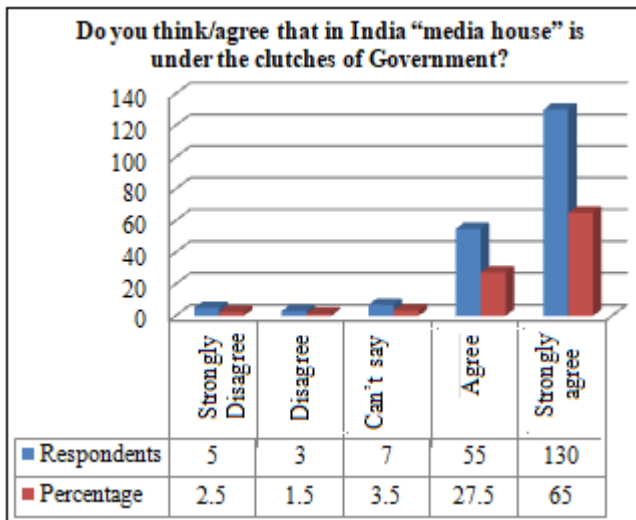


Chart 6

According to above chart, 65% respondents were strongly agreed with the question and 27.5 % agreed, while a small amount 3.5%, and 2.5% and 1.5% were responded as can't say, strongly disagreed and disagreed respectively.

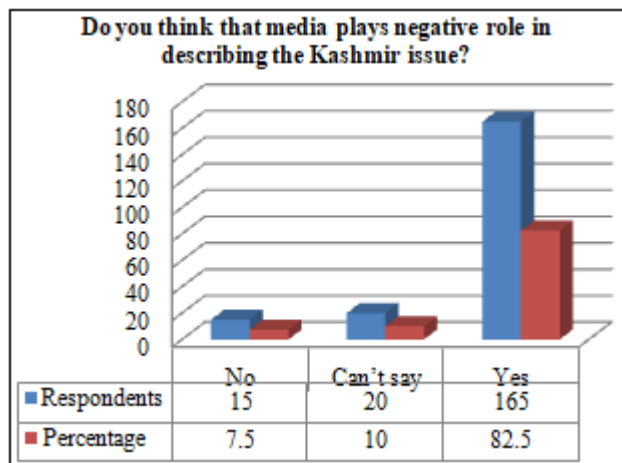


Chart 7

The analysis of above chart mentioned revolves that out of 200 respondents the majority of respondents i.e. 82.5% said that the media plays a negative role and 10% responded "can't say" option while only a small amount 7.5% respondent given "NO" as a response.

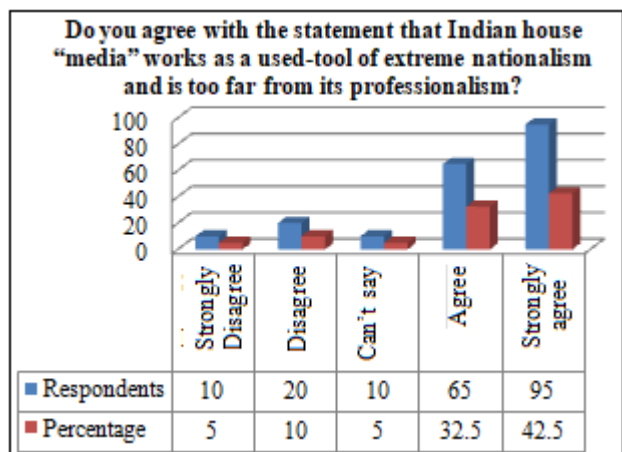


Chart 8

From the above chart, it was founded that 42.5% respondents strongly agreed while 32.5% agreed with the above statement and only a small amount of 10%, 5% and 5% given their response as "can't say", "disagreed" and "strongly disagreed" respectively.

5. Conclusion

It was clear from the above data that media house can play a positive as well as negative role in describing the issues and events in any country. So far as the Indian media is concerned which described everything regarding Kashmir issue or Kashmir unrest in a negative way which not only demolished the image of Valley of Kashmir but also even a Kashmiri. Every was Kashmir's are treated as terrorists but the fact is not that. It is only the national media which is showing the fake, irrelevant or irritating stories on Kashmir like stone palters are granted by Separatists or by Pakistan, Militant training centres, Waving of Pakistani flags, etc. but why this media is not showing the factual things like killing of innocents, mass rapes, fake encounters, infrastructural damage and use of pellet guns which not only injured the people but also blind them for rest of the life which includes male, female and children. They not only snatched the children from their parents but also from their dreams because our media is run by the government, they (media house) are not allowed to display the right and ground situation of Kashmir valley. The media in our country are not free and fair but even media persons are also thrashed by the men in uniform and they were also not allowed even in the meeting led by the government. The New Delhi also put a ban on media in broadcasting the loving voice of people (Syed Ali Shah Geelani) and National media did not show this thing that in Kashmir valley from past several months' people were not allowed to pray Friday prays in Grand Masjid at downtown Srinagar. Even the media did not show that the separatists were not allowed to pray their "nimazi Jumma" Friday praying with the people in Mosques. We definitely live in a country which is the largest democratic country in the world but where democracy is and why people are being killed and not allowed to offer religious or even why our media persons are being thrashed by the forces. The need of the hour is that media should play their active role in displaying the issues and events and media should be free and fair. The media should work for people and solve their problems so that even a layman can not suffer. The New Delhi should also support the media house of the country and made such efforts were the media can be fair-able and should work for the betterment of people and for the betterment of the country.

In nutshell, we can say that the media has the power to change its originality like (to make a woman into men and a man into a woman' 'day into night' & 'right into wrong' or devil into virtue and vice versa.)

Message: "We Should Support Media If They Will Show Us Reality Not The Royalty. Media House Should Be Free & Fair Without Any Line Of Demarcation".

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