

Role of Electronic Media in Reporting Crime against Women: A Case Study of Delhi Gang Rape

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Abstract

The Delhi Gang Rape and other crimes committed towards women are reported in media every day. The fatal gang rape of 23 year old women on moving bus in the national capital of India Captured media headline not only in India but across the world due to the horrific manner in Which this crime was committed. The present research paper attempts to understand the role of electronic media in reporting the crimes against women through a case study of Delhi gang rape The data would be collected from two news channels **Aaj Tak**, and **NDTV** News channels, Based on their TRP. The objective is to emphasize that the media needs to be more sensitive towards coverage of crime against women and the general public needs to be more vocal and aware to deal with these cases in a more effective manner.

Key Ward- Women crimes, Electronic Media

Introduction

Rape is an unlawful sexual intercourse with a woman without her consent. It is a cross-cultural crime stemming primarily from patriarchal ideologies and gender power. It is generally used as an instrument of communication about masculinity and powerfulness. The cases of rape and other crimes committed

against women are reported in electronic media every day. A number of researchers have attempted to understand the portrayal of crime against women in electronic media. There are a number of myths related to rape in the electronic media. These include: rape is sex, the assailant is motivated by lust, the assailant is perverted or crazy, the assailant is usually lower class, women provoke rape, women deserve rape, only 'loose' women are victimized, a sexual attack sullies the victim, rape is punishment for past deeds and women cry rape for revenge. The study highlighted the Role of Electronic Media in Reporting Crime against Women especially in Delhi gang rape.

In 2012, a case of rape occurred that made international headlines and stirred an Unprecedented uprising in Indian society. At around 8:30pm on December 16, 2012 a twenty three year old female college student named Jyoti Singh (Nirbhaya) and her friend were waiting for a public bus in South Delhi after attending a viewing of Life of Pi. A bus with tinted windows eventually stopped, whereupon a young boy persuaded the pair to board the bus with the promise of transportation home. At that fateful moment Nirbhaya was violently assaulted and raped by six men; these perpetrators were Ram Singh, the main accused bus driver (age 35); his brother Mukesh Singh (age 29), Vinay Sharma an assistant gym instructor (age 18), Pawan Gupta a fruit seller (age 19) Akshay Thakur unemployed (age 28) and Mohammed Afroz a juvenile at the time of the crime who was called "Raju" for anonymity (age 17). In an attempt to defend Nirbhaya her male companion was severely beaten up by the assailants, as well. Three hours later, a Police Control Room (PCR) van picked up Nirbhaya's naked body and her injured friend lying under a flyover and immediately rushed them to a hospital. While Nirbhaya and her friend were in the hospital three of the accused including the principal suspect Ram Singh were arrested on December 17th. On the 18th a fourth arrest was made.

It took three more days to arrest the juvenile and the final perpetrator, on December 21st.

It became known that the boy who had persuaded Nirbhaya to enter the bus was the one who suggested to the others that they throw her and her friend's naked bodies into the street and run them over. The male friend was given treatment and Nirbhaya underwent emergency surgery after not only getting raped but also having her intestines pulled out of her body. She was put on a ventilator and was labeled as being in critical but stable condition. However, her health drastically worsened, Nirbhaya suffered from internal bleeding and cardiac arrest, thus prompting her transportation to Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore on December 26th. Physicians confirmed further internal bleeding and multiple-organ failure. Finally in the early hours of December 29th, Nirbhaya was pronounced dead as a result of multiple-organ failure would her death. During this the electronic media has covered whole events. This paper highlighted the role of electronic media in reporting Delhi gang rape.

Review of previous research

Under this headline researchers will present reviews of previous research. The researchers are from gender and Media aspects. Researches about media's role are being presented here as well. Beyond media's role there are also. Below you will be informed very briefly about these previous Researches.

Rape and the media

Ammu Joseph has written an article called Rape and the media (2008). Joseph presents several rape incidents that had happened in India. She continues to write about how the media presents and writes about these rape incidents. Joseph says that it is through coverage like this (a rape incident) that the media occasionally redeem themselves and prove that they can, and sometimes do, deal

with a subject like rape with the seriousness and sensitivity it deserves. Media coverage of rape (and many other forms of violence against women) over the past quarter of a century has generally conformed to a predictable pattern: long spells of routine reports regularly, if randomly, culled from police hand-outs, broken by brief periods of intensive and extensive coverage catalysed by one or more cases that happen to grab the imagination of the media and the public. Joseph keeps writing about cases most likely to become causes celebres today are crimes committed in one of the metropolitan cities, especially Delhi with its high density of “national” media, involving a victim (and/or an offender) from the middle or upper classes. And both the media and their “target audiences” are most likely to get agitated when crimes, including rape, affect “people like us”, while crimes against the poor, the powerless and the distant tend to receive media and public attention.

Representation of crime against women in Print media: a case study of Delhi gang rape

This present research paper attempts to understand the representation of crime against women in Print media with special reference to Delhi gang rape case and also how the young Indian women feels about representation of such incidents in media. The data is collected from four newspapers, The times of India, The tribune, Indian express and Hindustan times published from Chandigarh from the first reporting of case till date. The conclusion of this research paper is that media needs to be more sensitive towards coverage of crime against women and general public needs to be more vocal and aware to deal with these cases in more effective manner.

News and views - “The Delhi gang rape”: The making of international causes

This study does not cover Indian news sources, nor does it provide a representative sample of international outlets. The author covers articles, commentaries, and op-eds from the Guardian, the Australian, the New York Times, the Wall street journal, CNN, and the Nation¹⁵. The author compares these six different newspapers by highlighting different aspects in the incident in Delhi December 2012. While the mobilization within India around Pandey's (the victim) assault obviously played a large part in making the event an international cause, the author's exploration of the questions in the article focuses on a selection of visible international mass media reports. The author focuses on on aspect on international media coverage, namely the way many media stories presented Pandey's assault as a putative battle between two Indians: the first, new and modern, and the second, old and backward¹⁶. This juxtaposition illustrates a larger logic: the way violence becomes internationally recognized as a violation of modern, rights-bearing subjects.

In above review of research it is stated that the many researcher shown keen interest in above topic.

Methodology

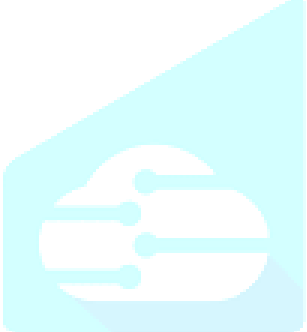
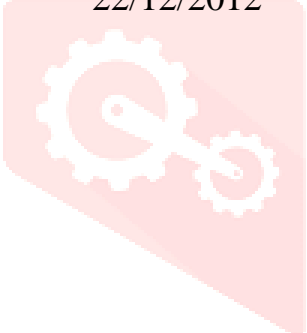
In order to understand Role of Electronic Media in Reporting Crime against Women: A Case Study of Delhi Gang Rape the data was collected from two news channel on basis secondary data Aaj Tak and NDTV, All the news items were seen carefully and analyzed thematically. The coding of the themes and keywords has been done manually. A key aspect of coding is its reliability. There are two forms of coding reliability, both of which are important. The first is intra-coder

reliability. To deal with first kind of reliability, the data was observed again and again over a period of time to gain a deeper insight, and to arrive at the common themes. The second form of reliability is inter-coder reliability. This form of reliability was taken care of by taking help of researchers involved in similar kind of research. The themes which were commonly agreed upon are included in the present study.

Finding

In order to understand Role of Electronic Media in Reporting Crime against Women: A Case Study of Delhi Gang Rape the data was collected from two news channel on basis secondary data Aaj Tak and NDTV. Here data was collected from 17 December 2012 to 31 December 2012 through main headline available on concern channel website which is following-

Date	Aaj Tak	NDTV
18/12/2012	Savagery shames city: Delhi gang rape victim on ventilator, unlikely to survive	Delhi gang-rape: Bus driver refuses identification Para
19/12/2012	Delhi gang rape: Victim's male friend under immense trauma.	Delhi gang-rape: The boy was very brave, fought back hard, top cop tells NDTV

<p>20/12/2012</p>	<p>Delhi gang rape: Experts say raising the sentence may not help but expeditious trial can act as a deterrent</p>	<p>Brave Delhi gang-rape survivor is alert and conscious, say doctors</p>
<p>21/12/2012</p> 	<p>Yuvraj Singh dedicates Man of the Match award to Delhi gang rape victim</p>	<p>Delhi rape: Profound anger on the streets, protests reach Rashtrapati Bhavan</p>
<p>22/12/2012</p> 	<p>Delhi gang rape victim taken off ventilator but still critical</p> <p>Protesters against Delhi gang rape face tear gas, water cannons at Raisina Hill</p>	<p>Delhi gang-rape: Brinda Karat condemns police action on protesters Soli Sorabjee slams police action on gang-rape protesters.</p>

<p>23/12/2012</p>	<p>Delhi gang rape protests: Cops face heat over lathi charge</p>	<p>Delhi gang-rape protests: Prohibitory orders imposed, protesters evacuated</p>
<p>24/12/2012</p>	<p>Delhi gang rape protesters lay siege to Saket court, baying for the blood of the gang rape accused, lathi charged</p>	<p>Delhi gang-rape: Clampdown at India Gate to check clashes Delhi gang-rape: Cop injured in protests at India Gate critical</p>
<p>25/12/2012</p>	<p>Gang rape protests fallout: Delhi Metro stations remain closed for third day in a row</p>	<p>Delhi constable Subhash Tomar cremated with full state honors</p>
<p>26/12/2012</p>	<p>Delhi CM Sheila Dikshit, police commissioner Neeraj Kumar at loggerheads over Delhi gang rape case</p>	<p>'Constable Tomar was running behind crowd when he collapsed'</p>
<p>27/12/2012</p>	<p>Delhi gang rape victim taken to Singapore for further treatment</p>	<p>Amanat' moved to Singapore: Is there now new hope?</p>

28/12/2012	Delhi gang rape victim's painful ordeal continues, extremely critical in Singapore hospital	London protests for India's 'Amanat'
29/12/2012	Delhi gang rape victim dies in Singapore hospital, body to be brought back to India today	Body of 'India's Daughter' brought back to Delhi from Singapore
30/12/2012	Delhi gang rape victim's death unites nation in sorrow and anger	At Jantar Mantar protests, attempts to break police barricades
31/12/2012	She could have been saved, decision to fly her out to Singapore came late, says Delhi gang rape victim's brother	India stands for its brave heart: low key New Year celebrations

Source- Concern News Channel Website

Discussion

In present scenario in India the television networks have been the largest players in Indian news coverage. Social media haven't changed that, but have instead provided new avenues for news-gathering and story distribution. In the months preceding the events, Indian newspapers and television had covered a number of rape cases. But the December Delhi gang rape proved to be different. The brutality of the attack and the scale of the protests brought international attention to India's problem of violence against women. Some journalists we spoke to highlight the role of protest in democratizing India's media. Anchor of Hindi news channel Aaj Tak Mr. Saeed Ansari said that "I believe through this case, media played an important role to pressurize the government to take some measures for protection of women.

The results of this study show that the news of the gang-rape in Delhi on December 16, 2012 spread globally through professional media sources within two days. This transition followed a pattern in which Indian news sources provided the first reports and international reports were delayed by a day. By December 18, 2012 the news of events in Delhi was globally distributed Rape coverage in the media has many effects in society. It often shapes the way in which people think about rape, as well as how they receive rape victims, rapists and those accused of rape. Thus, the media coverage of crime against women especially rape is very important area of interest for media anthropologists. The two aspects of Delhi gang

rape case were covered: optimism and struggle. The optimism, on one hand, and the struggle for survival, on the other hand, appeared to be the most common themes related to the victim's portrayal. There was a wide-spread use of battle metaphors such as 'fight', 'struggle', 'battle', etc. With the repeated use of names such as 'Nirbhaya' (fearless), 'Amanat' (treasure), 'Damini' (lightening) and 'Jagriti' (awareness) for the rape victim and the stress on optimism about future of the girl, Electronic media tried to garner a support for the girl and also provided the audiences with a never before presented way to look at a rape. It is due to wide-spread coverage by the media that Delhi gang rape case received attention both nationally and internationally. It also forced the law making bodies to take the crimes against women especially rape more seriously. Thus, media activation played a very important role in generating a public opinion and a nation-wide protest. It is also important to understand to note why the media chooses a rape story over the other to give a wider coverage. There is a 'dramatic value' in portraying crime stories, and this value is increased when the incidence is of rare nature. Thus, due to the rare nature of the Delhi gang rape case, it has been widely covered in Indian Electronic media. Repeatedly in the portrayal, metropolitan cities especially Delhi have been described as unsafe for women. It has been mentioned that there is insecurity among the women about their safety. The primary data suggests that media portrayal of rapes is often sensational and lacks the sensitive approach. The reasons for sensational coverage include desire for popularity, lack of sensitive training to deal with such issues and lack of concern for one who is raped. Contrary to optimism that appeared in Electronic media coverage, the struggle appeared to be a common theme in the narratives of respondents. The use of battle metaphors such as 'struggle' and 'fight against rape' and the term such as 'victim' repeatedly appeared in the narratives of the respondents. It can be

concluded that media needs to be more sensitive towards coverage of crime against women and general public needs to be more vocal and aware to deal with these cases in more effective manner.

The results also indicated three peaks in the dispersion of media reports during major events in the timeline, before a final plateau of reports is established. The first correlates to a large number of reports published regarding the occurrence of the event on December 16th, 2012. The second peak of media reports occurred in response to the formation of protests over the incident from December 22nd, 2012 to December 25th, 2012. The last peak from December 28th, 2012 to December 31st corresponds to the deterioration of the victim's physical well-being and eventual death on December 29th, 2012. Overall, the number of reports increased steadily during the period of December 17th to December 31th, while beginning to decline near the end. The plateau forms as information of the perpetrator's custody begins to overtake the media's attention. The media shifts from emphasis on the protests and begins to focus on the trials of the accused men. The relatively short delay in initial reports of the event to the emergence of protests suggests the efficiency in which the spread of information by media is capable of creating social movements.

Conclusion

The gang-rape in Delhi on December 16, 2012 provides a model for the spread of information across the globe through the media. The timeline of this spread shows that in a short period of time, information is able to reach across the globe through major media sources. This spread is a key contributor to the development of social movements pertaining to violence against women, .The details of the event that are found within these articles are variable, resulting in many different variations of the story. These findings suggest that although online media facilitates a rapid spread of information, there are real risks of inaccurate

initial reporting that are often perpetuated by subsequent reports. Ultimately, the rapid spread of information by the media may be variable, yet it acts as a powerful tool in the formation of social movements around acts of violence against women such as this case.

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