



UKAAS – THE REFLECTOR

SPRING-SUMMER/FEBRUARY-JULY 2021

EDITORIAL

VAW AND MEDIA TRIALS: WHERE AND WHEN WILL IT STOP?

On 21 July 2021, a young woman, Noor Mukadam was tortured, murdered and beheaded by her friend in his house. This horrific incident brought flashbacks of something as shocking and horrendous that happened in 1998 when Nina Aziz was murdered in her house where she lived independently. Her headless body was found in the closet of her basement. The head wrapped in a carpet was thrown in the green belt of F-8/3 and was found by the police after almost a week of the murder. Both the cases occurred in Islamabad. In both the cases, one could see the same pattern - acts of violence against women - savage, inhuman, painful and barbaric. What also continues unabated is the sensational, insensitive and unethical reporting of these incidents. The same victim blaming and shaming -judgmental and hurtful – continues.

From 1998 till today, Uks and I have been trying to train, sensitize and humanize the Pakistani media. From the days of pulpy newspapers that we also called the rag press to today's hundreds of 24/7 news channels that are equally pulpy, our struggle continues. These two acts of violence against women that I have quoted above are only two very similar incidents: otherwise, the media regularly reports violence against women that happens all over the country. Out of these hundreds and thousands of cases some become very high profile - Zainab Noor, Mukhtaran Mai, Qandeel Baloch and Kainat Soomro, to name a few. And that's when one analyses the media reportage through a gender lens only to discover that there are so many grey areas that need to be removed.

At Uks, we can back these claims using our trove of data collected over two decades of monitoring media content in radio, print and broadcast. No doubt that it is the media that takes up a case and turns it into a high profile one, demanding justice for the victims, but then, there are so many insensitivities even in the supposedly saner media, that the good intentions get marred by the bad and at times very ugly media reporting on VAW.

In over two decades of monitoring media content, we can see a consistent trend and pattern of how women are depicted as evil incarnate. Nina Aziz was portrayed as an "immoral" woman, her character was tarnished beyond ethical and moral boundaries, Mukhtaran Mai was and continues to be a woman who many believed was never gang raped, the reporting on Qandeel Baloch's murder was as sensational and 'spicy' as it could get, and then we have the latest cases of Noor Mukadam and the woman Tik Toker who was harassed by a mob at Minar-e-Pakistan, where both the women have been declared by the media as being 'impure', that they deserved the treatment meted out to them as they had 'asked' for it. The media rather than try to expose and generate awareness against what ails our society, becomes a tool to push women back to their 'char dewaris' - the boundaries set by their families for women to be 'safe', being in perpetual denial that domestic violence – including incest - happens within these four walls.

The media – not all, but most - was and continues to be following a regressive pattern. By sharing personal materials of the victims and survivors, the media commits an act of VAW for it demeans the dignity of these women. This is one major reason that despite the media's exposure of violence, women and their families are still unwilling or afraid to come forward and speak about their ordeals. Many a times, the media coverage of rape or other acts of violence is like a second assault for the survivor or the victim's family. It is like going through the trauma all over again, because of their insensitivity in using pictures, publishing names, and other violations of privacy.

What regressed most is the use of foul language and disturbing visuals that accompany reports about rape and violence against women. Social media, especially the world of Twitter, beats every other media now. The comments, posts and images about any incident of VAW are a reflection of which direction the society, especially our youth is moving. Engineered to exploit the situation, they also do something else, and that is to put the burden of shame and stigma on the woman who is raped or tortured, harassed and victimized instead of the man or men who perpetrate the crime. Publication, posting and sharing of obscene materials is an act of VAW for it demeans women's right to live, their privacy and their dignity. The incidents being reported include sexual and domestic violence. Though rare, but there is also reporting on violence in intimate relationships, which include physical violence. But the inter-linking of the VAW with psychological-emotional, verbal, economic and sexual violence is very rare. Rape is reported as an incident, not as a social ailment that's crippling our society and creating insecurity among women (and children). There aren't any reports on marital rape, as if it doesn't exist.

This brings us to the main issue: will there ever be a changed approach in the media content on VAW where there's a marked shift from women being responsible for the act, to how and why there must be debate on the social and subjective responsibilities of men? There must also be a shift from 'protecting' our women to making them strong enough to take care of themselves. The focus of the media on women rather than on the perpetrators of violence dilutes the responsibility that should be on men. The tendency to generalize, the defending or denying violence is what our media needs to move away from. VAW should be made an intersectional issue rather than just an incident. The media needs to look at violence in cultural, socio-economic contexts, as well as the deeply embedded patriarchy in our society and mindsets.

Gender-based violence or VAW needs special treatment and hence the need for more trained, gender-sensitized media as there are various issues attached to the incidents, from political, social, cultural, economic to tribal and feudal mindsets. The media reportage on VAW must begin with analyzing power relations as well as those patterns of inequality that lead to such incidents.

Will the media ever stop its biased and often one-sided story (or rather a woman's trial), and when and how will it be done, only our media can tell.

TASNEEM AHMAR
DIRECTOR

Men -

If you look at leaked nudes or videos of women - you're part of the problem.

If you say "bachhi check karo" and comment on random women - you're part of the problem.

If you call a woman you don't like a bitch - you're part of the problem.

If the whatsapp groups you're a part of share videos and photos that objectify women - you're part of the problem.

If you don't do this, but stay silent when it happens around you - you're part of the problem.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT UKS?

GLOBAL MEDIA MONITORING REPORT BY UKS LAUNCHED

Uks Research Centre organized the online launch of the country report for the sixth Global Media Monitoring Project (GMMP) on July 31, 2021. Beginning in 1995 with 71 countries, the GMMP is the world's longest-running and most extensive research on gender in the news media. The research was designed to capture a snapshot of gender, basically women's presence, on one ordinary news day in the world news media.

Global Media Monitoring Report by Uks Launched

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https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=02_08_2021_114_003

Global media monitoring report by Uks launched

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Uks Research Centre organised the online launch of the country report for the sixth Global Media Monitoring Project (GMMP) on Saturday.

Beginning in 1995 with 71 countries, the GMMP is the world's longest-running and most extensive research on gender in the news media. The research was designed to capture a snapshot of gender, basically women's presence, on one ordinary news day in the world news media.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Uks Research Centre director said that although she was impressed by the work put into the first report, she was not pleased to find that a report from Pakistan was not there.

The GMMP comes out every five years and this is the third time that Pakistan

has been a part of the report in coordination with Uks, she noted.

Shaista Yasmeen, the manager projects at Uks, said this country snapshot was based on the monitoring of nine newspapers, 11 news channels, the state-owned Radio Pakistan, four news-based websites and four Twitter handles.

"The GMMP methodology provides tools and guidelines on which media to monitor and how; and the Uks team is familiar with the methodology, which we also taught to university students through a mock session prior to the actual monitoring activity. The tools remained almost the same as of the GMMP 2015, despite a few changes e.g. a separate question on Covid-19 in the coding sheets," she explained.

Shujaat Ali, the program officer at Uks, said the GMMP monitoring day for the sixth report happened to be Sept 29, 2020. That day the chief of one of the two main opposition parties Shahbaz Sharif

was arrested by the National Accountability Bureau in a money laundering case. So the news topic that gained the most coverage across the media on the monitoring day was politics and the government.

"More than 47 per cent of the total stories were related to politics that day. Fifty-one per cent of television stories were related to this topic, and on radio it was 58 per cent. Print, in comparison, provided 40 per cent coverage to this topic. Internet and Twitter also had high margins of coverage of this topic i.e 38 and 47 per cent, respectively. That day only 14 news stories out of a total of 382 were related to women politicians, which makes hardly 3.66 per cent of the total," he said.

"The second highest coverage was on crime and violence with more than 14 per cent of monitored news items. Television provided 40 per cent coverage on this topic. Science and law got the third high-

est coverage, with almost 13 per cent, followed by the economy with media coverage of more than 11 per cent of the entire monitored content," he said.

Sharing further findings he said that the overall presence of women as news subjects was 18.3 per cent. The figure decreased by half in comparison to GMMP 2015, which stood at 36 per cent. But then things could have been very different had this been a different day like March 8.

This year, the ratio was 17.5 per cent in print, radio and television, while on the Internet and Twitter, this proportion was slightly higher at 21.7 per cent. Radio remained the lowest in terms of women news subjects' presence with seven per cent, which was portrayed in only a single news item. Twitter, on the other hand, represented women as news subjects with maximum coverage of 68 per cent. Print remained second at 22 per cent, followed by television, at 21 per cent.

A breakdown of women news subjects by function showed 89 per cent women in news stories were spokespersons for the government, any politician, minister etc., while men were 63 per cent. In contrast, 64 per cent of men were monitored as experts or commentators on news regarding the government and politics with women at only 33 per cent. No women subjects were monitored as eyewitnesses or provided any personal experience.

The overall presence of women news subjects identified by their family status was 40 per cent as compared to only eight per cent men in stories monitored across all the media.

Ali Nisar Awan, Dr Salman Asif, senior journalist Afia Salam, the report's co-author Ahmed Yusuf and rights activist Khawar Mumtaz also shared their views and recommended coverage of more subjects and areas in the monitoring report.

DAWN, MONDAY AUGUST 02, 2021

UKS HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE ON MEDIA REPORTAGE ON CASES OF VAW, JULY 28, 2021



You are invited to a press conference by
Uks Research Centre
on
Violence against Women:
Justice demands objectivity but media gives us sad music and asks insensitive questions. So, where's the news?

PANELISTS:
B Gul *Writer, Director*
Kamal Siddiqui *Director CEJ*
Tasneem Ahmar *Director Uks*


Uks - A Research, Training & Publication Centre

Wednesday, July 28
4 pm
Karachi Press Club

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT UKS?

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2318762/questions-on-reporting-violence>



Anthak: Celebrating Everyday Pakistani Women Heroes



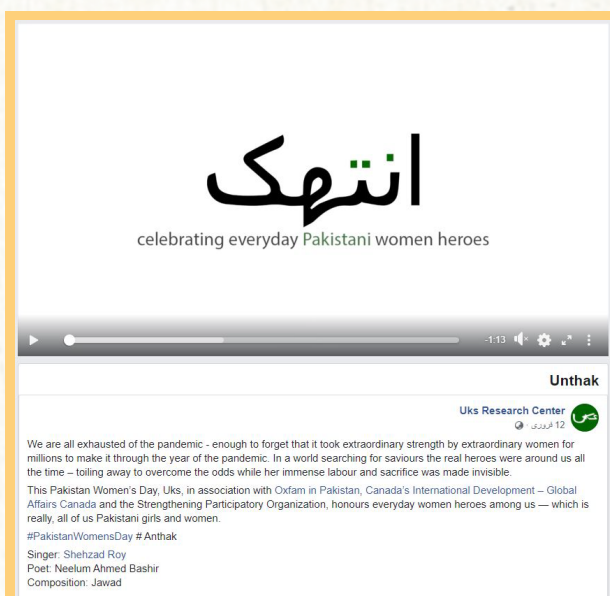
Launched on National Women's Day, February 12, 2021

We are all exhausted of the pandemic - enough to forget that it took extraordinary strength by extraordinary women for millions to make it through the year of the pandemic. In a world searching for saviours, the real heroes were around us all the time – toiling away to overcome the odds while her immense labour and sacrifice was made invisible.

On Pakistan Women's Day, Uks, in association with Oxfam in Pakistan, Canada's International Development – Global Affairs Canada and the Strengthening Participatory Organization, honored everyday women heroes among us — which is really, all of us Pakistani girls and women. The song, written by Neelum Ahmed Bashir, was sung by Shehzad Roy. Conceived by Tasneem Ahmar and Ahmed Yousaf, 'Anthak' paid tribute to the tireless women and girls who continued to make us proud through the pandemic days and beyond.

You can watch the video on Twitter and Facebook:

- <https://twitter.com/centeruks/status/1360193736702050306?s=21>
- <https://www.facebook.com/118974358174065/videos/797689757497112>



Global Media Monitoring Report by Uks Launched

Global Media Monitoring Project (GMMP)

The Global Media Monitoring Project (GMMP) is the world's longest-running and most extensive research on gender in the news media. The year 2020 marked the 6th edition of the GMMP, held every five years since 1995. In Pakistan the GMMP is powered by the Uks Research Centre, a media monitoring and advocacy collective. The 6th GMMP was launched by Uks on July 31 via Zoom in an informal setting with participants representing the media, academia and human and women rights activists. The event was also shared live on Twitter and Facebook.

Uks has been monitoring media content for well over two decades now. At Uks, we have continually been asking: How are ordinary Pakistani women reported on an ordinary news day in Pakistan? What does media reportage tell us about the state of gender in a country? And how many women are involved in telling stories and weaving narratives?

These and other such questions are pursued by the Global Media Monitoring Project (GMMP), a coordinated global event when media monitors from around the world take a snapshot of news on a particular day — as it happened, as it was reported and the public discourse around news items of the times. This allows us to not only record numbers in terms of gender-sensitive news but also, how stories are being presented and whether any improvement has taken place in qualitative terms. A combination of quantitative and qualitative analyses, driven by the data collected, is how the GMMP analyses the state of gender and gender reporting in their participating countries.

According to Tasneem Ahmar, the director of Uks, "This sixth edition of the GMMP is the most successful since 1995. We expanded the network's presence into more countries and monitored more media and stories than ever. We did this during a devastating global pandemic that impacted us in many ways, at personal and team levels."

The Global Media Monitoring Project (GMMP) is the largest research and advocacy initiative in the world on gender equality in news and journalism. The sixth GMMP report includes data from 116 country teams and covers 30,172 stories published in newspapers, broadcast on radio and television, and disseminated on news websites and via news media tweets. It presents a gender analysis on what, if any, has changed in the presence, representation and voice of the subjects and sources in the news since the first GMMP was conducted in 1995. The report includes data and analysis on gender representation in COVID-related news stories, and for the first time, the roles of indigenous peoples, people with disabilities, racialized groups, and the elderly in the news. The GMMP is coordinated by the World Association for Christian Communication (WACC), a global NGO that promotes communication rights for social justice. The GMMP is a collaborative effort of various women's rights organizations, grassroots groups, media associations, faith-based/interfaith organizations, university students and researchers around the world. UN Women, the lead United Nations entity on gender equality, has supported GMMP thrice consecutively since 2010.

<https://uksresearch.com.pk/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Pakistan-Report.-GMMP2020.pdf>

Press coverage of the launch can be viewed on the links below:

The News:

Home > Today's Paper > Karachi

'Role of media as watchdog in society has changed'

Our Correspondent

July 29, 2021



KARACHI



”Ahmar: Moral policing is not a journalist's job. We need objectivity in our reporting

Uks Research Centre Director Tasneem Ahmar on reporting on gender-based violence

‘So, where is the news?’

Panellists call for objectivity, gender sensitivity in reporting; object to moral policing, sensationalism

● SAMEER MANDHRO
KARACHI

Speakers at a press conference titled, 'Violence against Women: Justice demands objectivity but media gives sad music and asks insensitive questions. So, where is the news?' stressed on the need for sensitivity training for media professionals. Addressing their audience at the Karachi Press Club, they observed that the media often does not play a positive, responsible or objective role when reporting on violence against women and children. Instead, it frequently resorts to sensationalism, even in very serious cases, for ratings.

Citing the recent example of Noor Mukadam's brutal murder Panellist Tasneem Ahmar, Uks Research Centre remarked that responsible reporting is often absent in such cases, both on the media and on social media.

"It seems that [reporters] are in a hurry. We see biased and gender-based reports in the media."

Character assassination of Noor began on social media soon after the news broke, she said. But no one has the right to kill any person for any

reason and "we need to bring objectivity in reporting," she noted.

The Uks Research Centre has been engaged with the media on how to report on cases of violence against women and on other stories, which require gender sensitivity, for the past decade, she mentioned.

Similarly, writer and director B Gul observed that Noor's murder was being linked with slogans shouted at the Aurat March. "Both genders - women and men - have to live together."

”Biased reporting will not help stop the killing of women in our society. Perspectives in the current media landscape need to shift

Writer and director B Gul

It is not the right approach to suppress one of them. It will certainly provoke anger among women," she said. "This kind of reporting will not help stop killings of women in our society." Perspectives in the current media landscape need to shift, remarked Gul.

Concurring with her, Centre for Excellence in Journalism Director and senior journalist Kamal Siddiqi noted that a certain laziness can be

witnessed in reporting now. Stories are filed through phone conversations and WhatsApp groups, he said.

As the conversation went on, he noted that the choice of words and images used when telling a story - whether on television or in print - matter. And yet, such cases of violence against women are often not given the importance they deserve, he said, adding that several cases go unreported.

In response to a question, Siddiqi said that social media is not a substitute for good journalism. But people turn to it because of poor reporting in mainstream media, he added.

With regards to biases skewing news reports, Ahmar noted, "Moral policing is not the job of a journalist. Our work is to report what we see in the field."

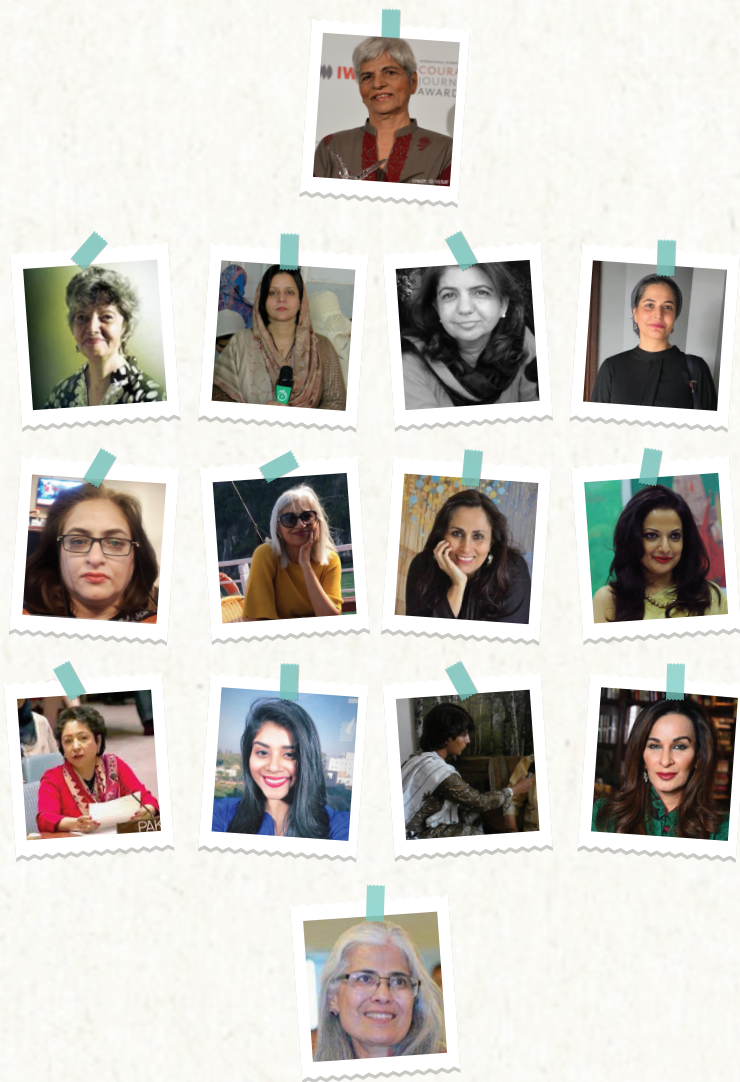
Journalists are observers, agreed Siddiqi. Let the desk decide on the story, a reporter's job is to report the happening of an event, he said.

Responding to another question, he said that only five to seven per cent of journalists in Pakistan are women. Journalists who can easily interact with and report on women's issues are few.

The speakers stressed on the need for training for media professionals when reporting on violence against women and children. Not just reporters but editors and owners of media organisations also need such training, they concluded.

Series on Women Journalists:

Uks developed a series of short videos celebrating Pakistani women journalists who've not just made a name for themselves in a male-dominated sector, but who also exemplify the kind of sensitive, thought-provoking and barrier breaking journalism that is needed to bring about a lasting change. The series featured women trailblazers like Maleeha Lodhi, Zubeida Mustafa, Ayesha Azfar, Sophia Saifi, Reema Abbasi, Fauzia Minallah, Zofeen Ebrahim, Shazia Hasan, Nabeela Aslam, Lubna Jerar Naqvi, Afia Salam, Mehmal Sarfraz, Huma Khawar, Farzana Ali, Sherry Rehman, and Zohra Yusaf. The videos can be viewed on Uks's Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/uksresearch/?ref=page_internal and the Twitter page at <https://twitter.com/CenterUks>.



WACC PROJECT: STRENGTHENING AND AMPLIFYING THE VOICES OF WOMEN IN AND THROUGH THE MEDIA

Global Media Monitoring Project (GMMP)

Motorway Gang Rape Case Study:

To research how the Lahore Motorway Gang Rape case was reported, Uks conducted a two week monitoring exercise where media was monitored between September 15 – 22 and October 10 – 17, 2020. Uks media monitors developed four indicators to gauge whether or not media while reporting motorway gang rape case considered the following indicators:

Trauma mentioned: Only a line or two in whole news story, article and editorial regarding the psychological aftershocks and trauma of the incident on survivors (especially children).

Trauma Discussed: Where there is a wholesome discussion on psychological and mental impact on survivors (especially children).

Missed Opportunities: Where the media missed the opportunity to positively report the incident and do the needed follow-ups.

Recurring Depiction of Crime Scene: Continuous usage of insensitive terminologies, and incessant flashing of the crime scene, especially mentioning children's presence at the crime scene.

Media Channels:

- Geo News: 9 pm bulletin headlines
- Aabtaak News: 9 pm bulletin headlines
- Daily Pakistan: News stories, Editorial & Columns LTE
- Daily Khabrain: News stories, Editorial & Columns/LTE
- Daily Dawn: News stories, Editorial & Columns/LTE

Findings:

Missed Opportunities (64%)

Total monitored content was 176 items, including news stories, editorials, columns, letters to the editors and bulletin headlines. In our opinion, there were 113 missed opportunities in the monitored reportage of two weeks where the media either did not publish/telecast the news or did not discuss it sensitively. This makes it an overwhelming 64% of the total content.

Total Published News Items (36%)

Out of a total of 176 content items monitored, 138 news items published/telecast were on the incident. There was a maximum of 17 news stories in a day related to the case. There were only 2 editorials in a day regarding the case. Similarly, there were a maximum of 5 columns or Letters to the Editors in a day.

Trauma Mentioned (8.7%)

There were only 12 news items in which psychological and mental dilemmas of survivor and the survivor's family and loved ones was mentioned. That is 8.7% of the total monitored reporting of 138 news items.

Trauma Discussed (0.72%)

Only one Letter to the Editor focused on the mental health and trauma faced by the survivor/children. Making it 1.72 % of the total monitored reporting.

<https://uksresearch.com.pk/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Pakistan-Report.-GMMP2020.pdf>

Helping rape victims

From the Newspaper | Published September 17, 2020



PAKISTANIS find it uncomfortable to deal with sensitive issues like rape and sexual assault. This is also even more difficult for the victims and their families. The recent incident on the M-11 motorway is all the more shocking since her children were present when the sordid incident occurred.

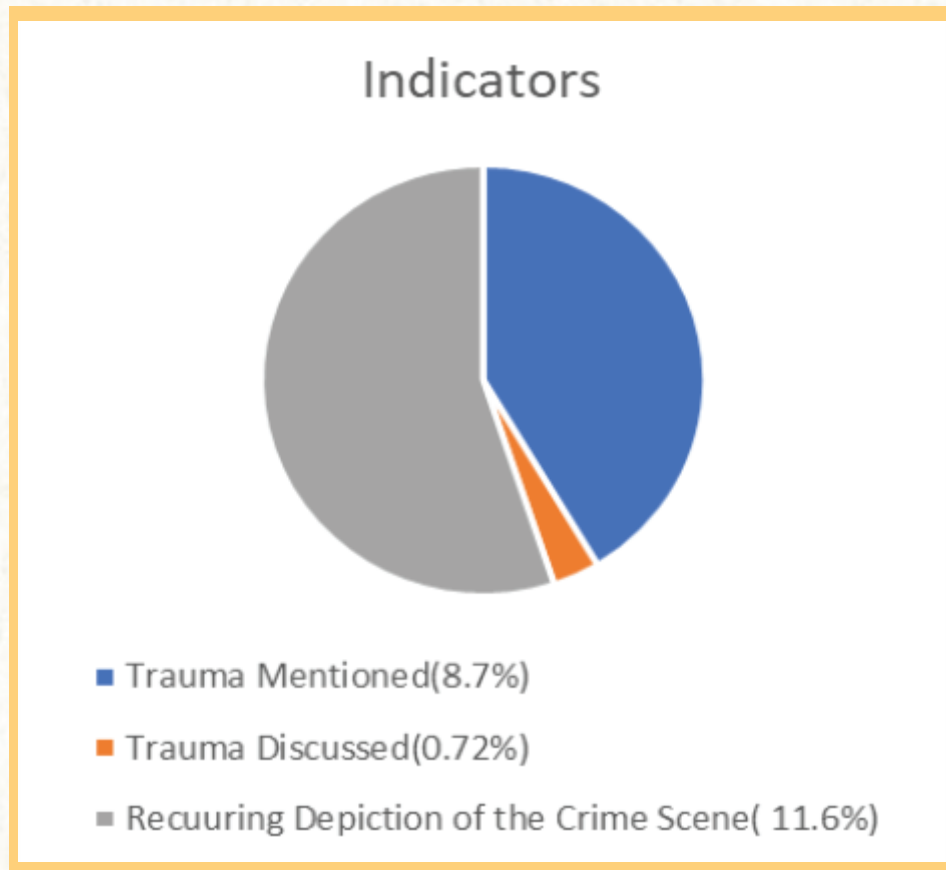
The victims of such traumatising incidents who survive are forever tied down with never-ending dark memories. If left unaddressed the victims inflict physical harm on themselves.

This can be more disastrous in cases that happen in Pakistan where it is a norm that the victim is questioned like a transgressor while the perpetrators are treated with kid-gloves if they happen to be well-connected.

The victims spend years in trying to come to grips with the ordeal that they have been through. They worry about the public behaviour towards them and fear the reaction the people have towards them. This is the reason many victims prefer to remain silent, thinking their families' honour is at stake.

Recurring Depiction of Crime Scene (11.6%)

16 news items out of 138 depicted and elaborated upon the crime scene, mentioning the presence of children there. This makes 11.6% of the total reports repeatedly depicting the crime scene.



Women's Conferences:

Lahore Motorway Gang Rape Case: Reporting with Empathy & Preventing Retraumatization

A seminar was held on Zoom to discuss 'Reporting with Empathy & Preventing Retraumatization' in wake of the Lahore Motorway gang rape case. The panel discussion explored how media should report such cases keeping in mind the children who were witnesses to the gang-rape of their mother and other such cases where children are involved. Another crucial aspect discussed was how to report such cases without retraumatizing the survivor and reporting to empower rather than reopening her wounds. The panelists included renowned activists, psychologists, journalists, reporters and experts.


WOMEN'S CONFERENCE


**LAHORE MOTORWAY GANG-RAPE CASE:
REPORTING WITH EMPATHY & PREVENTING RETRAUMATISATION**

Amidst the national outrage, we forgot the children who were subjected to watching their mother being raped. How to report keeping children in mind is a key concern but equally crucial is how to report the case without retraumatizing the survivor and reporting to empower her rather than to reopen her wounds

PANELISTS

1. Aisha Badar	8. Alta Sofian
2. Zahra Kamal	9. Waqar Zahra
3. Tughrul Sahar	10. Khawar Sahangir
4. Tahira Akbarullah	11. Lubna Javeri Naqvi
5. Fatima Hossain	12. Farhat Kari
6. Adreela Akmal	13. Shabana Yousaf
7. Shazia Hussain	14. Tameem Akmal

 **WACC**
communication for all

 **zoom** **JUNE 21, 2021**
1PM - 2PM

Attire, Desire and Rape:

Another conference was held to discuss the reasons behind rape and how the concept of women's attire and behavior affects rape. In the wake of the controversial statements made by the Prime Minister of Pakistan on this issue, the discussion questioned whether a woman's dress code is the real reason/motive behind her rape. The online conference had several women journalists, writers and academics of the country share their views on the issue of women's dress code and whether it is the real reason or motive for rape.

Senior journalist Nasim Zehra said that blaming the dress code for something as heinous as rape weakens the victim. "It puts the blame on the victim, and empowers the perpetrator," she said. "Suddenly, the focus moves from the perpetrator to the victim, her character and how she conducts herself and how she deserves what happens to her. And it is all linked to what she wears, making pardah a safety mechanism. It makes rape kosher. It diverts blame from the crime," she believed.

Mehmal Sarfraz said that the hosts of several news channels picked up on what had been said about this by the prime minister to remind people that rape was not about lust or what one wore, but power. "What was said was not that different from what the CCPO Lahore had said after the Motorway rape."

Prof Dr Sadia Mahmood, who teaches at the University of Karachi, spoke from her students' perspective. "There are more than 70 per cent female students in my university and many of them wear the hijab. One day, I saw one of my students and didn't even recognise her without her hijab. She said that she only dons the hijab while using public transport and that day she had been dropped to the university by her father," the professor said. "So there is insecurity among girls and they feel secure by wearing the abaya or hijab."

Writer and novelist Bina Shah said that she was disturbed by the prime minister's statement and was on social media for days to counter his narrative. "I was on social media as the mainstream media fell short on defending women. Our media has many women and if they don't challenge this misogynist thinking then who else will? The media can analyse the prime minister's statement. Someone should be pushing for an interview where they can sit up and clarify what he was really trying to say for once. These can be teachable moments for a big part of our population," she said.

Adeela Akmal, a young journalist, pointed out that the media is a reflection of society but the news media is a separate entity. "We like to put the blame on women even though our media is putting an effort to do otherwise, not everyone reads the newspapers or watches the news. They watch content where these wrong narratives are aired such as television plays and serials," she said.

Senior journalist Afia Salam shared a personal incident. "Just three days ago, I saw an old man pass by, who then turned and ordered me to cover my head. Here, I have to say that our prime minister cannot understand complex narratives. He fell off the track when talking about child rape and harassment and started talking about women and what they wear or how they carry themselves in public. There is a need to throw the statistics back in his face. Parliament and the parliamentary committees should also challenge him about this."

Farieha Aziz, another young media person, said that she found the prime minister's statement "a combination of ignorance and arrogance. Even the courts say that the perpetrator is the one you are to focus on. It even recognises that sex workers are also raped. And here we have our country's premier pointing a finger at women and their dress codes," she said.

Young journalist Munizae Jahangir, also spoke about the misogynist mentality and the prime minister. "There was an article, which he wrote in the 1990s, that my mother [late Asma Jahangir] responded to. His views were clear from that article. So what he said now is no surprise for me," she said. "How did our newsrooms react to his statement? Well, men were uncomfortable with the conversation. We needed to follow that news. We couldn't. Why weren't the women standing outside the national assembly? Our women have not had the response that they should have. Even a story of rape in newsrooms is considered a side story or something that can only be tackled by female journalists. But it is not just a women issue as statistics tell us that boys are also raped."

Journalist Lubna Jerar said that female journalists, especially female news anchors and show hosts who have been there since Ziaul Haq's time, should speak up and motivate and empower others.

Earlier, the director of Uks Research Centre explained that rape and dress code are two different things. "It doesn't matter if women are dressed in a particular way, or not dressed in a particular way. We will have to be very vocal about this in order to deal with the misogynist mindset," she said. "Let's talk about that mindset and how women and girls live under the burden of self-defence because of it. We need to change that mindset because women in hijab are also raped, children are raped, males are raped, transgenders are raped, even dead bodies are dug out."

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1619046/women-journalists-criticise-pm-for-linking-rape-with-dress-code>



Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/118974358174065/posts/5412596178811830/>

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Just Neutral, Biased or Blind? Pakistani Media in the Time of COVID-19: A Gendered Focus

Uks brought out a report <https://uksresearch.com.pk/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Pakistani-media-in-the-time-of-Covid-19.pdf> based on extensive media monitoring and content analysis of selected Pakistani mainstream news media on their coverage of COVID-19 through an intersectional gender lens. The report was launched at an International zoom seminar. A product of a nine-month-long research endeavor, the report has been powered by the Centre for Women's Global Leadership at the Rutgers University and the Journalism Initiative on Gender-Based Violence.

The report looks at how gender-centric concerns were made invisible from Pakistani national discourse during the pandemic in both the print and the electronic media. This erasure has not only had more immediate consequences – the incidence of sexual violence being under-reported or unreported, for example – but it also has larger ramifications for the place of women in nationalist imagination in Pakistan.

With the report serving as the premise of the conversation, a roundtable discussion was held among panelists from all around the world talking about their respective experiences in their countries. The allotted 10 minutes aimed to capture what happened or was happening in their setting, were women similarly made invisible, were women collateral in other nationalistic pursuits, what was the role ascribed to women in the national media, what kinds of stories emerged that took them by surprise, what did pandemic coverage in the media say about national imagination about women? Apart from these suggested topics, panelists were also invited to lead the discussion wherever they wanted in their allotted time.

More information on the Roundtable can be viewed at the following links:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/uksresearch/videos/479544349858686/>

Dawn Images:

The COVID pandemic is a gendered crisis but the media is ignoring that

<https://images.dawn.com/news/1187061/the-covid-pandemic-is-a-gendered-crisis-but-the-media-is-ignoring-that>



The News:

<https://www.the-news.com.pk/print/824401-newsrooms-losing-strong-voices-on-women-due-to-media-crisis>

Home > Today's Paper > Karachi

'Newsrooms losing strong voices on women due to media crisis'

April 23, 2021



Courtesy of the so-called media crisis, Pakistani newsrooms have been losing strong voices on women, and the vacuum created by it has been filled by the management with lower journalistic standards, said the gender adviser for UN Women in Pakistan, Muhammad Younas Khalid, on Wednesday.



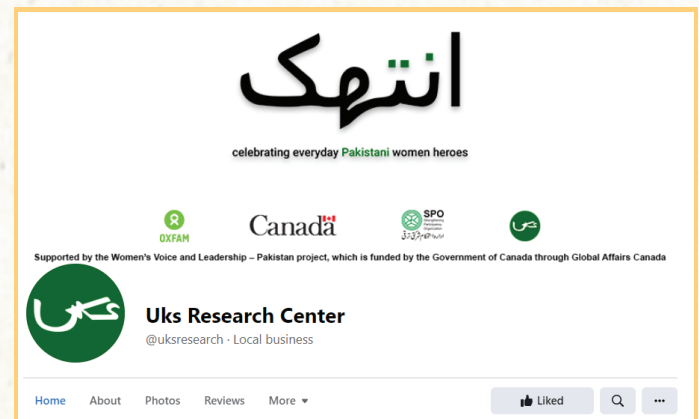
CWGL's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/CenterforWomensGlobalLeadership/>



Uks' Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/uksresearch/>



MEDIAMATTERS for WOMEN

THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE UGLY

Uks is constantly monitoring the media and analyzing the content for gender balance, bias and blindness and this section attempts to assign three different rankings which reflect the good, the bad and the ugly side of the media. This time, Uks is looking at the coverage of a case that shook the country, the murder of Noor Mukadam. While the case revealed chilling details, the coverage it generated in the media and social media was nothing less. Uks constantly monitored the coverage and is presenting the following in three categories:

The Good

It seemed that every talk show and news report in Pakistan covered the case. While some of that coverage was extremely insensitive and sensational, there were good examples also. Geo's Aaj Shahzeb Khanzada k Sath (<https://youtu.be/6H1dA0oPjq8>) and Dawn's Zara Hat Kay (<https://youtu.be/B59yH1NOQI0>) are being presented here as two of the good ones. Both discuss the case but in a sane, non-judgmental and objective way. Shahzeb Khanzada backs up his report with irrefutable evidence and focuses on investigating the facts rather than sensationalizing the murder. He also raises the very important aspect of mental health support and counseling, which took a real hit in Noor Mukadam's case with news coming out about the involvement of a popular therapy center where the accused was a certified counselor. Zarar Khuro and Wasatullah Khan in Zara Hat Kay focus on the way the case was covered in the media. Director Uks, Tasneem Ahmar, was a guest on the show and together the three panelists discuss the good and bad coverage on this and past cases and talk about the importance of continuous training for the media.

The following editorials also make the cut in responsible, objective coverage.

Noor murder case (<https://www.dawn.com/news/1636806>)

Mental healthcare (<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/868445-mental-healthcare>)

and Our femicide problem (<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2312127/our-femicide-problem>) all cover the case but also look at it with a wider lens associating it with various issues in our society, such as gender bias, mental health and femicide.



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