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*Department of Anthropology
University of Lucknow, Lucknow, India*



Empowerment to Exploitation: Women and Vernacular Press in Uttar Pradesh

Mohammad Arafat Hasan Rizvi¹

ABSTRACT

There is staggering evidence of discrimination against women while reporting their issues in the news media. Considering the case of Uttar Pradesh, the cases of crimes and violence against women have consistently remained on top of India's state wise statistics. It is imperative to understand the contrast between cases occurred, cases reported and cases printed because it is a popular belief that crime and violence against women often goes unreported. Seeing through other aspects of issues related to women, it has been noticed that women do not get the media attention they deserve in these times of gender equality and gender justice. The daunting need to explore what is the reality behind these media dynamics has become the rationale of this research study. The study makes content analysis of two major vernacular dailies in Uttar Pradesh and has compared the occurrence of events related to women and their media reporting across these newspapers. It has been an intriguing subject of research to have investigated this perspective of media and how it functions, so as to understand how much attention is given to issues related to women. Though previous studies have shown a great contrast, there is a growing need of more such researches which could establish the role of women in society and its proper acknowledgement by the media. This research study has been based in Aligarh, an Indian city in the state of Uttar Pradesh. The study has made use of one each Hindi and Urdu newspapers, namely Dainik Jagran and Inquilab and compared them on counts of occurrence and publishing of news related to women in a chronological fashion. The results have shown interesting findings and seemingly represent the dichotomy of empowerment and exploitation of women and role of media in the same.

Keywords: Vernacular, Uttar Pradesh, Women, Press, Media

Prologue

Women have been playing an axial role in the history of civilizations, from the dancing girl of Mohenjo-Daro to the winners of beauty pageants and from the citadels of political might to the champions of household chores. The roles women have played all along the history of mankind are certainly the irreplaceable ones and most certainly nothing could suffice it. Society has been scantily grateful towards the contributions of women and there has been a great silence that has been accompanying this gratefulness. That is exactly where the need for feminism stemmed from, gender equality was the natural right of women and still they have to put a lot of efforts to claim equality. Women across the world have been subjected to discrimination and exploitation time and again. Consequently, the reverberating resentment budded into resistance and the waves of feminism took the world under the stride,

¹ Research Scholar, Advanced Centre for Women's Studies, Aligarh Muslim University, India.

Email: arafat.hasanrizvi@gmail.com

ultimately the void that has been sitting since long began to fill. The story has grown several folds in the contemporary times, amidst increasing violence against women, it is society's moment of introspection to ponder about what has it given back to women for all that women have given to the society.

Since the beginning of human history, issues related to women have been seen as no issues at all, the rise of first wave of feminism seemingly changed the genderscape. Women have been made conscious of rights and they have begun claiming them, the only sad part is that they had to ask for it, society could not guarantee them their natural rights. Media has been playing an important role in forming opinions about issues related to women but with all necessary considerations. If one looks around, the scarcity of media taking up women issues with equal importance as issues of men would be easily visible. Irony is that women often do not have any dedicated and exclusive media which could voice their issues and concerns, for issues related to women it is often men who decide what is to be brought to the fore and what not.

It is believed that, if communicated properly all issues could be attended in a remedial manner. Upon successful communication, multiple solutions emerge from within and problems get solved. Communication happens to be the most powerful means of changing the pedagogies and shifting the paradigms. The contribution of new media could not be undermined in wake of its emergence as the lifeline of contemporary world. In the age of social media, communication has undergone sea change, which has ultimately transformed the way people interact, express and communicate with each other.

At present, media has become the most powerful weapon with which any battles could be fought and won easily. Hence, the responsibility of attending to the issues of women rests largely upon this fourth pillar of democracy. People have been relying on the might of media that it can hold people in power responsible for their actions by putting them to question. Women, too, look up to media when they face hardships and challenges. It is a matter of great interest as to explore how effectively media has addressed the issues of women. Moreover, it would be very interesting to learn about the comparison of different media on account of grievance redressal, putting the concerns of women to the fore and making the women visible in the society.

This research study is an endeavour to take the first step towards the long journey of women empowerment through media. It aims to assess and evaluate the effectiveness of print media in taking up the issues revolving around women in the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh. This study enshrines the assessment of vernacular press of Uttar Pradesh, hence the newspapers of Hindi and Urdu languages would be evaluated for showcasing the women centred news stories and features which they have published during the research timeline from December 2015 to November 2020.

Women related issues

The United Nations General Assembly (1993) has defined the frequently used term violence against women as any act of gender violence which results in sexual, physical, or psychological harm to women. In the year 1993, the World Conference on Human Rights was held in Vienna, where for the first time 'gender violence' was recognized as a violation of human rights.

Patriarchy has been defined as a system of social structures and social practices, in which men from the society get to govern, oppress and exploit women to their own interests (Stop-Ferfiosszak Projekt and Habeas Corpus Working Group, 2006). The term patriarchy is understood as a mechanism that is used to refer male domination in connection with the power relationships by which men dominate women. It is believed to be a system through which women are deliberately kept subordinate to men. The social life of women suffers in a

patriarchal system. Men control women's reproductive abilities and sexuality. In this system woman has low ownership and control of property and other economic resources including the product of their own work done. In this system women are not allowed to move easily for fulfillment of their needs.

Women related issues in India

Women in India have dealt with great deal of challenges since independence, being subjected to gender based discrimination or likes of it (Kumari, 2014). India's colonial past and malpractices related to women hint towards the inheritance of loss which women have been subjected to. The history of women abuse dates from dancing girl, sati practices, dowry and even rape, continued through centuries and existing even in the present day world. Facets of abuse have changed but the problem still persists, and demands judicious and sustained actions to be taken towards solving the problems. Indian people inadequately invest in girls' education and skill development. The education of girls still is not a preferred practice in the Indian subcontinent largely, but the urban scenario has changed drastically (Ahmad, 1979). In patriarchy system girl is considered liability/burden. In the process of socialization girl child at her early age is taught that she is a temporary member of the family. Therefore, any skill she learns will benefit the family of which she will be member after marriage not the primary family or the family of birth.

Women related issues in Uttar Pradesh

Women in Uttar Pradesh have been facing an array of problems, some dismal while some grave. In this agricultural state of north, women have been largely homemakers for long and limited themselves to the precincts of their homes. In rural areas of Uttar Pradesh women have been even contributing to agricultural practices but the primal roles are played by the men of the households. As men and women are socially conditioned to occupy different roles, they accept the roles and responsibilities bestowed upon them by the social systems they find themselves existing in. They face different expectations and challenges according to their gender; there is an enduring narrative of equality between boys and girls which has a counter narrative too. These biases and narratives are often subtle or invisible. More often, they're not intentional or malicious and are not intended to harm.

Vernacular Press

Vernacular Press or Language Press refers to the language newspapers which ultimately means the newspapers published in different languages spoken in the country. They are classified on the basis of linguistic variability and geographical region in which they are based and circulated. This could be different for different countries, as there are countries in which a single language is spoken throughout the geographical regions or states and territories. Vernacular Press somehow has become the most important tool for invoking nationalism and patriotism among the masses due to its great deal of appeal (Englund, 2015)

Vernacular Press in India

The vernacular press in India has a long history; evidence suggests that 1822 could be considered as the birth year of vernacular press in India (Bhownaggee, 1897). Newspapers in India can broadly be classified into two categories: English newspapers and language newspapers. Language newspapers vary extensively with respect to the geographical region where they are situated. All Indian states have their own popular language newspapers which boast of readerships that often exceed the readership of English newspapers, this explains the rationale for studying and investigating the impact vernacular or the language press upon the portrayal of issues regionally and how it contributes to building a larger image of issues which are rooted locally.

Vernacular newspapers are very popular and influential in India as the country is constituted of languages and cultures which make it a nation of unity in diversity. These newspapers are

also called language newspapers or regional newspapers. In India, language papers are published in more than 100 languages. But the main papers are published in 16 principal languages. Language papers vary from English papers in their style, presentation and approach.

Vernacular Press in Uttar Pradesh

Vernacular Press in Uttar Pradesh refers to the bilingual media that takes account of the events in the region. Vernacular press in Uttar Pradesh emerged as the strongest weapon during the struggle for independence (Narain, 1991). Contemporary researches have suggested that woman and child abuse is the highest reported violence in India and particularly in Uttar Pradesh, one of the largest states of India. According to an estimate made by the UNICEF, over half the children in India are victims of abuse. It is eerie to know that so many children and women are being abused in our country and its even more frightening because it happens within the closed walls of private homes, apart from schools, railway platforms, jails, etc. It could be physical, mental, sexual abuse or torture by negligence. Negligence occurs when the parent fails to cater to the child's development, with regard to his/her health, education, nutrition, shelter and emotional development. Sexual abuse is shrouded in silence and people think it is fit to believe that India has no instances of child abuse.

Primarily, it is an access to resources such as education, gainful employment, and health services. Secondly, it denotes the position, power, prestige, authority that a woman has in various situations. Since many forces determine the overall development of women in a society, a woman's development cannot be defined by a single indicator but has to be viewed as a combination of multiple types of indicators. The present status and role of women in India in general and Uttar Pradesh in particular, needs to be assessed in their entirety.

Research Questions:

- What are the women related issues published in the newspapers of Hindi and Urdu languages?
- Which of the issues have been published mostly and which issues find least of the publishing spaces in the news papers?
- Which of the newspapers publish most news about women related issues?
- What are the different women related issues published individually in Hindi and Urdu newspapers?
- Does gender play a role in the reporting of women related issues?
- Is the news published plagiarized or has similarities or repetitiveness?
- What role does language play in classification of potential news?
- Which are the women related issues that have not been attended by the vernacular press at all?
- Do advertisements and commercials impact the news related to women?
- Which of the newspapers publish editorials and columns related to women most?

Methodology

Research designs differ depending on the research purpose across the various types of researches. The importance of research purpose lies in the fact that each study has its own specific purpose which differentiates it from another study (Sellitz et al, 1959). Research designs are the foundations on which stand extensive data frameworks and research bases which reflect findings of well-structured research process. The present research would be a survey research and hence it will make use of a panel design, ultimately making it a longitudinal survey research as the data would be collected in a chronological order across five years among different datasets represented by different newspapers.

The current study has put an emphasis upon the key dimensions across the 2 newspapers; namely Dainik Jagran and Inquilab selected for the content analysis, some of those dimensions were: themes of stories, geographical emphasis, treatment of stories, origin of the stories, visual presentation, diversity of images and sources, overall structure of newspaper, promotion of content and newspaper listings. As this study involves gender sensitive observation, it was imperative for the researcher to be independent and free of biases and prejudices, as they could have affected the research process from the inception to the conclusion by introducing extraneous variables across the raw data.

This research study has embarked on a very significant content analysis across the 2 leading newspapers and dailies that constitute the vernacular press of the state of Uttar Pradesh in India. The sample for the study was constituted by the newspapers and dailies taken into observation and evaluation for the purpose of collecting raw data. The sample for the research study would be the newspapers of vernacular languages (Hindi & Urdu) of five years. The total number of issues which were consulted was around 1500, the days of non-publication and public holidays were excluded, while collecting the raw data. The study has aimed at placing on record the data spanning from December 2015 to November 2020, looking at 2 different newspaper titles including 1 title of Hindi and 1 title of Urdu, analyzing 500 stories in 1500 issues approximately.

Results

The data obtained through a comprehensive process was first tabulated and fed into the MS-Excel software and was then administered further to obtain results. The results were then categorized chronologically as the study has been largely based on frequencies and occurrences, progressing with the subsequent research timeline. The final results have been displayed in the tables to follow.

Table 1.1: Issues reported by Dainik Jagran during the year 2016

Issues Months	Divorce	Domestic Violence	Religious and Cultural	Women Empowerment and Women in Governance	Women in Sports	Female Feticide	Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse	Kidnapping/Killing	Health	Women in Music, Media and Films
January	11	4	2	7	12	6	30	16	19	4
February	10	5	4	6	10	8	21	14	12	3
March	15	4	2	9	11	4	17	11	10	7
April	9	2	12	11	16	14	19	12	13	10
May	11	10	9	7	16	10	13	8	17	11
June	10	15	13	14	10	9	8	11	16	10
July	5	12	7	12	11	10	7	9	19	7
August	15	14	10	14	13	12	11	10	12	10
September	10	12	8	11	13	15	10	19	15	11
October	8	10	11	15	17	9	7	11	13	12
November	11	15	12	12	11	14	10	13	10	9
December	13	17	10	11	9	12	8	14	11	10

A careful observation of the Table 1.1 shows that the issues featured by a Hindi language newspaper Dainik Jagran in the year 2016. Among all the issues, it was Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse that emerged frequently in the news and could be understood as the most featured issue in the month of January. Similarly in the month of February, the most frequent issue was Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse while Women in Music, Media and Films was the least occurring story. During the month of March, it was again Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse that got featured most while Religious and Cultural issues were among the least featured stories. In April too, Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse was the most featured issue while the least featured was Domestic Violence. In the month of May, health was the widely covered issue among all the issues while Women Empowerment and Women in Governance remained the least covered issue. Health emerged as the most frequently emerging issue in June while Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse was the least featured issue. In the month of July, Health was the most featured issue while Domestic Violence remained the least featured issue overall. During August it was Divorce that got maximum editorial attention while the least published stories were Religious and Cultural, Kidnapping and Killing and Women in Music, Media and Films. In September, Kidnapping and Killing was the most covered issue while Religious and Cultural issues were among the least featured stories. During October, Women in Sports was frequently published while Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse was least published issue. In November, Domestic Violence was the most frequent issue that was featured and the least featured issue was Women in Music, Media and Films. Finally in the month of December, the most frequently published issue was Domestic Violence while Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse was the least featured issue among the rest.

Table 1.2: Issues reported by Inquilab during the year 2016

Issues Months	Divorce	Domestic Violence	Religious and Cultural	Women Empowerment and Women in Governance	Women in Sports	Female Feticide	Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse	Kidnapping/Killing	Health	Women in Music, Media and Films
January	11	4	2	7	12	6	25	16	19	4
February	10	5	4	11	10	8	27	14	10	8
March	9	2	4	9	10	9	14	11	8	12
April	2	4	9	10	9	13	14	2	10	9
May	4	9	5	15	13	12	12	4	15	13
June	12	2	7	2	12	9	14	9	2	12
July	2	4	9	10	9	13	12	2	10	9
August	9	2	4	9	10	9	14	11	8	12
September	5	12	7	12	11	10	7	9	19	7
October	15	14	10	14	13	12	11	10	12	10
November	15	4	8	9	11	4	17	11	10	7
December	14	16	10	12	8	13	10	15	10	12

Table 1.2 displays the issues featured by Urdu language newspaper, Inquilab in the year 2016. The month of January shows that Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse had emerged for

the maximum times in the news and could be taken as the most featured issue, while Religious and Cultural stories were the least reported ones. In February, the most frequent issue was again Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse and Religious and Cultural stories were among the least published. During the month of March, Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse remained the most featured issue while Domestic Violence was the least featured issue. In April, Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse was the most featured issue while the least featured was news about Divorces. In the month of May, Women Empowerment and Women in Governance along with Health were the widely covered issues while kidnapping and Killing along with Divorce remained the least covered issues. In June, Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse emerged as the most frequently emerging issue while Women Empowerment and Women in Governance along with Health and Domestic Violence were the least featured issues. In July, Female Feticide was the most reported issue while Kidnapping and Killing along with Divorce were the least reported issues. During the month of August, Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse got maximum editorial attention while the least published stories were about Domestic Violence. In September, Health was the most covered issue while Divorce issues were among the least featured stories. During October, Divorce was frequently published while Religious and Cultural issues along with Kidnapping and Killing and Women in Music, Media and Films were among the least published issues. In November, Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse was the most frequent issue that was featured and the least featured issue was Domestic Violence. Finally in the month of December, the most frequently published issue was Domestic Violence while Women in Sports was the least featured issue in the newspaper across the month.

Table 1.3: Issues reported by Dainik Jagran during the year 2017

Issues Months	Divorce	Domestic Violence	Religious and Cultural	Women Empowerment and Women in Governance	Women in Sports	Female Feticide	Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse	Kidnapping/Killing	Health	Women in Music, Media and Films
January	08	07	08	13	14	04	23	25	08	10
February	12	10	07	11	12	11	11	14	06	08
March	11	06	03	06	09	06	19	17	13	04
April	7	04	18	19	18	11	17	18	15	14
May	13	15	07	13	12	12	24	05	14	15
June	08	10	17	06	15	05	10	09	09	18
July	07	10	06	03	12	13	06	13	21	06
August	10	15	13	17	14	09	21	16	15	09
September	12	19	10	18	11	18	20	08	12	05
October	06	05	12	04	16	10	09	21	23	14
November	06	13	13	09	09	19	16	11	20	19
December	08	12	08	14	11	09	10	07	21	03

The overview of Table 1.3 shows that the women related issues as featured by Hindi language newspaper Dainik Jagran in the year 2017. The month of January shows that Kidnapping and Killing had emerged for the maximum times (25) in the news and could be taken as the most featured issue, while Domestic Violence stories were the least (07) reported ones. In February, the most frequent issue was again Kidnapping and Killing and Health stories were among the least published. During the month of March, Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse remained the most (19) featured issue while Religious and Cultural issues were least (03) featured. In April, Women Empowerment and Women in Governance was the most (19) featured issue while the least (04) featured was news about Domestic Violence. In the month of May, Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse (24) was the widely covered issues while Kidnapping and Killing (05) remained the least covered issues. In June, Religious and Cultural (17) issues emerged as the most frequently reported issues while Women Empowerment and Women in Governance (06) was the least featured issue. In July, Health (21) issues were the most reported while Women Empowerment and Women in Governance (03) was the least reported issue among all. During the month of August, Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse (21) got maximum editorial attention while the least published stories were about Female Feticide (09) and Women in Music, Media and Films (09). In September, Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse (20) was the most covered issue while Women in Music, Media and Films (05) issues were among the least featured stories. During October, Health (23) was frequently published while Women Empowerment and Women in Governance (05) issues along with were the least published issues. In November, Health (20) was the most featured and the least featured issue was Divorce. Finally in the month of December, the most frequently published issue was Health (21) while the least featured issue in the newspaper across the month was Women in Music, Media and Films (03).

Table 1.4: Issues reported by Inquilab during the year 2017

Issues Months	Divorce	Domestic Violence	Religious and Cultural	Women Empowerment and Women in Governance	Women in Sports	Female Feticide	Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse	Kidnapping/Killing	Health	Women in Music, Media and Films
January	19	4	11	25	7	12	7	16	2	4
February	10	8	10	27	9	10	11	14	4	5
March	8	12	9	14	10	9	9	11	4	2
April	10	9	2	14	15	13	10	2	9	4
May	15	13	4	12	9	10	15	4	5	9
June	2	12	12	14	12	11	2	9	7	2
July	10	9	2	12	14	13	10	2	9	4
August	8	12	9	14	11	13	9	11	4	2
September	19	7	5	7	15	13	12	9	7	12
October	12	10	15	11	2	12	14	10	10	14
November	10	7	15	17	10	9	9	11	8	4
December	10	12	14	10	12	10	12	15	10	16

The overview of Table 1.4 shows the women related issues as featured by Urdu language newspaper, Inquilab in the year 2017. The month of January shows that Women Empowerment and Women in Governance (25) had emerged for the maximum times in the news and could be taken as the most featured issue, while Health (02) stories were the least reported ones. In February, the most frequent issue was again Women Empowerment and Women in Governance (27) and Health (02) was the least published. During the month of March, Women Empowerment and Women in Governance (14) remained the most featured issue while Women in Music, Media and Films (02) was the least featured issue. In Women in Sports (15) was the most featured issue while the least featured were the Religious and Cultural (02) and Kidnapping and Killing (02) issues. In the month of May, Divorce (15) along with Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse (15) were the widely covered issues while kidnapping and Killing along with Divorce remained the least covered issues. In June, Women Empowerment and Women in Governance (14) emerged as the most frequently emerging issue while Divorce (02), Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse (02) and Women in Music, Media and Films (02) were the least featured issues. In July, Women in Sports (14) was the most reported issue while Religious and Cultural (02) and Kidnapping and Killing (02) were the least reported issues. During the month of August, Women Empowerment and Women in Governance (14) got maximum editorial attention while the least published stories were about Women in Music, Media and Films (02). In September, Divorce (19) was the most covered issue while Religious and Cultural (02) issues were the least featured stories. During October, Religious and Cultural (15) issues were frequently published while Women in Sports (02) was the least published issue. In November, Women Empowerment and Women in Governance (17) was the most frequent issue that was featured and the least featured issue was Women in Music, Media and Films (04). Finally in the month of December, the most frequently published issue was Kidnapping and Killing (15) while Divorce (10), Women Empowerment and Women in Governance (10), Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse (10) and Health (10) were the least featured issues in the newspaper across the month.

Table 1.5 : Issues reported by Dainik Jagran during the year 2018

Issues Months	Divorce	Domestic Violence	Religious and Cultural	Women Empowerment and Women in Governance	Women in Sports	Female Feticide	Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse	Kidnapping/Killing	Health	Women in Music, Media and Films
January	11	4	2	7	12	6	30	16	19	4
February	10	5	4	9	2	12	2	10	9	7
March	2	7	12	2	10	9	4	15	13	14
April	4	9	2	4	15	13	7	2	12	12
May	7	12	2	7	2	12	9	10	9	14
June	9	2	4	9	10	9	14	11	8	12
July	2	4	9	10	9	13	14	2	10	9
August	4	9	5	15	13	12	12	4	15	13
September	12	2	7	2	12	9	14	9	2	12
October	2	4	9	10	9	13	12	2	10	9
November	11	7	13	8	11	12	10	9	11	10
December	12	14	10	18	10	11	9	12	10	11

The overview of Table 1.5 shows the issues featured by Hindi language newspaper, Dainik Jagran in the year 2018. The month of January shows that Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse had emerged for the maximum times in the news and could be taken as the most featured issue, while Religious and Cultural stories were the least reported ones. In February, the most frequent issue was again Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse and Religious and Cultural stories were among the least published. During the month of March, Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse remained the most featured issue while Domestic Violence was the least featured issue. In April, Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse was the most featured issue while the least featured was news about Divorces. In the month of May, Women Empowerment and Women in Governance along with Health were the widely covered issues while kidnapping and Killing along with Divorce remained the least covered issues. In June, Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse emerged as the most frequently emerging issue while Women Empowerment and Women in Governance along with Health and Domestic Violence were the least featured issues. In July, Female Feticide was the most reported issue while Kidnapping and Killing along with Divorce were the least reported issues. During the month of August, Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse got maximum editorial attention while the least published stories were about Domestic Violence. In September, Health was the most covered issue while Divorce issues were among the least featured stories. During October, Divorce was frequently published while Religious and Cultural issues along with Kidnapping and Killing and Women in Music, Media and Films were among the least published issues. In November, Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse was the most frequent issue that was featured and the least featured issue was Domestic Violence. Finally in the month of December, the most frequently published issue was Kidnapping and Killing while Women in Sports, Physical, Verbal and Sexual and Women in Music, Media and Films were the least featured issue in the newspaper across the month.

Table 1.6: Issues reported by Inquilab during the year 2018

Issues Months	Divorce	Domestic Violence	Religious and Cultural	Women Empowerment and Women in Governance	Women in Sports	Female Feticide	Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse	Kidnapping/Killing	Health	Women in Music, Media and Films
January	11	4	2	7	12	6	30	16	19	4
February	10	5	4	6	10	8	21	14	12	3
March	15	4	2	9	11	4	17	11	10	7
April	9	2	12	11	16	14	19	12	13	10
May	11	10	9	7	16	10	13	8	17	11
June	10	15	13	14	10	9	8	11	16	10
July	5	12	7	12	11	10	7	9	19	7
August	15	14	10	14	13	12	11	10	12	10
September	10	12	8	11	13	15	10	19	15	11
October	8	10	11	15	17	9	7	11	13	12
November	11	15	12	12	11	14	10	13	10	9
December	13	17	10	11	9	12	8	14	11	10

The overview of Table 1.6 shows the issues featured by a Urdu language newspaper, Inquilab in the year 2018. The month of January shows that Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse had emerged for the maximum times in the news and could be taken as the most featured issue, while Religious and Cultural stories were the least reported ones. In February, the most frequent issue was again Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse and Religious and Cultural stories were among the least published. During the month of March, Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse remained the most featured issue while Domestic Violence was the least featured issue. In April, Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse was the most featured issue while the least featured was news about Divorces. In the month of May, Women Empowerment and Women in Governance along with Health were the widely covered issues while kidnapping and Killing along with Divorce remained the least covered issues. In June, Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse emerged as the most frequently emerging issue while Women Empowerment and Women in Governance along with Health and Domestic Violence were the least featured issues. In July, Female Feticide was the most reported issue while Kidnapping and Killing along with Divorce were the least reported issues. During the month of August, Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse got maximum editorial attention while the least published stories were about Domestic Violence. In September, Health was the most covered issue while Divorce issues were among the least featured stories. During October, Divorce was frequently published while Religious and Cultural issues along with Kidnapping and Killing and Women in Music, Media and Films were among the least published issues. In November, Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse was the most frequent issue that was featured and the least featured issue was Domestic Violence. Finally in the month of December, the most frequently published issue was Kidnapping and Killing while Women in Sports, Physical, Verbal and Sexual and Women in Music, Media and Films were the least featured issue in the newspaper across the month.

Table 1.7: Issues reported by Dainik Jagran during the year 2019

Issues Months	Divorce	Domestic Violence	Religious and Cultural	Women Empowerment and Women in Governance	Women in Sports	Female Feticide	Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse	Kidnapping/Killing	Health	Women in Music, Media and Films
January	13	15	07	13	12	12	24	05	14	15
February	12	10	07	11	12	11	11	14	06	08
March	12	19	10	18	11	18	20	08	12	05
April	11	06	03	06	09	06	19	17	13	04
May	10	15	13	17	14	09	21	16	15	09
June	08	07	08	13	14	04	23	25	08	10
July	08	10	17	06	15	05	10	09	09	18
August	08	12	08	14	11	09	10	07	21	03
September	7	04	18	19	18	11	17	18	15	14
October	07	10	06	03	12	13	06	13	21	06
November	06	05	12	04	16	10	09	21	23	14
December	06	13	13	09	09	19	16	11	20	19

The overview of Table 1.7 shows the issues featured by Hindi language newspaper, Dainik Jagran in the year 2019. The month of January shows that Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse had emerged for the maximum times in the news and could be taken as the most featured issue, while Religious and Cultural stories were the least reported ones. In February, the most frequent issue was again Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse and Religious and Cultural stories were among the least published. During the month of March, Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse remained the most featured issue while Domestic Violence was the least featured issue. In April, Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse was the most featured issue while the least featured was news about Divorces. In the month of May, Women Empowerment and Women in Governance along with Health were the widely covered issues while kidnapping and Killing along with Divorce remained the least covered issues. In June, Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse emerged as the most frequently emerging issue while Women Empowerment and Women in Governance along with Health and Domestic Violence were the least featured issues. In July, Female Feticide was the most reported issue while Kidnapping and Killing along with Divorce were the least reported issues. During the month of August, Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse got maximum editorial attention while the least published stories were about Domestic Violence. In September, Health was the most covered issue while Divorce issues were among the least featured stories. During October, Divorce was frequently published while Religious and Cultural issues along with Kidnapping and Killing and Women in Music, Media and Films were among the least published issues. In November, Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse was the most frequent issue that was featured and the least featured issue was Domestic Violence. Finally in the month of December, the most frequently published issue was Kidnapping and Killing while Women in Sports, Physical, Verbal and Sexual and Women in Music, Media and Films were the least featured issue in the newspaper across the month.

Table 1.8 : Issues reported by Inquilaab during the year 2019

Issues Months	Divorce	Domestic Violence	Religious and Cultural	Women Empowerment and Women in Governance	Women in Sports	Female Feticide	Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse	Kidnapping/Killing	Health	Women in Music, Media and Films
January	12	10	07	11	12	11	11	14	06	08
February	08	07	08	13	14	04	23	25	08	10
March	7	04	18	19	18	11	17	18	15	14
April	11	06	03	06	09	06	19	17	13	04
May	07	10	06	03	12	13	06	13	21	06
June	10	15	13	17	14	09	21	16	15	09
July	13	15	07	13	12	12	24	05	14	15
August	06	13	13	09	09	19	16	11	20	19
September	08	12	08	14	11	09	10	07	21	03
October	06	05	12	04	16	10	09	21	23	14
November	08	10	17	06	15	05	10	09	09	18
December	12	19	10	18	11	18	20	08	12	05

The overview of Table 1.8 shows various women related issues featured by Urdu language newspaper, Inquilab in the year 2019. The month of January shows that Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse had emerged for the maximum times in the news and could be taken as the most featured issue, while Religious and Cultural stories were the least reported ones. In February, the most frequent issue was again Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse and Religious and Cultural stories were among the least published. During the month of March, Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse remained the most featured issue while Domestic Violence was the least featured issue. In April, Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse was the most featured issue while the least featured was news about Divorces. In the month of May, Women Empowerment and Women in Governance along with Health were the widely covered issues while kidnapping and Killing along with Divorce remained the least covered issues. In June, Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse emerged as the most frequently emerging issue while Women Empowerment and Women in Governance along with Health and Domestic Violence were the least featured issues. In July, Female Feticide was the most reported issue while Kidnapping and Killing along with Divorce were the least reported issues. During the month of August, Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse got maximum editorial attention while the least published stories were about Domestic Violence. In September, Health was the most covered issue while Divorce issues were among the least featured stories. During October, Divorce was frequently published while Religious and Cultural issues along with Kidnapping and Killing and Women in Music, Media and Films were among the least published issues. In November, Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse was the most frequent issue that was featured and the least featured issue was Domestic Violence. Finally in the month of December, the most frequently published issue was Kidnapping and Killing while Women in Sports, Physical, Verbal and Sexual and Women in Music, Media and Films were the least featured issue in the newspaper across the month.

Table 1.9: Issues reported by Dainik Jagran during the year 2020

Issues Months	Divorce	Domestic Violence	Religious and Cultural	Women Empowerment and Women in Governance	Women in Sports	Female Feticide	Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse	Kidnapping/Killing	Health	Women in Music, Media and Films
January	08	07	08	14	13	04	23	08	25	10
February	12	10	07	12	11	11	11	06	14	08
March	11	06	03	09	06	06	19	13	17	04
April	7	04	18	18	19	11	17	15	18	14
May	13	15	07	12	13	12	24	14	05	15
June	08	10	17	15	06	05	10	09	09	18
July	07	10	06	12	03	13	06	21	13	06
August	10	15	13	14	17	09	21	15	16	09
September	12	19	10	11	18	18	20	12	08	05
October	06	05	12	16	04	10	09	23	21	14
November	06	13	13	09	09	19	16	20	11	19
December	08	12	08	11	14	09	10	21	07	03

The overview of Table 1.9 shows the issues featured by Hindi language newspaper, Dainik Jagran in the year 2020. The month of January shows that Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse

had emerged for the maximum times in the news and could be taken as the most featured issue, while Religious and Cultural stories were the least reported ones. In February, the most frequent issue was again Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse and Religious and Cultural stories were among the least published. During the month of March, Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse remained the most featured issue while Domestic Violence was the least featured issue. In April, Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse was the most featured issue while the least featured was news about Divorces. In the month of May, Women Empowerment and Women in Governance along with Health were the widely covered issues while kidnapping and Killing along with Divorce remained the least covered issues. In June, Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse emerged as the most frequently emerging issue while Women Empowerment and Women in Governance along with Health and Domestic Violence were the least featured issues. In July, Female Feticide was the most reported issue while Kidnapping and Killing along with Divorce were the least reported issues. During the month of August, Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse got maximum editorial attention while the least published stories were about Domestic Violence. In September, Health was the most covered issue while Divorce issues were among the least featured stories. During October, Divorce was frequently published while Religious and Cultural issues along with Kidnapping and Killing and Women in Music, Media and Films were among the least published issues. In November, Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse was the most frequent issue that was featured and the least featured issue was Domestic Violence. Finally in the month of December, the most frequently published issue was Kidnapping and Killing while Women in Sports, Physical, Verbal and Sexual and Women in Music, Media and Films were the least featured issue in the newspaper across the month.

Table 1.10: Issues reported by Inquilab during the year 2020

Issues Months	Divorce	Domestic Violence	Religious and Cultural	Women Empowerment and Women in Governance	Women in Sports	Female Feticide	Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse	Kidnapping/Killing	Health	Women in Music, Media and Films
January	08	07	08	13	14	04	23	25	08	10
February	12	10	07	11	12	11	11	14	06	08
March	11	06	03	06	09	06	19	17	13	04
April	7	04	18	19	18	11	17	18	15	14
May	13	15	07	13	12	12	24	05	14	15
June	08	10	17	06	15	05	10	09	09	18
July	07	10	06	03	12	13	06	13	21	06
August	10	15	13	17	14	09	21	16	15	09
September	12	19	10	18	11	18	20	08	12	05
October	06	05	12	04	16	10	09	21	23	14
November	06	13	13	09	09	19	16	11	20	19
December	08	12	08	14	11	09	10	07	21	03

The overview of Table 1.10 shows the issues featured by Urdu language newspaper, Inquilab in the year 2020. The month of January shows that Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse had emerged for the maximum times in the news and could be taken as the most featured issue, while Religious and Cultural stories were the least reported ones. In February, the most

frequent issue was again Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse and Religious and Cultural stories were among the least published. During the month of March, Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse remained the most featured issue while Domestic Violence was the least featured issue. In April, Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse was the most featured issue while the least featured was news about Divorces. In the month of May, Women Empowerment and Women in Governance along with Health were the widely covered issues while Kidnapping and Killing along with Divorce remained the least covered issues. In June, Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse emerged as the most frequently emerging issue while Women Empowerment and Women in Governance along with Health and Domestic Violence were the least featured issues. In July, Female Feticide was the most reported issue while Kidnapping and Killing along with Divorce were the least reported issues. During the month of August, Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse got maximum editorial attention while the least published stories were about Domestic Violence. In September, Health was the most covered issue while Divorce issues were among the least featured stories. During October, Divorce was frequently published while Religious and Cultural issues along with Kidnapping and Killing and Women in Music, Media and Films were among the least published issues. In November, Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse was the most frequent issue that was featured and the least featured issue was Domestic Violence. Finally in the month of December, the most frequently published issue was Kidnapping and Killing while Women in Sports, Physical, Verbal and Sexual and Women in Music, Media and Films were the least featured issue in the newspaper across the month.

Discussion

On the basis of the results displayed in the tables and graphs displayed, a number of conclusions have been drawn which would follow. The criteria undertaken in classifying the results have taken into account various trends and patterns which have been either inherent across the study or have emerged during the study. Therefore it is anticipated that the final outcome would certainly divulge important details about the dynamics and modalities involved in the reporting of issues related to women by vernacular press of Uttar Pradesh.

Conclusion

A comprehensive comparison and in depth analysis of the results obtained have concluded that:

- Physical, Verbal and Sexual Abuse has remained the most published issue across the newspapers.
- Health issues have remained the least published subject across all the newspapers.
- Hindi newspapers have largely published news related to crime against women.
- Urdu newspapers have largely focused upon news related to women in sports and women in music, media and films.
- Women related news has been covered mostly by men in both Hindi and Urdu newspapers, comparatively Hindi newspapers have more female reporters than Urdu newspapers.
- Hindi newspapers have many similarities in reported news which could be attributed to the outsourcing of news from common news agencies.
- Urdu newspapers have shown contrasts in news about the same subject which explains that Urdu newspapers have comparatively more independent reporting.
- Both Hindi and Urdu newspapers have not paid enough attention to news about parenting, home making and maternity.
- Hindi newspapers have a large network of reporters therefore the news published in them have had greater follow ups.

- Urdu newspapers have a limited network of reporters and limited circulation hence the news published is not followed up much.
- Hindi newspapers have comparatively more advertisements than the Urdu newspapers which explain both readership and circulation.
- Urdu newspapers do not receive many advertisements and commercials so they have remained focused on whatsoever limited news they publish.
- Both Hindi and Urdu newspapers have lacked in editorials by women, this could be attributed to several reasons including an uneven empanelment of women journalists in the vernacular press.

Future Research Suggestions

The present research study has yielded fresh perspectives of the discipline and has opened several avenues for extensive inquiries into the dynamics of vernacular press in Uttar Pradesh. Some of the important future research suggestions would be as under:

- The span of the research could be extended by increasing the number of newspapers which are to be observed so as to obtain a bigger picture of what lies within.
- The chronological timeline could be extended in order to administer a comparative study between the newspapers and this would prove helpful in the pitfalls of reporting that suffers a lot at the hands of mammoth electronic media.
- The gender perspective of the research could be utilized for conducting a comparative study between women and men so as to ascertain the ratio in which the news gets divided or fragmented.
- The news from all the newspapers could be categorized on the basis of geographical regions and thus it could fetch a more appropriate and accurate picture of what is being reported from where and how.
- Civility is one important factor that could be undertaken in analyzing the news, as it would contribute to the classification of news on the basis of routing, whether it has been routed from an urban area or a rural area.
- The accountability of law enforcement agencies could be analyzed too, in order to assess the follow up of the news published once. This would provide insights into the recurrence of events and reporting of news.
- Future researches could also include the analysis of editorials and supplements which has not been undertaken by the researcher in the present study due to paucity of time and workload.

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