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Cite Us



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## Role of Print Media in Reporting Conflicts Between India and Pakistan: A Comparative Analysis of Pakistani and Indian English Dailies (Jan 2016\_Feb 2019)

**Abstract:** *The significance of print media in shaping public opinion is highlighted in this report from January 2016 to February 2019 by analyzing the disputes between India and Pakistan. It explores the water dispute, cross-border terrorism, the Kashmir conflict, and Line of Control (LoC) violations, which are four of the most divisive topics. The study also analyses any peace initiatives or bilateral discussions that have taken place between the two countries and looks at the coverage that these events received in a few print media publications. Incidents like the Pathankot incident, Uri attack, Kulbhushan Jadhav case, Burhan Wani's passing, ongoing ceasefire violations, worries about human rights in Kashmir, disagreements over projects like Kishanganga and Rattle hydropower, and the most recent Pulwama attack created palpable tensions between the two countries. The active coverage of print media in both countries provides important insight into the regional powerhouse newspapers' objectives.*

**Key Words:** Wars, Kashmir, Composite Dialogues, India's Rigid Attitude, Pakistan's Weak Policy, Cross-Border Terrorism, Indian Allegations, LOC Violations, Insolvable Kashmir Dispute

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### Introduction

Since the independence of Pakistan, both India and Pakistan are hostile towards each other and had fought three wars over Kashmir and other issues. The deep-rooted enmity between the two states often stalled peace initiatives taken by any of the party to resolve their

conflicts. For many years, the composite dialogues between them are stalled by India's rigid attitude, Pakistan's weak policy about India, cross-border terrorism and Indian allegations, LoC violations, insolvable Kashmir dispute and a recent horrific near war experience in the backdrop of Pulwama attack.

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In a broader sense, both the countries are entangled in an intricate complex of geographical, religious and cultural differences that the escape may seem difficult if not impossible. (Ijaz, 2017).

The question here arises how all the masses of both the neighboring countries come to know about the ongoing issues and how they develop the knowledge and a more profound sense of the conflicts happening around them. The answer is simple yet problematic, i.e. through the media and its reporting strategies. The importance of media especially print media in reporting conflicts cannot be denied as it works as a tool to disseminate information and being the fourth pillar of the state, it does carry the responsibility to report the issues responsibly and truthfully. (Ali, Mujahid, & Rehman, 2015).

Today, media works as an indispensable tool to deliver information and to make the people aware of their surrounding situations and issues. Every form of media whether it is print, electronic and social along with its branches; newspaper, television, telephone, radio, posters, stamps, advertising, publishing, etc. helps in shaping the opinion of the people regarding any national or international political scenario Ardevol-Abreu, A. (2015). The major contributing factor about the importance of media is its ability to change the trends and to mould the social behaviors of the people. As using its mass media tools to bring people from all over the world together, The globe has become a global village because to the media. it also plays more significant role in modifying global public opinion regarding important issues and conflicts of the world. (Akram, 2010) It is usually said that media also played a huge role in propaganda and being used as a tool in the hands of the powerful. However, on the whole, the media plays a decisive role in solving or aggravating any major conflict faced by their respective country. Hussain, N. (2009).

## **Water dispute between India and Pakistan**

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Discussing the water-related conflicts, India's hegemonic role, being the upper riparian economy, largely contributes to deteriorating Pakistan's lower riparian economy. The 1960s saw the beginning of India and Pakistan's water disputes. Both parties signed the Indus Water Treaty to settle water-related conflicts and split the rivers equally between the two nations. Qureshi, W. A. (2017).

## **Cross-border Terrorism**

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Whenever any terrorist activity occurs in India or Pakistan, both parties immediately blame each other for the mishap. It has been a long time that any composite dialogue was held between both the countries as India is only interested in talking about terrorism while ignoring the Kashmir issue while Pakistan strongly wanted to talk about Kashmir first. India directly blamed Pakistan for the unfortunate Mumbai attacks in 2009 as one of the terrorists captured alive, confessed being a member of Lashkar-e-Taiba. After that, the Pathankot incident, Uri attack and then Pulwama was proved to be the last nail in the coffin as India is of the view that Pakistan sponsors terrorist networks like Jaish-e-Muhammad and Lashkar-e-Taiba. Pakistan also blames India for the terrorist activities in Baluchistan and the presence of Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) and intelligence agency of India. Akhtar, S. (2014).

## **Kashmir Issue**

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The Kashmir conflict has caused both nations to engage in three wars, but no lasting resolution has been reached. The selected time period of the study has shown how the Kashmir Issue escalated after the death of Burhan Wani in 2016, which ultimately led to the killings, use of force and pellet guns by

Indian forces, massive protests, curfews and the terrorist attacks. Khalid, H. (2014).

## Methodology

Research methodology plays a very important role in carrying out the research effectively and gathering the data systematically. A research method is basically a plan for conducting research which may be qualitative or quantitative. The methodology differs for both types of research. In quantitative research, the focus is to quantify the data and analyze it by testing hypothesis using statistical models. On the other hand, in qualitative analysis, detailed and comprehensive analysis is preferred by using themes and studying the issue in detail. Quantitative methods include survey research, participant observation, quantitative content analysis etc. whereas, qualitative methods comprise of in depth interviews, qualitative content analysis, discourse analysis, semiotic analysis etc. Without data collection methods, research cannot be done, and these data collection methods are determined by research methodology. This shows the importance of this very chapter. Research methodology is basically a technique to plan how the research should be carried out. (Langkos, 2014)

## Hypothesis

**H1:** Indian print media gives more negative coverage regarding conflicts between India and Pakistan than Pakistani Print Media.

## Statement of the Problem

Pakistan and India share a tumultuous history since its independence from the British rule. These two nations have always been highlighted due to the unsettling issues of the Siachen glacier, Sir Creek, the Water Crisis, Cross-border terrorism, and most importantly Kashmir Issue and LoC (Line of Control) violations. the study aims to focus on how these important issues are highlighted on both

sides of the border by their respective print media.

The study aims to highlight the role of print media in covering the chosen disputes because of their potential to either exacerbate the problem or find a solution and the potential effects on the overall contentious situation between the two states.

## Objectives of the Study

Every research study stands erected on some pillars and these pillars are supposed to be the objectives of that study which provide the basis for the work under process. The study's main goals are to:

- To examine the frequency, slant and themes of the reported issues in English Print Media of Pakistan (DAWN, The Nation)
- the frequency, tenor, and subjects of the reported issues in India's English-language print media (The Times of India, The Hindu),
- To compare and contrast the reporting of tensions between India and Pakistan in Pakistani (DAWN, The Nation) and Indian (The Times of India, The Hindu) newspapers.

## Literature Review

Literature review is the main building block of any research work as it provides the basis and legitimacy to the topic to determine whether this topic is worthy of research or not. Many research advisors suggest their students to do an extensive literature review whenever they select any topic of interest. This activity is beneficial to widen the horizons for the researcher as well as providing him/her with extensive knowledge and dimensions related to his/her area of interest. Denney, A. S., & Tewksbury, R (2013)

Simply put, a literature review covers the information that has been published within a specific time period that relates to the

researcher's area of interest. It is a straightforward synthesis of the sources, but it also follows an organizational structure. It is a summary of the crucial data that is pertinent to the researcher's work.

According to Creswell (1994), the literature used in a research study serves several objectives. (a) It informs the reader of the results of supplementary studies that are directly relevant to the one being given (Fraenkel & Wallen, 1990). (b) By tying research into the greater, ongoing discussion of a topic in literature, it expands and connects previous findings (Marshall & Rossman, 1989). (c) It provides a framework for judging the importance of the research. In Dennison (2013)

The importance of literature review can be analyzed for many reasons. Firstly, it educates the researcher extensively regarding the topic chosen by him/her. This not only helps in learning but also proves to be highly beneficial to write the thesis work effortlessly. Also, by reviewing and accessing the existing literature, the shortcomings of the research work are more evident to diagnose and rectify. It is not necessary to have the knowhow of all the existing literature related to study but the sound knowledge of multiple studies would be enough to substantiate your arguments in the research.

Thus, by keeping in view the above discussion, the study has used the thematic literature review approach and divided the literature review into the following themes:

- Role of media in reporting Indo-Pak Conflicts
- Indo-Pak Relations
- Media and Conflict Reporting

### **Role of media in reporting Indo-Pak Conflicts**

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Larry (2012) examined that the Indo-Pak tensions have greatly shaped the dynamics of South Asian region since their independence from Britain in 1947. Amidst these tensions,

both the countries have fought three wars against each other to pursue their goals and due to the conventional asymmetry between India and Pakistan and security dilemma among them always keep them on the verge of war and also persuade them to develop their nuclear capabilities. Zia and Syedah (2015), on the other hand highlighted the importance of media in reporting conflicts that media plays a crucial role during reporting any conflict and has the strong capacity to resolve or protect the conflict from further escalation. But the result concluded that media is more tilted towards violence in reporting Kashmir issue rather than peace and the coverage is mostly negatively framed devoid of any peaceful ways to stall the conflicting situation. Though the media has huge capability to play a pivotal role in resolving Kashmir dispute, it deviates more toward conflict aggravation rather than peaceful settlement. Hallgren, L. (2012)

Siraj (2016) discussed the importance of media by stating that all the policymakers, media professionals and the public highlight the important role of the press in reporting a conflict and how media shapes the opinion of the public regarding it. In reporting on the conflicts in Afghanistan, Kashmir, Palestine, Syria, and Iraq, the media has been crucial, although the war reporting is frequently distorted for ratings or readership. The Kashmir dispute between India and Pakistan and how it was covered in the top US newspapers serves as a basis for the author's comparison of the Reportages on war and peace in journalism. The result concluded that both selected newspapers of US gave the positive coverage of the conflict by focusing solely on the peaceful side and totally negating the idea of war between both countries.

The literature examined how the news was reported on the Indo-Pak conflicts using the framework of war and peace journalism. It found that the Indian newspaper used more war journalism and war hysteria than peace when reporting on the Kashmir conflict and

the terrorism between India and Pakistan. The hateful language and war-mongering were visible in Indian newspapers while covering the issue and the mutual cooperation or peace initiatives were not given much importance as compared to Pakistani counterparts. Thus, the Indian media does not play a much positive role in reporting conflicts between India and Pakistan. The researcher argued that the conflict between both states can result in the infirmity of the whole region as both countries have nuclear capabilities and have a strong presence in the South Asian region (Hussain, [2015](#)).

With the assassination of Burhan Wani, a young Kashmiri freedom fighter, Zaheer (2016) investigated how Pakistani print media is adopting war-oriented and war-framed journalism when reporting on the Kashmir problem.

After analyzing the four leading newspapers of Pakistan, the researcher ascertained that the this orientation while reporting Kashmir issue might be linked with the hostile historical background both the countries share and also the policies of state regarding Kashmir issue as media cannot completely detach itself from a state's narrative while reporting conflicts of great importance. Similarly, by keeping in view the essential element of "objectivity" in reporting, print media is bound to follow the both sides of the story including severe human rights violations and violence in Kashmir as well. Malik, Z.A., & Sharma, G.K.([2014](#)).

Sajjad ([2015](#)) emphasized the importance of the media in the Pakistan-India peace process and claimed that the media's influence on a nation's foreign policy can be gauged by how it sets the news agenda. By analyzing the coverage during peace initiatives and conflicts between the two countries, the researcher concluded due to biased coverage, media hinders the peace process. Most news articles and broadcasts attempted to highlight the unfavorable aspects of the connections.

Additionally, it is clear that the majority of the material that was published or broadcast came from official sources, emphasizing the state's point of view and downplaying the media's story. Thus, media instead of playing the role of a watchdog mostly substantiate the government's viewpoints which are often hawkish and jingoistic. Similar to this, Rehman and Husain ([2019](#)) explored that the print media of both the countries usually reflected the official policies negating the impartiality and objectivity in their reporting. The researchers came to the conclusion that while Dawn somehow wanted to get the political solution of the problem and showed the protestors as favorable, the Times of India (TOI) on the other hand preferred force and brutality and portrayed the protestors as terrorists and a serious harm to peace.

### **Indo-Pak Relations**

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During discussing the role of media especially Indian media in a recent Pulwama attack on Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Chandrashekhar (2019) asserted that Indian Media is war-crazy and more inclined to jingoism as compared to peace and negotiations. The level of immaturity shown by Indian media during the Pulwama crisis was deplorable and this put a serious question mark on the ethics and credibility of today's journalism. In addition to that, Islam (2019) compared the Kashmir issue before and after the Pulwama crisis arguing there are so many questions which need to be answered. It is though clear that both the countries cannot involve in full scale war despite some hawkish elements from India. Though skirmishes exist between both sides, full-fledge war is not a solution for any of the party. The researcher thus concluded that in order to solve this dispute peacefully, all the parties need to clearly understand the stakes of one another and to acknowledge the factors of this dispute. Sridharan, E.([2005](#)).

## **Media and Conflict Reporting**

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Elaborating on the role of media in conflicts, Aslam (2014) discussed that no doubt, media play a significant part in reporting conflicts, but it's unclear what exactly that part entails, by analyzing the framing and agenda setting of that particular media as whether is it playing the role of conflict aggravator or a resolver. The most important and compelling power of media is its ability to change the perceptions of the people regarding any issue and enhance their knowledge. Conflict reporting thus, acts as an opportunity to report not just the truth but the whole truth and gives leverage to the reporter to report in a way which generates non-violent behaviour in a society instead of causing riots.

The importance of media, it is an undeniable fact that media plays a vital role in international affairs as its main function is communication and through communicating; it disseminates the important issues or happenings around the world. Thus, if the media fails to convey timely and accurate information, it resulted in the escalation of the conflict as media started focusing on negative portrayals of the opposite party or biased coverage. (Ross 2007; Hoffman 1972) Many studies found that media seldom play the neutral role in any conflict, and this is because of the number of constraints it has to face while reporting any conflict such as government pressure, political norms and culture influences, big parties influences and advertising agencies, values and traditions of the society and structural constraints. Due to these factors, media frames news in such a way which serves the purpose of the aforementioned parties or the key players in the conflict. (Herman and Chomsky, 2002)

Iqbal and Hussain (n.d.) while discussing the media and conflict reporting relationship asserted that during conflicting situations, dependence on media increases which ultimately results in greater impact on the audiences. Ali, M, Mujahid., & Rehman, A.

(2015). The study analyzed the reporting patterns of different conflicts by media, their priorities during reporting conflicts and the nature of coverage. During conflict journalism, media needs to pay special heed on national interests, professional constraints and public opinion. The study thus analyzed these determinants which play a pivotal role in reporting any conflict. Media and war or conflicts have a symbiotic relationship. The literature available on media's role in two World Wars, Cold war era, and US intervention in Vietnam, Middle East, Iraq and Afghanistan explored the role of media during war and conflicts. However, the main problem is not why the media cover the news of terrorism but how the media covers that news is more important.

According to Aslam (2014), who researched the media's role in conflict in great depth, it offers unprecedented access to world events and thorough coverage of combat. It also serves the purpose of state's propaganda during conflicting situations to bolster elite groups' political, social, and economic agendas that control society and the government. In 2002, Herman and Chomsky It may be said, based on the wealth of literature available, that media rarely plays a neutral role in any dispute. Mostly, the role is influenced by propaganda, government pressure, political influences, nationalistic and idealistic aspirations and structural constraints. Considering these influences, media shapes the conflict under discussion accordingly.

## **Rationale for Selecting English Print Media**

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As discussed earlier, print media is the best source for the authentic and credible information especially in crisis situation. Unlike electronic media, print media creates a rewarding relationship with its readers as they get to know the detailed and comprehensive news despite of the sensitize reporting in electronic media or the hyper reality created at social media platform. It also helps in creating

consciousness among the people regarding issues and develops in them the sense of responsibility and empathy towards hard situations. Thus, it directly correlates with the society. (Nasir, 2013)

In addition to that, the issue under discussion is the issue which is of global significance as both the countries enjoy an important status at global politics. So, the study considers it better to select English newspapers so that the understanding level can be widely maintained. For this purpose, the leading English dailies of Pakistan (Dawn, The Nation) and India (The Times of India, The Hindu) are selected. Riaz, S., & Pasha, S. A (2009).

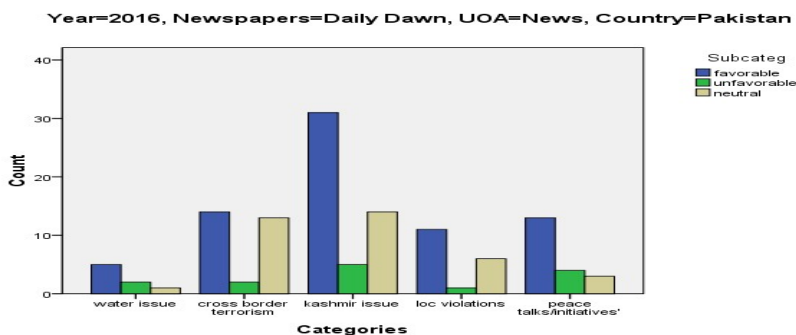
### Theoretical Framework

the study as a theoretical framework to clearly understand the topic "Role of Media in Reporting Conflicts between India and Pakistan: A Comparative Analysis of Pakistan and Indian English Dailies" and connect the ideas to the subject at hand to create a thorough analysis. The agenda setting theory is analyzed in perspective of the selected dailies of India (The Times of India, The Hindu) and Pakistan (Dawn, The Nation) that what type of agenda being set by the dailies regarding the selected conflicts and are the

### Findings and Analysis

**Figure 1**

News published in "Daily Dawn" during 2016



media and public agenda coinciding. Similarly, the Framing theory helps to understand that how the news regarding conflicting issues is being framed by the print media of both countries. What frames are used the most by both countries? Is the coverage war oriented or peace oriented? Also, The goal of framing theory is to determine if the coverage is helping to resolve the problem or making it worse.

### Data Collection Tools

The procedures used when conducting research serve as the data collection tools. For this, the study included both quantitative and qualitative content analysis.

The available data is quantified using various techniques in quantitative content analysis so that the data may be measured precisely.

### Independent and Dependent Variables

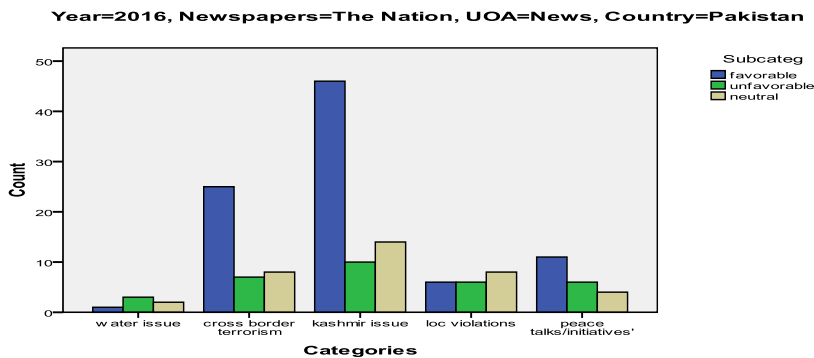
In this study under discussion, Print media is supposed to be the independent variable as it is independent of the other variable. The dependent variable is the reported conflicts between both the states as these conflicts are dependent on the print media to for their analysis and discussion.

The above-mentioned graph shows the number of news published in Daily Dawn during the year 2016 related to the conflicts between India and Pakistan selected by the researcher. Under the category of water issue, a total of 8 news were published among which 5 were favorable, 2 were unfavorable and 1 neutral. Similarly, under the category of cross-border terrorism, a total of 29 news were published in the year 2016 among which there were 14 favorable, 2 unfavorable and 13 neutral. In addition to that, Kashmir Issue

holds the most coverage with a total of 50 news stories published among which 31 were favorable, 5 unfavorable and 14 neutral. Under the categories ceasefire violations and Peace Initiatives/talks, a total of 18 and 20 news stories were published respectively with 11 favourable, 1 unfavourable and 6 neutral for ceasefire violations and 13 favourable, 4 unfavourable and 3 neutral for peace talks/initiatives. A total of 125 news stories were published in Dawn during 2016 related to all the categories.

**Figure 2**

News published in "The Nation" during 2016

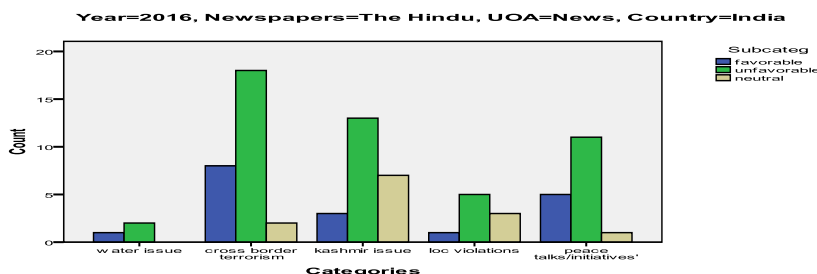


The following graph shows the number of news published in The Nation in the year 2016 under the defined categories. Water issue got the least coverage with a total of 6 news having 1 favorable, 3 unfavorable and 2 neutral. In relation to cross-border terrorism, a total of 40 news were published; 25 favorable, 7 unfavorable and 8 neutral. Kashmir issue gained the most coverage in 'The Nation' as

well with a total of 70 news; 46 favorable, 10 unfavorable and 14 neutral. LoC violations got 20 total news during 2016 of which 6 were favorable, 6 unfavorable and 8 neutral. The last category peace talks/initiatives had 21 news stories 11 favorable, 6 unfavorable and 4 neutral. A total of 157 news stories were published in The Nation related to Indo-Pak conflicts.

**Figure 3**

News published in "The Hindu" during 2016

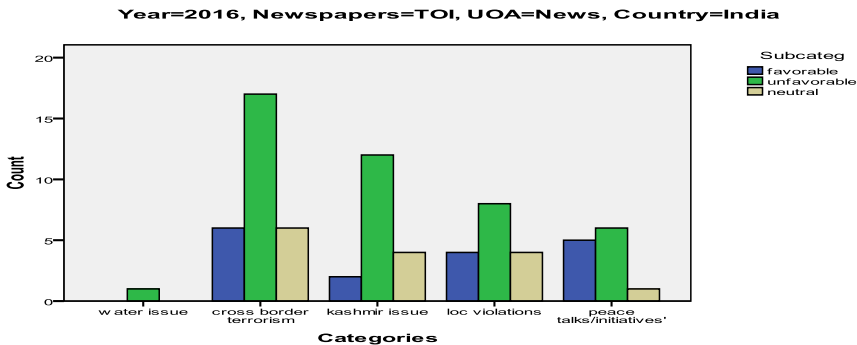


According to the following graph of 'The Hindu' of 2016, there were a total of 3 news stories published under the water issue category with 1 favourable and 2 unfavourable. Under cross-border terrorism, a total of 28 news stories were published with 8 favourable, 18 unfavourable and 2 neutral. Kashmir issue had 23 news stories having 3

favourable, 13 unfavourable and 7 neutral. Under LoC violations, a total of 9 news stories were published with 1 favourable, 5 unfavourable and 3 neutral. Lastly, the category peace talks/ initiatives had a total of 17 stories with 5 favourable, 11 unfavourable and 1 neutral. A total of 80 news stories were published in 'The Hindu' regarding Indo-Pak conflicts.

**Figure 4**

News published in "The Times of India" during 2016

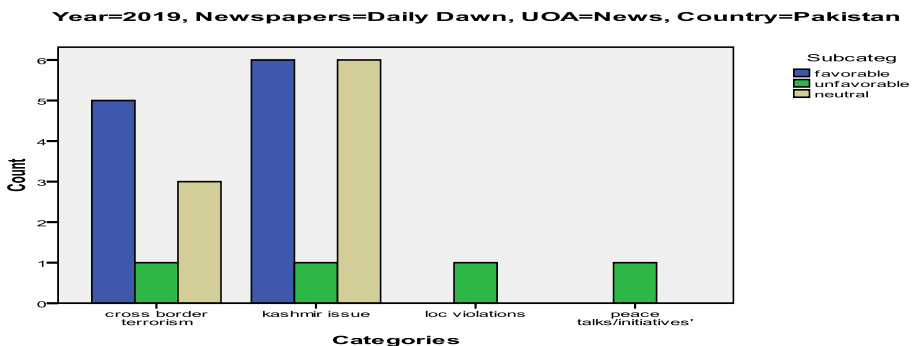


In the newspaper 'The Times of India', only one unfavourable news story under the category of water issues was published. Considering cross-border terrorism, a total of 29 news stories were published with 6 favorable, 17 unfavorable and 6 neutral. In the case of the Kashmir issue, 18 were published having 2 favorable, 12 unfavorable and 4

neutral news stories. LoC violations have a total of 16 news stories with 4 favorable, 8 unfavourable and 4 neutral and finally peace talks/ initiatives had a total of 12 news stories having 5 favorable, 6 unfavorable and 1 neutral. A total of 76 news stories were published in 'The Times of India' during 2016 related to all the categories.

**Figure 5**

News published in "Daily Dawn" during January and February 2019

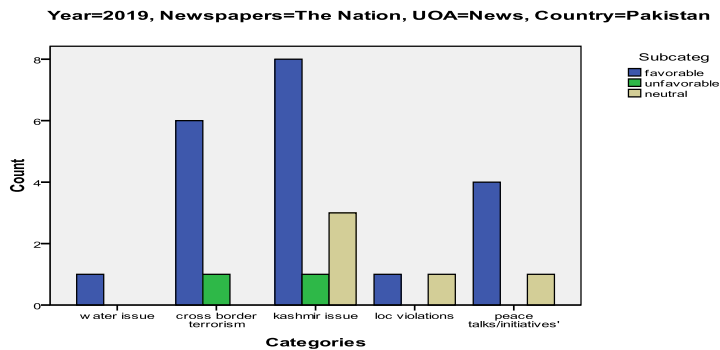


The following graph shows the number of news stories published during the first two months of the year 2019 i.e. January and February. No news related to the water issue was published and a total of 9 news stories got coverage under the category of cross-border terrorism with 5 favorable, 1 unfavourable and

3 neutral. Under the Kashmir issue, 6 favourable, 1 unfavourable and 6 neutral stories were published constituting a total of 13. Both LoC violations and peace talks got 1 unfavourable story respectively. A total of 24 new stories were published in the Daily Dawn during January and February of 2019.

**Figure 6**

News published in "The Nation" during January and February 2019

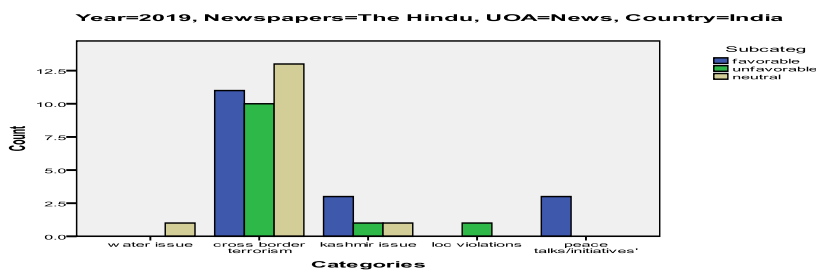


In a given graph, a total of 27 news stories were published in the newspaper 'The Nation'. 1 favorable news was published under water issue and 6 favorable and 1 unfavorable news with a total of 7 were published under cross-border terrorism. In the Kashmir issue, 8

favourable, 1 unfavourable and 3 neutral stories were published with a total of 12. 1 favourable, 1 neutral was published under LoC violations and 5 stories with 4 favourable and 1 neutral were published under peace talk.

**Figure 7**

Newspaper published in "The Hindu" during January and February 2019



In 'The Times of India', 1 favourable news was published related to the water issue during the months of January and February of 2019. Maximum news was published under the category of cross-border terrorism with 1 favourable, 20 unfavourable and 6 neutral

stories making the total count of 27, Kashmir issue has 1 favourable, 2 unfavourable and 1 neutral news with LoC violations having 1 favourable news. under peace talks, a total of 5 stories were published 2 favorable, 2

unfavorable and 1 neutral. A total of 38 news stories were published.

### Hypothesis Testing

**H:** Indian print media gives more unfavourable coverage regarding conflicts

between India and Pakistan than Pakistani Print Media.

**Ho:** Indian print media does not give more unfavourable coverage regarding conflicts between India and Pakistan than Pakistani Print Media.

**Table 5.1**

Types/Slants of Stories	Pakistani Print Media	Indian Print Media	Total	P-Value
Unfavorable	115	318	433	.000*

\*P-Value significant at  $P < 0.05$   
Chi-Square= 246.571  
df= 6

The following table shows the unfavourable coverage related to selected Indo-Pak conflicts between India and Pakistan. A total number of unfavourable articles that have appeared in

certain print publications in Pakistan and India i.e. Daily Dawn, The Nation, The Times of India and The Hindu, are mentioned in this table.

**Table 5.2**

*Chi-Square Test*

	Value	df	Asymp.Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	246.571 <sup>a</sup>	6	.000
N of Valid Cases	1294		

During the selected timeline, a total of 433 unfavorable stories were published in the selected Pakistani and Indian newspapers of which 115 were published in Pakistani print media and 318 in Indian print media. Almost 73% of the total unfavourable stories were published in Indian print media. The following Chi-square test showed that Pakistani print media resorts less to unfavourable coverage as compared to its Indian counterpart.

### Limitations of the Study

The data of the Indian newspapers (The Times of India, The Hindu), on the other hand, were analyzed from their respective websites in soft form since hard data was not available for the Pakistani newspapers (Dawn, The Nation), which were studied in hard form from Quaid-e-Azam library archives. Also, this research work did not focus specifically on peace

initiatives or the composite dialogues and their coverage but was more inclined to study the issues and how unbiased and fairly they are being reported.

### Discussion

Almost all the newspapers covered the Kashmir issue the most whether it be the conflicting situation at LoC, bilateral dialogues to ease out the tensions, government standpoints and Kashmiri's struggle.

Comparing the news reported from Pakistani and Indian newspapers, Indian media reported more unfavourable news as compared to Pakistan. Out of 433 unfavourable news published from January 2016 to February 2019 in all the selected newspapers, 318 were published by Indian print media and 115 by Pakistani print media in the favourable subcategory, 421 favourable news stories were published in Pakistani print

media and 151 in Indian print media constituting the total of 572.

Talking about Indian newspapers, the strategies of the Indian army usually resorted to hate and mistrust of Pakistan and its army's endeavours. Bajwa's statement of 'Pakistan must turn secular' published in 'The Hindu' provides an insight into his approach towards Pakistan. He is of the view that in order to move with India, Pakistan has to leave behind its religion and religious activities as they are the reason for radicalization and terrorist activities. In another statement published in an Indian newspaper, Rawat made it clear to 'Don't link Kartarpur with anything else as terror and talks cannot go together'. In the same manner, the claims of surgical strikes and showing reluctance in conducting bilateral dialogues never really made the relations better between both countries. Regarding Kashmir, the Indian army reiterates that Pakistan sponsors terrorists in IJK and is also involved in 'radicalizing' Kashmiri youth. At LoC, both the Border Security Forces (BSF) and Pakistan Army blame each other for the unfavourable situation at the Line of Control.

## **Conclusion**

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The media is the most important factor in resolving or escalating conflicts. The importance of media during conflicting situations is magnified as they are not only responsible for disseminating the message of their government but are also accountable for maintaining a peaceful situation during conflicting times. One tiny attempt to look at the role of print media in reporting conflicts between India and Pakistan was the research "Role of Print Media in Reporting Conflicts between India and Pakistan: A Comparative Analysis of Pakistani and Indian English Dailies (January 2016-February 2019)". The selected conflicts were water issues, cross-border terrorism, Kashmir issue and LoC violations. One more category was added later named peace talks/initiatives when data collection was started to understand any peace endeavor from both the countries to resolve

the selected conflicts. The study did not purely focus on the peace process or conflict resolution strategies, but it strived to deeply understand the reporting strategies of the selected newspapers regarding this issue.

The trends in the collected data revealed that print media played a role in resolving as well as aggravating the conflict. For example, the same newspaper which played a positive role in one category also played a negative in another. The coverage also largely depended upon government policies. If the government of one country is resorting towards peace, the media of that country will also be likely to do so. After data analysis, it can also be concluded that Pakistani print media is getting mature; it is moving towards a more prudent and peaceful approach while reporting conflicts. Also, the glimmer of hope for better relations was also evident in the coverage of Pakistani newspapers. Daily Dawn and The Nation articles consistently emphasised the value and necessity of peace for both nations, rejecting the tiniest notion of conflict. Indian print media, on the other hand, showed a pessimistic approach regarding conflicts between both the countries and their overall relations. They also showed a consistent pattern of unfavourable coverage under the categories of cross-border terrorism and Kashmir conflict. Though they reciprocated some of the peace overtures of Pakistan, the overall situation remains conflicting. Thus, where the Pakistani media is maturing, Indian media is resorting to a more hostile approach with each passing year by using terrorism as a major excuse to do so. The Modi government also played a great role in shaping the narrative of Indian media.

## **Recommendations**

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One recommendation for future researchers is that they can also include electronic media as well to carry out the research more effectively as news channels from both sides can also help to analyze the role of media in reporting conflicts. Another suggestion is that more conflicts or categories can be included to

enhance the scope of this research. Media mostly covers political, strategic and defence-related stories but in today's world of changing dynamics, the news areas like climate change, nuclear warfare, arms race, deteriorating

environment, a faltering economy, trade and cultural exchange can also be studied as they are emerging as a big reality of today's world.

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