

IMAGE OF MUSLIMS IN MAINSTREAM ENGLISH DAILIES OF INDIA: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF FOUR MAJOR NEWSPAPERS DURING 2007 & 2017

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ABSTRACT

Appearance in media gives credence to what is being depicted. The image of a person, a group, a community and a nation at large depends to a great extent on how it is being portrayed in the media. Thus media image creates stereotypes and communities hold this prism in their minds and view everything accordingly. A substantial segment of Muslims intelligentsia is sad to witness how the media deal with Muslim-related issues. They see it as a new scheme of thing, where negative news on Muslims is getting prioritized in the agenda of the print media. They fear that more and more inflow of Muslim news and the way it is represented in media, distort their image and concomitantly influence the vulnerable young minds of the country.

KEYWORDS: Media Image Creates, Stereotypes, Segment of Muslims

INTRODUCTION

In contemporary times, no discussion on the public sphere is complete unless it takes into account the role of media in representing concerns of the citizens. Muslims are India's largest religious minority with officially constituting 13.4% of the country's population. (Census, 2001).

According to Sachar (2006), Muslims constitute the second largest religious group in India and thus the largest religious minority.

In the present study, an attempt has been made to study the *"Image of Muslims in Mainstream English Dailies of India: A critical Analysis of four Major Newspapers during 2007 and 2017."* The broad categories examined were: news content, photographs, editorials, articles/features and letters to editor, appearing in four national English newspapers of India during 2007 and 2017.

Unit of Analysis

For the purpose of the paper, unit of analysis defined by the researcher describes the broad meanings given below in alphabetical order:

Articles: The perceptive analysis of topics and issues related to Muslims published in the selected newspapers.

Editorials: The considered opinion of the selected newspapers published in the designated editorial columns on Muslims and their issues of timely topic.