

Image of Muslims in Mainstream News Columns: An Analysis of Major English Newspapers

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INTRODUCTION

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 mind 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 news relating to Muslims and the way it is represented in media, distort their image and concomitantly influence the minds of the fellow countrymen.

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, officially constituting, 13.4% of the country's population (Census-

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