



Role Of Media in Kashmir Crisis after Independence till abrogation Of Article 370

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Abstract:

The Kashmir conflict has been a long-standing issue in South Asia, marked by political complexities and regional tensions. This paper delves into the crucial role that media played in shaping and influencing the perception of the Kashmir crisis from the time of India's independence in 1947 to the momentous abrogation of Article 370 in 2019. Through a comprehensive analysis of historical records, media coverage, and scholarly research, this study aims to highlight the evolving role of media in both exacerbating and mitigating the tensions surrounding the Kashmir region.

The prelude to the conflict was characterized by a struggle for narrative dominance, as Indian and Pakistani media outlets presented differing perspectives on the accession of Kashmir to their respective nations. This media-driven divergence of narratives contributed to the escalation of tensions and even military conflicts between the two nations. The role of international media in shaping global opinions and diplomatic responses is also explored.

The post-independence era witnessed a consistent presence of media in the Kashmir crisis, reporting on armed conflicts, human rights abuses, and the aspirations of the local population. The influence of media on public opinion, both within the region and internationally, cannot be underestimated. The paper examines how media coverage affected policy decisions, diplomatic initiatives, and public sentiments over the decades.

A significant turning point in the history of the Kashmir conflict was the abrogation of Article 370 by the Indian government in 2019. This paper assesses the role of media in disseminating information about this controversial move, analyzing how different media platforms framed the narrative to align with various political viewpoints. The study also delves into the implications of the media's portrayal of the abrogation on

domestic and international perceptions of the crisis.

INTRODUCTION

India has resulted in the emergence of Kashmir press as a powerful social institution in the state. Closely associated with the lives of the people in the valley.

Kashmir press has been playing an important role in creating the civil society and development of a state at large. The study has been designed to gauge the functioning growth freedom history press.

The study also aimed to analyze portrayal of Kashmir by Indian national and international media.

The study helps to chart out a comparative analysis of the different media in covering Kashmir. Media in Jammu and Kashmir J&K media consist of periodicals such as Greater Kashmir and Rising Kashmir and radio station such as Radio Kashmir Jammu and Radio Sharda. Various books have been written about the region a large number being related to the Kashmir conflict. Urdu and English are the main languages used. 19 journalists have been killed in J&K since 1990 the region has been various prohibitive measures against the media press council of India. Report in 2017 titled 'Media and Media Scenario of J&K in 2017' that the newspaper and periodical approved by the Govt. of J&K in which Govt. sponsored advertisement. MEDIA has its role in the past and with the technological in communication and its role in conflicts like that of Jammu and Kashmir has significantly increased compare to the time Kashmir dispute was born and it had two newly born dominions of South Asia to go for war the role of media has significantly change both conflict and resolution people around the world known much sooner about the development in the international relation and they know much more about the conflict around the world media played role of the spoiler in defecting resolution of the Kashmir dispute when leader in India Pakistan had shown conflict interest in addressing the media can help in the resolution of the Kashmir dispute and bringing the lasting peace in the region Kashmir has been a victim of national media hateful journalism misrepresentation of Kashmir by both the hyper national and liberal press of India in Briefly media history before independent in 1931 when an organized movement started in Kashmir it was the newspaper published from Lahore that made world to know about the soldiers of the Hindu maharaja shooting. Media are the communication outlet or tool used to store and deliver information or data the term refer to components of the media communication industry such as print media

photography cinema broadcasting radio and television and advertising .the study spells out the role played by local in covering Kashmir. With the help of literature the role played by the Indian national, Pakistan and other western media in portraying Kashmir can be gauged .the current study help to chart out a comparative analysis of the different media in covering Kashmir the studies and articles related to the history and functioning of press in the state of Jammu and Kashmir would be Analyzed to Assess the current scenario of the local press the research would reveal various dimension of the growth of journalism in Kashmir .The research also aims into highlight the restriction imposed on local press by the authorities.

LITRATURE REVIEW

Fortnightly and monthly publications, around 150 newspapers in different languages hit the stands every morning in Srinagar and Jammu. He further writes that before the eruption of anti-Indian urgency in the state in 1989, unlike two small newspapers in Jammu, there was not a single English newspaper in the valley. Crediting significant increasing the publications, 325 stand approved for government advertisement. He further asserts that unlike the past, the scene is different today as around 30 big and small English dailies are published from Srinagar and Jammu cities. According to the media reports, Jammu and Kashmir's summer capital (Srinagar) could well have the largest of daily newspapers in India given its population of 1.4 million. A report published on 28th April 2016 by The New Indian Express - IANS being the original source of news report - revealsthatthereweremorethansome265newspapers published both in English and local language from Srinagar alone. The fact of the matter is that most of these newspapers don't even hit newsstands anywhere in the valley. Experts further quoted in report believe that these newspapers are published only to get government advertisements. With no mention about the number of copies the newspaper should publish daily; state government norms till 2010 stipulated uninterrupted publication of one year for a daily newspaper to become eligible for government advertisements. The news story further reads that majority of these newspapers have no offices and are published from unknown places. Naming it a media Funniest names have helped many newspapers to sustain in Kashmir, irrespective of whether they have readership or not.

Stating that 69 newspapers have almost negligible circulation, Hassan(2012) [27] quoting Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in Kashmir in a news story published in Greater Kashmir, states that 69 valley based newspapers have either poor little circulation and are 'supported by dubious funding from secret sources.' The report further reads that there are eight English newspapers in the list which

have virtually no circulation, while 16 Urdu newspapers have no circulation.

The list provided in the report also includes 45 English and Urdu newspapers which have circulation of up to 200 copies and between 200 and 500 copies. Quoting the MHA report, The article further reads that no national paper had started a local edition of their papers in the valley as “there is absence of a level-playing field in the local media industry coupled with all the uncertainties of operating in a conflict situation.” To examine the degree of social media technologies adoption by online newspapers of Kashmir, Gul and Islam (2013) [18] found that only 21(32.6%) newspapers of Kashmir are available online. They further found that most of these news papers have adopted social media technologies to some extent. Despite the fact that local language newspapers seem to be quit eat the stages of infancy in implementing these technologies, newspapers of Kashmir have begun to embrace new social media concepts on their sites. They found that out of 10 English dailies, 9 (90 per cent) have adopted social media on their respective websites. On the other side, only 3 (2.27percent) Urdu newspapers have adopted social media while one Kashmiri news paper (Kosher Akhbar) is yet to introduce social media tools. Stating with regards to Kashmir issue, both the Pakistani and Indian media have always been used by the irrespective governments to project official stances,(2016)[48] asserts that Indian media’s approach is “biased and negative” towards portraying the issue. Pointing out that Kashmir conflict, affecting the peace of South Asian region, “is not treated as an international issue by the Indian press.” He further claims that the coverage remains “negative” and does not present any peaceful resolution of the conflict. However, Pakistani media focuses on “Indian brutalities and different statements of Pakistani politicians and others.” The focus on Kashmir’s and a pathway towards conflict resolution is generally missing in the coverage.

To critically analyses the level of objectivity and subjectivity while reporting events in conflict torn state of Kashmir, Bali (2014) [8] found that there is a difference among the news papers of the two provinces. He concluded that journalism in the two provinces of Jammu and Kashmir state is “divided, biased, subjective and business oriented.” Researcher also found that both the reporters of Jammu as well as Kashmir province are subjective while covering Kashmir Further discussing the divide between the reporters of the two regions, he found that reporters of Kashmir retort to “subjectivity while covering Indian Army.” On the other side, Jammu based news papers “exaggerate the reports concerning security forces.” Heal so concluded that senior journalists admit that the print media in Jammu and Kashmir is serving their commercial interest and cater to society as per

their wishes to increase circulation.

Interlocutors on Kashmir - Dileep Padgaonkar, Radha Kumar and M M Ansari-in their 176- page report submitted in October 2011 to the then Home Minister of India, P. Chidambaram have criticized the role of media and journalists in the state for “inventing events for political game”. Republishing a part of the report on media by Kashmir Watch (2012) [24], the report reads that the “local media, by contrast, have given far more attention to peace process developments but—as occurs routinely in conflict situations—there are some amongst them who are selective in what they report and biased in favors of one or another political position.” The report confirms that “barring a small handful of anchors and reporters, the national media have under reported conflict areas and tends to focus on moments of violence or recrimination.” Arakotaram (n.d.) states that Sheikh Abdullah and other Kashmiri nationalists spread the idea of Kashmiriyat through a combination of newspaper articles, political rallies and others. Bali (n.d.) concludes that Kashmir print media portrays Indian Army as “despotic, tyrant, and human right violators.” Newspaper use highly “provocative” language. Even though the researcher has reached to an ambiguous conclusion by quoting an anonymous senior journalist in Srinagar, the study found that “social welfare activities” of the army in Kashmir have been accorded very less space by the local print media. Rai (2000) [41] states that being the opinion makers for the local public, “vernacular press in Srinagar is considered more important than all other media.” In contrary to the majority’s opinion noted down in the chapter, there search erquoting Major General Rai states that Indian national media, excluding All Indian Radio and Doordarshan, has played a “mature and fairly responsible role in Kashmir.” Criticizing local media, he states that Urdu journalists lack professionalism in the valley. He further states that “apart from becoming a militant in Kashmir, one of the easiest profession to pick up is to work for a local rag.” He concludes that western media lacks depth and fairness in reporting Kashmir.

Defying the widespread feeling outside Kashmir that local press was on the side of the militants, Narayan Committee (n.d.) in its report concluded that this notion regarding the Kashmir press was “uncharitable.” The report concludes that quite a few papers did publish statements and advertisements of militant outfits, but they did it under duress.

CONCLUSION:

this paper underscores the pivotal role that media has played in the Kashmir crisis, acting as both a catalyst for tension and a platform for dialogue. By tracing the evolution of media influence from India's independence to the abrogation of Article 370, this study contributes to a better understanding of the intricate interplay between media, politics, and conflict in the Kashmir region

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