

**REPRESENTATION OF RAPE CRIMES IN  
PAKISTANI ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS: A  
FRAMING ANALYSIS**

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**Representation of Rape Crimes in Pakistani English  
Newspapers: A Framing Analysis**

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## THESIS AND DEFENSE APPROVAL FORM

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## ABSTRACT

### **Title: Representation of Rape Crimes in Pakistani English Newspapers: A Framing Analysis**

The reports on rape crimes often tend to project the event of rape in ways that influence peoples' processing of information given in them. The aim of this study is to investigate the representation and coverage of rape stories in Pakistani press. Since the reports in Pakistani media employ framing and representation strategies, the analysis is substantiated by framing theory. The study is qualitative in nature and analyzes reports that focus on the dreadful crimes of rape in Pakistani society. The current study pursues the reports of five Pakistani newspapers, i.e. The Dawn, The News, The Nation, The Daily Pakistan Observer, and Pakistan Today. Content analyses of fifty reports published from 2020 to 2021 is executed in the study. More specifically, the research discovers how the prevalence of four news frames: gender, culture, crime and identity coexist and support one another in the news media. The findings of the study comprise: i) in gender frame, most of the rape cases subjugate female gender; ii) in culture frame, majority of rape victims include teenagers who were reported to be victimized by family members—in those cases, the perpetrators were cousins, neighbors, or family friends; iii) in crime frame, teenager girls were gang-raped and slain too; and iv) in identity frame, victim's identity is revealed much too often in the reports of rape cases i.e. the writers of these reports hardly follow ethical and moral codes. Thus, this study has presented findings concerning the important role played by the various frames used by Pakistani newspapers and the significant difference in how news is covered by selecting the source and analyzing the frames.

**Keywords:** Rape representation; content analysis; news media; framing analysis

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## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

VAW	Violence against Women
NCVS	National Crime Victimization Survey
NYT	New York Times
TOI	Time of India

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## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this thesis to my beloved and inspiring father who has never failed to give me both financial and moral support; my dreams owe to his motivation and encouragement.

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

This study investigates the manner in which Pakistani media coverage has constructed the topic of rape through a qualitative analysis of newspapers' corpora from 2020 to 2021. This study is of particular importance because hundreds of Pakistani women are affected by sexual assault each year, not to mention the thousands more affected internationally. It is crucial that media presents this issue consistently and accurately, for media acts as one of, if not the main, conduits of this type of information, and thus shapes the current understanding of rape in society, as well as how the issue is handled legally.

People are inundated by news in their daily lives. People receive information through different electronic sources like television, radio and print sources as well. Although this distribution of information is domineering for a well-informed community, the media exerts great power in how the information is broadcasted, and how it is comprehended and contextualized within society.

It has been witnessed over the years that women in Pakistan have faced inequality, unjust treatment and discrimination in every sphere of life. In order to receive their rights, they have to pay multiple duties and obligations therefore in return they could get their social, civil and economical rights. Consequently, women in Pakistan are overburdened with obligations and responsibilities. If they are denied to give access to one basic right in one sphere of life, this denial also leads to deprivation of some other right in another sphere of life. This is evident in their denied right to be educated. Women who do not have access to their right to be educated are also likely not given any right to decide their marriage and divorce related issues. Such women are often deprived of social and communal rights. Thus with such a cluster of denials, women may easily be abused sexually, mentally and physically; such abuses and violence against women along with a lack of access to essential rights consequentially make justice beyond their approach.

Rape, in Britannica dictionary, is defined as a sexual activity which is an unlawful sexual activity against the victim's will, under compulsion, with the threat of compulsion, or with a person who is unable to provide legal consent because of their status as a minor, a mental disease, a mental deficiency, intoxication, unconsciousness, or deception' (Britannica Dictionary). However, many of the myths surrounding rape can make victims and survivors feel as though they are somehow to blame. It can also make them feel that what happened to them was not 'real' rape. The law uses different terms such as 'rape', 'assault by penetration' and 'sexual assault' to differentiate between different types of offence. However any kind of sexual violence should be taken seriously. No matter what happened to victims, it cannot be their fault. Blame is always with the perpetrator and never with the victim. No matter who they are, how long ago it happened or what took place, they deserve to be believed and supported.

The noun "rape" was initially used as a synonym for "booty" or "prey" in the early 14th century. The term had come to describe the behaviors that would lead to booty by the mid-14th century, such as "robbery," "plundering," but it still lacked any sexual connotation. Take, for example, the legendary "Rape of Helen," which sparked the Trojan War; this term simply refers to her being kidnapped by Paris. Rape became a verb at the end of the century, meaning "to take by force" from the Anglo-French raper. It wasn't until the 15th century that the term was tied to any kind of sexual connotation (Childress, 2016, p.2).

Rape is considered as a crime which is gender-based. Brownmiller (2005) was the first researcher to propose rape as a demonstration of patriarchy or man authority. In summary, it is suggested that females are raped as a result of historical disproportionateness and gender-related parts or roles that both sexes perform (S B. , 1975).

The most demoralizing form of crime is rape which is violating rights of humans worldwide. The news media report on sexual attacks in their daily reporting. Media coverage of crimes like sexual assault has a very strong impact on the behaviors, attitudes and knowledge of public concerning these phenomena. It is a recognized fact that people's beliefs and attitudes which are in support of sexual assault perform a major role in the manifestation of this phenomenon and public's response to it. Pakistan is the world's sixth dangerous place for women, with increasing reports of sexual assault and

domestic abuse. Activists attribute patriarchal mindsets in society for the problem (Janjua, 2020).

It is notoriously problematic and complex to unpack the relationship between the images portrayed by media and popular consciousness. Yet, according to Miller and Philo (1999), it would be ridiculous to advocate that these two have no connection at all. Certainly, it is obvious to state that the mass media do not only reveal the social truth and reality but do more than that. They can be contributory in composition of moral panics. They can be significant symbolic mechanisms which are used in the formation of ideology and they can apprise the political processes intended to deal with social crises. In short, the representation of social phenomenon by media is essential to how people, as consumers of media, who have inadequate direct experience, also make perception of people and make their 'place' in their daily lives. It has been observed in recent years, sex crimes, in all their various forms, have become an essential of the discourse of media. At the same time, the sexual exploitation of children has become a main source of apprehension and fear and this is among one of the problems of sex crimes. Yet without exemption, research which has explored the depiction of sex crimes in widespread discourses has evidenced inaccuracy, stereotyping and sensationalism at their high levels (Greer, 2003).

For the obvious reason, the press has concentrated on the coverage and representation of rape crimes, and, this is due to great studies on this topic. Adversary to film, television, or radio programming, the examination has become easy to get hold of the 'hard copy' format of press report. The general increase of sociological analysis of sex crime in the press provides a ladder to sociological analysis of sex crime in the media. A great amount of study has focused on the representations of sexual violence against females or sexual exploitation of children. The studies show that sexual violence against women has covered a wide range of topics, from the representation of specific crimes such as date rape to sexual abuse, and sex murder, as well as violence which also includes sexual violence. The images of child sex abuse have been studied in the context of criminal activity in statutory care settings. The occurrence of sexual abuse of children in their own homes is more often than discussed in media discourses and, it is because of social taboo (Greer, 2003).

The print media are known as the key disseminator of information and knowledge. A large ratio of population exclusively depends on the mass media. Public

depends on the mass media for truths and facts. Reports of media have great impacts on the outcomes of criminal cases. In particular, the media depictions of sexual assault and rape influences the legal judgement to such cases on various levels. Media depictions of rape hypothetically influence whether the victim has reported the sexual assault to the police and whether the law authorities which include jurors and police, find the criminal culpable for the sexual crime. Therefore, media have a vital role in not only reporting individual rape cases objectively but also that they exactly demonstrate research outcomes and findings on the sexual assault and rape crimes.

Rape coverage in the print media that aren't indicative of the conditions in which rape generally happens may encourage stereotyped conceptions of what constitutes "true rape." The sorts of rape that are publicized in the media likely to have characteristics that fit the standard stereotype of rape. For example, 54.4 percent reports of media reported stranger attacks, while 54.4 percent of media-reported rapes occurred in public settings (Marhia, 2008). However, as before said, most of the time the survivor knows the assailant and the assault occur indoors, and also at the survivor's home.

Stories in the media may even be portrayed in a way as to imply that the victim was the one who started the assault or that the victim is giving a false accusation (Cuklanz, 2000). In this aspect, the sexual assault case of the famed Kobe Bryant in the United States is relevant. Bryant, a National Basketball Association player, was accused of sexual assault by a young woman back in 2003. As Bryant was a celebrity, the case was heavily reported by the media throughout the investigation, which ended when prosecutors withdrew the accusations against Bryant because that woman as a victim declined to witness. A study of afore mentioned case inspected systematically the headlines of newspaper of top news companies. It was found that 10 percent of media headlines had more than one rape stereotypes, often suggesting that the accused victim was bluffing or that she wanted for it (Vandello, 2008). The phrase "accuser" was more commonly used in headlines than "alleged victim," refocusing consideration from the accused's behavior to the behavior of victim, thus inverting their roles. Furthermore, after being introduced to these kinds of headlines, men were less inclined to believe Bryant was culpable.

Rape conviction has been proven to be hampered by stereotypical views of rape. Conviction becomes less expected if the claimed victim has a repute of promiscuity or the victim is alcoholic, or intentionally entering the accused's home (Stanko, 1982).



Furthermore, the qualities of the dating scenario as well as the victim's sexual activity influence the likelihood that the perpetrator will be held accountable. People do not consider the offender responsible for his conduct if the victim engages in flirty behavior with him before the attack. The media's representation of both male and female rape victims has a negative impact on whether or not such conducts are notified to the authorities (Sophia, 2009).

The concepts of media framing and media representation are increasingly becoming inseparable twins. Offering a perspective to a story in order, for the audience or readers to interpret the narrative from the standpoint of the media covering is known as framing. Entman (2002, p. 291) supports this viewpoint, describing framing as "short listing of certain elements of an interpretation of reality and attempting to make them quite meaningful in a communication text in a manner that promotes a definition of key problem, informal understanding, moral judgment, and/or treatment suggestion for the element outlined." As a result, framing can be characterized as "selection and salience," according to Entman (2002, p. 291). As a result, media framing and portrayal described as the art and act of the media, either social, print or electronic media, highlighting a problem or persona by picking and emphasizing that problem or persona, so bringing and directing people's awareness to the problem or persona. Iyengar and Kinder (1987, p.114) suggested that "by heaping news coverage on one topic and neglecting others, the media bring awareness to certain parts of political life at the cost of others," expressing this viewpoint. They went on to say that "concerns raised in the media get to be the yardstick through which viewers judge politicians and elective office grabbers," because "if crime prevails the media agenda, crime not only becomes the public enemy number one, but crime also becomes the primary barometer for assessing the government's or performance of congress" (Iyengar and Reeves, 1997, p.213).

Dearing and Rogers (1992, p.63) define "issue framing" as "the delicate choosing of some features of a problem by the media to render them more prominent and hence, stress a specific cause of any event." As a result of the foregoing, the level of coverage in the media and prominence given to events, problems, or phenomena will have a significant impact on people's awareness, perceptions, attitudes, thoughts, and/or solutions regarding such event, problem, or phenomenon. As a result, how individuals or society react towards rape and its effects is determined by the level or

quantity of prominence, reporting, or positioning of rape trials in the media (Oduah, 2015).

Coverage of numerous rape cases in different print media is relevant to the present study because it encompasses issues of attentiveness and awareness. Media texts have been examined for the ways they represent violence against women and sexual assault as their topic and how they polish, repackage, minimalize, remove, and so on, specifically what it is that creates violence against females in the certain event under rape report. This study has enhanced the understanding and has illuminated the ways in which such texts are presented with particular versions of sexual assault and violence against women to the large audiences.

When it comes to reporting about sexual harassment, the media tends to be fairly conscientious. Having said that, the purpose of this study is to look into how such common crimes are depicted. Irrespective of the source, it's critical to keep an eye on how the media covers sexual harassment. In the last twenty years, women's rights activists have criticized the media's portrayal of sexual assault. The majority of rape headlines in the media are about court proceedings or the probability of rape complaints to the police.

As a result, media coverage focuses on assertions to expertise, which may include fights over the veracity of contradictory narratives. Legal, physical, and mental investigations for 'telling' traces on and in the bodies of claimant and suspect are employed to resolve these conflicts. The suspected rapists and victims are additionally categorized; classified and disciplined as cases for proper treatment based on the occurrence or omission of these indications. Whether or not a court case is settled, the press occasionally makes its own judgments concerning rape cases. Before a trial, a rapist is declared guilty, and in spite of an official guilty conviction, a woman is dubbed a liar. This rebranding of rape via news reporting is intricately linked to the reframing of rape itself.

Print media should embrace the Code of Conduct and should use a pseudonym or initials while reporting a victim of rape. But it has been noticed that print media neglects the Code of Conduct while reporting a rape victim. All these boundaries disappear when rape cases are reported with the names of offenders, names of their parents, their addresses and ages; especially the use of language which tends to discredit

the victims and leads to gender bias. Reportage of rape cases often disrepute the self-respect and honor of victims of rape and also their families. It is also evident that the identity of rape victim is represented through photographs that describe the situation of victim and this is really disappointing.

News coverage of real victims is always dramatized by media especially in terms of the use of language and the portrayal of images. This representation is even more heinous than the actual rape itself. The accuracy and reality behind this representation is interesting to explore and the investigation of victim's blaming, framing of rape events by mass media, unfair practices and the effects of these sufferings by rape victims is also necessary to be carried out.

### **1.1 Statement of Problem**

Newspaper reports on rape crimes often tend to project the event of rape in ways that influence peoples' processing of information given in them. These ways, known as framing and representation strategies, can be observed in the reporting of rape crimes in Pakistani English newspapers as well. The reports in Pakistani newspapers: (i) Dawn, (ii)The News, (iii)The Nation, (iv)The Daily Pakistan Observer and (v)Pakistan Today become sites of framing and representation while portraying the heinous sexual crime.

### **1.2 Research Objectives**

The following are the objectives of the study:

- To identify textual patterns that reflect framing and representation in sex crime reporting,
- To analyze/examine the linguistic representation of rape victims in daily newspapers, and
- To analyze frame building and frame setting of the events presented in the newspaper reports.

### **1.3 Research Questions**

The present study has attempted to answer following questions:

1. What are the linguistic choices that frame rape events in the selected Pakistani English newspapers?
2. How do Pakistani mass media frame the rape stories?

3. How do framing and representation project the victims in the selected Pakistani English newspapers?

#### **1.4 Significance and Rationale of Study**

Media coverage of rape incidents has become a dominant issue in our everyday lives and also an area of political and public interest. Rape criminals have become the most abhorrent deviants of society and in this process the media has played its significant role. It has been observed that the way media frames and represents the rape incident has an impact on the perception and understanding of people. In order to perceive the way in which rape crimes have been represented and why these are produced, it is important to apprehend and understand the representation of rape crimes by news media. The present research has been conducted on the premises that instead of passing of a Women Protection Bill 2006 and the modifications in the Hudood Ordinance 1979, it has still become challenging for the rape victims to authenticate the crime occurred to them and it is still easy for crime culprits to escape from punishment. In addition to the occurrence of shameful act, it becomes more reprehensible for women when it is reported in media and presented before audience. Such kind of language is used by media which makes the victims believe that they deserve sympathy and have really lost their dignity. So the coverage of rape events in Pakistani press is repeatedly sensational and disturbing. Yet little exhaustive research has been carried out into how this has occurred. The present research has examined the representation of rape and rape victims in Pakistani English press.

This research is an endeavor to explore how newspapers' language replicates and frames different notions about rape crimes and how this use of language stigmatizes the rape victims directly or indirectly. By adopting framing theory as a theoretical framework, the present study has generated significant information in numerous aspects. It has provided valuable visions into the linguistic choices made by Pakistani newspapers in reporting the events of rape. This study has also applied past research which addresses the issues of rape and sexual assaults and it will benefit the reader to understand different frames used by Pakistani English newspapers in framing the rape events. This study will benefit the future researchers from following this rape trend as well.

### **1.5 Delimitation**

This research was delimited to the coverage of only rape events in five Pakistani local English newspapers. The study consisted of the editions of (i) Dawn, (ii)The News, (iii)The Nation, (iv)The Daily Pakistan Observer and (v)Pakistan Today published between September 2020 and December 2021 which covers one year. The study was only delimited to the 50 editions/reports of newspapers.

### **1.6 \_Organization of study**

This thesis consists of five chapters, which present various aspects as mentioned in the research objectives above. First chapter is introductory chapter which begins with the meaning and explanation of rape and its origin. It gives an introduction of framing and representation, their role in crime reporting and then in rape reporting. It tells the research problem, research objectives, and research questions, rationale of the study and delimitation of study briefly.

Second chapter provides a literature review related to the representation of rape crimes and sexual assault. The major subjects argued in this chapter include; i) the incidence of rape and rape convictions, ii) Laws and regulations for rape cases in which Women Protection Bill and Hudood Ordinance have been explained, iii) women and sexual violence, iv) media coverage and rape incidences in which the impact of media on public's perception about women has been discussed, v) previous academic studies on rape misconceptions and their impacts, vi)victim blaming followed by rape myths, media and discourse, vii) a discussion on rape culture in media, viii) framing theory in media stories. This chapter gives a great understanding of the background and context of this research and it also finds gaps in existing literature.

Chapter three consists of nature of study, theoretical framework, research design, sampling, data collection methods and procedures, research method and content analysis method. It begins by examining the framing theory. It gives a rationale for choosing framing theory for present study and its implications on media discourse. It discusses the qualitative nature of study and sampling tools used to assess the data. The chapter further deals with the methods and procedures used for data analysis. It ends with the part of ethical considerations kept in mind during the conduct of whole research.

Chapter four explicates the researcher's analysis and interpretation of data. It focuses on the analysis of fifty reports on rape by five Pakistani English newspapers. The chapter also reveals that how the linguistic choices have been made to represent a rape story and also the frequency of these rape stories in these five newspapers. This chapter has explored different frames used in the representation of rape events in print media.

Chapter five presents the results of data analysis. It discusses and synthesizes the results of rape reporting in Pakistani print media from 2020 to 2021. It describes the outcomes of study in relation to research objectives and research questions and also in relation to the framing concept. This chapter also elucidates the inferences of the research findings and the role of these findings to current knowledge, henceforth its importance and significance. This chapter concludes with recommendations for future researches which could be followed by a better understanding and comprehension of the debated issue.

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

The parameters of media representation of rape and sexual assault have usually fallen short of adequate reflections of the reality of these crimes, tending toward simple patterns that emphasize violent assaults by depraved perpetrators (Cuklanz, 2000). Victim/survivor advocates have often noted that, outside of mediated narratives, rape and sexual assault are more often committed by acquaintances. However, this reality has not been reflected in mainstream media, particularly in fictional genres. In addition, rape stories have rarely been used to tell us anything about what victims feel and experience after sexual assault. Rape and sexual assault have long been at the center of media narratives, providing motivation for central characters, driving the story line, or serving as a moral guideline for understanding characters and their actions (Projansky, 2001).

Early media representations of rape have been criticized for using sexual violence for erotic objectification of victims. Prolonged scenes of sexualized terror played a dual role of playing up sympathy for the victim's suffering but also using sexual objectification. There are many effects on society of media's rape coverage. It is media which most often frames the ways which make people to comprehend the events of rape. Media contributes to the people's perception of rape victims, suspects of rape and rapists. The ideas of media framing and media representation are fast becoming Siamese twins as both are seemingly inseparable. Framing involves giving an angle to an event with a view that the audience or readers would perceive the story from the perspective of media reporting same. Thus, media anthropologists express interest in the ways media reports the crimes of violence and sexual assault against women. The present chapter reviews former researches which have been carried out on the topic of rape and it's framing in the media or press.

Coverage of rape cases in various print media is pertinent to this study because it involves issues of awareness. How media consider the families of victims of rape that could potentially convey gender bias, especially news discrediting victims. Media is always trying to dramatize the news coverage both in terms of language and image of

real victims. This is even more vicious than the rape itself. The reality is needed to be examined and media construction of gender and also unjust practices of rape reportage must be analyzed.

Amir (1971) described in his study that rape under the assumption that “genetic hostility nature” triggered the instinct in rapist by the rape victim. On the other side of the picture, the idea that rape is a socially formed human behavior influenced by cultural and environmental factors. However, this can be contended as typical perspectives cannot be ignored. Within this paradigm, Ammar and Erez (2000) have identified three important theoretical viewpoints:

- 1) Patriarchy and rape;
- 2) Cultural spillover of violence; and
- 3) Hostility towards women’s equality status.

One of the most common misconceptions, according to Groth and Birnbaum (1980), is that sexual desire has driven the rapist to rape the women. Such hypotheses, however, fall short of explaining the commonality of risk variables that explain violence and rape which are often male-to male. Likewise, the patriarchy theory envisages that rapists will target the most powerful women, i.e., older women. Rape victims are disproportionately young females, as rape is, at least in part, a sexual crime (Felson RB, 1990). The cultural spillover of violence theory, on the other hand, contends that rape is provoked by the acceptance of vehemence in other areas of society, such as sports, the media, or socialization norms. Finally, some argue that anxiety about women achieving equality is contributing to a rise in the rates of rape.

For example, Russell (1975, p.6) stated that some males commit rape because their "egos may be threatened," based on statistics from the United States, whereas Ellis (1991) stresses that most rapes are motivated by two drives: the sex drive and the need to possess and control. Some theorists have gone to great lengths to attempt to monopolize specific elucidations, but while other theories are uneasy bedfellows and they are not completely discordant. In terms of prevention, some theories in discourse, such as the idea that the event of rape is provoked by the acceptance of ferocity and violence in some other areas of civilization, suggest that modifications should be made at the communal level, whereas others, such as those that address socialization



concerns, suggest that interpolation should be well thought-out at the individual level. Thus, one of the issues is that there is diversity among the rapists (Polaschek D, 1997).

## **2.1 Rape Convictions**

It is a fact that understanding rape is a challenged phenomenon, however, there are different meeting grounds where almost all agree. The most important one is the hate and criminalization of rape. To that end, Box (1983) said that the people who commit rape represented the biased sample of the convicted ones. Most of the time, rape victims may be feeling reluctant to report the offense to the authorities, but the brave ones who do so, could not always see the culprits imprisoned (S B. , 1983). Indeed, it is true in Pakistani context because mostly, the victims are reluctant to report the case due to many reasons, among them is an embarrassment and religious compulsion.

Rape is a vicious crime because media coverage highlights it this way. The best thing about such coverage makes general public recognize the seriousness of the crime of rape. Though media is selective in covering the cases which increases the rating of the agency and the vested interest of the media house however, raises the issue in media may seek the attention of the politicians who may force the authorities to reach an ultimate conclusion (Soothill K, 1991).

The most upsetting thing about rape cases is unreported rapes. In fact, there are some differences in reporting rape cases due to the victim-offender connection. It is seen mostly that family offenders' crime is less reported than the stranger offender's crime rapes. However, this practice is changing over time because now it is more broadly recognized among people that the great risks may come from the near and dear ones, rather than strangers. Moreover, the phenomena of rape may perhaps vary over time. Before the 1990s, in British society man rape and matrimonial rape were not accepted as misconducts, but after media coverage and seriousness of the crime, it is now recognized as a crime. In Pakistan it is still not a recognized crime, even people cannot think of that.

In the end, the convicted offenders of rape will be a creation of their time and the legal system in place at the time. It's also important to remember that a rape conviction is possible only of the said country's criminal justice system. As far as Pakistan is concerned, there are many flaws in our criminal justice system. These loopholes could prevent the offenders to go to jail. It is a valid argument that the

reportage and recording of the cases of rape, as well as police investigations, prosecutor decisions, and court decisions, most likely be biased against certain people, especially those who are already marginalized.

According to the records of police, rape culprits were extremely young from age 15 to 19, with low economic background (unemployed, unskillful, or skilled personnel), and had formerly served time for theft and violence. The rapist had no distinctive obvious pathology that separated them different from other criminals like murder, theft, and corruption, according to the Philadelphia study. Many investigations focusing on rapists coming to official notice have verified these findings (Mogens, Nygaard, & Christoffersen, 2005).

## **2.2 Media representation of rape**

Rape and sexual assault have been frequently represented in mainstream media including news and a range of film genres including drama, horror, and documentary. Not only have these themes been commonly found, but many observers and scholars have noted that their presence is fundamental to a range of media products. Long understood historically as the most heinous crime, rape in fictional narratives has often been used to signal moral depravity, lack of human compassion, and social and cultural alienation on the part of perpetrators. Likewise, victimization, particularly through sexual violence, has been one of the central modes of representation of female characters. Depictions of sexual violence have been central to mainstream media genres and have been fundamental to character development over many decades. In recent media products, sexual violence has found a place in an ever-widening range of genres and storylines. Modes of representation that were common in earlier decades have tended to be retained and reused in contemporary times, while newer modes of representation have been added (Cuklanz, 2020).

In recent years, rape narratives have become overtly central to some media products (Moorti & Cuklanz, 2017), and also have increasingly been found outside of the media genres in which they were traditionally located. Particularly on television but also in mainstream theatrical film, rape narratives have found their way into stories and genres that are not otherwise concerned especially with violence, crime, or victimization.

### **2.3 Rape and violence statistic of Pakistan**

Rape and sexual violence against females had become metaphors and symbols of women's subjugation by the early 1980s, and they had become important to the discourse of feminists. Several studies have indicated that the mass media is guilty of bigotry, misrepresentation of women's images, and promotion of sex stereotypes when it comes to women. Zia (1994) conducted research on the location of rape crimes in Pakistan as part of a greater Islamic discourse on female sexuality management that has become institutionalized in Pakistani legal discourse. The influence of the media in reflecting and reinforcing representations of female sexuality, as well as social and legal attitudes regarding sex crimes, were also examined (Saleem, 2013). I totally agree with this notion, because the depiction of women as a sex symbol in media arose the sexual desire into the already violent men. When get the opportunity indulges themselves in this heinous crime.

According to the statistic of the Pakistani government regarding rape and gang rape cases, 260 of the 2256 rape instances reported in the previous year were gang rapes. 1,509 females were raped and the number of gang-raped women was 233. The most vulnerable province in terms of rape cases in Punjab province, which had the highest number of incidences of violence against women. According to statistics in a study, from the first quarter of 2008, 428 females have been physically abused across the country, with 42 incidences of gang rape being reported, 330 cases of rapes, and the number of gang rapes was 32 among them in Punjab province (2008).

According to Huma's (2005) study, reveals that the lack of arrangement for gathering and analyzing sperm and other bodily samples like the latest forensic technology makes medical evidence gathering more of a farce than a forensic endeavor. The authorities in Pakistan, for example, have not made DNA testing of sperm samples mandatory because it is the necessary and easy investigative procedure to track the rapist. Amna Mehwish, a project coordinator at 'War Against Rape', notes, DNA testing is unheard of in Pakistan. Every community should have DNA testing facilities, but the Pakistan's government hasn't made available them since crime of rape isn't a priority. Indeed, DNA testing facilities should be available in every part of Pakistan, to help out the investigative agency for offenders' judicial punishment.

## 2.4 Women and Sexual Violence

Discrimination and unfairness, weakness and considering maid to men are plainly present in the stereotype that considers women as sexual objects. The notion is true that stereotypes limit women's independence, complicate their lives, and easy creature of violence to them. As a result, women are particularly vulnerable to physical and psychological assault. Men's violence is primarily sourced from a multitude of sources, like head of the family, strong physique and financial security. But the most used part of the violence against women stems from erroneous gender assumptions. It is assumed that the fall of human from heaven is due to women.

Gender-based violence is a well-known form of violence, and it is because of many people believe that women are inferior to men. The majority of people still consider women as property that is subjected to sexual assault and service.

Gender violence is a broad category that comprises a wide range of crimes, according to (Fakih, 2003).

1. The first is rape against women, which includes rape in marriage. Rape occurs when someone, including married people, is compelled to receive sexual services without their consent. Though rape in marriage is still no crime in Pakistan. Rape can occur when someone is enforced to get sexual activities without their consent, including people who have married. This is due to a variety of variables, including fear, cultural, and economic pressures.
2. The domestic violence, which includes the rape of children and involves a beating with a physical attack in the home. Many rape cases went unreported and unsolved because they were still considered taboo, making people more cautious and unwilling to be the center of neighborhood talk.
3. The third type of torture is that which results in organ (genital) defacement, such as circumcision in girls. Although women's circumcision has a rationale, it could be classified as genital mutilation.
4. The fourth type of ferocity is prostitution. Prostitution is a sort of organized violence perpetrated through an economic system that damages women. Every society has a double standard when it comes to sex workers. On the one hand, the government prohibits such behavior, but on the other, it levies an entertainment tax on those who engage in it.

5. The fifth category includes various forms of sexual violence (molestation), such as holding or touching a woman body in various ways and occasions without the consent of the body's possessor. Workplace violence is prevalent, as is violence in public settings like the bus.
6. Sexual harassment (sexual and emotional harassment) is a widespread offence against women in today's culture.

Hesti Armiwulan (2004), a woman activist, believes that physical violence, particularly against women, is a crime, even when it happens in the home. Astonishingly, the penalties imposed on criminals under the Criminal Code have loopholes, give safe passage to criminals. In the event of rape, for example, the criminal is penalized and compensated in the tens of thousands of dollars. Even though the Penal Code stipulates that convicts may be punished to a maximum of 20 years in jail, an offender of violence against women is rarely, if ever, sentenced to 20 years in prison. The punishment provided to crimes of violence against females is not in harmony with humanist standards, despite suffering insufficient replacement, particularly the psychological effect suffered by victims. The deep scar inflicted on women physical and mental body needs a severe punishment to offenders (imron, 2013).

The morality of women is constantly harmed by judicial verdicts in rape cases. This is due to the patriarchal culture that still exists in our society. They put women in a second degree status than men and treat them as personal property. Such attitudes of men frequently lead to violence against women, and that vary concept of violence against women is becoming a sense of pride for men. As a result, patriarchy society legitimizes a man's acts of violence towards women. Sexual assault against women came from the formation of a community that views sex as taboo. On the other side, humiliated rape victims are hesitant to speak about their painful experience, and thinking of stigma on family respect, making it difficult to investigate the heinous crime (imron, 2013).

In addition, if the rape case is publicized, the victim will suffer even more, and that thought restrain the victims to register the case. The second rape victim by the media trials bring under tremendous pressure and muddy circumstances. The third rape case by the media through news broadcasting and sensational coverage has undoubtedly had a significant psychological impact on the victim, and as a result, the victim has lost the public's sympathy. Due to these above circumstances, many cases of sexual violence

against women were closed or left unattended. In many cases of rape, the victim and the family hide what has happened to them and what will have happened to them by media coverage (Siregar, 1999).

## **2.5 Media Coverage of Rape Incidence**

Midathada (2012) expresses the role of media in an article that, in the context of social movements, the media can be a double-edged blade. In India, the media can promote activism while also propagating rape culture and insensitivity toward sexual violence. Many high-profile rape cases have occurred throughout India's history, bringing together the roles of media outlets and women's rights organizations to expose systemic problems and seek national justice. As the breadth of print journalism grew, newspapers recast themselves as rape reporting platforms. Many of them across the country have begun dedicating a significant amount of space, often several pages per day, to rape reports gathered in a way they have never been before (Dreze, 2013). The Marutha rape case in 1972 was the first high-profile rape case to get widespread public attention. An adolescent girl was raped by two police officers in Marutha, Maharashtra, but the rapists were not convicted until several years later, when a group of attorneys urged that the case be reopened (Kumar, 1993). Women's organizations campaigned and protested across the country, thanks in part to the media's role in facilitating national discussions and organizing around this topic.

Reporting of rape cases in several print media has become a source of revenue for a variety of outlets. Since it concerns issues of wakefulness, reporting of rape cases in several print media is pertinent to this area. What the media thinks about the families of rape victims who could be prosecuted and treated biasedly. Printed media shall follow the Code of Conduct by using a penname or fake name when reporting on a rape victim. When rape cases are described with the name of offender, names of parents, their addresses, and their ages, create a sense of insecurity and disrespect; notably the language employed have a tendency to lead to gender predisposition and demeaning the victims. The self-respect and honor of the victims and their relatives are frequently disrespected in the coverage of rape cases by the biased media reporting.

When media coverage is not getting TRP with the victim's identify, it starts to attach the images that portray the victim's state to convoy the media report. Mass media is constantly endeavoring to dramatize news reportage, both in terms of terminology

and showing images of real victims. This act is even more heinous than the actual rape. The truth is fascinating to investigate, as is an examination of media constructions of gender in relation to media coverage of rape incidents in the news, unequal practices, and so on. Shields (2008) contends in a paper from 2008 that conventional media portrayals of rape crimes are harming the rates of conviction when these cases go to court. Furthermore, the study suggests major changes in how rapes events are covered in country's newspapers and on television.

According to the survey, the public's perception is that women are most vulnerable to rape when wandering alone in dark or remote regions, although the news scenario bears little closeness to the reality in most rape cases. According to the statistics cited in the paper, over 80 percent of the cases of rapes in the United Kingdom are committed by the relative of the victim, with only 13% occurring in public locations. According to the survey, the media is mostly to blame for the widespread misunderstanding with false biased narrative. The way rape is often talked about on a single case basis instead of being considered as a whole is criticized by the report (Saleem, 2013).

## **2.6 Fallacies in Media Coverage**

Rape myths described by Payne et al. (1999), are a feature of rape culture and spreading at three levels:

1. Macro (media, legislation, and institutional practices),
2. Communal (common consensus of views), and
3. Individual.

To delineate these rape myths and define how they are in practice of justifying rape, justify the criminal, and make victim liable and blame her, we refer to Payne et al. (1999). Because gender is a prime frame for establishing social relations, rape and rape myth recognition are inseparably linked to gender discrimination in society (Ridgeway, 2008).

At the societal level, gender patterns help to regulate socialization and power interactions. Gender displays that are perceived as "gender proper" have complications. Rape survivors are frequently humiliated for deviating from their suitable "sex category membership" through the use of rape myths linked with "non-feminine behavior" (e.g. "she asked for it"), while rape offenders who assert the rape myth, "he didn't mean to"

are exempted (e.g. boys will be boys) because such behavior is considered normative. Furthermore, the rape victim women who are sexually objectified are more likely to be blamed for rape and are thought to suffer less injury or harm as a result of it than women who are not sexually objectified (Loughnan, 2013, p.456).

There are many misconceptions concerning sexual assault. These misunderstandings could be linked to victims' underreporting of sexual offences as well as verdicts made by the actors of criminal justice in most sexual attack cases. The belief that in most cases the strangers indulge in the majority of sex offences against minors. The similar misconception of another belief that strangers commit the majority of rapes. In fact, a prevalent misconception propagated by the media outlets is that rape or sexual crimes are committed by strangers in public areas, but the fact is totally against this notion. According to the findings of the 2006 NCVS survey, 73 percent of sexual assaults involved a known offender, and most of these attacks do not take place in a "dark parking lot." Somewhat, 60 percent of victims, according to Greenwood (1997), are assaulted in their own homes or the homes of family members or friends (Sacks & Shlosberg, 2018).

Another common misunderstanding regarding rape crime is that females most often falsely claim rape in order to conceal their personal sexual crimes. Moreover, a frequently found theme in research on rape victims is that individuals most often do not disclose physical attacks because they feel embarrassment and humiliation about what has happened to them, and they are often frightened that their claims will not be taken earnestly by the authorities (Fisher, 2000).

Furthermore, victims are subjected to secondary victimization, in which they are traumatized by the criminal justice system. The ability of defense counsel to examine victims' previous sexual pasts and lifestyle selections during the hearing of rape cases added to this abuse. Rape protection laws were created to safeguard victims from the treatment of this type, but many sufferers still report emotional state of secondary abuse despite legislative achievements and other aid initiatives. Finally, while estimates of fraudulent rape charges differ, the more systematically rigorous research suggests that only 2% to 8% of all rape events reported by the rape victims are false allegations (Spohn, 2020). The evidence, taken together, intensely suggests that fraudulent reports are uncommon.



Misconceptions are intertwined with a variety of rape stereotypes and myths, in that some are myths themselves, while other myths and stereotypes serve to support them. Burt (1980) characterizes rape mythologies as "prejudicial, stereotypical, or incorrect views about rape events, rape sufferers, and rapists" which produce an "environment unfriendly to rape survivors or victims" in a seminal research on the subject (p. 217). Lonsway and Fitzgerald (1994) define rape myths as "attitudes and beliefs that are generally false but widely and persistently held, and that serve to deny and justify male aggression against women," after they have explained that how this term "myth" is demarcated across several intellectual disciplines and linking these demarcations with the rape's cultural theory. (p. 134). In the literature, there are several well-known rape myths (Lonsway, 1994).

Some of the myths that blame the victim are "she begged for it," "she is lying," and "she wanted it." There are also some myths about the culprit, such as "he didn't mean to" or "he couldn't help it," clear the criminal's actions, but mythologies about rape events, such as "it's no big deal," diminish the sexual attack crime. As Lonsway and Fitzgerald (1994) explain that, rape mythologies or myths are classed as myths not only for the reason they never occur, but for the reason of usually backed by the research. However, even if unsupported by experimental data, accepting and/or endorsing rape myths has a slew of detrimental repercussions.

The adverse effects of rape myth acceptance have been shown by researchers. Various studies have found a connection between the acceptances of rape myth and sexual aggression in men which is self-reported, as well as a link between men's fondness for rape and higher psychopathic tendencies scores. Acceptance of rape myths leads to increased victim guilt, antipathy against women, and poor opinions of rape survivors, according to Lonsway and Fitzgerald (1994). Furthermore, as an extralegal aspect in a criminal case, support of rape myths can have a significant impact on the outcome of a rape prosecution. Acceptance of the rape myth, according to research, leads to lower rates of convictions and shorter punishments for culprits (Finch, 2005).

Although rape myths are unsubstantiated by science and have a lot of harmful repercussions, there must be an explanation for their widespread prevalence in our society. There are a few theories regarding how rape myths function. One of the most common is that they make individuals to believe in Lerner's (1980) concept of a "just world," in which it is understood that good things mostly happen to worthy and good

people and bad things most commonly happen to people who typically deserve it. This viewpoint permits people to feel that nothing wrong or bad could ever occur to any individual who didn't obviously deserve it or request it, so appeasing their worries of sexual victimization. The just world concept, on the other hand, can be used by perpetrators of sexual crimes to excuse their actions. Another theory, proposed by Brownmiller (1975) and Burt (1980), is linked to the feminist critique of a male-controlled society in which rape mythologies enable men to maintain power and supremacy over women through social authority (Sacks & Shlosberg, 2017).

### **2.7 Media Perpetuates Victim Blaming**

Victim blaming keeps up with power elements in the public arena. It is permitting individuals to limit any association with wrongdoing casualties while pardoning guilty parties or individuals of higher social status. The simply world speculation, which accepts that people get ethically fair results. It results, in view of their activities, in implanted casualty accusing belief system (Eigenberg, 2008). The details that the media chooses to highlight while reporting rape and sexual violence can heavily influence the way its audience remembers that particular crime. It can determine whether an incident of rape is viewed in a way that shames the survivor, or in a way that affirms the agency of women and girls, and their right to safety and freedom from violence. How media chooses to frame gender-based violence has direct ramifications on how society understands the phenomenon.

When applied to criminal exploitation, simply world perspectives lead to the end that casualties probably effectively achieved their own exploitation, moving the concentrate away from the wrongdoers. Learned through essential (e.g., family) or optional socialization, assault fantasy acknowledgment, simply world convictions, and casualty faulting can have significant repercussions for wrongdoing casualties, for example, underreporting of the violations of assault and a misguided sensation that everything is OK (Fisher B. S., 2003). Ladies are prepared to fear more peculiar assault, yet as a general rule, they are bound to be assaulted or attacked by somebody they know. Moreover, simply world perspectives empower the thought that guilty parties are not to fault for rape or assault, as addressed by the predominant assault fantasy, "he didn't intend to." According to Payne (1999) assault culture advances deception about sexual viciousness and appropriate casualties (for example simply world convictions and assault legends). Indeed, these myths prevail in Pakistan also, blame the victims of

cloths' design, why go out at night, why go alone or alluring the offender etc. These types of blame game give safe passage to culprit from the punishment.

Grubb and Turner (2012) examined the effects of victim blaming on rape myths, gender norms, and substance abuse. Men were shown to be more accepting of the rape myth than women in this study, a finding backed up by Suarez and Gadalla (2010). Furthermore, men are almost certain than ladies to fault people for a supposed assault. Grubb and Turner (2012) found that ladies who polished off liquor before to being assaulted had higher paces of casualty accusing by the two genders than ladies who were attacked while sober. Boux and Daum (2015) took a gander at how innovation and web-based entertainment are utilized in assault and rape examinations when culprits and their companions record the episode. Subject matter authorities agree, innovation opens up new choices for casualty fault in assault cases and society overall. Subsequently, it was found that adding assault fantasy analysis to discussion on social media both challenges and propagates rape culture in society (Kristen, 2016).

## **2.8 Rape Myths, Media and Discourse**

Various interests and power connections are having an effect on everything in the creation of media messages (Fairclough 1995), and these fundamentally impact the pictures comprehended and addressed in such messages. For instance, Van Zoonen (1994) claims that articles are picked in view of their newsworthiness (and in this way capacity to make benefit) as well as different factors like source accessibility and maintainability.

A few specialists have recommended that institutional sources (like the police or the public authority) have favored admittance to the media as a result of their apparent authenticity and capacity to convey a constant progression of information data (for example van Dijk 1988; Richardson 2007; Bednarek and Caple 2012). The chance to be heard isn't fairly dispersed however a lot of under institutional control in this assembling line, where direction is plainly impacted by political, monetary, and social power relations. 'By and large, individuals who as of now have different kinds of monetary, political, or social power have the best admittance to the media,' composes (Fairclough, 1995, p.40). In this view, media talk is philosophical, as in it is 'significance in the help of force' (Thompson, 1990, p.7), reaffirming examples of sense-production that benefit predominant gatherings. Traditional press, as a

foundation enriched with the influence to both address and shape reality for a huge scope (Fairclough, 1989, pp. 35-9), can possibly standardize such sense-production designs, subsequently maintaining and supporting society's domineering prevailing construction, including predominant male centric belief systems, of which VAW is an articulation (Lombard & McMillan, 2013).

A double variety of orientation jobs is fundamental to male-controlled belief system, as per which organic sex directs which (sexual) ways of behaving are legitimate for men and which are proper for ladies (Richardson & Robinson, 2007). Men are associated to be physically forceful to demonstrate their masculinity in man centric society, while ladies are urged to be physically agreeable (Franiuk et al. 2008). Accordingly, men are supposed to start sexual relations, while ladies are supposed to be the guards (Grauerholz, 1994; Franiuk et al. 2008). There are a couple of jobs, or subject positions, accessible to people in this situation: ladies can be virgins (for example unadulterated and uninterested in sex) or vamps (for example provocative, accessible, or unbridled; Benedict, 1992; O'Hara, 2012; Wood, 1994), while men who force sexual consideration on ladies are viewed as genuine men (Wood, 1994; Lombard, 2015).

Past exploration on the media's depiction of VAW (Soothill & Walby, 1991; Meyers, 1997; Clark, 1992; Benedict, 1992; Mason & Monckton Smith, 2008; O'Hara, 2012) plays uncovered that comparable parts can be tracked down in media depictions of assault, habitually directed into few assault fantasies. Ladies who are assaulted, for instance, are every now and again displayed in the media as blameless and helpless virgins who are gone after by men who are often portrayed as awful beasts as well as sick people (Benedict, 1992; Mason & Monckton-Smith, 2008; O'Hara, 2012). The impacts of such misinterpretations on society (especially the overall set of laws) and assault survivors are risky (Benedict, 1992; Franiuk et al., 2008; Levenson & D'Amora, 2007; Emmers-Sommer et al., 2006). Moreover, diverting male and female sexuality into pre-bundled classifications has the potentially negative side-effect that orientation based viciousness can be effortlessly acknowledged as something that men are normally disposed to commit on the grounds that they are viewed as normally physically forceful; ladies must, thusly, play it safe to safeguard themselves.

All in all, as Wood (1994) contends, the justifications for why VAW is every now and again disregarded are established in man centric philosophy, which is

generally constrained by people with great influence and legitimizes the acknowledgment of unbending orientation jobs; this philosophy is embodied by predominant talks that 'make subject places that urge men to physically pester ladies and ladies to endure misuse' (Wood, 1994, p.23). Because of predominant digressive practices that keep up with severe orientation developments and philosophies, conditions and subject situating that legitimize, support, and standardize misogynist provocation can arise. Such practices can conceptualize and characterize social worries by arranging people and occasions, yet in addition by characterizing how these issues ought to be perceived, examined, and whose perspectives and ways of behaving ought to be respected authentic and appropriate. The objective of this exploration is to check whether such convictions are reflected as well as tested in the inclusion of assault in a corpus of stories from the Pakistani quality press.

The representation of sexualized violence is conceptualized in this study as a social practice that is articulated by both discursive and non-discursive components such as social interactions, structures, and people who generate and receive media texts (Fairclough, 2003, p.25). Deconstructing the way this experience is conveyed and how sense is made of it is a necessary part of conceptualizing sexist violence as a social practice. It also entails admitting that both encoding and decoding of meaning can be essentially political and ideological, as well as tied to specific behaviors and situations (van Dijk 1985, 1988; Fairclough 1989, 1995).

The harmful implications of believing in rape myths are well familiar, so we can focus on how these misconceptions are transmitted. News media outlets distribute information widely to the people, making them important in affecting public judgement in general, and public opinion regarding rape and sexual assault in particular. Rape is frequently depicted in the media in a way that sensationalizes this horrific crime. Newspapers, according to Soothill and Walby (1991), deploy a "soft pornography appeal" means dramatize the situation which looks more align to the actual happening in their reporting, which leads to greater paper sales (p. 22). Soothill (2004) cited Lees' (1997) in his conclusion that media reportage or coverage on the crimes of sexual assault appears to minimize women's complaints, thus "justifying the masking of rape as seduction" (p. 228).

Rape mythologies are frequently prevalent in media coverage of rape, according to research. For example, press reports frequently portray rapists as "sick" or "mad,"

rather than discovering into the cultural and/or structural issues that may lead to men sexually assaulting women in our culture. The media's depiction of rape has also fostered the practice of accusing the victim of a rape or sexual attack for the crime. Victims' press accounts attribute the rape to activities such as drink or drug usage, or the victim's decision to travel outside of her home, maintaining patriarchal beliefs about correct female behavior and portraying certain women as "vamps" who initiate their rapes (Benedict, 1992, p.23).

In a recent analysis of the Kobe Bryant case, Franiuk, Seefeldt, and Vandello (2008) discovered that 65 percent of press articles strengthened one rape myth and that myth "she's lying" was most popular among other myths. Studies of rape coverage in national newspapers, magazines, and television offer us with a wealth of information, but they only account for a small percentage of all rape cases.

## **2.9 Rape Culture in Media**

"Rape culture" describes a civilization in which sexual violence is not only common and accepted, but also overlooked by the media and popular culture (Herman, 1984). David Lisak highlights the apparent contradiction between our hatred of the act of rape and the crime's lack of prosecution (and reporting) (Lisak, 2008). Rape myths shape the culture of every rape victim. These myths may differ in particular from culture to culture, but they often present oversimplified schemas that follow one of four themes: victim blame, denial of the rape charges, exoneration of the offender, and indications that only certain sorts of women are raped.

The following are some common rape myths in the United States (Harding, 2015):

1. It was requested by the victim.
  2. It wasn't really a rape.
  3. The perpetrator had no intention of raping the victim.
  4. The victim wished for it to happen.
  5. The victim is deceiving you.
  6. Rape is a minor offence.
  7. Rape is a rare occurrence.
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These, like other myths, are completely incorrect, but they persist in society despite the lack of factual support. Unlike many other myths, however, the effects of their existence and pervasiveness can have a huge impact on society as a whole, including popular views and policies. Rape myths allow people to put their conduct into a framework that others can understand...while removing credibility from those who want to challenge them (Bourke, 2007). These myths can aid in the formation of views about what constitutes a genuine rape situation, such as who should be deemed "real" victims and offenders (Estrich, 1987). The existence of such beliefs in society might create sympathy for the abuser by excusing their behavior in some way, so undermining the victim's allegations (Childress, 2016).

As a result of the formal and informal roles that produce news, media accounts are even more unrepresentative of rape in their own right, and generate their own versions of the cultural master-narrative of rape. For example, a comparison of rape in selected American newspapers with rape in official crime statistics (Gordon, 1989) found that while three rapes are reported to the police for every murder, newspapers only reported one rape for every eleven murders, implying that many rapes, even those reported to the police and court, go unreported. Even more concerning, the criminological profile of rape is skewed in the media. For example, according to an American study, the profile of the rape victim in the press was tilted toward the 'mature' woman in compared to police data, because this was more sensational (Atmore, 1994).

The media frequently perpetuates rape myths. Rape myths are prevalent in television, movies, pornography, and newspaper coverage, according to studies (O'Hara, 2012).

Furthermore, one study discovered that participants were more willing to absolve a perpetrator of their crime when they were exposed to rape myth-supportive articles rather than rape myth-challenging items (Franiuk R. S., 2008).

According to research conducted on a trial case, the media's impact on reinforcing rape myths is negative, and it tends to define rape as a random crime rather than a social problem (O'Hara, 2012). To date, little is known about how rape culture manifests itself on social media, especially in response to high-profile episodes of sexual assault. While there are many pro-social uses of social media (for example, to challenge rape culture, harassment, or negative language exchanged as humor),

negative language is also disseminated through online resources, often among vast viewers where authoritative officials are not existent (O’Keeffe, 2011).

### **2.10 Framing Theory**

Framing and agenda setting convention are similar but framing has broadened the scope of media studies by focusing on the crux of the issues instead of focusing on specific topics. According to the framing theory, media frames different events to change their meanings and concentrates attention on specific topics. In this time of modern technology where mass media provides information to public at hand, framing has attained a vital approach in media discourse because of its significant effects. Therefore, the concept of framing has grown to include other areas like organizations.

As Hallahan (1999) notes, the anthropologist Gregory Bateson is generally credited with introducing the concept of framing as a means by which the human mind classifies and understands the world. Bateson defines a psychological frame as “a spatial and temporal bounding of a set of interactive messages” (1972: 191) and argues that when participants interact with other individuals or groups, this frame serves to regulate their understanding of the appropriate roles and rules, guiding their behavior in a particular context. Elaborating Bateson’s original concept, the sociologist Erving Goffman refers to frames as “schemata of interpretation” (Goffman, 1974: 10) and notes that frames have a variety of uses, providing a context which enables individuals to “locate, perceive, identify and label” (Goffman, 1974, p.21) the information necessary for understanding a situation and interpreting events. According to Goffman: “When an individual in our Western society recognizes a particular event, he tends, whatever else he does, to imply in this response (and in effect employ) one or more frameworks or schemata of interpretation [which] is seen as rendering what would otherwise be a meaningless aspect of the scene into something that is meaningful” (Goffman, 1974, p.21). Furthermore, he states that the way in which we frame a situation is “built up in accordance with principles of organization that govern events— at least social ones— and our subjective involvement in them” (p. 10). Goffman was quick to propose the thought, which he called Frame Analysis. Individuals comprehend what is happening in their environmental factors through their central system, he guarantees. This structure is viewed as essential since it is accepted by the client. Its utility as a system isn’t dependent upon the presence of different structures (Hallahan, 1999).

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Inside fundamental structures, as indicated by Goffman, there are two differentiations: regular Plus social. Both assume a part in helping individuals in deciphering information. To figure out their encounters in a more extensive cultural viewpoint. The differentiation between the two is absolutely practical. Normal systems portray occasions as actual happenings, taking regular citation in a real sense and not crediting the causality of occasions to any friendly impacts. Because of the impulses, objectives, and controls of other social players, social systems see occasions as socially determined events (individuals). Regular systems act as the establishment for social structures. These systems, as well as the casings they erect in our correspondence, altogether affect how information is deciphered, handled, and introduced. People are competent customers of these systems consistently, according to Goffman's (1974) underlying notion.

Fairhurst and Sarr's framing techniques (1996) are:

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1. Metaphor: A reference to something else is used to frame a conceptual idea.
2. Stories (myths, legends): To vividly and enduringly frame a theme through narrative.
3. Tradition (rituals, ceremonies): Cultural norms that add meaning to the commonplace and are strongly linked to items.
4. Slogan, jargon, or catchphrase: A clever word that frames an object to make it more memorable and relatable.
5. Artifact: Objects with inherent symbolic value — a visual/cultural phenomenon with more significance than the object itself.
6. Compare and contrast: To characterize a thing in terms of what it isn't.
7. Spin: to present a concept in such a way that it conveys a value judgement (positive or negative) that is not immediately obvious; by definition, to generate an inherent bias.

The crux of framing theory is that it proposes that how something is presented to the spectators and the second the impact of framing on individuals to perceive a piece of information. Frames are concepts that assist to organize or arrange the sense of a message and information. Frames have the most widespread use in the news or mass media's framing of events they present and the information they deliver to the audience. Frames are considered to impact the perceptions of audiences about the news, which might be interpreted as a type of second-level agenda-setting — they not only inform

the audience what to think about (agenda-setting theory), but also how to think about it (second level agenda setting, framing theory).

It is frequently stated that one's reality is merely their impression of reality. Simply put, this is the essence of language framing. Individuals (subconsciously) employ cognitive schemas to understand and interpret the reality in which they live, which is referred to as framing (Lakoff, 2007). We as a society negotiate our frames with one another, eventually integrating them to form important cultural aspects (Goffman, 1974). Many factors contribute to the continuation of these cultural beliefs, with the media being one of the most powerful (de Vreese et al. 2011). Because news organizations have complete autonomy in the creation of stories, they have complete control over the framing of an issue or topic, which has a significant impact on public opinion. As a result, how the media frames the issue of rape has a direct impact on how society perceives it, and hence can have a long-term impact on the existence of a rape culture (Childress, 2016).

Agenda setting theory and framing are closely related in many ways. The media's ability to focus the public's attention on particular issues and so set the agenda is examined in both studies. Contrarily, framing takes things a step further by creating a context for the information through its presentation. A-frame refers to media acting as gatekeepers, organizing and presenting the ideas, events, and problems they cover. In this instance, a frame refers to media acting as gatekeepers, organizing and presenting the ideas, events, and themes they address.

Framing refers to the definition and construction of any transmitted information by a communication source. Framing is a natural part of human communication since we all bring our frames to every conversation.

### **2.11 Media Framing and Agenda Setting:**

Assuming that the media impacts public policy, it is crucial to understand the many strategies they employ to report—or, more accurately, frame—the news. Media framing analysis, which goes beyond determining which concerns (and components of issues) are crucial to think about, explores the limits of the discussion—the words, symbols, general content, and tone used to frame the topic. When compared to agenda setting, framing "includes a wider variety of cognitive processes—such as moral judgments, causal reasoning, appeals to principles, and recommendations for managing

difficulties." In other words, while agenda setting informs us what concerns and subjects to consider and second-level agenda setting tells us which parts of those topics are more/less essential, media framing takes it a step further by examining "how" particular devices might impact our view of the topic itself.

## **2.12 Works Already Done**

There are a few works relevant to this study that cover different areas that are not within the real domain. However, they all fall under the umbrella term to some degree. I found some research papers which have discussed the rape depiction in media. Mostly the articles portray negatively the media as many scholars criticize that it frames the crime with some personal interest. The Indian and western articles talk about media framing of rape and sexual violence, which will help me out to carry my own study. As far as Pakistani work is concerned, I rarely found the media framing rape and sexual violence case. Therefore, this work is unique in terms of Pakistani media.

Midathada's article 'Indian Media Framings of Rape and Sexual Violence in the Aftermath of the 2012 Delhi Gang Rape' is the most relevant to this study. She used the 'Deli Gang Rape Incident' as an example of Indian media framing. She expertly relays the account of Deli gang rape from the victims to the media. Because it was the media that brought the subject to a logical conclusion. She did, however, mention some of the negative aspects of the media while bringing the matter to the attention of the public via television or newspapers. She cited a number of reasons for rape cases in India, including migration from poor areas to big cities, urbanization, security issues in big cities (one media outlet called Deli "a city of rape"), media symbolism in sex scene movies, blaming the victims, blaming the Subaltern, poverty and lack of education, and many others.

According to Midathada, otherization and the role of the police have made the situation in India more volatile. She claims that the case in Badaun exemplifies the media's otherization mindset. They are not as enthusiastic in the Badaun case as they were in the Deli and Bombay instances. She goes on to say that rural police officers bear a lot of the burden. Caste considerations are also raised, although solely in the context of rural rape rather than urban rape. The lack of access to bathrooms was another framing that characterized the blame in the Badaun case. The sisters were out late because they needed to go to the bathroom in a neighboring field.

Another important aspect of framing rape in the media, according to Serisier (2017), is socioeconomic standing. In her paper, 'Sex Crimes and the Media,' she explains that whether sexual violence against women is regarded newsworthy is determined not just by the contrast between "genuine" and "simple" rapes, but also by the victim's conduct and social status. Crimes against women from the middle and upper classes, as well as women from dominant racial and ethnic groupings, receive significantly more media attention than crimes against women from marginal socioeconomic groups. Even when rape cases are reported, the victim's behavior, character, and personal history are analyzed in a way that is unlike any other crime, with victims being portrayed as deserved or undeserving based on both their actions and their social status.

In addition, an article describing how the New York Times (NYT) and the Time of India (TOI) frame rape in their stories. In the work 'Sexual Violence, Race, and Media (In)Visibility: Intersectional Complexities in a Transnational Frame,' Patil and Purkayastha (2015) effectively illustrate the narrative of media discourse of two different worlds, West and East. Due to the colonial, post-colonial, and nationalist histories of journalism, as well as Asia's recent emergence, the NYT and the TOI have drastically different perspectives on the media coverage of rape incidents. Older civilizational discourses of brown bodies' excessive and aberrant sexuality, barbarism, and static tradition combine with newer discourses of economic modernization in the new India, according to the New York Times, to create a framework of an incomplete modernity in which some within the country represent modernity while others represent tradition.

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This chapter gives a detailed account of design and nature of research. For the in-depth analysis of language used to frame the rape cases in Pakistani newspapers and for the exploration of some other underlying structures, the researcher takes qualitative research approach. Moreover, theoretical framework, description of newspapers, rationale for their selection has been explained in this chapter.

#### **3.1 Nature of Study**

This present study aims to explain the ways in which rape cases are presented in leading Pakistani newspapers. It also tells by explaining the use of linguistic patterns to represent rape cases. The researcher has used framing theory in her attempt to discover how the reporters frame cases in the newspapers in Pakistan.

Language is a powerful tool for the presentation of social issues existing in the society, therefore it tells how language is used in the depiction of rape cases in Pakistani newspapers. Texts have some data, which can act as evidence for the presence of social structures. This study aims to find out a way of describing the social issues especially rape cases by the text. This study deals with the ways in which Pakistani newspapers have reflected rape crime in the text of the newspaper reports and the kind of linguistic devices used to inculcate it in the text for representing rape crime and its eradication from the society. These aspects are analyzed in the data analysis. This shows how such analysis could be done by deep readings of rape reports and application of linguistic theories.

##### **3.1.1 Theoretical Framework of the Study**

Framing theory provides theoretical framework to this study. In linguistic studies, frames are identified by analyzing the selection, placement, and structure of specific words and sentences in a text (e.g., Entman, 1991; Esser & D'Angelo, 2003; Pan & Kosicki, 1993). Usually, the unit of analysis is the paragraph, not the article. The basic idea is that specific words are the building blocks of frames (Entman, 1993). Similar to Miller and colleagues, we understand a frame as a certain pattern in a given text that is composed of several elements. These elements are not words but previously defined

components or devices of frames. Rather than directly coding the whole frame, we suggest splitting up the frame into its separate elements, which can quite easily be coded in a content analysis. After this, a cluster analysis of those elements should reveal the frame (Kohring & Matthes, 2002). That means when some elements are grouped together systematically in a specific way, they form a pattern that can be identified across several texts in a sample. We call these patterns frames. Therefore, it's critical to let the research context and requirements lead the coding techniques. Codes and categories are assigned to data in order to identify patterns and frequencies of frames used in data.

Framing broadens the scope of study by focusing on the important issues prevailing in the society. Frames form when media outlets report on the same news in the same way or explain events using the same terminology and concepts. Information can be manipulated by using appropriate frames to influence public perception. Frames are the patterns through which stories are transmitted to the general public. According to framing theory, the media focuses attention on specific occurrences and then frames them within a framework of meaning. Since framing has such a significant impact, it is an important topic; as a result, the idea of framing has been extended to include organizations.

According to the framing theory, how something is presented to an audience or the frame affects how individuals interpret that information. The framing of news or media transmissions is where frames are most frequently used. They are believed to have an impact on how the audience interprets the report, which might be construed as a form of second-level agenda-setting as they inform the audience about first-level agenda-setting, or framing theory, but also about second-level agenda-setting.

The concept, which he named Frame Analysis, was initially put forward by Goffman in 1974. According to him, people use their core framework to interpret what is happening in their surroundings. Because the user relies on this framework, it is regarded as primary. It does not require the presence of additional frameworks to be helpful as a framework.

Goffman claims that the fundamental frameworks may be divided into natural and social. Both aid in interpreting the facts to put people's experiences into a broader social context. Natural frameworks represent events as physical occurrences by directly

applying natural principles and eliminating any social consequences from the causation of events. Social frameworks view situations as socially motivated because of other social actors' whims, objectives, and manipulations (people). Natural frameworks serve as the foundation for social frameworks. These frameworks significantly impact how information is understood, processed, and presented in human communication because of the frames they help construct. Goffman's fundamental premise is that, whether or not they are aware of it, individuals are capable consumers of these frameworks daily.

Agenda setting theory and framing are intricately related in many ways. Both studies examine how the media draws the public's attention to specific topics and determines the agenda as a result. Framing, on the other hand, takes it a step further by establishing a frame for the information based on how it is provided. In this case, a frame refers to how media as gatekeepers organize and present the ideas, events, and issues they cover. Moreover, agenda theory focuses on issue, while the framing theory emphasis on content. Further framing can also examine the "excluded" content, which Agenda-Setting does not. Agenda-Setting focuses on the "manifest content of news stories" only (McCombs & Valenzuela 2007). Due to these discrepancies in agenda setting theory, framing theory is best suited to this study. That is how framing theory is more relevant to this study than agenda setting theory.

### **3.2 Research Design**

The research is qualitative in nature and analyzes reports' focuses on the heinous crime of rape in Pakistani society. The population of reports is Pakistani print media. From 2020 to 2021, five chief newspapers: The Dawn, The News, The Nation, The Daily Pakistan Observer, and Pakistan Today have been chosen based on the basis of their circulation and readership. Firstly, I used the Google search engine assisted in collecting rape case reports from Pakistani publications by using a judgmental tool, also known as purposive or authoritative sampling. It is a non-probability sampling technique in which sample members are selected exclusively on the basis of the researcher's knowledge and judgement. Ten rape cases from each newspaper were studied. Unnecessary wordings and visuals, were removed from fifty reports of rape instances because they have no role depiction of rape crime in the text. For concordance of the data, a software AntConc version 3.5.9 was used. The frequencies and patterns are taken by this AntConc software.

I used content analysis method as a yard stick to investigate the data. This method facilitates to answer the research questions. Content analysis is currently used in different fields, ranging from marketing and media studies to literature and rhetoric, ethnography and cultural studies, gender, sociology, political science, psychology, cognitive science, and many other fields of inquiry. It is the pertinent model for the present study as well; it can be applied to examine any piece of writing or occurrence of recorded communication. Furthermore, content analysis has a close association with sociolinguistics and psycholinguistics. It has two types: conceptual analysis and relational analysis. This study employs conceptual analysis: a concept is chosen for examination, and the analysis involves quantifying and tallying its presence, for investigation of the data.

For analyzing the data of the newspaper reports, the data is divided into categories, which are smaller units. These units are made up of phrases and sentences. The most important information has been chosen, and codes have been assigned to it. Data coding is a time-consuming process. Because the data must be read out repeatedly to pick up the codes, which are largely nouns, the data must be read out multiple times. Then, in contrast to codes or categories, codes provided a frame that is more generic in nature. These codes revealed a trend in the writing of newspaper reporters on rape reports. Each code generates a distinct pattern that is distinct from the others. AntConc 3.5.9 software is used to obtain the concordance of these codes. Smith invented this software, which is particularly useful for analyzing large corpora. It offers numerous characteristics for dealing with data; however, in my study, I only employed one of them, namely concordance, which helps to get contextual meaning, patterns in language and content in the text which are relevant to my research.

### **3.2.1 Sampling**

All newspapers were the population of the study. Rape reports in the five newspapers of Pakistan from 2020 to 2021 were the sample of the study. Each newspaper frames the rape cases in different way which impacts readers and people in as well as on society.

The sampling tool is judgmental, also known as purposive or authoritative sampling. It is a non-probability sampling technique in which sample members are selected exclusively on the basis of the researcher's knowledge and judgement. The



results acquired are likely to be very accurate with a limited margin of error because the researcher's experience is employed to create a sample with this sampling technique (Kumar, 2018, questionpro blog).

Purposive sampling, also known as judgmental, selective, or subjective sampling, refers to a set of sampling procedures that rely on the researcher's judgement when selecting the units to be investigated (e.g., persons, cases/organizations, events, or pieces of data). Maximum variation sampling, homogenous sampling, and typical case sampling; extreme (deviant) case sampling, whole population sampling, and expert sampling are examples of purposive sampling approaches.

According to Questionpro, which is an education blog, and Kumar, the process of selecting a sample using judgmental sampling entails the researchers carefully selecting each individual to be included in the sample (2018). Sharma (2017) discussed the advantages and disadvantages of purposive sampling.

### **3.2.2 Pros of Purposive Sampling**

While the various purposive sampling procedures have varied goals, they can give researchers with the rationale they need to make generalizations from the sample they are studying, whether those generalizations be theoretical, analytic, or logical. However, because each of these types of purposive sampling has a different character and capacity to make generalizations.

Multiple phases can be used in qualitative research designs, with each one building on the previous one. In such cases, multiple sampling strategies may be necessary at different stages. Purposive sampling is important in these situations because it gives the researcher access to a variety of non-probability sample approaches. Critical case sampling, for example, might be used to see if a phenomenon is worth exploring further before moving on to an expert sampling strategy to look into specific difficulties (Sharma, 2017).

### **3.2.3 Cons of Purposive Sampling**

Purposive samples can be extremely vulnerable to researcher's bias. When it comes to eliminating possible researcher biases, the argument that a purposive sample was created based on the researcher's judgement is not a good defense, especially when contrasted to probability sampling procedures that are meant to remove such biases. This subjective judgmental component of purposive sampling, on the other hand, is only a major disadvantage when such judgments are ill-conceived or poorly considered; that is, when judgments are not based on clear criteria, such as a theoretical framework, expert elicitation, or other accepted criteria.

Because unit selection (i.e. selecting persons, cases/organizations, etc.) in purposive sampling is subjective and non-probability based, it can be difficult to argue the sample's representativeness. In other words, persuading the reader that the judgement you made to select units to study was acceptable can be tough. As a result, persuading the reader that research involving purposive sample resulted in theoretical/analytic/logical generalization can be difficult (Sharma, 2017).

Therefore, an intentional or judgement sampling tool was used to collect data for this investigation. A purposeful or judgmental sample approach was used to choose reports on rape cases from five prominent Pakistani newspapers. Only rape stories from the five Pakistani English newspapers were picked from the above-mentioned demographic. Five newspapers' rape reports were investigated and debated. The reports were chosen by the researcher based on his or her personal judgments, while keeping in mind the study's goals and objectives.

### **3.3 Data Collection Methods**

Qualitative research uses a number of data collection methods, including observations, content, textual or visual analysis (e.g., from books or videos), and interviews (individual or group). However, internet data bases, digital libraries, online newspaper websites, interviews, and focus groups are the most commonly utilized approaches, particularly in social sciences research. To obtain data, some online paid database portals are also available.

I began by gathering reports from the official websites of the newspapers that serve as a sample of the media's response to rape and sexual assault using purposive

sampling tool. I used official websites of the newspapers to get rape reports regarding media coverage of rape incidents in Pakistan after scouring several databases and fine-tuning my search keywords. I limited my search to Pakistan's chief five national English-language media outlets by using keywords (rape, sexual assault). It is easy that Pakistani newspapers provide free access to their readers without any subscription fee. Almost all western newspapers are paid publications, and one cannot obtain articles or news free of any payment.

### **3.4 Data Collection Procedure**

To begin with, I utilized a purposive or judgmental technique to collect data by using key words (rape, sexual violence) in the google search box with the name of the newspaper. Then, in a folder, I established a database of all five newspapers' rape case reports. There was a total of 50 reports. There were five media outlets in this area (The Dawn, The News, The Nation, The Daily Pakistan Observer, and Pakistan Today); peculiarly the newspapers with the most articles about sexual violence also had the highest viewership rates.

I looked at papers published in the years 2020 and 2021. I looked through the database to see if there were any similarities in which articles got the most national attention. A content analysis method technique was used to analyze the data. A content analysis method investigated rape instances reported in five Pakistani newspapers.

### **3.5 Research Method**

Content analysis method has been chosen to analysis the data collected from the major five Pakistani newspapers. The study's analytical framework was covered by the content analysis method's conceptual analysis. This method was used to analyze the data in this investigation. Content analysis as a research approach would be relevant and appropriate for this study because it entails assessing and evaluating content, in this case newspaper coverage of rape cases in Pakistan. Content analysis is a study method that allows academics to investigate media content in a more efficient manner (Besova, 2008). The rape reports from five of the most widely circulated English newspapers were examined. Dawn, The News, The Nation, The Daily Pakistan Observer, and Pakistan Today are among these publications.

White (1950) was the first to propose that journalists' activities in response to media messages are comparable. Furthermore, Warren Breed (1955) described how

journalists become socialized in their employment (Shoemaker & Reese, 1995). According to Shoemaker and Reese (1995), there have been more research on media employers and employees, but little emphasis has been paid to the inherent theoretical connections between them. Complete media content studies must hypothesize on the impacts of media, which means the researcher must properly analyze what messages a viewer obtains instead of focusing on the acquirement of message by audience and so impact that viewer (Shoemaker & Reese, 1995). The method of content analysis examines many practices of human communication, such as literature, daily newspapers, and movies, for finding the patterns, subjects, or partiality (Leedy and Ormrod, 2010). By analyzing verbal, visual, and behavioral patterns in content, content analysis can identify certain features (Williams, 2007).

Content analysis is a research method which offers researchers an effective way to investigate media content (Besova, 2008). Hansen et al described content analysis as, "a research technique for the objective, systematic and quantitative description of the manifest content of communication." (1998: 94). This analysis identifies and counts the amount of specific characteristics of text in order to be able to say something about the messages, images, representations of such texts and their broader social significance (Hansen et al., 1998:94). Content analysis was adopted to investigate the newsworthiness, priority, location and type of news contents in samples by categorizing the content of selected newspapers and quantifying the content characteristics. Content analysis was used because it generates content meaning. In this study, content analysis helped the researcher to understand the content of the newspaper-specific coverage of the rape events.

In clinical and sociological research, content analysis has been used to examine a large number of texts in relation to news articles and discussions. According to McNamara (2005), there are five main uses of content analysis:

1. To characterize the content of a message's substance features;
2. To characterize the form features of message content;
3. To provide conclusions for content producers;
4. To make inferences about content audiences;
5. To foresee how content will affect audiences.

Furthermore, content analysis distinguishes between several layers of content, such as primary content (themes and key ideas of the text) and latent content (context information). Krippendorff (quoted in Mayring, 2000) defines content analysis as the use of reproducible and effective methodologies for creating precise inferences extracted from text to other conditions or attributes of its source. Likewise, the goal of content analysis is that it extracts theme from cultural artefacts associated to media construction independently (Leavy, 2000). Various methods can be used to examine frames within news stories. I conducted a content analysis of print newspaper reports for the aim of my paper. The reports from Pakistani newspapers serve as units, or texts, that give context for the relationships between "media, culture, and society" (Brennen 193). Although a text may appear to be merely a "written document," researchers regard it as a "culture artefact" that provides insights into the social creation of language and communication (Brennen 193). Textual analysis can be used to figure out what the text's intent is as well as hypothesize on how the text is perceived (Brennen 201).

### **3.6 Content Analysis Method**

Content analysis model has two types to analysis data, the one is conceptual analysis and second is relational analysis. Both have pros and cons in analyzing the content data.

An approach is chosen for evaluation in conceptual analysis, and the analysis involves quantifying and tallying its presence. Although the terms may be implicit or explicit, the focus here is on looking at the occurrence of selected terms inside a text or texts. Identifying research questions and selecting a sample or samples are the first steps in conceptual analysis. The text must next be classified into manageable content categories once it has been chosen. Coding is essentially a technique of selective reduction. The researcher can focus on and code for certain terms or patterns that are suggestive of the research issue by limiting the text to categories consisting of a word, collection of words, or phrases.

The act of recognizing concepts contained in a given text or set of texts is the first step in relational analysis. By examining the relationships between the ideas identified, relational analysis tries to move beyond presence. Semantic analysis is another name for relational analysis (Palmquist, Carley, & Dale, 1997). To put it another way, the goal of relational analysis is to find semantic, or meaningful, connections. Individual notions are considered to be meaningless in and of themselves. When doing a

relationship analysis, it's crucial to first identify which idea will be investigated. There have been studies with as few as one concept category and as many as 500. Too many categories, on the other hand, can obscure the results, while too few can lead to incorrect and potentially invalid conclusions. As a result, it's critical to let the research's context and requirements lead the coding techniques.

Codes and categories are often used in framing research because they provide a systematic and structured way to analyze and interpret data. By breaking down data into smaller units, such as individual words or phrases, and assigning codes or labels to these units based on their meaning or significance, researchers can identify patterns and themes that emerge across the data. Codes and categories can help to organize large amounts of data into more manageable chunks, which can then be analyzed and compared to identify similarities and differences. This process can help to identify underlying themes or patterns in the data that may not be immediately apparent, and can provide insights into the broader discourse surrounding a research topic. I followed Carley's (1992) eight category coding stages, which assisted me in categorizing my data according to my preferences. The following are the eight categories: 1. Determine the level of analysis. 2. Determine how many concepts you'll be coding for. 3. Choose whether to code for a concept's existence or frequency. 4. Decide how you'll differentiate between notions. 5. Create coding rules for your texts. 6. Make a decision about what to do with "irrelevant" data. 7. Put the texts into a code. 8. Examine the outcomes.

First of all, the level of analysis must be determined. The word or phrase that chooses the coding is called the level of analysis. Researchers create code for the word to continue. A code for sets of words or phrases have been chosen. Once the concept is decided it decides how the other concept should be considered. It should be a pre-defined and favorable level when determining the range. It is then necessary to decide. The researcher should be allowed to select the category if he/she feels related to another category. Along with this, it should also be decided whether each word that appears in the content analysis should be coded or what qualitative aspects should be considered, and which words should be considered. In the second category, there some concepts related to rape crime are identified and then codified, e.g. the concept of victim blaming, vulnerable creature, eastern society, sexual assaults, minor, woman and victims murder etc.

The third category which has been adopted the code for a concept's frequency: a code might use in the data more than one time and change the meaning. An important decision the researcher has to make is to count the words. On the other hand, code for existence count one regardless of how many times it used. The fourth category adopted the concept's code which can be recorded as the same even when they appear in different forms, e.g. girl, girls, woman, women etc. The researcher needs to determine if these four mean the same thing. So that four can be placed in different categories. The fifth Carley's category demands that there must be rules for using the codes in uniformity. What exactly is it to understand coded words for which he/she has coded. Developing a set of rules gives the researcher accuracy or coding, e.g. girl, woman, minor, child are coded in the gender frame. Some words were unnecessary so the irrelevant data is ignored in the sixth category, because they are of no use. The seventh category allowed to give codes to text (see table 4.2). These eight category open hands of the researcher to analysis the data.

### **3.7 Ethical Consideration**

Human rights' violations in the guise of scientific study have been among history's darkest moments. Between 1932 and 1972, almost 400 African Americans with syphilis were purposefully left untreated in order to research the disease. Despite the fact that the Tuskegee syphilis study was funded by the US Public Health Service, the publication of the 40-year study sparked public outcry (Caplan, 1992).

In their study, Ethical issues of researchers in qualitative studies: the requirement of developing a specific guideline in detail, Sanjari, Bahramnezhad, and Fomani, et al, (2014) highlighted ethical considerations. The study discusses many ethical principles for research papers. It was stated that in any scientific project, the protection of human participants through the application of suitable ethical norms is critical (Orb, Eisenhauer & Wynaden, et al, 2001). This investigation was carried out with great care. The primary purpose was to protect the rape victims' human rights. They are the most despondent members of the family and society.

Pakistan is a Muslim country, and its citizens are highly concerned about a blemish on a family member. As a result, I didn't mention the victims' real names, locations, or even the newspaper clipping, because that would not harm their feelings. The genuine names, addresses, and identities of rape victims have been kept secret. Because rape victims' identities were mentioned in certain reports, they were purposely

replaced with a fictitious one. The photographs of the victims, as well as the culprits who committed the murder, were published in the press, but they have been avoided purposefully. They have not been included in the research, further, the decision was taken to conduct this research study without using the photographs or real names of the rape victims. This research focused on the media discourse regarding rape reports in Pakistani newspapers. It didn't want to revisit the horrible incidents in the life of rape victims. The researcher seeks an apology in advance if any rape victim is wounded as a result of the study.



## **CHAPTER 4**

### **DATA ANALYSIS**

This chapter examined data obtained from newspaper reports concerning rape cases in Pakistan. The data is analyzed using a content analysis model. There are two types of qualitative data analysis, conceptual analysis comes first, followed by relational analysis. This study employs conceptual analysis to investigate the data. Section 4.1 is about the corpus of the selected data. It shows that how the specific words especially words related to rape crime used and how many times. 4.2 section elaborates the content analysis method and its two types, further, it explains the Carley's (1992) eight category coding stages and its incorporation for data analysis. Code explanation is mentioned in section 4.3, section 4.4 is about the concordance codes and its explanation. The frame is discussed in section 4.5 with four sub-heading. At the end discussion is placed in section 4.6.

#### **4.1 Newspapers' Corpus**

Table 1 shows the data that was gathered from Pakistani publications. From 2020 to 2021, ten rape reports were taken from each newspaper. Because of its content, each newspaper has a unique corpus. Dawn and Pakistan Today have virtually as large a corpus as the others, with 4883 and 4505 words, respectively. The Pakistan Daily Observer has the smallest amount of information, with only 1879 words. Images of the victims, as well as their names, were published in some newspapers. The Pakistan Observer is very picky with its wording; it merely describes what has happened and is hesitant to express a viewpoint. The bodies of 3250 and 2930 have been discovered, according to the press and The Nation. There were 17447 corpora in total for this study.

**Table 4.1: About Newspapers, Reports and Corpus**

No	Newspaper	Reports (2020 to 2021)	Corpus (Total Words)	Total Corpus
1	The Dawn	10 Rape Reports	4883	17447
2	The News	10 Rape Reports	3250	
3	The Nation	10 Rape Reports	2930	
4	The Daily Pakistan Observer	10 Rape Reports	1879	
5	Pakistan Today	10 Rape Reports	4505	

#### 4.2 Content Analysis

According to content analysis, I first gathered data that is pertinent to the subject. I looked for patterns in the data or observed the data in the second step. After that, the codification process began, so I chose the descriptive code, which is more in line with my theme. Descriptive coding is a first-cycle coding method that entails reviewing qualitative data and categorizing sections by topic. Descriptive codes are frequently in the form of a noun, and they summarize the data's topic. A classified inventory or index of data arranged by topic is the result of descriptive coding. This information can be used for additional analysis and interpretation in subsequent coding rounds.

I followed Carley's (1992) eight category coding stages, which assisted me in categorizing my data according to my study's objectives. These eight categories are adopted in the study, in the level of analysis, a first category, a code for sets of words or phrases have been chosen, e.g. the text divided into words or phrases (see table 4.2). In the second category, some concepts related to rape crime are identified and then codified, e.g. the concept of victim blaming, vulnerable creature, eastern society, sexual

assaults, minor, woman and victims murder etc. The third category which has been adopted the code for a concept's frequency: a code might use in the data more than one time and change the meaning. On the other hand, code for existence count one regardless of how many times it used. The fourth category adopted the concept's code which can be recorded as the same even when they appear in different forms, e.g. girl, girls, woman, women etc. the fifth Carley's category demands that there must be rules for using the codes in uniformity, e.g. girl, woman, minor, child are coded in the gender frame. The irrelevant data is ignored in the sixth category, because they are of no use. The seventh category allowed to give codes to text (see table 4.2). These eight category open hands of the researcher to analysis the data.

#### Frames and Codes Identified Within 'The newspapers'

<i>Frame</i>	<i>Codes</i>	<i>Categories</i>
1. <i>Gender</i>	Girl, minor, victim, children, woman,	Punjab Child Protection and Welfare Bureau (CPWB), the body, showing signs of rape, was later found in a ditch in nearby jungle, As many as 2,960 major crimes against children, body of a woman (later identified as Sajida) was found from the Rohi drain, corpse of a freshly-buried teenage girl and raped, lady in question could have avoided being at the wrong place at the wrong time, a minor girl rape in Karachi,
2. <i>Culture</i>	family, landlord, Islam, school, village,	Some Visited madrassah and showed the video of the alleged sexual assault to, He said that if he was "in his senses" how could the boy have made a video using a mobile phone without him knowing, Wafaqul Madaris al Arabia nazim, Jamia Manzoorul Islamia in 2013, they believed a local goon who was son of the village landlord was involved in the heinous crime, owner of the school and grabbed objectionable pictures of his sisters and blackmailed, The medical examination confirmed the rape,

3. <i>Crime</i>	Rape, sexual, abuse, murder, gang,	security officer raided the hostel, Students Disciplinary Committee, "How can we take this further when he [the victim] doesn't want to pursue it," he said., Ahmed termed the abuse as "extremely saddening", The parents then brought the body to Thatta Civil Hospital for, Cases of abduction, missing children and child marriages, Her autopsy showed that she had been raped, sodomized and then murdered, her body was found from a garbage heap at around 5am on Wednesday with her neck broken, They were abducted and they might have also been raped," says the grieving mother, Her throat had been slit but the body was so decomposed that it was hard to even identify her,
4. <i>Identity</i>	DNA, geofencing, semen, FIR, investigation,	email IDs, social media, Section 377 (unnatural offences) and Section 506 (punishment for criminal intimidation) of the Pakistan Penal Code, Section 365-B (kidnapping with intent to commit zina) and 34 of the Pakistan Penal Code read with Section 376(ii) of the Protection of Women (Criminal Laws Amendment) Act, 2006 at the Brigade police station in 2008, no fresh stain of either blood or semen were observed on, DNA can be extracted from the cells of a variety of body fluids and tissues, CCTV footage, semen serology and DNA profiling and cross-matching,

Table: 4.2 Frames and Codes

The table 4.2 reveals the data which has been codified in to categories: a smaller unit of the text. It consists of words or phrases. These words are phrases further transformed into codes. The frames are assigned to these codes. Each frame has five codes with multiple categories.

#### 4.3 Codes Explanation

The term "frame" refers to a more comprehensive phrase or umbrella term that encompasses both codes and categories. As previously stated, categories are small

groups of data that take the form of sentences or phrases. These categories are used to create codes. The codes are chosen based on all of the language's grammatical categories. The codes are further broken into sub-codes due to the codes' multiple grammatical categories. Frequencies have been assigned based on sub-codes. Tables 4.3 and 4.4 include all of the codes and their frequencies, both for each individual newspaper and for the entire collection. The following is a list of the codes and sub-codes:

Girl- girls (below 15 years and above 10 years)

Minor-minors (below 18 years)

Victim-victims-victimization-victimized

Child-children-boy (below 15 years and above 10 years)

Woman-women-lady-ladies (they are above 20 years)

Family-relative-relatives including closed neighbors

Landlord-father-MNA-Khan-Sardar; in Eastern society, father is considered a boss in the family and so is MNA, khan and sardar

Islam-Hindu-Christianity; all religions are included in this code. The reason to give name Islam, because Muslims are in majority in Pakistan.

Village-city-neighborhood; all these are red spot of rape cases against the victims.

School-madrassah-madrassa-university

Rape-rapes-raped-rape

Sexual-sex

Murder-murdered-kill-killed-killing

Gang-gangs

Abuse-abused-abusing

DNA

Geofencing-geofence

Semen-sperm

FIR

Investigation-investigate-investigated

Some codes, such as minor, children, and girl, appear to be the same or at least similar. Because girls dealt with solely female gender and were under the age of 15, it was purposefully divided. Minors included both males and females under the age of eighteen. Furthermore, the term "kid" or "children" referred to only males under the age of 15 and older than ten years.

Table 4.3: Frames, and Codes Frequencies in Five Newspapers

Frame	Codes	The Dawn (4883)	The News (3250)	The Nation (2930)	Daily Pakistan Observer (1879)	Pakistan Today (4505)	Total (17447)
Gender	Girl	16	4	1	34	34	89
	Minor	3	0	4	2	2	11
	victim,	37	24	20	14	14	109
	children,	12	1	5	2	2	22
	Woman	13	25	19	7	7	71
Total Frequency		81	54	49	59	59	302
Culture	Family	9	4	4	8	9	34
	Landlord	4	10	1	8	8	31
	Islam	1	0	0	0	0	1
	Village	7	4	4	5	5	25
	School	19	2	7	2	1	29
Total Frequency		40	20	16	23	23	120

Table 4.3 displayed the frequency of the codes chosen from the newspaper data by Carley (1992). He discussed eight different types of coding, which made it easier for me to choose. Only two frames were covered in story number three: gender and culture. Both frames are critical because they have a significant influence on our culture. Furthermore, this horrible crime is primarily committed against women, particularly those under the age of 18. According to the research, girls over the age of ten and under the age of eighteen are more likely to be victims than girls under the age of ten. Girls make up 89 percent of the frequency, while women make up 71 percent, while children make up 22 percent and minors make up 11 percent. According to data acquired from Pakistani newspapers, women in Pakistan are more vulnerable and exposed to rape than

men. Their stats revealed that they are still considered a vulnerable and weak gender. Male child abuse is less common than female child abuse, which is quite concerning. Eastern societies, which are controlled by men, value the male gender's respect for women. As a result, females are more vulnerable to being exploited than males. Although both should be safeguarded, additional rules and protection are needed to empower the most vulnerable species in Pakistani culture, the female.

The code victim is used 109 times, making it the newspaper's most often used code. The victims in the majority of newspaper reporting were women. Victims, victimized, and victimization are the four sub-codes of this code. This code was used by the Dawn newspaper a total of 37 times. It was mentioned 24 times in the news and 20 times in the Nation, respectively. Pakistan Today and Pakistan Observer are on the same page. This code appeared 14 times in these newspapers.

Family, landlord, school, Islam, and village are the five codes that make up the cultural framework. Eastern culture has its own set of conventions and customs. Especially in the case of women. In contrast to western society, the family system in eastern society is extremely intact. The term "family" is an umbrella term that includes relatives and cousins. The Dawn, Pakistan Observer, and Pakistan Today have the highest frequency of family code at 34, with Dawn, Pakistan Observer, and Pakistan Today having the highest frequency of 9,8 and 9 respectively.

As a sub-code, the landlord code covered father, MNA, Sardar, Chaudhary and Khan. These individuals wield significant power in Pakistani society. They determine the fate of the weak, particularly females, who are particularly susceptible creatures. Females are more likely to be attacked, killed, raped, and murdered in a male-dominated culture, according to this study's findings. This code appears 31 times in newspaper data related to rape reports. In comparison to other codes, this one has been used 10 times in the news. The Pakistan Observer and Pakistan Today were each mentioned eight times. The Dawn and the Nation both utilized it once, and the Nation used it four times.

The Islam code has a distinct presence here, including sub-codes such as Hindu, Christianity, and Islam. According to the findings, religion has a little impact on the reporting of rape crimes in Pakistan. This code taught how to frame headings. The frequency revealed that only the Dawn newspaper mentioned rape in the story once,

while the rest of the media did not. It's fascinating to see how religion keeps things in order and attempts to reduce the threat posed by civilization.

The village code has the following sub-codes: city, neighborhood, and locality. The choice of village code is based on the fact that villages have a larger population than cities. This code has a frequency of 25. There isn't much of a change in how this code is used. It was mentioned seven times in the rape allegations by the Dawn, with others using it in comparable amounts.

Another center for rape cases is educational institutions. According to the data, about half of the cases are reported in these educational institutions, or they are contributors to the crime to some extent. The term "code school" appears 29 times in the corpus of Pakistani newspapers. The Dawn, the most widely circulated newspaper, used it 19 times. The Nation newspaper mentioned it 7 times second in number, rest of newspapers included this code 2, 1, 2 times in the rape reports.

Table 4.4: Frames, and Codes Frequencies in five Newspapers

Frame	Codes	The Dawn Words (4883)	The News (3250)	The Nation (2930)	Daily Pakistan Observer (1879)	Pakistan Today (4505)	Total (17447)
Crime	Rape	29	33	17	28	26	133
	Sexual	7	15	14	0	0	36
	Murder	8	13	4	6	6	37
	Gang	4	3	5	11	11	34
	Abuse	6	0	1	1	1	9
Total Frequency		54	63	41	46	38	249
Identity	DNA	8	4	1	0	0	13
	Geofencing	2	1	0	0	0	3
	Semen	2	0	0	0	0	2
	FIR	18	6	1	3	3	31



	Investigation	4	4	5	3	3	19
Total Frequency		34	15	7	6	6	68

Table 4.4 has two more frames, each with five codes and their respective frequencies. In terms of frequency, the frame "crime and identity" is crucial.

Rapes, raped, and rapping are the sub-codes of code 'rape'. This code is used 133 times, which is the most of any code. Rape is seen as a heinous crime in practically every society. Pakistan is a theocratic country where people are increasingly religious, but this heinous crime still exists in large numbers. The News newspaper has used 33 times as many words as the rest of the newspapers combined. The Dawn has a frequency of 29, whereas The Nation, Pakistan Observer, and Pakistan Today have frequencies of 17, 28, and 26, respectively.

The frequency of the 'sexual' code is 36. There is only one sub-code for this code, which is sex. Only three newspapers, The Dawn, The News, and The Nation, employed this code in their rape reporting. The frequency of these newspapers is 7, 15, and 14 respectively. Pakistan Observer and Pakistan today have never used the term. Sexual desire, or 'sex,' is a natural experience that can sometimes lead to criminal behavior. As a result, different strategies are required to combat it.

The final outcome of this crime is murder. After rape, the majority of victims are children, both male and female. According to the data, this code is used 37 times, with The News being the most frequently used at 13 times. The rest of the newspapers mentioned it at about the same rate. The majority of murder cases involve juveniles, while adults have sometimes been accused of murder. The gang code has a frequency of 34, and it is used to commit murder. Individuals lack the ability to kill, but it is the gang that forces the criminals to kill the victim after the rape. Gangs is one of the sub-codes of gang. This code was used four times in the Dawn newspaper. Pakistan Observer and Pakistan Today were each mentioned 11 times in the reports.

Only 9 times is the code 'abuse' mentioned. It was mentioned six times in the Dawn newspaper, which is the most. The stories of rape crime were ignored by the rest of the press. The frequency of these newspapers is 0,1,1. This code has two sub-codes: abused and abusing. The offender abused the victims in the majority of rape instances. They are mercilessly murdered, even mutilating the victims' carpus.

The codes needed to track down criminals were covered by the Identity Frame. The perpetrator of rape may be caught by the police using these codes. This frame's initial code is DNA. DNA is the most modern investigation technique for locating criminals. Only 13 times does it appear in the data. The number of times it was utilized by the Dawn newspaper was eight times higher. It was not mentioned in the rape stories in Pakistan Observer or Pakistan Today. Pakistan is a third-world country with insufficient resources to properly use the latest scientific technology. As a result, Pakistan has only one forensic laboratory that can do DNA authentication. There are no sub-codes in DNA. This code was used in approximately identical amounts by all of the newspapers. The frequencies of this code do not differ significantly.

Geofencing is a type of identity frame code. This is also a cutting-edge technique for tracking down crooks. This technique has been used to apprehend a large number of criminals. This code was used three times in the newspapers. Because the technology is so new, law enforcement agencies rarely employ it. It was used twice in the Dawn newspaper and once in the news. In their rape reports, the other three publications did not utilize this code. Geofencing, like DNA, does not have a sub-code. The next code is sperm, which is a sub-code of semen. This code was only used twice in the data. This inquiry code also captures the majority of offenders. Though its legality has expired with the passage of time, it is nevertheless used by law enforcement agencies around the world.

The FIR code is used 31 times in the data. There are no sub-codes in this code. It was referenced 18 times in the reporting in the Dawn newspaper. It is cited roughly 6,1,3,3 times in the other newspapers. Investigation is the final code of the previous frame. Investigate and investigated are two sub-codes of investigation. In the reporting data, it has a frequency of 19.

These frames with codes represented the frequencies that comprehended the story's frames. Media discourse very minutely frame this heinous crime in the reports, which seek attention to be investigated.

#### **4.4 Concordance of the Codes**

"A concordance is just a list of all of the occurrences of a specific search term in a corpus, displayed within the context in which they appear; usually a few words to the left and right of the search term," according to Baker (2006). The study of concordances

is utilized to supplement the analysis of major lexis and lexical patterns that are emerging. In the analyst's immediate co-text, a concordance provides examples of a word or cluster (Baker, 2006). Concordance criteria can be applied to the entire manuscript, and the number of words on either side of the word/cluster in emphasis can usually be adjusted to meet the researcher's requirements. As a result, concordance is one of the more qualitative techniques of corpus linguistics research.

For the concordance of the codes, all of the newspaper reports were combined and a plain text file was created. After that, AntConc was utilized to determine the codes' concordance. Due to a lack of time, I only chose codes with high frequencies. Furthermore, large data produces better patterns than tiny data.

1	placement agency, Goodwill	raped	a Filipino woman.\x94 When a
2	Manpower Services, has	raped	gender crime
3	ckshaw driver along with his two	raped	a 13-year-old girl here in the City,
4	accomplices' gang-	raped	after armed dacoits barged into a
5	mber 31, 2020 staff reporter a	raped	house at
6	married woman was	raped	an 18-year-old girl in front of her
7	\xA0- June 15, 2021 Armed	raped	and further investigation into the
8	dacoits allegedly gang-	raped	case was under
9	1 reports confirmed that the	raped	and killed in Ratta Jaithol area of
10	complainant had been	raped	Sialkot
11	\xA0- May 31, 2021 A nine years	raped	at a hotel in Millat Park area of
12	old girl was	raped	before murder. In a statement,
13	21 \xA0 Staff Reporter A woman	raped	CPO Muhammad Ahsan
14	was allegedly gang-	raped	by a classmate eight months ago
15	ospital where doctors confirmed	raped	gave birth
	that the lady was	raped	by a family friend whilst the
	21 A 12-year-old girl who was	raped	woman had
	reportedly sexually	raped	by a 21-year-old man, being
			taunted and

<p>Wahdat Colony area, wherein a woman was allegedly</p> <p>the streets of her village after having been</p> <p>added. 3\x85Minor girl gives birth after being</p> <p>021 MARDAN \x96 A 27-year old woman was allegedly</p> <p>to police, the boy named Shazil was gang-</p> <p>\x96 A woman, abducted earlier, was allegedly gang-</p>	<p>by classmate\xA0- August 28, 2021 A 12-year-old g</p> <p>by five persons in the limits of Kharki</p> <p>by his neighbour Asif and his two friends</p> <p>by six men in Baseed pur village, in</p>
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Concordance Table: 4.5 of Code 'Raped'

The language pattern in Table 4.5 of the concordance is astounding. In English grammar, the word 'raped' is used as both a noun and a verb. However, it is employed as a verb in all 15 lines of data from Pakistani newspaper rape stories. Although the following concordance table appears to be a 15-line pattern based on 'raped' code, the total number of lines is really 68. This pattern frequently uses verb phrases that convey a variety of evaluative responses that frame women as victims: *gang raped*, *sexually raped*, and *reportedly raped*, are examples.

Table 4.5 revealed an unusual pattern in this fifteen-line concordance, a "gang-raped" used five times. A terrible incident in which a victim was gang raped was reported in this pattern. The crooks were working in groups, which is indicative of our society's sorry state. In addition, there is another pattern from lines 10 to 15, which is the use of the word 'raped by' five times. This is an example of passive grammar. The doer is usually absent in passive form, but in this case, the media revealed the action's doer. Furthermore, with the exception of one, the perpetrators are all known to the victims. It was discovered that the victims are raped by a relative, classmate, neighbor, or family member, for example, *raped by a family friend*, *raped by a neighbor*, and *raped by a classmate (twice)*.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	<p>was registered under Sections 376 (punishment for had accused an assistant sub-inspector (ASI) of tion. The case was registered under sections 376 lian media reported. 5. Gujranwala woman retracts health leave after being caught up in separate by the police and arrested under charges of ibi, on September 1 (today) under Sections 375-A the other accused person involved in the murder, rorism Act, and sections dealing with kidnapping, rorism Act, and sections dealing with kidnapping, gust 3, 2021 The main accused in the kidnapping, nterrogation. The case concerning the kidnapping, us of international attention since the 2012 gang- regarding rape who is a survivor of gang-</p>	<p>rape rape rape rape rape rape rape rape rape rape rape rape rape rape rape</p>	<p>496-A (enticing or taking away a woman), 511 (p a few days ago, retracted her allegations while 109 (abetment of 'zina-bil-jabr') and 201 (caus accusations against cop "No one raped me," said allegations. Australia's attorney general Chri and criminal intimidation. According to the first and 337-J (causing hurt by means of poison) and kidnapping of the girl. 7\85Two sisters and murder against unknown suspects. Confirming c and murder against unknown suspects. A DSP-rank and murder case of a six-year-old and murder of a six-year-old girl and murder of a student on a Delhi and now a women's rights activist. and sexual assault also go unnoticed as it</p>
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	reports. Observers have noticed that the cases of		
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Concordance Table: 4.6 of Code 'Rape'

This code was used as a noun in all 15 lines of the concordance pattern. From line 6 to 15, the pattern looked incredible, with all of the search terms, i.e. "rape," coupled with the conjunction of "and." The 'and' revealed that the offenders perform another horrible crime following 'rape,' such as rape and murder, rape and sexual assault. In the concordance of the search word 'rape,' line 9 to 12 revealed yet another distinct pattern. Two new offences have been added to the 'rape' phrase from the left and right. They *are kidnapping, rape, and murder*, all of which have been employed four times in a row.

When a concordance is sorted in this way, it begins to disclose some of its linguistic patterns. Then there's this sample, which is quite intriguing. One thing to bear in mind is that the entire concordance is 68 lines long. When the 15 lines are arranged one place to the left, three of the entries contain numbers, implying that quantification is one approach to characterize rape.

Lines; 1,3, 7 and 13 have this pattern. e.g. under section 376, *punishment for, under sections 376, under Sections 375-A, since the 2012 gang-*. Our sorted concordance gave us evidence for one pattern by alerting us to its existence, but it is then useful to look through the remaining concordance lines to see if numbers occur elsewhere.

Table 4.6, showed situations from the concordance where quantification of some type appears in noun and determiner with the search word after additional research. It's worth noting that these quantification terms don't always appear one position to the left, aren't limited to a single word, and don't have to relate to a specific number. Quantifying without giving actual figures is possible using phrases like "under section or since the." These types of quantifications imply that the perpetrators of this crime are in a difficult situation. They demonstrated the portion that could result in the offender's punishment.

1	in Pakistan as three robbers sexually assaulted a	Girl	after overcoming her parents on roadside near Far
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2	8. Suspect confesses to killing	girl	after rape in Karachi: police August
3	six-year-old	girl	3, 2021 Th
4	pects / Mansoor who confessed to	girl	after rape. The Sialkot police also
5	murdering the	girl	recovered the
6	with them It, in fact, added that	girl	also made contact with the suspects
7	the	girl	after the
8	dug out corpse of a freshly-buried	girl	and raped it in Maulvi Ashraf
9	teenage	girl	Chandio village
10	valuables from the house	girl	and remained the house for almost
11	including dowry of the	girl	three hours.
12	(FIR) was filed against family	girl	and villagers for parading her in the
13	members of the	girl	village
14	and the second against family	girl	and villagers for parading her in the
15	members of the	girl	village
	-old man who is accused of raping	girl	Another First Information Report
	the	girl	(FIR) was filed
	king, tying up, gagging and		before threatening to douse her in
	repeatedly raping the		petrol, set
	penalty for rape, murder of six-		By Our Correspondent December
	year-old		22, 2020 A model
	Family members of the raped		claimed that the murder could have
	teenage		been avoided
	Teen		gang-raped: police By News desk
	accused at the earliest, they		gives birth after being raped by
	added. Minor		classmate
	Landhi SP Shahnawaz Chachar		had gone missing from her house in
	said the minor		Ghous

Concordance Table: 4.7 of Code 'Girl'





incredible in that authorities were able to collect all four girls from the victims' father. The father is the family's caretaker, and if that figure is complicit in the crime, where the weak creature could get protection.

1	other, while 51 per cent of the	Girls	and 49pc boys. Out of the reported
2	victims were	girls	cases, 985
3	a gang allegedly involved in	girls	at an academy in DG Khan, after the
4	sexual assault of	girls	at the gate of a factory, according to
5	to Karol Khatti where she found	girls	but they were not found. The FIR
6	the two	girls	said
7	got worried and started searching	girls	College, the Muzaffargarh
8	for the two	girls	candidates will appear
9	of Jatoi Tehsil will be held at	girls	from the captivity of their father.
10	Government	girls	had been kidnapped by their father.
11	purpose, Hyderabad police have	girls	INP 9..
12	recovered all four	girls	hailing from Sabzazar area of
13	SSP Abdus Salam has refuted	girls	Lahore were on
14	reports that the	girls	in Lahore, police officials said,
15	cene here on Thursday.	girls	adding that the
	According to details, four	girls	in Lahore September 1, 2021 A
	alleged involvement in the gang	girls	Lahore factory own
	rape of two		in the Hussainabad area of
	owner arrested in connection		Hyderabad on Tuesday
	with rape of two		Jiya Asghar and Nida Asghar and
	News desk \xA0- January 13,		escaped the
	2021 Hyderabad Four		on Tuesday. The police stated that
	Dera in Chak No. 153-EB, gang		one of
	raped two		

sexual assault scandal involving numerous of		through the secretly filmed videos, the DPO
The arrested suspect used to blackmail the		to a vacant Dera in Chak No. 153-EB,
hsil Arifwala of Pakpattan. The culprits took the		

Concordance Table: 4.8 of Code 'Girls'

Only on line 7 is the searched keyword followed by a verb (had been); the rest of the lines contain prepositions, articles, conjunctions, interjections, and other words.

The following table: 5 showed the code victim's concordance:

The code, together with sub-code, was mentioned 109 times in the media. In general, our society favors perpetrators over victims. This was evidenced by the statistics, which showed how victims were blamed, victimized, and defamed. That story was provided on the first and second lines of the concordance table:5. The victim was dubbed a "lying cow" by the public, which is more damaging than the crime itself. The metaphor "lying cow" was used to demonstrate dishonor and scorn for the victims. Lines 3, 13, and 15 all referred to the same story.

1	Thursday apologised for calling	Victim	a "lying cow," sparking fresh
2	an alleged rape	victim	claims of a "
3	Aussie minister sorry for	victim	a lying cow By AFP
4	calling rape	victim	accountable and responsible for the
5	with just intentions. Instead,	victim	crime let
6	they hold the	victim	also failed to examine the victim,
7	Medical Officer PIMS,	victim	knowing that
8	Islamabad who received the	victim	and her attacker being forced to
9	A video shared on social media	victim	walk in
	showed the	victim	

10	use as "extremely saddening"	victim	and his family would be provided
11	and assured that the	victim	justice and
12	avoid the video gone public,	victim	and his family The report said that
13	heavily defaming the	victim	the
14	took notice of the video and	victim	and his parents, the CPWB said in a
15	contacted the	victim	and other witnesses. It appears that
	produce solid and concrete	victim	they
	evidence through the		and the accused with a rope and
	Pradesh, wherein a mob		paraded
	first tied the		and the accused and later paraded
	The mob first beat up both the		them. The
	in Indian media citing police		and two accomplices were arrested
	authorities, the		in connection w
	according to the victim's		begs for a living, according to her
	father. The		father. 2..
	words, hence giving rise to the		blaming and making it more
	culture of		difficult for the
	forward and speak up against		blaming and shaming do not only
	the offence.		cause trauma

Concordance Table: 4.9 of Code 'victim'

This concordance table has a wonderful pattern. Victim was followed by the conjunction "and" from line 5 to line 12. The following are some examples: *showed the victim and her attacker, that the victim and his family, defaming the victim and his family, contacted the victim and his parents etc.* Another intriguing pattern is the use of verbs after the noun "victim" in the search phrase. Only one victim is followed by a verb in all fifteen lines, which is quite remarkable, i.e. *the victim begs for a living, according to her father.* On the right side of the concordance table, there are four times when verb used before the "victim" term. They are: *received the victim, showed the victim, contacted the victim, and tied the victim.*

The sub-code of victim is “victims”. This term is used 11 times only in the media discourse.

1	to lose their faith in rest of the	Victims	and take their statements casually.
2	on a Delhi bus sparked	victims	– Advertisement
3	nationwide protests.	victims	are regularly subjected to sexist
4	from the rest of society; they	victims	treatment at
5	discourage	victims	from registering or pursuing cases,
6	or made more acute, they also	victims	in an
7	prevent other	victims	from speaking up, said Jasmyn
8	and to inform them that one of	victims	Rana, a
9	the	victims	had taken money from him,
10	findings, terming it an attempt	victims	however, police
11	to blame the	victims	Reemi and her sisters, the girls
	of arresting the culprits and	victims	aunts,
	defending the		Right activists have found that the
	so far difficult to bring justice		negative
	to the		Such negative incidents only add
	or the other, while 51 per cent		insult to the
	of the		were girls and 49pc boys. Out of
	them and were demanding		the
	more. However, the		family refuses to believe the police
	complained to police that		probe
	night, says the		sister-in-law. She says Naeem
			himself

Concordance Table: 4.10 of Code ‘victims’

Another trend found in the concordance was the use of the article "the." This article appears on the right side of the searched term, 'victims,' 8 times out of a total of 11 times. This pattern revealed that the victims are identifiable and well-known to us, but due to ethical and moral obligations, their identities were not revealed until line 6. As

a responsible citizen, I changed the name to a fictitious one in order to maintain the morality of the situation. The article in grammar dictates that 'the' was used for a noun that appears repeatedly in a piece of text, e.g. *one of the victims had taken, blame the victims Reemi and her sister. Defending the victims right, justice to the victims, 51 percent of the victims were girls, however, the victim's family refuses, says the victim's sister-in-law.*

In this media discourse, the writers also quote several sentences that indicate the victims blame game. It is a tragic tradition in the east, particularly in Pakistan, that victims are blamed owing to masculine weakness, dominance, and total accountability. They must maintain their chastity, honor, and dignity. Society unconcerned about this, and even tried to weaken the victims by employing language that exacerbate rather than alleviate the victims' suffering. Such words which showed victims blaming are; *to lose their faith in rest of the victims and take their statement causally, they discourage the victims from registering or pursuing cases, they also prevent other victims from speaking up, an attempt to blame the victims Reemi and her sister.* To mitigate the rape cases, society has to take responsibility and take care the victims rather than the offenders.

#### **4.5 The Frames in the Five Newspapers Data**

Frames are expected to be manifested in specific words, frames are detected by clustering approaches that do not require manual coding to examine words that appear together (Matthes, 2009). As a result, framing assisted the researcher in comprehending the context of rape reports in Pakistani newspapers as well as journalists reporting on various cultures.

By serving as a conceptual analysis of content model that uses computer technology, framing analysis assisted in identifying the kinds of depiction of Pakistani women in the reports. Frame analysis aids cultural interpretation, and it occupies a unique position in mass communication research, bridging the gap between discourse and content analysis by combining qualitative and quantitative methodologies (Janssen, 2010). Because it may be used to determine how people interpret the substance of rape reports, this technique is more culturally mandated. As Janssen put it, it aids the researcher in grasping the anxieties and sufferings of a class, a community, or a nation, and then shaping their knowledge of an issue.

In terms of identifying and selecting the code for the content analysis, framing analysis has limits. Matthes and Kohring (2008) proposed prior organization and selection of news stories for analysis to circumvent this, as Entman (1993) believed that frame analysis is particularly capable of linking ideas. This study used this strategy to analyze framing not just as an empirical technique, but also as a manner of illuminating discourse relationships (Reese, 2007). According to Matthes and Kohring (2008), who feel that this method is suited for analyzing the content of media reports on rape cases, single frame elements were put together in a systematic way to establish distinctive patterns and boost frame analysis dependability.

The news was notably framed differently for the aims of news creation and circulation, according to a content study of rape reports from five different publications. Gender, culture, criminality, and identity were the four frames used.

<b>Newspaper/Fram e</b>	<b>Gend er</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Cultu re</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Crim e</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Identi ty</b>	<b>%</b>
	<b>N=30</b>		<b>N=12</b>		<b>N=24</b>		<b>N=68</b>	
	<b>2</b>		<b>0</b>		<b>2</b>			
<b>The Dawn</b>	81	26.8	40	33.3	54	22. 3	34	50.0
<b>The News</b>	54	17.8	20	16.6	63	26. 0	15	22.0
<b>The Nation</b>	49	16.22	16	13.3	41	16. 9	7	10.2
<b>The Pakistan observer</b>	59	19.5	23	19.1	46	19. 0	6	8.8
<b>The Pakistan Today</b>	59	19.5	23	19.1	38	15. 7	6	8.8

Table: 4.11 shows the differences among the newspapers' uses of the four frames.

The difference in frame between the newspapers was shown in table 4.11. All five publications have changed their minds about the use of frames. The gender frame had the most frequency, with 302 in total. This frame appeared in a significant number of newspapers. With a frequency of 242, crime is the second highest. The following table exposed the entire tale of how these publications shape the narrative based on the patriarchal society's mental upbringing and reflection. The culture frame had a frequency of 120, whereas the identification frame had a frequency of 68. Because the media is the society's mirror, this study examined it in terms of these four frames.

There was a cause for the highest numbers of gender and crime frequencies. These frames frequently employ the codes girls, woman, and raped, hence the frequency was high. Furthermore, the reports were based on rape cases, and it is a fact that the majority of rape crimes are committed against women.

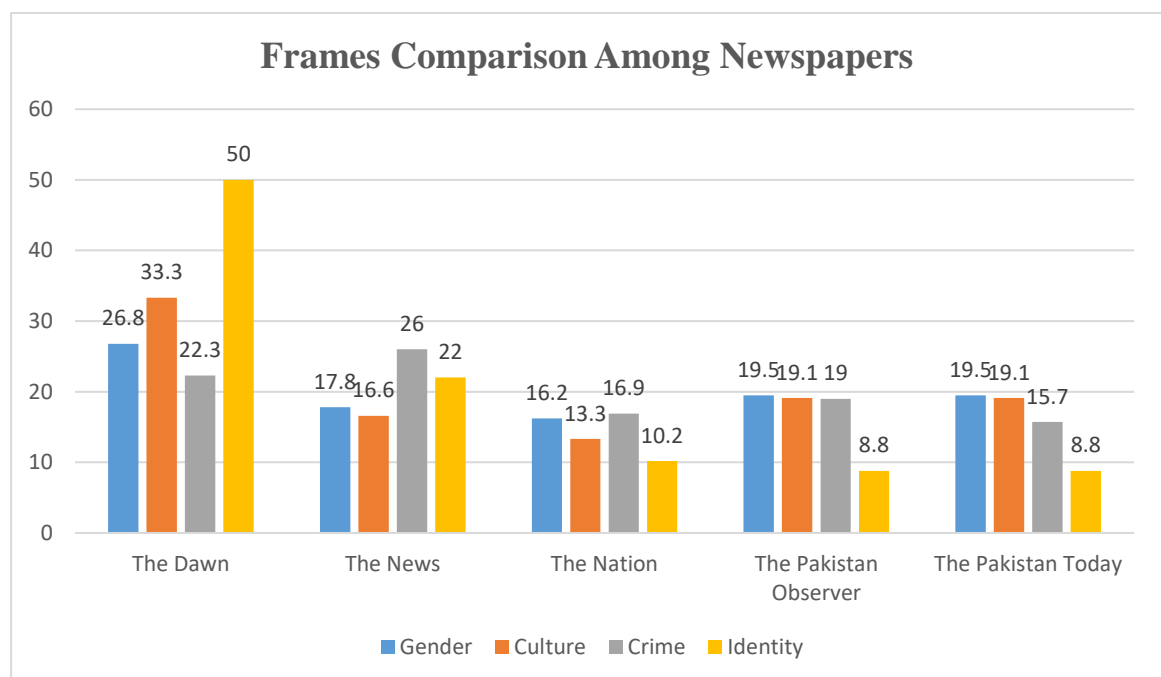


Figure: 4.1 A Bar chart of comparison of Frames in Five Newspapers

This bar chart revealed the same information as the table above: 6. The gender frame is represented by the blue bar, while culture was represented by the orange bar, criminality was represented by the shiny silver bar, and identity is represented by the yellow bar. The identity bar for the Dawn newspaper is the highest of all. Culture was ranked second, and crime is ranked third, according to The News. The frame identification and the lowest bar displayed by the Pakistan Observer and Pakistan

Today, i.e. 8.8 percent. In terms of frame frequencies, the Dawn newspaper was near the top in all of them.

In comparison to the dominance of the four frames, the results were as follows:

#### **4.5.1 The Frame of Gender**

The enticing tale about the gender frame was narrated in the above table:6 and figure 1. The number of people in this frame is the highest; N=302. The Dawn newspaper has the biggest percentage of this frame at 26.8%, while the news has the lowest percentage at 16.2%. The genders of this frame were labelled as girl, woman, and man. The fact that the majority of cases were filed against women was astounding. Only one case of rape against men had been reported in the media. This demonstrated how Pakistani society targets our most defenseless creature (women).

The reports obviously reflected the media authors' perspective on how the feminine gender was framed. During the study's analysis, the wordings could be quite distressing. A "lying cow" was shouted by a politician to a raped woman, according to one writer. Furthermore, victim blaming was prevalent in newspaper data reporting. Another finding from the study was that the majority of rape reports involved girls under the age of 18. In a detailed analysis of the data, it was discovered that girls were more likely than women to be gang-raped. At work, the women (above the age of 20) were raped by their coworkers. In addition, I discovered that girls were murdered at a higher rate than women. Only sexual assault, but no murder, has been reported in the male gender.

#### **4.5.2 The Frame of Culture**

The cultural context was crucial since eastern culture is extremely harmful to women. Because Pakistani culture favors the male gender, females were more likely to be victims of this horrible crime than males. People's attitudes of their vulnerable creature are reflected in their culture. This mindset was evident in this research. Offenders were more likely to target females than males. And this is due to our culture, which favors the strong and offers them with more opportunities than the female gender.

This period, the Dawn daily had the highest number of rape reports, with 33.3 percent. According to the Nation Newspaper, the lowest recorded percentage was 13.3%. The other three newspapers were in the center, and they all used this frame in roughly equal amounts. The percentage of this frame does not differ significantly. One thing that struck me as remarkable was the lack of a religious component in the rape



complaints, which was a really encouraging finding. Only one newspaper mentioned Islam in its articles. Other religions, such as Hinduism and Christianity, were not mentioned in the reports. It demonstrated that religion was not a factor in rape cases.

In Pakistan, family is an important aspect of the culture. According to the records, rape instances involving juveniles were reported, with family members implicated in the majority of the cases. In rape cases, the perpetrators were cousins, neighbors, or family friends. In this study, the frequency of family was 34, with a 28.3 percent, which was very high when compared to other codes in the culture frame. Landlords such as fathers, MNAs, Sardars, Khans, and Chaudharies have been unfavorably characterized in media reporting about rape crimes. Because these caretakers did not perform their part honestly, the rape criminals could not be found guilty. Most of the time, they compromised, leaving the case due of pressure, money, threats, or other techniques, and so did not pursue the case, resulting in the offenders being freed from jail with a victory sign.

#### **4.5.3 The Frame of Crime**

This frame included 242, with a frequency of 38.0 percent, making it the second most frequently mentioned in media rape reports. Rape, sexual assault, murder, gang violence, and abuse were the codes of this frame. The code 'rape or raped' had the highest frequency of all, with 133, or about 53.3 percent. The victims' allegations of rape were framed in such a way by the media reporters that they created a sense of insecurity in the victims. They used metaphor to demonize the victims, saying things like "blame the victims, not the guilty." The News newspaper received the greatest rating, N=63, with a 26.0 percent rating, while the Nation newspaper received the lowest rating, N=41, with a 16.9 percent rating.

According to the survey, gang-raped girls were slain in the majority of rape instances. It happened because they were young, inexperienced, and defenseless. In rape situations, adult females are rarely killed. In this regard, the cases of motorway rape and two sister teacher rape serve as instances.

#### **4.5.4 The Frame of Identity**

The identity frame is critical in the reporting of rape cases because it is the only way to apprehend the perpetrators. When it comes to criminals, identity has a good connotation, but it has a bad connotation when it comes to victims. The identification

of the victim should not be included in criminal reports, according to international standards. In terms of the perpetrator, he may or may not be mentioned in the reports. The codes are: DNA, geofencing, FIR, semen, and investigation, and this frame is utilized 68 times in the data, which is the least of all frames. When compared to other codes, FIR and investigation are the most commonly used methods.

The victim's identity was utilized four times in newspaper reports of rape cases. They disobeyed the moral codes. Two newspapers published the victims' addresses as well as two identities. The genuine identities of the victims have been mentioned in the rape reports twice by the Pakistan observer and The Nation media. During data analysis, I purposefully omitted the victims' addresses and names, and at one point, I replaced the real name with a fictitious one. The perpetrators of the Lahore motorway crime were apprehended using geofencing technology.

In the case of Aziz ur Rehman, the reporter also mentioned the victims' names, demonstrating how reckless these rape reporters were. Despite the fact that Pakistan Observer and The Nation are two of the country's most widely circulated publications, they continue to depart from accepted rules and morality in order to conceal the victims' identities. The rape victim was examined in the case of a Judicial Officer in Dir one of KPK's northern area, and the semen proved the rape with the victim.

#### **4.6 Discussion**

The writers of the rape coverage in Pakistani newspapers from the years 2020 to 2021 employed a distinctive language pattern, as well as the use of certain phrases, to frame/cover the rape case in the newspaper. The coverage of rape, each newspaper's writer uses a distinct pattern language and a different story. The data of concordance revealed that different linguistic patterns appeared frequently in the data. In table 1 of code raped, the most astounding pattern was the use of 'raped' code with passivation more than 7 times. Another amazing pattern was found in table 2 of code rape, where the term 'rape' was used 10 times with the conjunction of 'and.'

The frequency of the data was particularly fascinating, because different newspapers utilized different codes at different frequencies in the coverage of rape in the media discourse. In comparison to other newspapers, the Dawn daily used the highest frequency, 4883, for rape coverage. The Pakistan Observer has the smallest amount of data, 1879 words. Rape was the most commonly used code, with a frequency

of 133, while victim was the second most frequently used code, with a frequency of 109. Gender frame/coverage was topped with 302 frequency when it came to coverage. With a frequency of 68, the frame of identity was the least common.

The four frames give a concept of how the rape coverage should be framed. This study discovered that the writers of the rape coverage had distinct mindsets when framing the crimes based on these framings. The newspapers were full of victim blaming, and some below-the-belt language was reported against the victims. One tabloid, for example, referred to the victims as "lying cows." Even a high-ranking government official used disapproving terms to describe the victim of the Motorway case. To go out at night, he advised her to hunt for fuel first, bring a male companion, check the time, take popular routes instead than deserted roads, and so on. All of this was reported by reporters in their rape coverage in media, and it further traumatized the victim.

Identification was also a negative factor when covering the rape reports. Some newspapers were irresponsible in disclosing the victims' identities. They revealed the true names and addresses, which was unethical and immoral. The victims' identities and addresses were published in the nation and Pakistan Observer. While publishing such crimes in a national publication, the reporters and editorial board of the newspaper should be mindful of the standards and ethics. The coverage gave me the impression that they were more likely to provide justice as a result of their findings. They assisted the victims and their families in pressuring the investigative agencies to find the criminals. In other words, instead of being healers, they were burners.

This study looked into how rape reporters in newspapers frame/cover rape cases in their reporting. The data was analyzed using computer software, i.e., AntConc to provide valid and confirmed data via the content analysis model. The software assisted in identifying Patterns in the language used by the coverage of rape cases in Pakistani media discourse. Furthermore, it aided in delving into the text data to study how the rape narrative was framed/covered in Pakistani publications. Reporters need to be taught ethics and morals values in the covering of rape crimes.

## **CHAPTER 5**

### **CONCLUSION**

This chapter establishes a conclusion based on the entire research and presents a synthesis of the research aims and objectives achieved. Section 5.1 gives an overview of the study and so is titled summary. The summary comprises the introduction of the study, research questions, objectives, samplings, and results. Similarly, section 5.2 reveals the findings of the study. The findings are based on the research questions and objectives. Moreover, section 5.3 and 5.4 are about the conclusions and recommendation of the study in detail.

#### **5.1 Summary**

The study is qualitative in nature and analyzes reports that focus on the crimes of rape in Pakistani society. The current study analyzed the reports of the five Pakistani newspapers, i.e. The Dawn, The News, The Nation, The Daily Pakistan Observer, and Pakistan Today, about the rape cases from 2020 to 2021. The study investigated the reports that how the writers of the reports depict the rape crimes in their stories. For this purpose, 10 reports from each newspaper have been selected from the leading five Pakistani media outlets. The 50 reports were gathered by judgmental sampling tool. The study employs framing theory as theoretical framework and content analysis provided analytical framework. Content analysis has two types from which a conceptual analysis method was chosen to analyze the data. Firstly, the 17447 corpora were divided into small units called categories which consisted of words and phrases. After that, categories were changed into codes and sub-codes. Further, those codes and sub-codes were gathered and made frames. There were four frames with five codes.

#### **5.2 Findings of the Study**

In the light of the analysis of Pakistani media discourse covering rape cases, the researcher has analyzed and summed up the findings of how Pakistani media covers rape cases in the reports by using such words which reflected the victims blaming, identification of the victims, and women as easy victims of rape.

Following are the findings of the research;

1. It was found from the first frame that is frame of gender that most of the rape cases happened against the female gender. Moreover, the victims who were

minor or girls were murdered mostly as opposed to victims who were women. Almost all minor or girls were murdered while women were only raped. Additional finding from the study was that the majority of rape reports involved girls under the age of 18. Another interesting finding was the gender-based reports. It was found that 99% rape cases were committed against female gender, only one case was reported against male gender in the corpus of 17447 (see section 4.5.1).

2. It was found from the second frame that is frame of culture that most of the rape instances including teenagers were reported with family members caught up in the majority of the cases. In rape cases, the perpetrators were cousins, neighbors, or family friends. It was found that religion has no place in the rape cases. Only one time the word Islam was used in one of the newspaper reports. Pakistan has eastern culture, where father, brother, sardar, khan, Chaudhary and Malik were custodians of the weak family members, most of the time, these custodians killed the girls due to honor killing or compromised with the criminals because of money, and pressure (see section 4.5.2 for details).
3. The third frame is crime frame which revealed that, teenager girls were gang-raped and slain in the majority of rape instances. It happened because of their young age, inexperienced, and defenseless position. In rape cases of adults, they were rarely killed, e.g. the motorway rape case and the case where a teacher raped two sisters were glaring examples (see section 4.5.3).
4. The fourth frame is identification frame which disclosed the findings that, victim's identity was revealed four times in the reports of rape cases. The writers of these reports did not follow the moral codes. Two newspapers published the victims' addresses as well as full names. Further, it was found that two newspapers; Pakistan observer and The Nation mentioned names of the victims twice in the rape reports (see section 4.5.4).

### **5.3 Conclusions**

The four frames give an idea about the rape coverage and its framing. This study discovered that the writers of rape reports had diverse approaches when framing/covering the rape crimes in the reports of Pakistani Newspapers. The rape reports were full of victim blaming, and some below-the-belt language was used against the victims. One shocking example was referred to the victims as "lying cows." Even

government officials used misleading remarks to describe the situation of victim for example in the Motorway case the officials emphatically stated, “check the fuel first”, “go out at night”, “keep a male companion”, “check the time” and “take popular routes instead of deserted roads.” All this was reported by reporters in their rape reports, and it only further aggravated the grief of the victim.

It is also observed that the rape coverage in the newspapers is framed by the rape reporters. The data was analyzed using computer software AntConc. AntConc software assisted in identifying patterns in the language used by the report writers. Furthermore, it assisted in investigating into the text data to study how the rape narrative was framed in Pakistani newspapers. Reporters of the rape cases need to be educated in reporting rape crimes, according to the frames. When reporting rape cases, they should be careful with their usage of words.

#### **5.4 Recommendation**

It is recommended that more newspapers and reports should be included to get more insightful results. Government should force administration of the newspapers to strictly implement code of conduct in the reporting/coverage. Victims blaming should be penalized to stop distorted and fabricating approach towards the victims. For future researchers, it is recommended to compare the eastern and western media rape reports for more material contents. Moreover, one can find out the reasons behind the rape cases in the eastern society and western society. Also, researchers have new horizons to fill the gap of content analysis of the editorials of the newspapers about the rape cases.

At the end, rape crimes coverage in media discourse needs more focus on content, moral values, ethics, and victims blaming. We need to protect the vulnerable people from the rape crimes by covering the rape cases more appropriately and with set principles. The primary responsibility of newspaper reporters is to use words that protect the rights of victims rather than criminals.

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