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Media Violence and Its Impact on Society: Analyzing the Debate, Censorship, and the Role of Media Education in Islamic Democratic Pakistan

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Abstract



The issue of media violence in Islamic Democratic Pakistan has been a contentious topic for over two decades, with debates surrounding its potential impact on real-life aggression. Initially, the discussion revolved around whether media violence, particularly in news broadcasts, directly contributes to societal violence. This research paper examines the role of media in normalizing violence, the cultural implications of aggression, and the diminishing empathy within Pakistani society. It critically explores how different media formats, especially news channels, represent and sensationalize violence to highlight social issues. The paper also reviews the various governmental responses to this issue and the continuing debate about censorship versus freedom of expression. It emphasizes the significance of media education in helping young people critically engage with violent content, offering a means to understand its broader social and ethical implications. Furthermore, initiatives by state of Islamic Democratic Pakistan to control media violence as well as Islamic teachings to control media violence have also been discussed in the study. Utilizing a Qualitative Technique, a deeper analysis reveals a complex web of political conflicts, media wars, and censorship debates. Advocates for the regulation of media violence argue that censorship is essential to protect vulnerable groups, particularly the youth, from



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exposure to harmful content. Conversely, critics view such censorship efforts as insufficient, suggesting that they merely serve as a distraction from addressing the underlying causes of violence in society. Ultimately, the study suggests that media education plays a key role in empowering the public to navigate media violence responsibly and informally.

Keywords: *Media Violence, Societal Impact, Censorship, Islamic Teachings, Media Education, Pakistan.*

1. Introduction

Violence in television shows, News, and movies watched by teenagers and children is harmful because of its psychological causes that are rarely addressed in public debate. The clarity of these models depends on the level of exposure. Suppose a person observes actual or fictional situations and reports of violence. In such situations, people compare their observations with existing social situations and reinforce or revise them in order to develop routines, scripts, and behaviours to cope with the world in which they live.¹

If the person repeatedly observes situations of a similar nature, violent behaviour can reinforce human mental models of such situations. Significantly, the mental models of these situations and the associations between the observed reactions become stronger. Another critical point is that, with increasing familiarity with certain behaviours and repeated exposures, they find them more acceptable, even permissible, and desirable in response to the types of situations in whose context they are observing². Another problem is that the more familiar a person is with a situation, the stronger our associations, the more automatic they will react. When associations are powerful, they tend to be unreflective. The subject of violence in the News is becoming one of the critical issues. They constantly watched the News about violence, motives, and general behaviours that no one in their right mind would prefer if people were accepted in real life.

Scientists emphasize the effects of violent films, cartoons, and video games on teenagers, but this is not the only medium in which violence is exposed. The tragic and vivid images are shown daily in the News of the current conflicts in Pakistan, India, Afghanistan, and other acts of violence worldwide. These images can confuse and frighten teenagers. As with overly violent films and video games, frequent viewing of news reports of a crisis or terrorist incident can make adolescents psychologically aggressive, violence-insensitive, and less empathetic to others³. While preventing teenagers from exposure to coverage is difficult, parents and other adults can help teenagers understand and deal with what they are seeing. Media and violence research examines whether there is a connection between the consumption of news violence and subsequent aggressive and violent behaviour. However, some social scientists are concerned about the methodology and theoretical framework,

which the bulk of the literature limits to proving the accuracy of the research. Scientists are discussing the fact that media researchers could have exaggerated effects. When people see violence on the News and the same incident occurs around them, they react as they did on the News.

Some scientists conclude that what some researchers say fits into a cycle of moral panics in the media. In 2006, the emergence of News prompted PEMRA to research the effects of this new medium. Much research has led to Albert Bandura's social learning theory, which suggests that humans learn through modelling, among other things⁴.

1.1 Statement of Problem

The portrayal of violence in the media, particularly in news outlets, has been a contentious issue in Pakistan for decades. While some argue that media violence contributes to real-life aggression and societal unrest, others emphasize the need for media freedom and expression. This debate is further complicated by political and ideological biases within the media, where violence is often sensationalized for viewership or political gain. In Pakistan's Islamic democratic context, where media is a powerful tool for shaping public opinion, there is a growing concern about the long-term effects of such portrayals on the public, especially among the youth. The lack of a comprehensive framework to regulate or educate about media violence has exacerbated these concerns.

Despite various calls for censorship or regulation, the issue remains unresolved, with conflicting viewpoints surrounding the balance between freedom of the press and societal responsibility. Furthermore, the role of media education in helping the public—particularly the younger generation—critically engage with and understand media violence has been largely overlooked.

This study aims to analyze the evolving representation of violence in Pakistani media, particularly news channels, and its potential impact on societal behavior. It also seeks to explore the debate around censorship and the role of media education in mitigating the adverse effects of media violence. By focusing on the Islamic democratic framework, the research will investigate how cultural, religious, and political dynamics influence the media's portrayal of violence and its broader implications for Pakistani society.

1.2 Research Objectives

The primary objective of this research is to investigate the representation and coverage of violence in news media to identify and analyze the patterns that emerge from such portrayals. This encompasses the following specific aims:

1. To identify and analyze the dominant narratives or themes of violence portrayed in mainstream news outlets in Pakistan and examine how these narratives align with societal norms, values, and cultural perceptions.

2. To explore how the portrayal of violent incidents in Pakistani news media varies based on geographic location, type of violence (e.g., political, criminal, communal), and the demographics of the individuals involved (age, gender, socioeconomic status).

3. To examine the patterns in the frequency and nature of violence reported by media outlets during significant societal and political events, such as elections, protests, and religious occasions, and their potential implications on public sentiment.

4. To investigate how the framing and representation of violent events in Pakistani news media influence public perception, political discourse, and societal attitudes toward violence and its consequences.

5. To analyze the potential biases in the reporting of violence in Pakistan, focusing on the role of political leanings, media ownership, and ideological alignment of news outlets in shaping the portrayal of violent events.

6. To analyze the regulatory role of an Islamic democratic state in preventing issues such as potential biases in reporting violence in Pakistan, political leanings, media ownership, and the biased role of news outlets in portraying violent events.

7. To analyze the initiatives by state of Islamic Democratic Pakistan as well as Islamic teachings to control media violence.

1.3 Research Questions

Based on the above research objectives, answers to the following research questions are explored in the study:

1. What are the dominant narratives or themes of violence portrayed in mainstream news outlets in Pakistan, and how do they align with societal norms and values?

2. How does the portrayal of violent incidents differ based on geographic location, the nature of the violence (e.g., political, criminal, communal), and the demographics of those involved (age, gender, socioeconomic status)?

3. What patterns emerge in the frequency and type of violence reported during significant societal or political events in Pakistan (e.g., elections, protests, and religious occasions)?

4. How does the framing of violent events in Pakistani news media affect public perception, political discourse, and societal attitudes toward violence?

5. Are there any noticeable biases in the reporting of violence, particularly in relation to the political leanings, ownership, or ideological alignment of news outlets in Pakistan?

6. What is the regulatory role of an Islamic democratic state in preventing issues such as potential biases in reporting violence in Pakistan, political leanings, media ownership, and the biased role of news outlets in portraying violent events?

7. What are the initiatives taken by state of Islamic Democratic Pakistan as well as Islamic teachings to control media violence?

1.4 Scope of Study

This study explores the complex relationships between news media coverage and the manifestation of violence in Pakistan. The focus will be on understanding how news reporting influences public perception of violence, the normalization of violent acts, and the potential for media to incite further violence.

1.5 Key Areas of Investigation:

1. **Media Representation of Violence:** Analyzing how various forms of violence—such as political, sectarian, and domestic violence—are portrayed in national news outlets. That includes examining the language used, the frequency of coverage, and the framing of violent incidents.
2. **Impact on Public Perception:** Investigating how exposure to violent News impacts societal attitudes toward violence. Surveys and focus groups will be employed to assess public reactions to news stories about violence, including the desensitization effect and the potential for fear-mongering.
3. **Patterns of Reporting:** Identifying trends in news coverage related to violence over time. That could involve a longitudinal analysis of news articles to determine if there are spikes in reporting during certain events or crises and how that correlates with actual violence.
4. **Policy Implications:** This project will explore how media coverage of violence informs policy decisions and public discourse. It will involve interviews with policymakers, media professionals, and advocacy groups to understand their perspectives on the relationship between news coverage and violence.

5. **Comparative Analysis:** This involves contextualizing findings within broader regional or global patterns of media and violence and comparing Pakistan's situation to other countries facing similar challenges.

By addressing these areas, the study seeks to provide a comprehensive understanding of how news violence generates patterns of violence in Pakistan, ultimately contributing to discussions on media ethics, public safety, and the role of journalism in conflict scenarios.

1.6 Significance of the Study

This study holds considerable significance for various stakeholders, including policymakers, media professionals, scholars, and the general public. Understanding the interplay between news coverage and violence in Pakistan is crucial for several reasons:

1. **Public Awareness and Education:** This study aims to educate citizens about the influence of media narratives by shedding light on how news reporting can shape public perceptions of violence. Increased awareness can foster critical media consumption, encouraging audiences to question sensationalized reporting and its impact on societal attitudes.
2. **Policy Development:** Insights gained from this research can inform policymakers about the potential consequences of violent media portrayals. It can lead to developing strategies to promote responsible journalism that avoids glorifying violence and instead focuses on solutions and peace-building.
3. **Media Ethics and Responsibility:** The findings contribute to discussions on media ethics, highlighting journalists' responsibility to report on violence with sensitivity. This can encourage media outlets to adopt best practices that prioritize the well-being of communities and aim to reduce the risk of inciting further violence.
4. **Social Cohesion and Stability:** Understanding the patterns of violence as influenced by news media can help formulate initiatives that promote social cohesion. By addressing how media representations can exacerbate divisions, stakeholders can work towards fostering a more peaceful society.
5. **Academic Contribution:** This study adds to the literature on media studies, violence, and conflict in South Asia. It provides a framework for future

research, encouraging scholars to explore similar dynamics in other contexts or to conduct comparative studies across different regions.

In summary, this study's significance lies in its potential to enhance understanding of the relationship between news violence and real-world implications, ultimately contributing to a more informed, responsible, and peaceful society in Pakistan.

1.7 Literature Review

VIOLENCE AND THE NEWS

News violence illustrates power. It stages victims and aggressors. It is more frightening than it is inciting. It establishes majority power and minority danger. It indicates one's position in the "pecking order" that exists in society⁵. The reasons behind the deadly Pakistani violence are astounding inequality, abysmal poverty, a nihilistic, drug-saturated culture, and unlimited access to weapons. News stories are an easy target of convenience in a political culture or a war of breaking News that prevents easy growth into maturity as members of a respectable society.⁶ The core question is if the media can directly affect the public's assessment of the seriousness of human violence. The media portrayal of violence as "a normal and acceptable way of solving problems" has the effect of encouraging or approving some violent acts⁷. The same concerns were voiced in the early days of the cinema, radio, and television, and again with the advent of video games and music videos⁸. In recent years, public concern has centered on the role of the Internet in the distribution of images and videos of violence⁹. The media's perceived potential to have a harmful effect on individual behaviour has become a concern of government authorities, officials, interest groups, media scholars, and citizens regarding media violence for nearly a century.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Media violence studies can be categorized into four theoretical frameworks. The frameworks were designed initially to explain media violence in television and news media but expanded to examine video game and newspaper media influence. The frameworks are "Behavioural Effects Theory," "Desensitization Theory," "Cultivation Theory," and "The Limited Effects Argument." The theories offer some unique explanations for the phenomenon of media violence, as will be explained in the following.

BEHAVIORAL EFFECT THEORY:

The Behavioural Effects theory advocates contend that these studies provide evidence showing that viewers learn lessons from television about the acceptability of violent conduct, a phenomenon observed in individuals ranging from preschoolers to adults¹⁰.

DESENSITIZATION THEORY:

Desensitization theory, which is another media effects theory, holds that exposure to the same type of news violence "can erode the sense of concern, empathy, or sympathy viewers might feel for real victims of violence¹¹. Desensitization theorists also believe that desensitization has increased significantly with the spread of media depictions of violence and their increasing realism¹². According to Krafka and Linz, viewers who report news violence exhibit more reactivity towards the violence than those who view it without images or other visual cues. The researchers showed video recordings of actual acts of violence or fake trials that were verified as genuine because it was challenging to demonstrate actual violent acts.¹³ .

CULTIVATION THEORY:

A distinct concept in cultivation theory relates to studying media violence and its effects. The method of cultivation analysis, which is referred to as "cultivation analysis," seeks to uncover the assumptions that television shows construct about the truths, norms, and values of society. According to cultivation analysis, media violence does not cause social violence. In contrast, scholars contend that media portrayals of violence serve as a means of social control by depicting preferred power relations and fostering fear, dependence on authority, and the desire for security rather than social change. The power game rules can be demonstrated through violence on television, as suggested, which is the most uncomplicated and inexpensive way of doing so.¹⁴

THE LIMITED (OR NO CAUSAL) EFFECTS ARGUMENT:

Critics of media effects theories often point out that the research is flawed. A few individuals favour sociological approaches to behaviour over the psychological theories prevalent in effects research. On the other hand, some argue against imposing excessive influence on human behaviour through researchers' use of media¹⁵.

Initiatives by Islamic Democratic Pakistan to Control Media Violence

In Islamic Democratic Pakistan, addressing media violence has been an all-rounded effort, intertwining regulatory structures, educational reforms, and ethical laps.

Regulatory Measures: The Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA),¹⁶ established in 2002, plays a key role in looking after and regulating electronic media content to ensure it aligns with social norms and values. PEMRA's authority includes restrictions of content that incites violence or hatred, thereby aiming to promote a more pleasant-sounding media environment.

Educational Reforms: Recognizing the influence of media on societal behaviors, Pakistan has focused and emphasized media literacy. The National Rahmatul-lil-Alameen Wa Khatam an-Nabiyyin Authority¹⁷ has been instrumental in fostering character education, drawing from Islamic teachings to inculcate values of peace and tolerance. Such initiatives aim to equip citizens, particularly the youth, with critical thinking skills to detect and challenge violent media narratives.

Ethical Oversight: The Press Council of Pakistan (PCP)¹⁸ enforces a 17-point ethical code for journalism, focusing responsible reporting and the avoidance of content that could provoke violence. This self-regulatory approach encourages media outlets to maintain standards and values that reflect the country's democratic and Islamic values.

Civil Society Engagement: Institutions like the Pakistan Press Foundation (PPF)¹⁹ and the Digital Rights Foundation (DRF)²⁰ have been much proactive in promoting responsible media practices. They conduct training programs, workshops, and awareness campaigns to educate journalists and the public about the bad impacts of media violence and the importance of ethical journalism.

Media Violence Control and Islamic Teachings

Islam emphasizes peace, self-respect, dignity, and the sanctity of human life, which are fundamentally mismatched with the exaltation of violence in media. The Holy Qur'an strictly prohibits spreading mischief and fear: *"And do not spread corruption on the earth after it has been set in order"*²¹. Prophetic teachings also underscore moral speech and responsible communication: *"Let whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day speak good or remain silent"*²².

In the context of Islamic Democratic Pakistan, controlling media violence through these ethical principles is essential to preserve societal harmony. Islam emphasize on education and tarbiyyah (ethical upbringing) to avert youth from involvement in

violent content. Media literacy, rooted in Islamic ethics (akhlaq), can guide content producers and consumers alike toward promoting non-violence and compassion.

Thus, media regulation in Pakistan aligned with Islamic norms and values, must not only censor harmful content but also foster narratives that reflect justice, patience, and societal peace and harmony. This approach ensures a media environment that complements the Islamic vision of a morally upright and balanced society.

Islamic Principles Guiding Media Ethics

The Holy Qur'an emphasizes the importance of justice and truthfulness:

*"O you who have believed, be determinedly stand up firm in justice, witnesses for Allah, even if it be against yourselves or parents and relatives. Whether one is rich or poor, Allah is more worthy of both."*²³

Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) also stated and clearly guided about doubtful matters, He said: "Leave that which makes you doubt for that which does not make you doubt." ²⁴

1.8 Research Gap

The research gap for this study can be identified in several key areas:

1.8.1 Lack of Comprehensive Analysis of Media Violence in the Context of Islamic Democracy:

While media violence has been studied extensively in various global contexts, there is a noticeable gap in research focusing on the unique intersection of media violence and the Islamic democratic framework of Pakistan. This study will address how Islamic values, cultural norms, and democratic governance intersect to shape media portrayals of violence, a perspective that has not been thoroughly explored.

1.8.2 Insufficient Understanding of the Role of Media in Shaping Societal Attitudes toward Violence:

Existing literature primarily focuses on the direct effects of media violence on behaviour. However, there is limited research on how media violence influences explicitly societal attitudes, political discourse, and public perceptions of violence in Pakistan. This study will fill the gap by exploring behavioural impacts and broader societal changes in views about violence.

1.8.3 Limited Research on the Impact of Media Censorship and Regulation:

While there is some discussion around censorship in Pakistan, especially about media, there is a lack of in-depth studies analyzing the effectiveness of censorship policies aimed at reducing media violence and its societal impact. The research will provide new insights into how censorship is debated and whether it is seen as a

failure or necessary regulation, particularly from the perspective of Pakistani media and politics.

1.8.4 Under-Explored Role of Media Education:

The role of media education in mitigating the impact of media violence, especially in the context of young audiences, is an under-researched area in Pakistan. Although media literacy programs exist, their role in reducing the harmful effects of media violence has not been extensively studied in the local context. This study will address how media education can be implemented to help youth critically engage with violent content in News.

1.8.5 Bias in Media Reporting of Violence:

Limited research exists on the extent to which political bias, ideological alignment, and ownership influence the portrayal of violence in Pakistani news media. Existing studies often focus on general media bias but fail to specifically examine how these biases shape the reporting of violent incidents. This study aims to address this gap by analyzing how political leanings, ownership structures, and ideological influences affect the representation of violence in mainstream media outlets.

1.9 Pakistan's Regulatory Framework

To align media practices with these ethical standards, Pakistan has established regulatory bodies i.e.:

- i. **Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA):** PEMRA oversees electronic media; ensuring content adheres to ethical standards and does not promote violence, terrorism, or discrimination.²⁵
- ii. **Press Council of Pakistan (PCP):** The PCP addresses complaints regarding unethical journalism, aiming to uphold press freedom while enforcing ethical conduct.²⁶

1.10 Challenges

Despite these efforts, challenges persist:

- i. **Media Bias and Ownership:** Concentrated media ownership can lead to biased reporting, reflecting the interests of media proprietors. This issue is exacerbated by financial constraints and political pressures on journalists.²⁷
- ii. **Government Influence:** There are instances where government actions have been perceived as attempts to control media narratives, such as bans on certain political figures' speeches.²⁸

1.11 Research Methodology

This study employed a qualitative research methodology to explore the portrayal of media violence in Pakistan, its societal impact, and the role of media education. The methodology will involve case studies. Cases are analyzed, and they create a pattern. In this research, five case studies are discussed, but there is a pattern of different kinds of crime, which was shown by news channels and influences people to repeat these crimes and get attention from news media.

1.12 Data Collection and Analysis

1- CASE STUDY # 01:

Residents of Karachi protest against unannounced electricity load-shedding

On 18 June 2001, DAWN Newspaper 29

Karachi's residents were provoked to protest against long hours of unannounced electricity load shedding at Korangi Road. This situation has worsened due to the dispute between KSC management and protesting employees. The residents of districts East, South, North Karachi, Garden, Jubli, Gulistan Johar, Kharadar, and Bahar Colony are facing many difficulties due to the long hours of unannounced load shedding. Citizens protested against the prolonged closure of the electricity and water supply suspension at Korangi Road. As a result of protesters throwing stones at cars, burning tires, and blocking traffic, various areas were affected by traffic jams.

Protests against load shedding created a pattern of violence by the public:

Friday 20 June 2015, Dawn Newspaper³⁰

Two months later, protests against continued unrestricted load shedding continue in some parts of the metro as the dispute between the ruling Karachi Electric (KE) administration and the Collective Bargaining Agent (CBA) union continues to simmer. Angry shopkeepers and residents block main roads and burn tires while pelting stones at passing vehicles. Subsequent news convergence reveals the pattern.

Protest against Load shedding in Pakistan

20 May 2011, DAWN Newspaper

Protesters are protesting against load-shedding in different areas of Pakistan. The people of the country face heavy load shedding. Load Shedding in Pakistan is increasing day by day. Protest against load shedding in Karachi, Swat, Karachi, Lahore, Faisalabad, Sargodha, and Chakwal. People block the roads near the WAPDA House. The police tried to stop the protest but failed. The government's goal is to control load shedding, but no solution has yet been found.

Karachi: Policeman killed in protests against load shedding:

27 June 2010, Dunya news³¹

In a similar year, another incident took place. Police officials in Karachi protested against load shedding near the police headquarters in the Garden area. A large number of police officials gathered near the place and protested the unannounced load shedding, according to details. They also burnt tires, fired, and blocked the road. The demonstrators also piled stones on the KE office. This caused tremendous problems for them for one month, which had become unbearable. Now, they had no option but to demonstrate—protestors in different parts of Karachi blocked roads against the load shedding, which prompted people to protest. Residents of Defence and Gizri also observed a sit-in strike at the Punjab Chowrangi, which blocked the highway. Residents complained that the electricity supply had been suspended in the area for the past 20 hours.

2. CASE STUDY # 02:

BLAST AND SUICIDE PLANNED ATTACKS ON LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES OF PAKISTAN:

In recent years, it has also been a common finding that suicide attempts to turn their direction towards the Law enforcement agencies of Pakistan. News media show or broadcast these events as Law enforcement agencies failures, which impact our police, and Law enforcement agencies are weak. Then, a terrorist is a wrong projection. News media also shows terrorist activities live, which gives terrorists a more precise idea of further planning and escape plans. Recently, PEMRA has imposed some restrictions on news media, but much improvement is still needed. Consider the following events.

ATTACK ON GHQ RAWALPINDI:

14 October 2009, Geo News³²

Six Pak Army soldiers were martyrs in a terrorist attack at GHQ Rawalpindi on Saturday; four terrorists were killed in an encounter with Pak Army men, and two escaped. Security forces men are searching the area to arrest them. Six terrorists were riding a white van that opened fire on the first checkpoint before the Pakistani Army's General Headquarters and, after killing four soldiers, reached a second checkpoint where they were engaged in an hour-long battle with security forces men. Four terrorists were consequently killed, and two have managed to escape,' Pakistan radio news bulletin. One among the militants was a suicide bomber guarding the hostages. He was killed skilfully before detonating his explosive vest. At that time, the prime minister of Pakistan, Syed Yousuf Raza Gailani, said that militants were carrying sophisticated weapons imported from Afghanistan; protests were lodged with the Afghan government.

CID BUILDING BLAST:

11 November 2010 Geo News³³

A massive bomb at the CID building near the Sindh Chief Minister House in a vulnerable urban region resulted in 15 fatalities and 115 injured persons. The Central Investigation Department (CID) building, located in the city's most sensitive section, had its whole front portion destroyed by the massive bomb. Tehreek-e-Taliban is no longer allowed. Quickly after the incident, Pakistan claimed credit for it. Prior to the explosion, gunshots allegedly rang out. At least 1000kg of explosive materials were used to carry out a deadly explosion at the CID building on that night, DIG Investigations Iftikhar Tara gave the statement.

MEHRAN BASE ATTACK KARACHI.

24 May 2011, BBC.com³⁴

Since the GHQ attack in Rawalpindi in 2009, the militants have never displayed such fearlessness and well-planned operations, as evidenced by their bombing of PNS Mehran in Karachi. Compared to previous attacks on Pakistani Navy targets, it was of significantly more significant and more intense magnitude. Like a war, militants stormed the defence walls of the naval installation. A well-coordinated mini-attack was carried out by highly trained assassins who seemed to have extensive knowledge of the naval aviation base's layout. The incident raises concerns about both the Navy and our defence forces. The Mehran tragedy was a clear example of an intelligence failure.

3. CASE STUDY # 03:

RISE OF RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE AND VIOLENCE IN PAKISTAN:

MURDERS OF SALMAN TASEER AND SHAHBAZ BHATTI:

Salman Taseer and Shahbaz Bhatti's murders had a diverse response from the majority of literacy learners. Additionally, there were doubts regarding the requirement to advocate for the regulation, definition, and prosecution of hate speech that was freely broadcasted by the religious rebellions.

SALMAN TASEER MURDER:³⁵

One of the late governor Salaman Taseer's security guards, an elite force member named Malik Mumtaz Hussain, shot him in Kohsar Market. A representative for the Polyclinic Hospital verified that 25 gunshots struck the governor. The Pakistani government must pass legislation prohibiting hate speech and enforce the law against those who continue to promote hatred towards other groups, particularly minorities. There is a distinction between stating one's views and making it appear that the only viable course of action is the annihilation of one's opponents.

SHAHBAZ BHATTI MURDER:³⁶

Militants killed Shabaz Bhatti outside his house, and he was the only Christian politician. It is the second assassination in two months. Shahbaz Bhatti also opposes

the death penalty for blasphemy. Shahbaz Bhatti was aware of the life threat and received the videotaped message of a death threat from al-Qaida and the Taliban. Shabaz Bhatti said he was "ready to die" for the country's non-Muslim minorities. The slaying in Islamabad followed Salman Taseer's killing. One of his guards fatally shot a leftist politician. The blasphemy laws of Pakistan, which carry the death sentence for insulting Islam and have been vehemently upheld by Islamist political groups, were the subject of both men's lobbying efforts there.

4. CASE STUDY # 04:

2 ROBBERS BURNT ALIVE IN KARACHI:

15 May 2008, Daily Times³⁷

Three men and one other were caught fleeing after stealing from the Samia Kalam Building, where Akbar, the resident of the building, was injured. It was reported that men from the local area gathered and took hold of the victims, who were assaulted with various items such as sticks or blades, with some oil on them and a match set off. The police were present, but the crowd refused to hand them over. Per their statement, the police would release them in exchange for a bribe or offer them immediate bail to handle the situation independently.

ROBBERS BURNT ALIVE IN THE CITY KARACHI:

29 JAN 2017 DAWN NEWS³⁸

Several suspects have been arrested by police in Karachi, and two suspected thieves were left alive after being burned by a mob. According to the police, Abdul Karim was robbed of his mobile phone and money by two dacoits who attacked him in front of a large crowd in the Khada market area. They both passed away at a hospital afterward. Police raided the Khada market and surrounding areas to arrest those involved in the macabre incident.

ROBBERS BURNT ALIVE AFTER BEING BEATEN UP BY CROWD

05 Feb2023 Nation.com.pk³⁹

Hundreds of Bafar zone residents were apprehended for attacking Mohammed Riaz, who was reportedly robbed by two armed men riding a motorcycle before fleeing. The angry residents physically assaulted the two burglars before setting them on fire.' The two men were taken by a police team to swoop before being transported to a nearby hospital, where they were later declared dead from multiple injuries and burns. In a city where hundreds of people are mugged and killed by armed robbers every day, angry residents have previously killed alleged thieves.

1. CASE STUDY #05:

VIDEO OF MOB BEATING 2 BROTHERS TO DEATH AS POLICE WATCH SPARKS ANGER

22 August 2010, Fox NEWS⁴⁰

The locals viciously beat the two teenage boys using sticks and drawing blood before pulling them and hanging their dead bodies off a nearby pole. None of those many witnesses, including some police officers, tried to stop the attack. It is possible that the lads thought they were robbers. This image shocked and upset Pakistanis after it was filmed and broadcast on TV networks. The killings happened in Sialkot. Additional details have led authorities to believe that the two lads, identified as Moiz Butt (17) and Muneeb (15), were not responsible. A middle-class family, they were involved in the soccer ball fabric industry.

POLICE OFFICER PAY FOR GUJAR KHAN VIOLENCE:

06 May 2011 JANG Newspaper⁴¹

The Punjab government arrested three Rawalpindi police officers for attempting to stage a protest against power outages in Gujar Khan. It ended with the burning of public property, including IESCO, police stations, cars, and a prison, and two young men died. The Lahore High Court was asked to investigate the violence through a legal probe. The government granted Rs. 500,000 to the heirs of the two deceased. Gujar Khan's nerves were tense as he was taken home from the DHQ hospital in Rawalpindi with Junaid, one of the two victims. The irate residents shouted names they used for police and men. Large police units patrolled the city throughout the day as schools and institutions were closed.

2. Results

1. CASE STUDY # 01:

These cases are from Karachi only but generated the pattern of mob protests. Load shedding in one area or city generates violence by the public of that specific area or city. The public in other cities also sees that kind of violence. If they feel frustrated with load shedding, they will come out to burn tires, stone cars, and other vehicles.

2. RESULT CASE STUDY # 02:

News media highlighted all these events with hype and live reporting from the incident or blast side. They showed Law enforcement agencies wearing bulletproof jackets and establishing war situations on crisis scenes, airing the sound of firing or shelling to make the impact of the footage more sensational for viewers. Thus, this gives News many benefits in terms of commercial or material profit but negatively impacts policing, government, the judicial system, and most prominent terror in public, such that their lives are insecure.

3. RESULT CASE STUDY # 03:

At least 38 incidents of extra judicial killings of people accused of blasphemy were reported after legislation passed, including the police's active participation or deliberate negligence. The case of Shahbaz Bhatti was rare at the time. Shahbaz Bhatti, the federal minister for minority affairs and a vocal opponent of the legislation and protector of the rights of the nation's religious minorities, has now met the end he had foreseen for himself over the last several weeks. In both instances, criticizing the blasphemy law—one that is notoriously easy to abuse and frequently used to resolve everything from business rivalry to land disputes—became blasphemy. It became evident from the Pakistani Taliban's response to Bhatti's death.

4. RESULT CASE STUDY # 04:

The above cases show the aggression of Pakistani youth, and of course, the media project lives the sequence this case study project is creating the pattern of violence. This visible aggression, frustration, and violence in society can be much more catastrophic. It shows society's psyche and is then played out through our actions as individuals and members of the social order.

5. RESULT CASE STUDY # 05:

This case study shows that our society is much more frustrated and aggressive that violence is penetrating our blood without knowing why they became violent and do the crime without realizing what is right or wrong. Besides, the media project this video so much that even a common or strong-hearted man gets depressed. Afterward, some human rights activists came and protested again; the media came in front doing talk shows making analysis, but no result of this open violence

6. Pakistan strives to represent and manifest Islamic democratic values through regulatory frameworks aimed at ensuring unbiased and ethical media reporting, ongoing efforts are necessary to address challenges related to media ownership, political influence, and adherence to Islamic principles of justice and truthfulness.

3. FUTURE RECOMMENDATIONS / SUGGESTIONS:

On the basis this study, these steps are recommended aim to build a balanced, just, and peaceful media environment aligned with the values of an Islamic democratic society of Pakistan.

- i. Establish a national regulatory body "Islamic Media Ethics Authority/Council" guided by Qur'anic ethics and Prophetic teachings to monitor and ensure responsible, unbiased, and non-violent content across all media platforms.

- ii. Introduce media literacy and critical thinking modules in school and university curricula to equip youth with the skills to critically assess and respond to violent media narratives.
- iii. Enforce strict laws requiring transparency in media ownership and editorial policies to curb politically motivated or commercially biased reporting.
- iv. Encourage media houses to adopt "Peace Journalism" practices that focus on conflict resolution, empathy, and social harmony rather than sensationalism and fear-driven narratives.
- v. Develop training programs for journalists on Islamic values like truthfulness (Al-Sidq), justice ('Adl), and responsibility (Amanah) to reduce sensationalism and promote constructive, ethical reporting.
- vi. It is worth mentioning some suggestions for parents. Parents can control or minimize new violence among their children taking the following measures;
 - a. Parents need to be aware of the prevalent impact of the wide range of entertainment media on children and adolescents' physical and mental health.
 - b. It is important for parents to keep track of how much time their children spend watching media daily and what percentage of Internet usage they consume. Children should be encouraged to engage in sports, social activities, or reading. Parents should take appropriate action and monitor their children for aggressive behavior, fears, or sleep disruptions when viewing violent content. They must do this carefully.
 - c. Shut down youngsters' bedrooms and remove any electronics or internet connections. Why at night hours?
 - d. Make informed choices about media, view them with children, and evaluate the appropriateness of the violent solutions presented in the chosen show... During the co-viewing process, parents should assist their child in finding peaceful options.
 - e. Parents and child health professionals should make only nonviolent media choices available to children and youth. This allows parents to work with other healthcare organizations, educators, the government, and sources of research funding at both state and national levels to keep media abuse on the public health agenda. Public health and environmental issues are the main

focus of media violence debates, which are shared values rather than actual incidents.

- f. Avoid glorifying weapon usage and promoting violence as an acceptable means of settling disputes.
- g. Remove violence from amusing or sexual situations and any other situation where the violence is comical, titillating, or derogatory.
- h. Using video games to instill joy and achievement in children is harmful, as it encourages them to confuse pleasure with pain and misery.
- i. Video games, video games, and movie exhibitions should be distributed to appropriate age groups only, and it is recommended that only those with experience in violent video game arcades can play them. PAMERA should promote a streamlined, uniform, content-based media rating system to assist parents in guiding their children to make healthy media choices. Content should be based on research on which media depictions are most likely to harm children.
- j. Parents share their children's viewing and advise them on preventing media exposure.

4. Delimitation of the Study

This study focuses specifically on the portrayal of violence in news media within the context of Pakistan, and it sets clear boundaries to ensure a focused analysis. The delimitations include:

- 4.1 **Geographical Scope:** The study is confined to media outlets operating within Pakistan, including national newspapers, television channels, and online news platforms. International media coverage of Pakistan may provide valuable insights but will not be included in this analysis.
- 4.2 **Types of Violence:** The research primarily examines specific categories of violence, including political violence, sectarian violence, and other forms of violence, such as environmental or economic violence, which will not be the focus of this investigation.
- 4.3 **Time Frame:** The study analyzes news coverage over a defined period—specifically, the last ten years. This timeframe allows for identifying trends and patterns while maintaining relevance to current events.
- 4.4 **Media Types:** The analysis concentrates on traditional media (print and broadcast) and digital news platforms. Social media will be acknowledged for its influence but will not be the primary focus of the research.

5.5 Audience Analysis: While the study considers public perception, it will not delve deeply

into individual case studies or personal narratives. Instead, it will rely on aggregate data

from news channels and newspapers to draw broader conclusions about societal attitudes.

By establishing these delimitations, the study aims to provide a transparent and manageable framework for analyzing the relationship between news violence and patterns of violence in Pakistan, ensuring that findings are relevant and actionable.

5. Conclusion

Effective remedial measures are necessary at all levels to limit uncontrolled media violence. Psychiatrists, paediatricians, and others can counter-effort in that regard.' The. Physicians, parents, and schools should share a goal of better understanding the risks associated with violence exposure and teaching children how to interpret what they see on television. It is preferable to inform young people that only specific media messages are appropriate. It is advisable to teach children how to resolve conflicts in schools, public places, and homes.

A similar approach requires collective work on television ratings and chips to prevent specific programs from airing. Media should acknowledge their voluntary obligation to adhere to a recognized "code of conduct," which can be agreed upon with regulators and government bodies. It is important to remember that the young people's future demands more than just fag and profit. Their duty is to persuade others that their self-control and self-reflection are not solely for themselves but for those around them, who are also parents in the same society. Operators advise the public to be aware of any violence occurring on the screen during the telecast. Children view parents as role models. In order to prevent children from exhibiting their violent or short-tempered tendencies, parents must exercise restraint. TV viewing may require changes for older individuals. Television viewing hours may be limited to 1-2 hours per day, and they may also watch selected shows with children, taking care of any inappropriate content. The most effective way to prevent children from being affected by TV violence is to encourage them to express how they can be manipulated or hurt by movies. Psychologists/ physicians should be open and candid with parents about the nature and extent of domestic viewing patterns.' Despite being frequently enforced by the state, Pakistani citizens are still plagued with violence and divisions between different groups, including gender roles, classes, religions or ethnicities. Through questioning and re-evaluating our Pakistani identity, we can overcome the oppression brought by "invisible violence." By

acknowledging that everyone is different, regardless of their religion, ethnicity, or sectarian heritage in Pakistan, as Muslims, let us continue to be Pakistanis. The Pakistani state should establish an independent Islamic Media Ethics Council rooted in Qur'anic justice (4:135) and prophetic guidance, to monitor, guide, and reform media narratives.

Media regulation in Pakistan aligned with Islamic norms and values, must not only censor harmful content but also foster narratives that reflect justice, patience, and societal peace and harmony. This approach ensures a media environment that complements the Islamic vision of a morally upright and balanced society.

The Holy Qur'an emphasizes the importance of justice and truthfulness. Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) also stated and clearly guided about doubtful matters.

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