

A Comparative Study Of Violent Crimes Coverages In The Times Of India, The Hindu And The Hindustan Times

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Abstract

A scrutiny of the violent crimes from the three ardent newspapers- The Times of India, The Hindu and The Hindustan Times reveals different numbers of interesting shifts in the paradigms of news reporting and values. Violent crimes are the crimes of violence in which an offender threatens to use force upon a victim. According to the jurisdiction, violent crimes may vary from homicides to harassment. We will study the news coverages from all the three newspapers and then compare the valid percentage and frequency of news coverages in the newspapers- The Times of India, The Hindu and The Hindustan Times. In this research paper, we will also study the news of some heinous crimes from all the three newspapers from the year 2010 to 2014 and analyze its frequency, valid percentage and cumulative percentage. This study is based on the cross tabulation of violent crimes news. We have taken 3115 news of violent crimes from all the three newspapers from all over the India and from some foreign parts also. The Times of India received 1181 news regarding violent crimes, similarly, The Hindu received 943 news and The Hindustan Times received 991 news between 2010-2014. From all the above mentioned study of three newspapers, we found that after crosstab calculation of different types of violent crimes, The Hindustan Times received 991 violent crimes news which is 31.8% of the total violent crimes news by all the three newspapers, The Hindu received 943 violent crimes news which is 30.3% of the total violent crimes news by all three newspapers and Times of India received 1181 violent crimes news which is 37.9% of the total violent crimes news coverages by all three newspapers. By examining the data, we found that The Hindustan Times covered more violent crimes news in the year 2014 and increased the news coverages from the year 2010 to 2014, The Hindu coverages more news in the year 2010 and mostly decrease the coverages of news from the year 2010 to 2014 and The Times of India coverages the more news in the year 2011 and these newspapers did not remain stable from 2010 to 2014 and fluctuated regularly. From the status of Indian violent crimes news study, we found that Hindustan Times coverages more violent crimes news in the state Sikkim, The Hindu in Andhra Pradesh and Times of India coverages violent crimes news in the state Goa.

Keywords: violent crimes, newspapers, news coverages, investigation, Times of India, The Hindu, The Hindustan Times, SPSS tools, NCRB reports.

Introduction

Media is one of the most powerful communication tools in developed countries as well as in under developing countries. Media aware the generation to contemporary situations. In the event of a problem in society, the media acts like a remedy. It plays a crucial role in whether mainstream sources or alternative media sources such as social media, e-newspaper and other sources. Multimedia news channels give strong messages to the viewers about right or wrong. Today, media is present around us in the field of television, radio, books, magazines, newsletters etc.

The world is constantly making progress every day towards a better future, but still people are suffering social problems. Its absence can result in the unawareness of what is going on in the country and around the world. Public communication media helps people to keep informed and updated about various news, events, social activities, lifestyle, entertainment, and advertisements despite geographical barriers. For example, while living in India, anyone can get all the latest news and programs from the UK, or the USA. Media always has a profound impact on communities and their culture. This different opinion can end the boundaries of different societies and make 'globalization'.

The term 'crime' does not, in modern times, have any simple and universally accepted definition (Lindsay, 2008)¹ but one definition is that a crime, also called an offence or a criminal offence, is an act harmful not only to some individual, but also to the community or the state (a public wrong). Such acts are forbidden and punishable by law (Martin, 2003)². Media is the buzz word in the era of globalization. In fact, the rapid expansion of term and the concept of present form of globalization have been become possible only through the information revolution throughout the world. It has been widely recognized that media can play a substantial role in promoting and disseminating information and the key player in the social and economic development.

Many studies have found that almost in every newspaper the criminal news are the popular, important and continuous components of total News (Surette, 1992)³. Human society sometimes develops some moral sense and that becomes the moral responsibility or feeling of our society. There is always a deep relationship between crime and immorality. When immorality increases in society, crime also increases in the same way. Many crimes did not come in front of the society because journalism did not develop so much during that time. Even in newspapers, sometimes small or domestic crimes were not covered, but since the Internet came almost every news has come in front of the society. With newspapers, we can only read crime and criminal tendencies, but now we can see crime and criminal trend through the web version of the newspaper through video. Criminalization is a dynamic concept, which relies on the social development of those who rely on fundamental interests and values that control common beliefs.

¹Famer, Lindsay. "Crime, definitions of". In Cane and Conaghan (editors). *The New Oxford Companion to Law*. Oxford University Press. 2008. ISBN 978 0 19 929054 3. Page 263.

²^ Jump up to: a b Elizabeth A. Martin (2003). *Oxford Dictionary of Law* (7 ed.). Oxford: Oxford University Press. ISBN 0198607563.

³Surette, R. (1992). *Media, crime, and criminal justice: Images and realities*, Pacific Grove, CA:

Violent crimes involve murdering, kidnapping, abduction, serious and simple attacks etc. Killing somebody intentionally comes under the crime of. This crime includes the corporal torturing of human beings. Now, we will discuss the types of kidnapping. There are two types of kidnapping,

(1) Kidnapping of minors: When a person try to kidnap a boy of below 16 years and a girl of below 18 years of age without the consent of parents or a person who induces elopement by some temptation, then this crime is said to be committed, (2) Kidnapping by using force: When a person kidnap another person by using force, by compelling, by deceit or by tempting then this crime is said to be committed.

Crimes in India (NCRB-2016): 'Crime in India' publication is an important report, publishing since 1953, which provides comprehensive statistics on crimes including the crime trends in the whole country and covering all states/UTs. Over the years, the 'Crime in India' becomes the principal reference document for accurate and reliable information on crimes and criminals, for researchers, criminologist and officials of criminal justice delivery system in the country. This data is widely used in India and Abroad for academic purpose, and also by MHA/ State Government in framing Public Policies.

Literature review

Deekshitha Retail (2015) studied the news related to women empowerment in Indian press. It analyzed two famous newspapers of south Kannada of Karnataka. He studied the two newspapers Udayavani and Deccan Herald; both newspapers focus on the coverages of news related to women empowerment. After the study of both newspapers, we found that injustice against women is the common news to be reported in the present scenario. Rape, dowry, female feticide and many more news have become common in growing cities. Newspapers are the major source of information and have a great impact on the readers. The print media said to be relevant and trustworthy, thus this trust and loyalty need to spread news related to women empowerment.

Mehakjonjua (2014) studied the coverages of crimes in national dailies: A critical analysis. He examined crimes news coverages in the four national dailies: The Times of India, The Hindustan Times, The Tribune and The Indian Express. These newspapers have been examined against the backcloth of Indian culture and other social issues. After the study we found that The Indian Express gave maximum coverage to the crime news and the maximum stories shown in the newspaper were related to terrorism.

Murthy, Ramakrishna et.al (2010) studied the trends on first page which is a priority of Indian print media reporting from the four English language newspapers- The Times of India, The Hindustan Times, The Indian express and The Hindu. This study has used as a growing trend for first reporting and investigative reporting, trending news as a commercialized commodity for mass consumption filled with crime, legal disputes, politics etc. with economics, social and development news taking a backseat. From the study it is found that the newspapers are filled with increased use of large and small color photos and the use of long titles and large fonts for even short reports to makeup the space of the first page look

compact. This study applies the strong and weak market orientation theories of Randal beam to the Indian media.

Nicole matins, Andrew et.al (2013) studied a content analysis of print news coverages of media violence and aggression research. They studied content of news articles to examines whether news coverages of media has violence; and its effect on viewer aggression. Then analysis revealed that over the past 30 years news articles generally suggested that a link between media violence and aggression exists.

Harry L. Marsh (1991) studied a comparative analysis of crime coverages in newspapers in the United States and other countries from 1960-89. He studied the analysis of literature that reveals constitutional and legal differences between countries. He found that in the United States and other countries have four areas in which newspaper crime coverages was essentially the same that are: (1) Underrepresentation of property crimes and overrepresentation of violent crimes, (2) The violent crimes shown in newspapers do not match with statistics, (3) Represent the false image of police and court controlling, (4) Newspapers are failed to educate readers as to causes of crimes or how to avoid personal victimization.

Luca Role, Silvia Abba, Roberta Fazzino, Elisa Marino and Pieria Brustia (2013) inclusively conducted an explorative study of domestic violence and newspaper. In this study they find out that there is a big coverage of domestic violence news in the newspaper and in result, articles related to domestic violence increased every year in newspapers. They also found that there is a tendency to publish more articles in local pages rather than national ones.

Negin Vatandoost (2012) conducted a study and news coverage of honor killing in comedian newspapers. In this study content has been analyzed for two comedian newspaper. The result of this study showed that little effort was done in the newspaper coverage to depict and place honour killings in immigrant communities in contest. The different and uneven coverage of the three cases of honour makes any systematic conclusions difficult to make.

Mark Philips, Fargol Mostofian, Rajeev Jetly, Nagar Puthukudy, Kim Madden and Mohit Bhandari (2015) inclusively conducted a study on media coverage of violence against women in India. The results of the studies showed that the news of the gang rape in Delhi on December 16/2012 spread globally through professional media sources within two days. This transition followed a pattern in which Indian news sources provided the first reports and international reports were delayed by a day.

Shruti Singh and Purnima (2016) revealed that newspapers have not given space related to women stories and issues. This study is based on content analysis of two major daily newspapers The Dainik Jagran and The Times of India. This analysis showed that most of the articles on women focused on inflicted violence against them. This study also analyzed that achievements and capabilities of women are in less number in newspaper.

Purpose of the Study:

This study works to add aspects of Web edition research to previous research. It can also be a link between new dimensions in journalism; so far we were only reading the newspaper and

getting any type of information. But this study will help to tell about the web edition of daily media for all the researchers. Contemporary world is changing rapidly and nobody has so much time to read information from a newspaper. For this, now with the help of the Internet, we can get information much faster. This study also tries to highlight many criminal activities in the society. There are various types of crimes in the society but due to lack of accurate information, newspapers are not able to reach which results in improper coverage. But through this study, we can learn about different categories of crimes. Many times crime in the newspaper does not expose correctly due to limited pages in the newspapers but since every newspaper has created web edition pages, the news is able to cover in a good way. This study will also tell us that in the newspaper and in the web edition there is a difference of coverages. From this study, the researchers can also analyze the news about crime which published in online news and newspaper. This study can kindle the society because sometimes the tendency of crime in front of us can be different in a newspaper or in front of anyone, whereas on the e-papers or other internet resources, we can have vast information. After getting the right information about it, we have to introduce the news of crime in a new way, with new technology right. This study can also be seen in the picture of administration, police and criminals in crime committed in society. The main purpose of this study is to find out whether if a picture of crime and criminal is presented separately in newspapers or in web editions or not, and also any researcher can take guidance from this study for his future research.

Objectives of the Study:

The objective of this study is to find out the various dimension of crime news in online prominent Indian dailies. The analysis of the coverage of crime news in the online media can help to evaluate reporting style of the media and study the extent of balance reporting and social responsibility hold by these online media in pluralism society in India;

1. To find out the different categories of the violent crime coverage in newspapers.
2. To find the coverage frequency in different newspapers under study.
3. To find out the relationships between the different categories of violent crimes.
4. To find out the relationship between newspapers and other variables of violent crimes coverage.
5. To find out the relationship between sub categories of violent crimes.

Research Methodology

The research scholar should have quantitative content analysis to meet the objectives. The Content analysis is also outlined as a strategy by that the scientist seeks to work out the manifest content of the written, spoken or revealed communications by a scientific, objective and measurable analysis (Zito, 1975: 27). As it is clear from the definition, this process is basically descriptive and certain well-defined textual codes or elements are teased out by measuring the occurring frequency.

Newspapers selection

The major three largest circulated English dailies, The Hindustan Times, The Times of India and The Hindu would be hand-picked for the study. The Times of India includes a circulation of 1102521 dailies and an audience of 7.4 million, The Hindu has 1168042 circulation and 4.05 million audience, and The Hindustan Times includes a circulation of 1103644 and an audience of 3.85 million. These English newspapers are the three largest studied and circulated across the country.

Reference period

The study's reference period would be the last 5 years of online editions of the newspapers.

Unit of Analysis – The word mentioning the crime categories from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) would be counted as unit of analysis in the news coverage.

Research Tools – SPSS would be the computer aided stat tool for the research.

Relevance of the Study:

This study will complement and add to existing research on many aspects of online and traditional news coverage. It will also provide a basis for further study in the specific field of crime and justice reporting, and illuminated areas where media-framing is brought about by the demands of the media and perhaps tailored by the consumer. Where it will attain most relevance is in its findings relating to the nexus of the media, crime and the internet, as this specific dynamic is presently inadequately researched, with few findings upon which to draw for comparison. What this thesis was particularly concerned with was whether reporting on the Internet was guiltier or less than traditional media of framing and whether framing was as effective on the Internet as it was in traditional media.

Results and discussions

We have studied the three different newspapers: The Times of India, The Hindustan Times and The Hindu. Total numbers of violent crimes news coverages from the period 2010-14 are 3115. All data shown in the below table-

Newspapers	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Hindustan Times	991	31.8	31.8	31.8
The Hindu	943	30.3	30.3	62.1
Times of India	1181	37.9	37.9	100.0
Total	3115	100.0	100.0	

1. Violent crimes

In the below table shown that murder news coverage's by newspapers is 965 which is 31% of the total news coverage's all three newspapers, similarly rape is 800 which is 25.7%, kidnapping is 709 which is 22.8%, dacoit is 168 which is 5.4%, robbery is 171 which is 5.5%, riots is 261 which is 8.4% and arsons is 41 which is 1.3%. From this table we found that murder news coverage's by newspapers more as compared to others types of violent crimes.

Violent Crime	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Murder	965	31.0	31.0	31.0
Rape	800	25.7	25.7	56.7
Kidnapping and Abduction	709	22.8	22.8	79.4
Dacoit	168	5.4	5.4	84.8
Robbery	171	5.5	5.5	90.3
Riots	261	8.4	8.4	98.7
Arson	41	1.3	1.3	100.0
Total	3115	100.0	100.0	

2. Violent crimes coverages from the years 2010-2014

We have been seen that in the year 2010 the violent crimes news coverage's by all three newspapers are 175 which is 5.6% of total news coverage in five years. But in the year 2011 news coverages 244 which is 7.8 % of total news coverages in the five years. In the below table shown that from the year 2010 to 2014 the violent crimes' news coverages increases 5.6, 7.8, 17.1, 24, 45.4% respectively.

Years	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
2010	175	5.6	5.6	5.6
2011	244	7.8	7.8	13.5
2012	534	17.1	17.1	30.6
2013	749	24.0	24.0	54.6
2014	1413	45.4	45.4	100.0
Total	3115	100.0	100.0	

3. State wise violent crime news coverage's

From the study of state wise violent crimes' news coverages from the years 2010 to 2014 mostly violent crimes news coverage's by all three newspapers in the NCT Delhi 18.8 % and less in the Sikkim 0%.

State

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Andhra Pradesh	90	2.9	2.9	2.9
Arunachal Pradesh	2	.1	.1	3.0
Assam	38	1.2	1.2	4.2
Bihar	65	2.1	2.1	6.3
Chhattisgarh	20	.6	.6	6.9
Goa	19	.6	.6	7.5
Gujarat	81	2.6	2.6	10.1
Haryana	91	2.9	2.9	13.0
Himachal Pradesh	11	.4	.4	13.4
Jammu and Kashmir	21	.7	.7	14.1
Jharkhand	36	1.2	1.2	15.2
Karnataka	187	6.0	6.0	21.2
Kerala	110	3.5	3.5	24.8
Madhya Pradesh	86	2.8	2.8	27.5
Maharashtra	461	14.8	14.8	42.3
Manipur	5	.2	.2	42.5
Meghalaya	4	.1	.1	42.6
Mizoram	1	.0	.0	42.6
Odisha	48	1.5	1.5	44.2
Punjab	143	4.6	4.6	48.8
Rajasthan	66	2.1	2.1	50.9
Sikkim	1	.0	.0	50.9
Tamil Nadu	316	10.1	10.1	61.1
Telangana	62	2.0	2.0	63.0

Tripura	2	.1	.1	63.1
Uttar Pradesh	259	8.3	8.3	71.4
Uttarakhand	24	.8	.8	72.2
West Bengal	122	3.9	3.9	76.1
Delhi	587	18.8	18.8	95.0
UT	60	1.9	1.9	96.9
Foreign	97	3.1	3.1	100.0
Total	3115	100.0	100.0	

4. Crosstabulation of newspapers

In the below graph shown that the coverages of murder is shown more by The Times of India 374 news (38.8%) and less coverage's by The Hindustan Times 271 news (28.1%).

The coverages of rape are shown more by The Hindustan Times 353 news (44.1%) and less coverages by The Hindu 150 news (18.8%).

The coverages of kidnapping and abduction are shown more by The Times of India 326 news (46.0%) and less coverages by The Hindustan Times 133 news (18.8%).

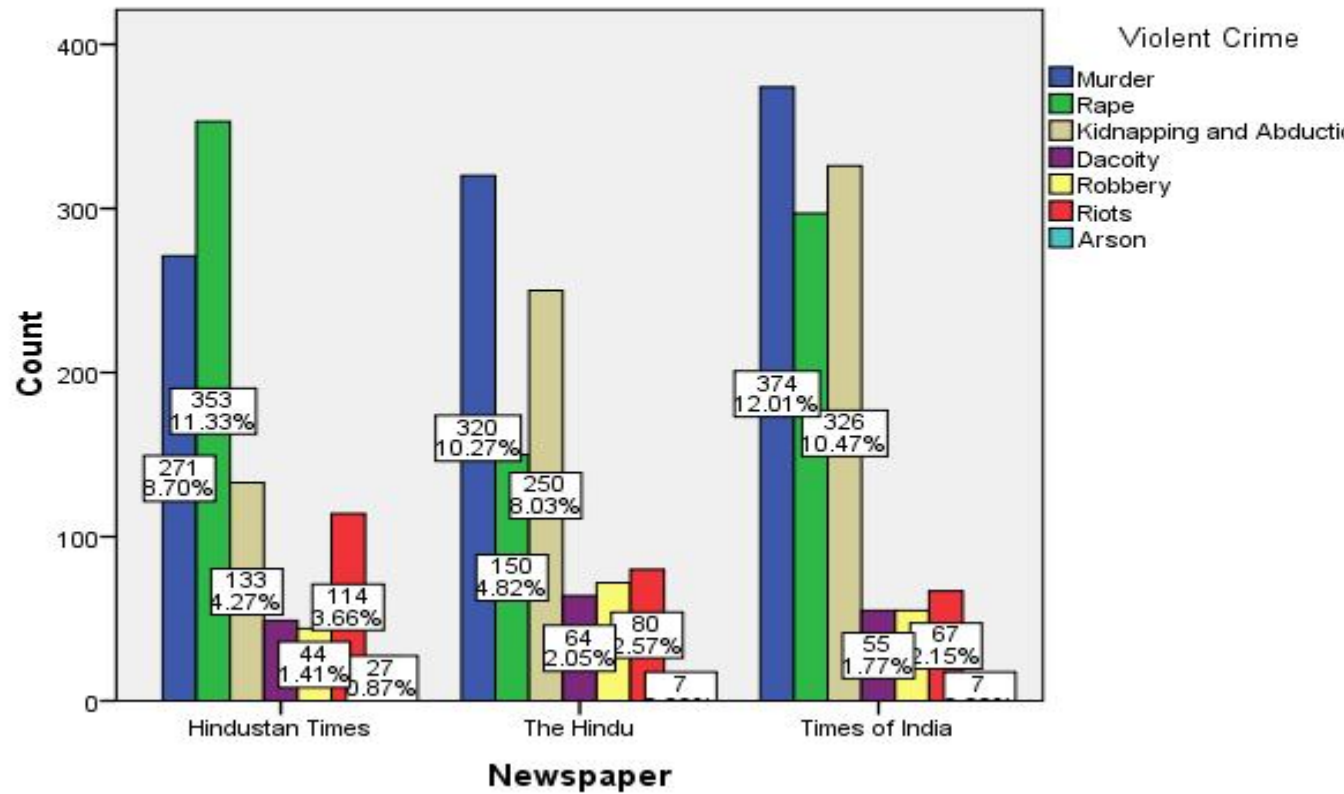
The coverages of dacoit sare showed more by The Hindu 64 news (38.1%) and less coverages by The Hindustan Times 49 news (29.2%).

The coverages of robbery are shown more by The Hindu 72 news (42.1%) and less coverages by The Hindustan Times 44 news (25.7%).

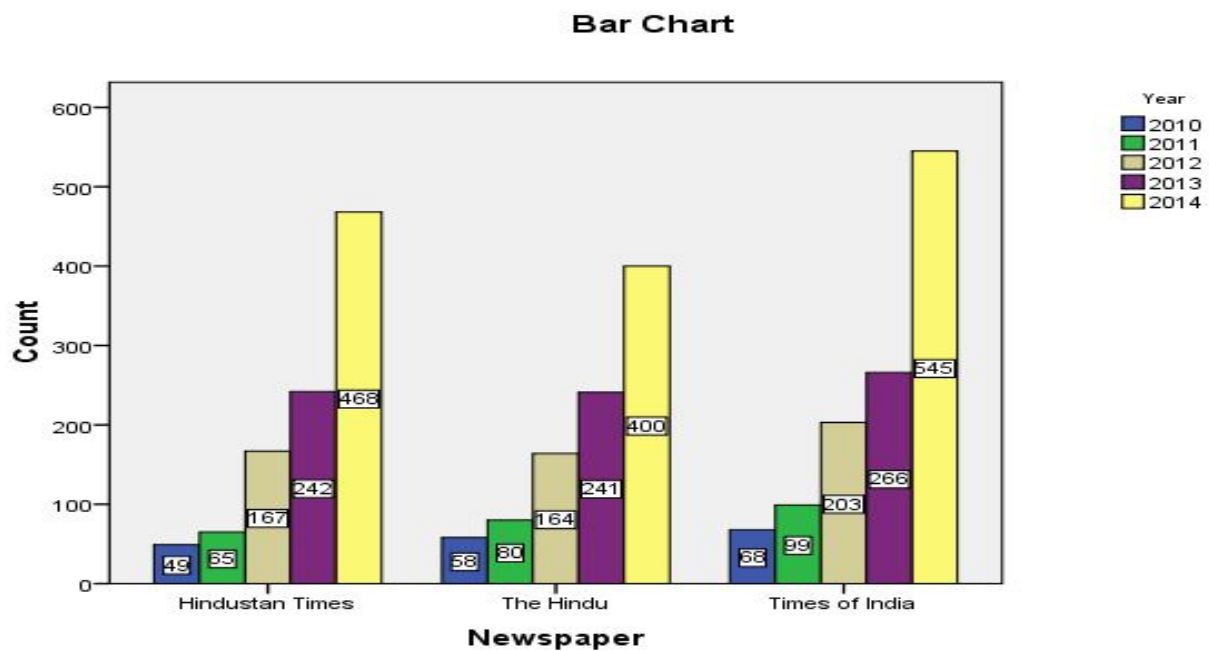
The coverages of riots are shown more by The Hindustan Times 114 news (43.7%) and less coverages by The Times of India 67 news (25.7%).

The coverages of arson are shown more by The Hindustan Times 27 news (65.9%) and less coverages by TOI 7 news (17.1%).

Bar Chart

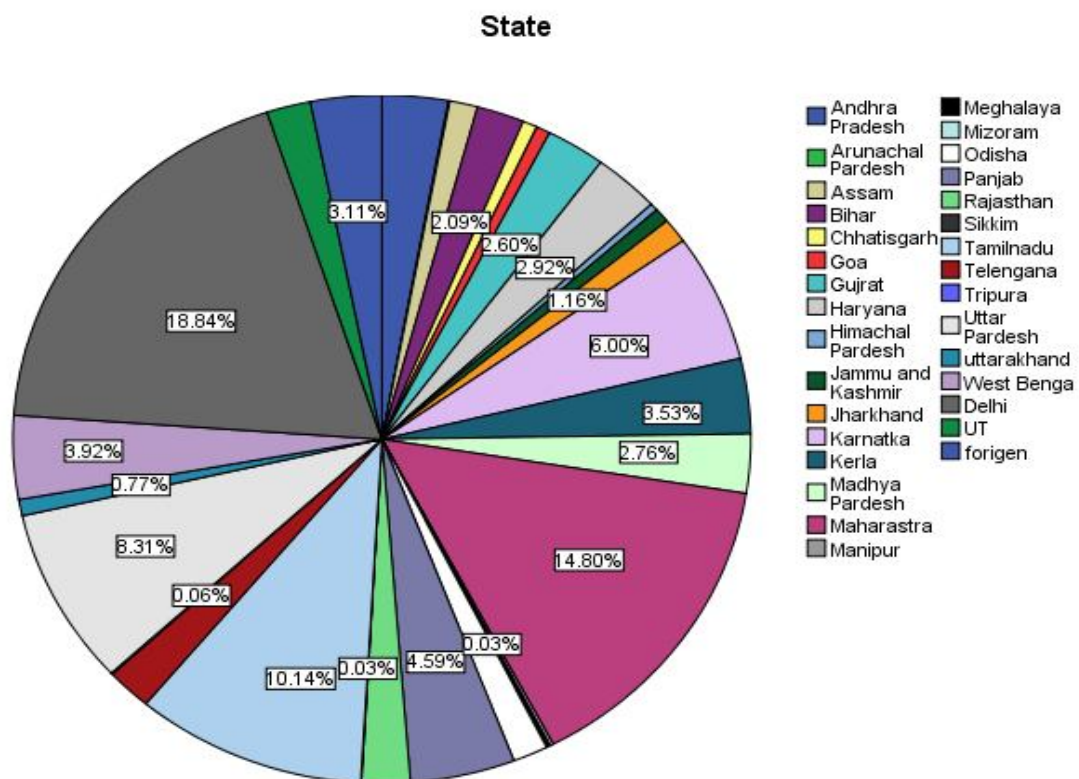


5. Year wise crosstabulation



In the above graph, it is shown that between the years 2010-14 The Times of India coverages more violent crimes news as compared to others two newspapers.

6. State wise cross tabulation



In the above graph, it is shown that The Hindustan Times coverages violent crimes more in Punjab (83%), The Hindu coverage's in Andhra Pradesh (82.2%) and The Times of India coverages violent crimes news in Goa (78%).

Conclusions

The study of the violent crimes' news reveals that the Indian print media too has acquired the contours of market driven journalism originally go out in the US as a result of globalization and privatization in the past 1991. The Times of India with its study market orientation mirrored all the necessary characteristics of market driven journalism. The Hindu and The Hindustan Times remained in a transition part showing signs of already non-inheritable contour of market driven journalism within the digressive order. The influence of media on human life is immensely effective. Newspapers are the best, cheapest and oldest form of the media. It even acts as a tool to bring forth voice of those silent peoples. Newspapers are the important source of information and news related to violent crimes in minimal. We have been found only 3115 news of violent crimes between the years 2010-14 by the top three newspapers of India. There is a great need for the coverages of violent crimes news because this news plays an important role to beware the human from various violent activities. The main focus of study of these newspapers is to find out the way to be aware of violent crimes through regular study of newspapers, which contain more news of violent crimes. This case study of all three newspapers preferred the Indian media to cover more violent crimes news, which will help people to avoid the violent crimes like murder, rape, dacoits, arsons etc.

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