

DIVERSITY IN MEDIA AND PERCEPTIONS OF PUBLIC ON TRIPLE TALAQ ISSUE

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Abstract

The present paper is aimed to evaluate the perceptions of different communities namely Hindus, Christians, Muslims, Anglo-Indians and Sikhs on Triple Talaq issue covered by the major media vehicles. The results of the survey reveal that the public feel that the media's stance and quantum of coverage was fair enough in handling the issue. Except for a few media vehicles the results suggest that there is no bias and quantum of coverage on the issue. The issue raised questions over execution of Muslim personal law when the Supreme Court of India declared this practice as unconstitutional.

Keywords: Triple Talaq, bias, quantum of coverage, diversity, perceptions.

Introduction

The issue of Triple Talaq became a contentious issue as it created a rift between fundamentalists, feminists and civil society in India. The Triple Talaq is an Islamic religious practice where a male married adult can divorce his spouse by instantly uttering Talaq for thrice. The issue is intertwined with so many socio-economic, religious and legal aspects as a section of Muslims argue that it should be practiced in accordance to the scripture, while another section claims that it deprives basic human rights of women. It has become a bone of contention between both the parties when its validity was questioned by the Indian judiciary. The practice is disastrous to women as it takes away income for sustenance, child custody, protection and remarriage. Most of the women were abandoned by husbands without providing any alimony to them.

Literature Review

Van Cuilenburg (1999) dealt with media access and media diversity. He argued that media diversity has two dimensions- media reflection of population preferences and media openness which provides equal and systematic access to diverse population preferences. But no media system can produce both reflection and openness simultaneously.

The media diversity plays an important role in democratic countries and most of the communication and media policies are framed around it. It is a variety of media content with regard to one or more specified features and it is measured in respect of heterogeneity in the supply of news media and dispersion of attention covering news genres, cultural foci, news categories, and political bias etc. He stated that highly competing media markets may however result in the same redundant monotony of media contents and there is a theoretical chance for media monopolies to produce excessive diverse content.

He claimed that media diversity reflection and media diversity openness are dialectically related to each other when the population demographics, choices and conditions are uniformly distributed. However, research findings and TRPs often indicate media bias in the form of homogeneity in media use and media choices which can be corrected with openness.

McDonald and Dimmick (2003) proposed diversity as a two-dimensional concept after assessing the three decades of network radio programming literature by employing 12

measures of dual-construct diversity. The dual-concept diversity consists of classification of categories and distribution of elements within these categories. The authors found that Shannon's diversity index H is equitably sensitive to k and P_{max} if the sample size is less than 10. They concluded that Simpson's diversity index D is the best measure of diversity as it indicates probability of randomly chosen individuals from a population may differ in a particular characteristic.

Awad Cherit (2008) argued that the laissez-faire approach reduced the cultural diversity in the media to an ornament as the model depends on monetary gains rather than normative motives. She proposed the interventionist models to open ample space for alternative voices as the profit-mongered businesses are not able to cater the democratic needs of multicultural societies and cultural diversity policies being adopted only serving the interests of existing media systems.

She contended that normative motives as an interventionist should replace laissez-faire approach to cultural diversity. The policies which are in effect to maintain the status-quo of media systems and other institutions in power posed a challenge to multiculturalism and social justice. The initiatives intended to assess diversity in the media should consider their effectiveness in supporting or opposing neo-assimilationist agendas.

Figenschou (2010) documented an in-depth quantitative content analysis of Al-Jazeera's, the Middle East's first English TV news channel, news coverage. Following the Second World War, the world has become more polarized and global communication started to flow from the North to South. While the South demanded for the new world Information communication order (NWICO), the north, particularly Western powers, hijacked the free flow of communication to safeguard their vested political interests. Al-Jazeera's satellite English news channel focused on counteracting global flow of communication through its 'Southern agenda'. Figenschou found that Al-Jazeera extensively covers news items related to global South rather than global North and its authoritative news sources are elite men who are often invited to debate even on subaltern women. In another finding, the author claimed that while the channel extensively covers Europe, Asia and the Middle East, it gives relatively least priority to Latin America, Africa and Oceania. The author also found in his quantitative research that Al-Jazeera did not air even a single news item with regard to its headquartered country, Qatar.

Method

The survey method has been adopted by the modern society as a key instrument like a telescope to look at itself (House et al, 2004). In order to achieve the outlined objectives for this study, a survey technique was employed to systematically collect responses from large sample of the population. The technique was purposively used to reduce money and time constraints so as to gather demographic data and elicit information about perceptions of the respondents on diversity in media. Another reason for adopting this technique is that it can be easily developed and administered for drawing generalizations from a large sample which is representative of the population.

Data gathering tool

A primary data gathering tool in the form of a self-administered questionnaire was employed to elicit information from the respondents. For testing hypotheses of the study, a questionnaire with three point and five point Likert scales ranging from neutral, negative,

positive and highly inadequate, inadequate, don’t know, adequate and highly adequate were used to measure the perceptions on media bias and extent of coverage on the Triple Talaq issue.

Sampling methods

The stratified random sampling method was used to divide the entire population of five communities into homogenous groups or strata based on age, gender, TV subscribers, newspaper readers and community status. The sample is well balanced as it represents each 100 male and female respondents from five communities amounting to 1000 respondents.

The purposive sampling was used to select different media vehicles for the study that include English dailies such as The Times of India, The Hindu, The New Indian Express, and TV channels consists of NDTV, CNN-IBN and Times Now besides Internet or Social Networking Sites (SNS). The reason behind selecting these media is based on their circulation, TRPs and popularity.

Hypothesis

H₀: There is no statistically significant relationship between different communities’ perceptions on the media bias or lack of bias and quantum of coverage of Triple Talaq issue.

H_a: There is a statistically significant relationship between different communities’ perceptions on the media bias or lack of bias and quantum of coverage of Triple Talaq issue.

Data Analysis

COMMUNITY - WHAT IS YOUR PERCEPTION ON THE STANCE OF THE TIMES OF INDIA IN COVERING THE TRIPLE TALAQ ISSUE?

Crosstab

		WHAT IS YOUR PERCEPTION ON THE STANCE OF THE TIMES OF INDIA IN COVERING THE TRIPLE TALAQ ISSUE?					
		NEUTRAL	NEGATIVE	POSITIVE	DON'T KNOW	Total	
COMMUNITY STATUS	Count	17	153	24	6	200	
	% within COMMUNITY	8.5%	76.5%	12.0%	3.0%	100.0%	
	% within Talaq issue	14.3%	21.5%	18.0%	16.7%	20.0%	
	% of Total	1.7%	15.3%	2.4%	0.6%	20.0%	
CHRISTIAN	Count	17	144	28	11	200	
	% within COMMUNITY	8.5%	72.0%	14.0%	5.5%	100.0%	
	% within	14.3%	20.2%	21.1%	30.6%	20.0%	

		Talaq issue					
		% of Total	1.7%	14.4%	2.8%	1.1%	20.0%
	MUSLIM	Count	35	137	24	4	200
		% within COMMUNITY	17.5%	68.5%	12.0%	2.0%	100.0%
		% within Talaq issue	29.4%	19.2%	18.0%	11.1%	20.0%
		% of Total	3.5%	13.7%	2.4%	0.4%	20.0%
	ANGLO-INDIAN	Count	21	137	33	9	200
		% within COMMUNITY	10.5%	68.5%	16.5%	4.5%	100.0%
		% within Talaq issue	17.6%	19.2%	24.8%	25.0%	20.0%
		% of Total	2.1%	13.7%	3.3%	0.9%	20.0%
	SIKH	Count	29	141	24	6	200
		% within COMMUNITY	14.5%	70.5%	12.0%	3.0%	100.0%
		% within Talaq issue	24.4%	19.8%	18.0%	16.7%	20.0%
		% of Total	2.9%	14.1%	2.4%	0.6%	20.0%
Total		Count	119	712	133	36	1000
		% within COMMUNITY	11.9%	71.2%	13.3%	3.6%	100.0%
		% within Talaq issue	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
		% of Total	11.9%	71.2%	13.3%	3.6%	100.0%

From the above table, it can be interpreted that an overwhelming majority of the surveyed people 712 (71.2%) perceived that the Times of India’s coverage on Triple Talaq issue was unbiased. Among those who maintained this view was Hindus (15.3%), Christians (14.4%) and Sikhs (14.1%) together comprise a lion’s share. Meanwhile, 133 (13.3%) respondents expressed positive views and 119 (11.9%) claimed its coverage was neutral.

Inference: A slightly more than seven-in-ten of the respondents (71.2%) say TOI’s coverage of Triple Talaq issue was unbiased.

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	18.506	12	.101
Likelihood Ratio	18.090	12	.113
Linear-by-Linear Association	.937	1	.333
N of Valid Cases	1000		

The results of Pearson chi-square tests indicate that there is no statistically significant relationship between the Triple Talaq issue covered by the Times of India and the perceived bias of the respondents as $(\chi^2(12) \geq 18.506, p = 0.101)$. Hence, the null hypothesis is accepted and the two categorical variables are independent of each other.

COMMUNITY - WHAT IS YOUR PERCEPTION ON THE STANCE OF THE HINDU IN COVERING THE TRIPLE TALAQ ISSUE?

Crosstab

		WHAT IS YOUR PERCEPTION ON THE STANCE OF THE HINDU IN COVERING THE TRIPLE TALAQ ISSUE?					
			NEUTRAL	NEGATIVE	POSITIVE	DON'T KNOW	Total
COMMUNITY STATUS	HINDU	Count	151	22	22	5	200
		% within COMMUNITY	75.5%	11.0%	11.0%	2.5%	100.0%
		% within COMMUNITY	19.7%	19.0%	25.3%	16.1%	20.0%

	Talaq issue					
	% of Total	15.1%	2.2%	2.2%	0.5%	20.0%
CHRISTIAN	Count	154	28	13	5	200
	% within COMMUNITY	77.0%	14.0%	6.5%	2.5%	100.0%
	% within Talaq issue	20.1%	24.1%	14.9%	16.1%	20.0%
	% of Total	15.4%	2.8%	1.3%	0.5%	20.0%
MUSLIM	Count	151	23	20	6	200
	% within COMMUNITY	75.5%	11.5%	10.0%	3.0%	100.0%
	% within Talaq issue	19.7%	19.8%	23.0%	19.4%	20.0%
	% of Total	15.1%	2.3%	2.0%	0.6%	20.0%
ANGLO-INDIAN	Count	156	22	15	7	200
	% within COMMUNITY	78.0%	11.0%	7.5%	3.5%	100.0%
	% within Talaq issue	20.4%	19.0%	17.2%	22.6%	20.0%
	% of Total	15.6%	2.2%	1.5%	0.7%	20.0%
SIKH	Count	154	21	17	8	200
	% within COMMUNITY	77.0%	10.5%	8.5%	4.0%	100.0%
	% within Talaq issue	20.1%	18.1%	19.5%	25.8%	20.0%
	% of Total	15.4%	2.1%	1.7%	0.8%	20.0%
Total	Count	766	116	87	31	1000
	% within COMMUNITY	76.6%	11.6%	8.7%	3.1%	100.0%
	% within Talaq issue	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	% of Total	76.6%	11.6%	8.7%	3.1%	100.0%

An overwhelming majority of the respondents 766 (76.6%) cited the Hindu’s coverage was neutral in covering the Triple Talaq issue. The majorities who believed this view were Anglo-Indians (15.6%), Sikhs and Christians (15.4%) each. At the same time, another share of 116 (11.6%) respondents said there was no bias and 87 (8.7%) said its reporting on the issue was biased.

Inference: A marginally more than three quarters of the respondents (76.6%) claim the Hindu gave neutral coverage to Triple Talaq issue.

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	5.605	12	.935
Likelihood Ratio	5.548	12	.937
Linear-by-Linear Association	.000	1	1.000
N of Valid Cases	1000		

The results of Pearson Chi-Square tests determine that there is no statistically significant relationship between the stance taken by the Hindu in covering Triple Talaq issue and the respondents’ perceived bias as $(\chi^2(12) \geq 5.605, p = 0.935)$. Hence, the null hypothesis is accepted as the p value is more than the significance level of $\alpha = 0.05$.

COMMUNITY - WHAT IS YOUR PERCEPTION ON THE STANCE OF THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS IN COVERING THE TRIPLE TALAQ ISSUE?

Crosstab

		WHAT IS YOUR PERCEPTION ON THE STANCE OF THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS IN COVERING THE TRIPLE TALAQ ISSUE?					
		NEUTRAL	NEGATIVE	POSITIVE	DON'T KNOW	Total	
COMMUNITY STATUS	Count	152	14	21	13	200	
	% within COMMUNITY	76.0%	7.0%	10.5%	6.5%	100.0%	
	% within Talaq issue	20.8%	16.7%	20.6%	15.7%	20.0%	
	% of Total	15.2%	1.4%	2.1%	1.3%	20.0%	
CHRISTIAN	Count	156	14	18	12	200	
	% within COMMUNITY	78.0%	7.0%	9.0%	6.0%	100.0%	
	% within Talaq issue	21.3%	16.7%	17.6%	14.5%	20.0%	
	% of Total	15.6%	1.4%	1.8%	1.2%	20.0%	
MUSLIM	Count	146	20	18	16	200	
	% within COMMUNITY	73.0%	10.0%	9.0%	8.0%	100.0%	
	% within Talaq issue	20.0%	23.8%	17.6%	19.3%	20.0%	

	% of Total	14.6%	2.0%	1.8%	1.6%	20.0%
ANGLO-INDIAN	Count	138	15	26	21	200
	% within COMMUNITY	69.0%	7.5%	13.0%	10.5%	100.0%
	% within Talaq issue	18.9%	17.9%	25.5%	25.3%	20.0%
	% of Total	13.8%	1.5%	2.6%	2.1%	20.0%
SIKH	Count	139	21	19	21	200
	% within COMMUNITY	69.5%	10.5%	9.5%	10.5%	100.0%
	% within Talaq issue	19.0%	25.0%	18.6%	25.3%	20.0%
	% of Total	13.9%	2.1%	1.9%	2.1%	20.0%
Total	Count	731	84	102	83	1000
	% within COMMUNITY	73.1%	8.4%	10.2%	8.3%	100.0%
	% within Talaq issue	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	% of Total	73.1%	8.4%	10.2%	8.3%	100.0%

An overwhelming majority of the respondents 731(73.1%) said the stance of New Indian Express in covering the Triple Talaq issue was neutral. The majority who were of this opinion were Christians (15.6%), Hindus (15.2%) and Muslims (14.6%). While a smaller share 102 (10.2%) expressed positive views, 84 (8.4%) only said that was not the case. Interestingly, 83 (8.3%) said they don’t know about the issue to decide.

Inference: Nearly three quarters of the respondents (73.1%) say the New Indian Express neutrally covered the Triple Talaq issue.

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	11.113	12	.519
Likelihood Ratio	10.981	12	.531
Linear-by-Linear Association	5.046	1	.025
N of Valid Cases	1000		

The results of Karl Pearson Chi-Square tests determine that there is no statistically significant relationship between the Triple Talaq issue covered by the New Indian Express and the respondents’ perceived bias as $(\chi^2(12) \geq 11.113, p = 0.519)$. Hence, the null hypothesis is accepted as the two categorical variables are independent of each other.

COMMUNITY - WHAT IS YOUR PERCEPTION ON THE STANCE OF THE NDTV IN COVERING THE TRIPLE TALAQ ISSUE?

Crosstab

		WHAT IS YOUR PERCEPTION ON THE STANCE OF THE NDTV IN COVERING THE TRIPLE TALAQ ISSUE?				Total	
		NEUTRAL	NEGATIVE	POSITIVE	DON'T KNOW		
COMMUNITY STATUS	HINDU	Count	126	39	25	10	200
		% within COMMUNITY	63.0%	19.5%	12.5%	5.0%	100.0%
		% within Talaq issue	20.1%	20.3%	17.2%	27.8%	20.0%
		% of Total	12.6%	3.9%	2.5%	1.0%	20.0%
	CHRISTIAN	Count	130	30	35	5	200
		% within COMMUNITY	65.0%	15.0%	17.5%	2.5%	100.0%
		% within Talaq issue	20.7%	15.6%	24.1%	13.9%	20.0%
		% of Total	13.0%	3.0%	3.5%	0.5%	20.0%
	MUSLIM	Count	129	39	26	6	200
		% within COMMUNITY	64.5%	19.5%	13.0%	3.0%	100.0%
		% within Talaq issue	20.6%	20.3%	17.9%	16.7%	20.0%
		% of Total	12.9%	3.9%	2.6%	0.6%	20.0%
ANGLO-INDIAN	Count	126	38	27	9	200	
	% within COMMUNITY	63.0%	19.0%	13.5%	4.5%	100.0%	
	% within Talaq issue	20.1%	19.8%	18.6%	25.0%	20.0%	
	% of Total	12.6%	3.8%	2.7%	0.9%	20.0%	
SIKH	Count	116	46	32	6	200	
	% within COMMUNITY	58.0%	23.0%	16.0%	3.0%	100.0%	
	% within Talaq issue	18.5%	24.0%	22.1%	16.7%	20.0%	
	% of Total	11.6%	4.6%	3.2%	0.6%	20.0%	
Total	Count	627	192	145	36	1000	
	% within COMMUNITY	62.7%	19.2%	14.5%	3.6%	100.0%	
	% within Talaq issue	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

% of Total	62.7%	19.2%	14.5%	3.6%	100.0%
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A large majority of the respondents 627(62.7%) said there was neutral coverage of the Triple Talaq issue in NDTV of which bulk of them were Christians (13%), Muslims (12.9%), Hindus and Anglo-Indians (12.6%) each. At the same time, another share of 192(19.2%) expressed negative views and 145 (14.5%) said its coverage was partisan.

Inference: Roughly two thirds of the respondents (62.7%) perceive NDTV’s coverage was neutral in covering the Triple Talaq issue.

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	9.510	12	.659
Likelihood Ratio	9.493	12	.660
Linear-by-Linear Association	.323	1	.570
N of Valid Cases	1000		

The results of Pearson Chi-Square tests indicate that there is no notable significant relationship between the Triple Talaq issue covered by the NDTV and the respondents’ perceived bias as $(x^2(12) \geq 9.510, p = 0.659)$. Hence, the null hypothesis is accepted as p value is greater than the significance level of $\alpha = 0.05$.

COMMUNITY - WHAT IS YOUR PERCEPTION ON THE STANCE OF THE CNN-IBN IN COVERING THE TRIPLE TALAQ ISSUE?

Crosstab

		WHAT IS YOUR PERCEPTION ON THE STANCE OF THE CNN-IBN IN COVERING THE TRIPLE TALAQ ISSUE?					
		NEUTRAL	NEGATIVE	POSITIVE	DON'T KNOW	Total	
COMMUNITY STATUS	Count	142	23	17	18	200	
	% within COMMUNITY	71.0%	11.5%	8.5%	9.0%	100.0%	
	% within	20.2%	13.0%	28.3%	30.5%	20.0%	

	Talaq issue					
	% of Total	14.2%	2.3%	1.7%	1.8%	20.0%
CHRISTIAN	Count	136	37	12	15	200
	% within COMMUNITY	68.0%	18.5%	6.0%	7.5%	100.0%
	% within Talaq issue	19.3%	20.9%	20.0%	25.4%	20.0%
	% of Total	13.6%	3.7%	1.2%	1.5%	20.0%
MUSLIM	Count	133	43	14	10	200
	% within COMMUNITY	66.5%	21.5%	7.0%	5.0%	100.0%
	% within Talaq issue	18.9%	24.3%	23.3%	16.9%	20.0%
	% of Total	13.3%	4.3%	1.4%	1.0%	20.0%
ANGLO-INDIAN	Count	138	44	11	7	200
	% within COMMUNITY	69.0%	22.0%	5.5%	3.5%	100.0%
	% within Talaq issue	19.6%	24.9%	18.3%	11.9%	20.0%
	% of Total	13.8%	4.4%	1.1%	0.7%	20.0%
SIKH	Count	155	30	6	9	200
	% within COMMUNITY	77.5%	15.0%	3.0%	4.5%	100.0%
	% within Talaq issue	22.0%	16.9%	10.0%	15.3%	20.0%
	% of Total	15.5%	3.0%	0.6%	0.9%	20.0%
Total	Count	704	177	60	59	1000
	% within COMMUNITY	70.4%	17.7%	6.0%	5.9%	100.0%
	% within Talaq issue	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	% of Total	70.4%	17.7%	6.0%	5.9%	100.0%

The CNN-IBN’s coverage of the Triple Talaq issue was widely perceived to be neutral as cited by an overwhelming majority of the respondents 704 (70.4%). The Sikhs (15.5%), Hindus (14.2%) and Anglo-Indians were majorities who said its coverage was neutral.

A total of 177 (17.7%) respondents gave negative rating on a four-point scale and just 60(6%) elicited positive views.

Inference: A slightly more than seven-in-ten of the respondents (70.4%). say the CNN-IBN’s coverage of Triple Talaq issue was neutral.

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	23.571	12	.023
Likelihood Ratio	24.257	12	.019
Linear-by-Linear Association	7.326	1	.007
N of Valid Cases	1000		

The results of Karl Pearson Chi-Square tests determine that there is no statistically significant relationship between the Triple Talaq issue covered by the CNN-IBN and the respondents’ perceived bias as $(\chi^2(12) \geq 23.571, p = 0.023)$. Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected as the two categorical variables are dependent on each other.

COMMUNITY - WHAT IS YOUR PERCEPTION ON THE STANCE OF THE REPUBLIC TV IN COVERING THE TRIPLE TALAQ ISSUE?

Crosstab

		WHAT IS YOUR PERCEPTION ON THE STANCE OF THE REPUBLIC TV IN COVERING THE TRIPLE TALAQ ISSUE?					
		NEUTRAL	NEGATIVE	POSITIVE	DON'T KNOW	Total	
COMMUNITY STATUS	HINDU	Count	32	149	13	6	200
		% within COMMUNITY	16.0%	74.5%	6.5%	3.0%	100.0%
		% within Talaq issue	19.0%	20.4%	17.8%	20.0%	20.0%
		% of Total	3.2%	14.9%	1.3%	0.6%	20.0%
CHRISTIAN		Count	33	145	17	5	200
		% within COMMUNITY	16.5%	72.5%	8.5%	2.5%	100.0%
		% within Talaq issue	19.6%	19.9%	23.3%	16.7%	20.0%
		% of Total	3.3%	14.5%	1.7%	0.5%	20.0%
MUSLIM		Count	37	145	11	7	200
		% within COMMUNITY	18.5%	72.5%	5.5%	3.5%	100.0%
		% within Talaq issue	22.0%	19.9%	15.1%	23.3%	20.0%

	% of Total	3.7%	14.5%	1.1%	0.7%	20.0%
ANGLO-INDIAN	Count	33	143	17	7	200
	% within COMMUNITY	16.5%	71.5%	8.5%	3.5%	100.0%
	% within Talaq issue	19.6%	19.6%	23.3%	23.3%	20.0%
	% of Total	3.3%	14.3%	1.7%	0.7%	20.0%
SIKH	Count	33	147	15	5	200
	% within COMMUNITY	16.5%	73.5%	7.5%	2.5%	100.0%
	% within Talaq issue	19.6%	20.2%	20.5%	16.7%	20.0%
	% of Total	3.3%	14.7%	1.5%	0.5%	20.0%
Total	Count	168	729	73	30	1000
	% within COMMUNITY	16.8%	72.9%	7.3%	3.0%	100.0%
	% within Talaq issue	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	% of Total	16.8%	72.9%	7.3%	3.0%	100.0%

An overwhelming majority of the respondents 729 (72.9%) said the Republic TV’s coverage of Triple Talaq issue was relatively unbiased as cited by majority of Hindus (14.9%), Sikhs (14.7%) and Christians as well as Muslims (14.7%) each. Meanwhile, a total of 168 (16.8%) said its coverage was neutral and only 73 (7.3%) claimed biased coverage.

Inference: Nearly three quarters of the respondents (72.9%) say Republic TV’s coverage of Triple Talaq issue was unbiased.

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	3.125	12	.995
Likelihood Ratio	3.168	12	.994
Linear-by-Linear Association	.006	1	.941
N of Valid Cases	1000		

The value of Karl Pearson Chi-Square tests is 3.125 with a degree of freedom of 12 and p value 0.995 which indicates that there is no statistically significant relationship between the Triple Talaq issue covered by the Republic TV and the respondents’ perceived bias. Hence, the null hypothesis is accepted as p value is greater than the significance level of $\alpha=0.05$.

COMMUNITY - WHAT IS YOUR PERCEPTION ON THE STANCE OF THE INTERNET/SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS IN COVERING THE TRIPLE TALAQ ISSUE?

Crosstab

		WHAT IS YOUR PERCEPTION ON THE STANCE OF THE INTERNET/SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS IN COVERING THE TRIPLE TALAQ ISSUE?					
		NEUTRAL	NEGATIVE	POSITIVE	DON'T KNOW	Total	
COMMUNITY STATUS	HINDU	Count	134	54	6	6	200
		% within COMMUNITY	67.0%	27.0%	3.0%	3.0%	100.0%
		% within Talaq issue	20.7%	18.0%	19.4%	28.6%	20.0%
		% of Total	13.4%	5.4%	0.6%	0.6%	20.0%
CHRISTIAN		Count	135	57	4	4	200
		% within COMMUNITY	67.5%	28.5%	2.0%	2.0%	100.0%
		% within Talaq issue	20.8%	19.0%	12.9%	19.0%	20.0%
		% of Total	13.5%	5.7%	0.4%	0.4%	20.0%
MUSLIM		Count	118	69	9	4	200
		% within COMMUNITY	59.0%	34.5%	4.5%	2.0%	100.0%
		% within Talaq issue	18.2%	23.0%	29.0%	19.0%	20.0%
		% of Total	11.8%	6.9%	0.9%	0.4%	20.0%
ANGLO-INDIAN		Count	126	65	7	2	200
		% within COMMUNITY	63.0%	32.5%	3.5%	1.0%	100.0%
		% within Talaq issue	19.4%	21.7%	22.6%	9.5%	20.0%
		% of Total	12.6%	6.5%	0.7%	0.2%	20.0%
SIKH		Count	135	55	5	5	200
		% within COMMUNITY	67.5%	27.5%	2.5%	2.5%	100.0%
		% within Talaq issue	20.8%	18.3%	16.1%	23.8%	20.0%
		% of Total	13.5%	5.7%	0.4%	0.4%	20.0%

	Talaq issue					
	% of Total	13.5%	5.5%	0.5%	0.5%	20.0%
Total	Count	648	300	31	21	1000
	% within COMMUNITY	64.8%	30.0%	3.1%	2.1%	100.0%
	% within Talaq issue	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	% of Total	64.8%	30.0%	3.1%	2.1%	100.0%

A large majority of the respondents 648 (64.8%) cited the coverage given by the Internet or social media to the Triple Talaq issue was neutral. The majority who held this view was Christians and Sikhs (13.5%) each as well as Hindus (13.4%). While a total of 300 (30%) respondents expressed negative views about its biased coverage if any, and only 31(3.1%) said its coverage was biased.

Inference: Nearly two thirds of the respondents (64.8%) say Internet or social media neutrally covered the Triple Talaq issue.

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	9.153	12	.690
Likelihood Ratio	9.290	12	.678
Linear-by-Linear Association	.000	1	1.000
N of Valid Cases	1000		

The results of Karl Pearson Chi-Square tests determine that there is no notable statistically significant relationship between the Triple Talaq issue covered by the internet or social media platforms and the respondents’ perceived bias as $(\chi^2(12) \geq 9.153, p = 0.690)$. Hence, the null hypothesis is accepted as the two categorical variables are independent of each other.

Findings

The majority of the respondents from all the five communities perceive there is no bias in treating the Triple Talaq issue by different media vehicles. Except for the CNN-IBN TV, the results showed that there is no statistically significant relationship between the respondents’ perceptions and the Triple Talaq issue covered by the media. While a slightly more than seven-in-ten of the respondents (71.2%) said the TOI’s coverage of Triple Talaq issue was unbiased. For the Hindu daily, a marginally more than three quarters of the respondents (76.6%) claimed its coverage was neutral. Meanwhile, nearly three quarters of the respondents (73.1%) cited the New Indian Express has neutrally covered the Triple Talaq issue. On the stance of NDTV, roughly two thirds of the respondents (62.7%) perceived NDTV’s coverage was neutral in covering the Triple Talaq issue and CNN-IBN’s coverage was neutral according to a slightly more than seven-in-ten of the respondents (70.4%). With respect to Republic TV, three quarters of the respondents (72.9%) stated it was objective in reporting the Triple Talaq issue and nearly two thirds of the respondents (64.8%) said the Internet or social media have neutrally covered the Triple Talaq issue. Hence, it can be



concluded that the alternative hypothesis H_a is rejected except for CNN-IBN as almost all media vehicles fairly covered the issue with regard to stance.

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