

A Study on Media and Law on the Coverage of Religious and Sensitive Issues

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ABSTRACT:

Media coverage of religious and sensitive issues plays a crucial role in shaping public opinion, fostering interfaith dialogue, and promoting social cohesion. This abstract explores the significance of media coverage in facilitating discussions around these topics and examines its impact on society. Religious and sensitive issues often evoke strong emotions and have the potential to spark controversy and conflicts. The media's role in covering such topics requires a delicate balance between freedom of expression and responsible journalism. Through a comprehensive analysis of existing literature and case studies, this abstract highlights the key aspects and challenges associated with media coverage on religious and sensitive issues. The abstract delves into the impact of sensationalism and biased reporting on religious and sensitive issues. It sheds light on the potential consequences of media sensationalism, which can exacerbate tensions, incite violence, and deepen societal divisions. Additionally, it explores the role of social media platforms in amplifying misinformation and hate speech, highlighting the challenges faced in regulating online content effectively. This study throws some light on these serious issues. Sample size was taken on 200 population. The researcher has used empirical research methods through convenient sampling methods to collect samples.

KEYWORDS

media coverage, religious issues, sensitive issues, responsible journalism, social cohesion, bias, sensationalism

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I. INTRODUCTION

Media coverage of religious and sensitive issues plays a crucial role in shaping public opinion, fostering interfaith dialogue, and promoting social cohesion. This abstract explores the significance of media coverage in facilitating discussions around these topics and examines its impact on society. Religious and sensitive issues often evoke strong emotions and have the potential to spark controversy and conflicts. The media's role in covering such topics requires a delicate balance between freedom of expression and responsible journalism. Through a comprehensive analysis of existing literature and case studies, this abstract highlights the key aspects and challenges associated with media coverage on religious and sensitive issues.

The abstract begins by discussing the role of the media as a mediator in disseminating information, facilitating understanding, and promoting tolerance among diverse communities. It emphasizes the need for unbiased reporting and ethical considerations in presenting different perspectives and avoiding the perpetuation of stereotypes or stigmatization. Furthermore, the abstract delves into the impact of sensationalism and biased reporting on religious and sensitive issues. It sheds light on the potential consequences of media sensationalism, which can exacerbate tensions, incite violence, and deepen societal divisions. Additionally, it explores the role of social media platforms in amplifying misinformation and hate speech, highlighting the challenges faced in regulating online content effectively. The abstract also examines the strategies employed by responsible media organizations to ensure accurate, fair, and balanced coverage of religious and sensitive issues. It discusses the importance of thorough research, fact-checking, and providing platforms for diverse voices to be heard. The abstract also explores the role of media literacy initiatives in helping audiences critically evaluate media content and navigate the complexities of religious and sensitive topics. One recent news story that underscored the challenges of media coverage on religious issues is the controversy surrounding the portrayal of religious figures in various forms of media. The publication of cartoons depicting religious figures has sparked heated debates on freedom of expression, respect for religious sensitivities, and the potential for inciting violence. This contentious issue raises important questions about the responsibilities of the media in navigating sensitive subjects and the delicate balance between freedom of speech and cultural sensitivity.

Additionally, ongoing conflicts and geopolitical tensions around the world often intersect with religious divisions, making media coverage of these issues even more sensitive. For instance, conflicts in the Middle East involving religiously diverse communities have been extensively covered by the media, often drawing attention to deep-rooted religious, cultural, and political differences. The portrayal of these conflicts can influence public perceptions, shape international relations, and impact the prospects for peacebuilding and reconciliation.

Furthermore, the rise of social media has brought new challenges to media coverage of religious and sensitive issues. Online platforms have become breeding grounds for the rapid dissemination of misinformation, hate speech, and the amplification of polarized views. Recent instances of online radicalization and the spread of extremist ideologies have highlighted the need for media organizations to navigate the digital landscape responsibly and counter the negative impacts of social media on religious harmony.

In this dynamic and evolving media landscape, ethical considerations, responsible journalism, and the promotion of interfaith dialogue are essential. The media has the power to bridge divides, challenge stereotypes, and foster understanding among diverse religious and cultural groups. By providing balanced and nuanced coverage, the media can contribute to social cohesion. In light of these recent news stories and ongoing issues, it is imperative to analyze and understand the role of media coverage on religious and sensitive topics. This exploration will delve into the challenges faced by media organizations, the ethical considerations involved, and the potential impact on social cohesion and interfaith dialogue. By examining current scenarios and relevant case studies, we can gain valuable insights into the complexities of media coverage on religious and sensitive issues and the implications for society at large, tolerance, and informed public discourse on religious and sensitive issues.

OBJECTIVES :

- To find the association between the independent section of the respondents and their opinion on media coverage of religious issue
- To examine the difference between the independent section of respondents and various regulation surrounding media
- To find the difference of opinion between independent details of the respondents and their opinion on the steps take by the government

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The study by Gelfond et al. (2020) analyzed the global box office data during the pandemic and found a substantial decline in revenues due to cinema closures and reduced attendance. **Böckerman et al. (2020)** examined the impact of COVID-19 on box office revenues in Finland and observed a significant drop in admissions, resulting in substantial financial losses for the industry. **Kaim et al. (2021)** explored the impact of the pandemic on film production schedules and release strategies. They highlighted delays, cancellations, and rescheduling of film shoots, leading to financial uncertainty and disrupted release plans. **Choi and Lee (2020)** conducted a survey among film production professionals in South Korea and identified challenges such as increased production costs, decreased revenue, and difficulties in maintaining social distancing measures on film sets. **Suoranta and Tikka (2020)** examined the rise of streaming platforms as a result of the pandemic and their implications for the film industry. They discussed the surge in subscription rates and the shift towards online distribution channels. **Tan and Le (2020)** investigated the impact of COVID-19 on film distribution models, emphasizing the growing prominence of digital premieres on streaming platforms as an alternative to theatrical releases. **Fumagalli et al. (2020)** analyzed the employment effects of COVID-19 on the film industry in Italy. They highlighted the significant job losses and income reductions among workers in different sectors of the film value chain. **Dutta et al. (2021)** conducted a study on the economic impact of COVID-19 on the Indian film industry, emphasizing the challenges faced by daily wage workers and the need for government support to mitigate the effects. **Borah et al. (2021)** investigated changes in audience behavior during the pandemic using a survey-based approach in India. They observed an increased preference for OTT platforms and highlighted the impact on cinema attendance and film viewing habits. **Chen et al. (2020)** examined the changes in movie consumption patterns in China during the pandemic, revealing a shift towards online streaming platforms and a decrease in theater attendance. These studies demonstrate the multifaceted impact of COVID-19 on the film industry, including box office disruptions, challenges in production and distribution, job losses, changes in audience behavior, and the rise of streaming platforms. Further research in this area continues to shed light on the evolving landscape of the film industry in the wake of the pandemic. **Ramani and Reddy (2019)** analyzed the factors influencing box office revenues in the Indian film industry. They identified variables such as star power, genre, release timing, and marketing strategies as significant factors affecting revenue generation. **Dhananjayan (2019)** discussed the impact of regional cinema

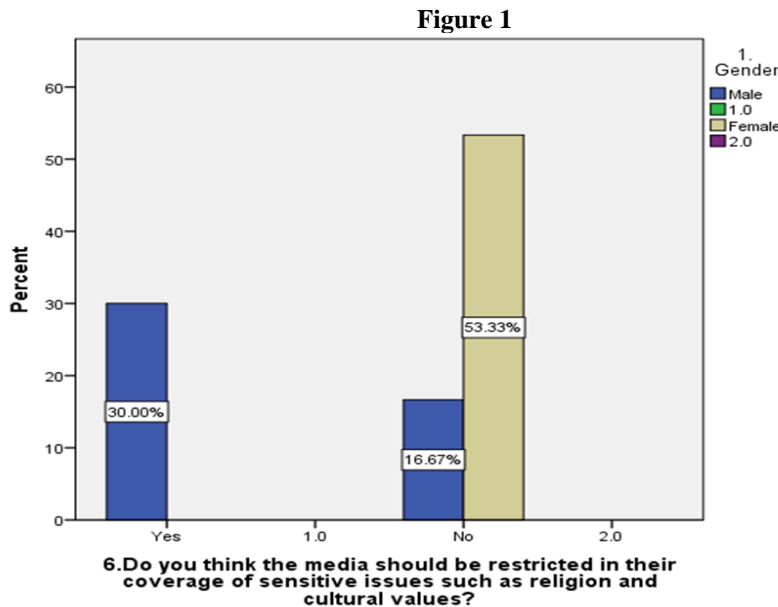
on the overall box office revenues in India. The study highlighted the growth of regional industries and their contribution to the film industry's revenue. **Singh and Pathania (2020)** examined the role of satellite and television rights in revenue generation. The study emphasized the significance of selling broadcasting rights to satellite channels and television networks as a major revenue stream for Indian films. **Verma (2020)** analyzed the trends in television rights revenue for Bollywood films. The study highlighted the increasing importance of satellite rights and the emergence of digital platforms as new players in acquiring film rights. **Mishra and Deshpande (2020)** investigated the revenue potential of the overseas market for Indian films. They discussed the impact of diaspora audiences and the growing popularity of Indian cinema in international markets, leading to increased revenues through theatrical releases and distribution deals. **Chatterjee and Mondal (2021)** explored the revenue generation potential of music in the Indian film industry. The study highlighted the importance of music sales, licensing, and streaming platforms in generating revenue for films.

Verma (2019) discussed the role of film merchandise and branding in revenue generation. The study examined the impact of merchandising deals, brand partnerships, and licensing agreements on the overall revenue of Indian films. **Chakraborty and Jain (2021)** analyzed the revenue generation models of OTT platforms in the Indian film industry. The study discussed subscription-based and advertising-based revenue streams for platforms such as Netflix, Amazon Prime Video, and Disney+ Hotstar. **Garg and Tandon (2020)** examined the impact of digital platforms on the revenue distribution ecosystem in the Indian film industry. The study discussed the challenges and opportunities of revenue sharing models between producers and OTT platforms. These studies provide insights into various revenue streams in the Indian film industry, including box office revenues, satellite and television rights, overseas markets, music sales, merchandising, and the impact of digital platforms. The dynamic nature of the industry and evolving distribution models continue to shape revenue generation patterns.

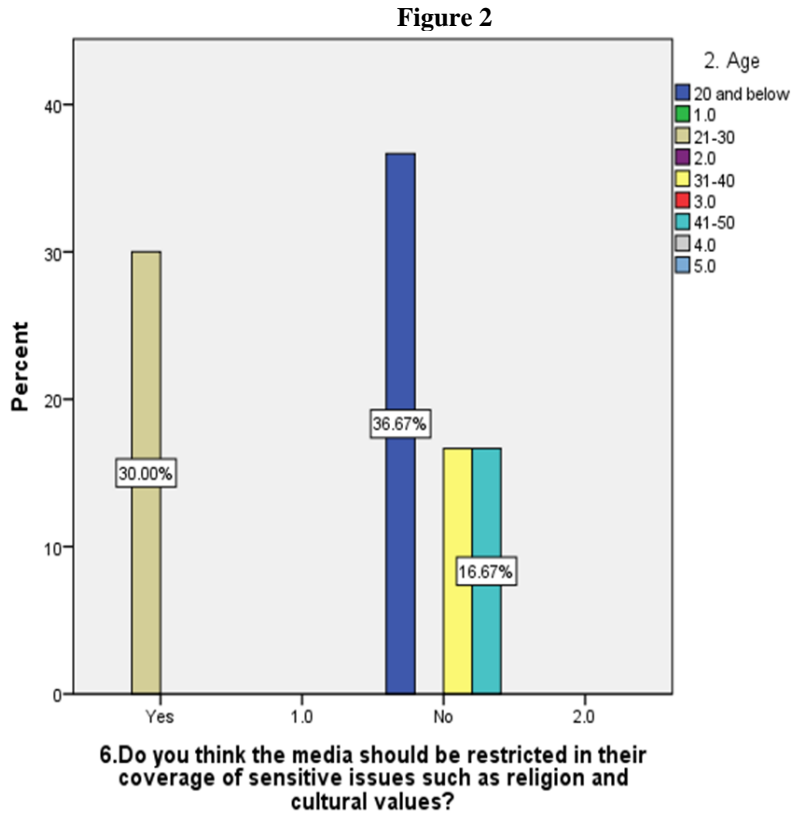
III. METHODOLOGY:

The research method followed here is empirical research. A total of 200 samples have been collected out of which all samples have been collected through a convenient sampling method. The sample frame is taken in public areas in and around Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The independent variables are gender, age, educational qualification and occupation. The dependent variables are the various yellow journalism concepts and steps to be taken for it to be resolved. The statistical tools used here are Chi square, correlation and ANOVA under SPSS and graphical charts such as simple charts and complex charts.

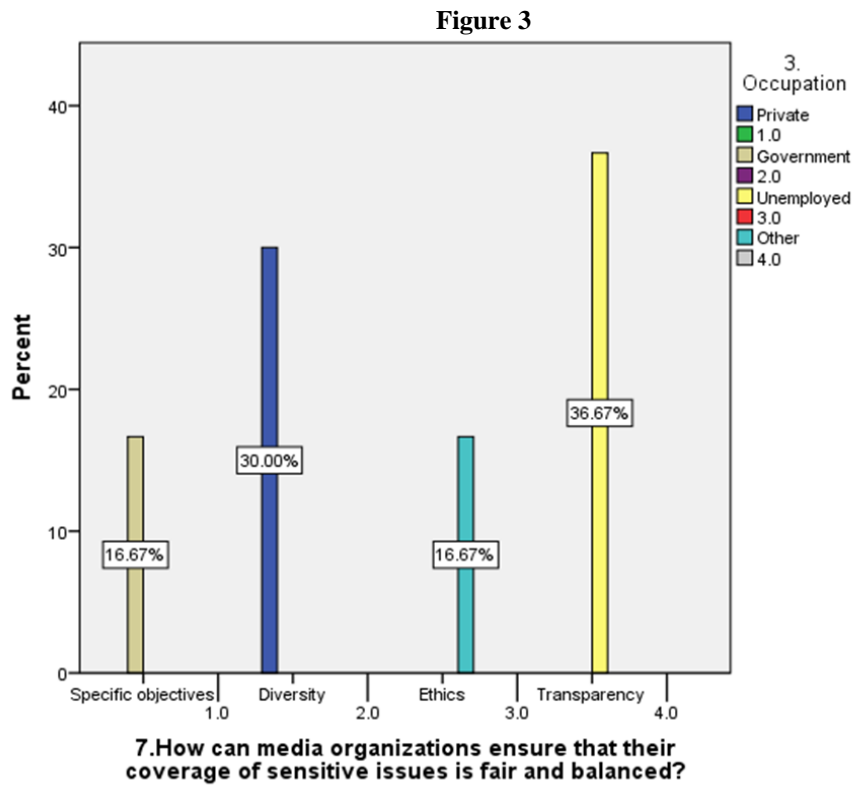
ANALYSIS



LEGEND: The graph represents the association between gender of the respondents and their view on media's limited coverage

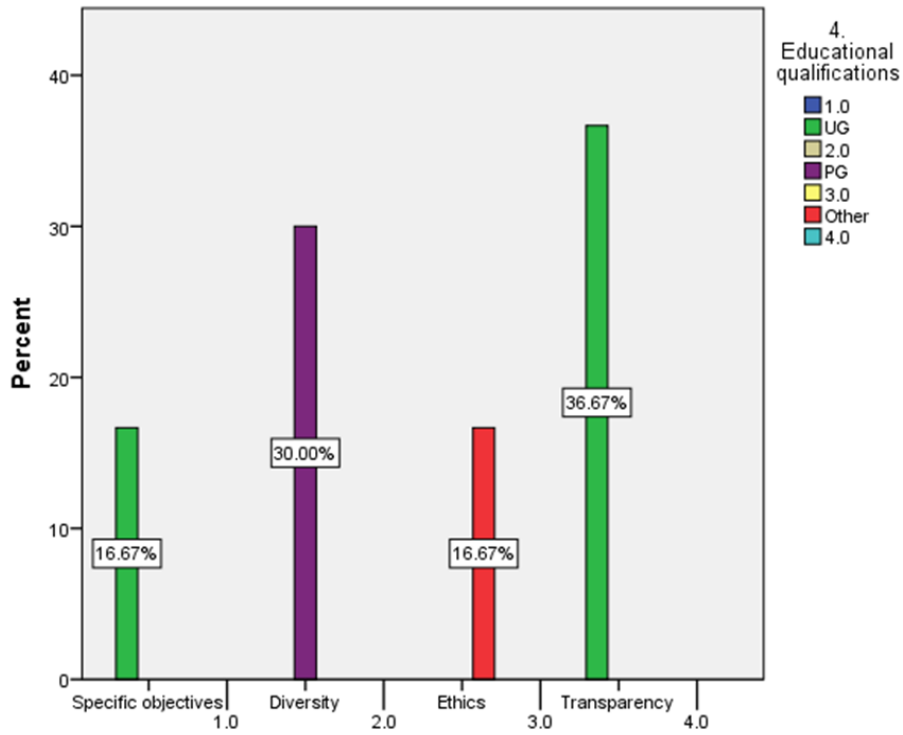


LEGEND: The graph represents the association between age of the respondents and their view on medias limited coverage



LEGEND : The graph represents the difference of opinion of the respondents on what methods media can opt for fair and balanced coverage

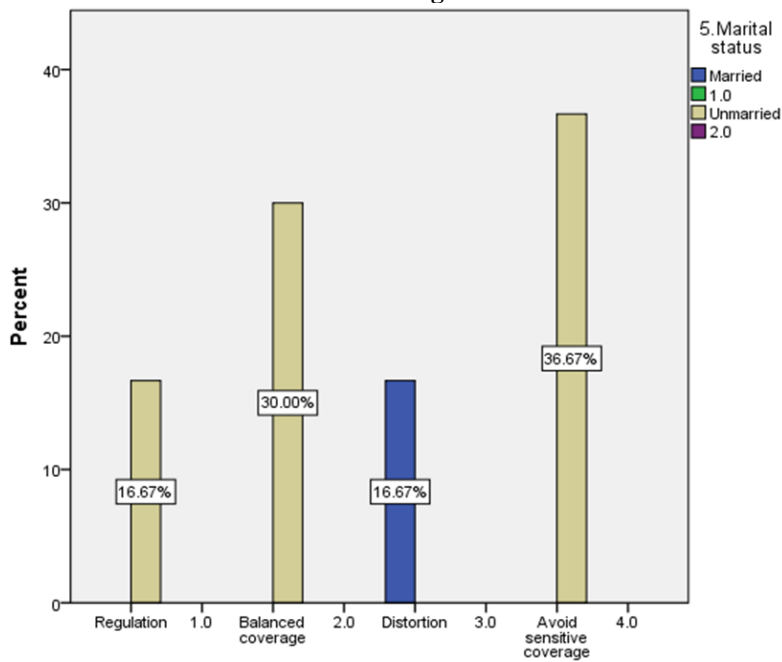
Figure 4



7. How can media organizations ensure that their coverage of sensitive issues is fair and balanced?

LEGEND: The graph represents the difference of opinion of the respondents on what methods media can opt for fair and balanced coverage

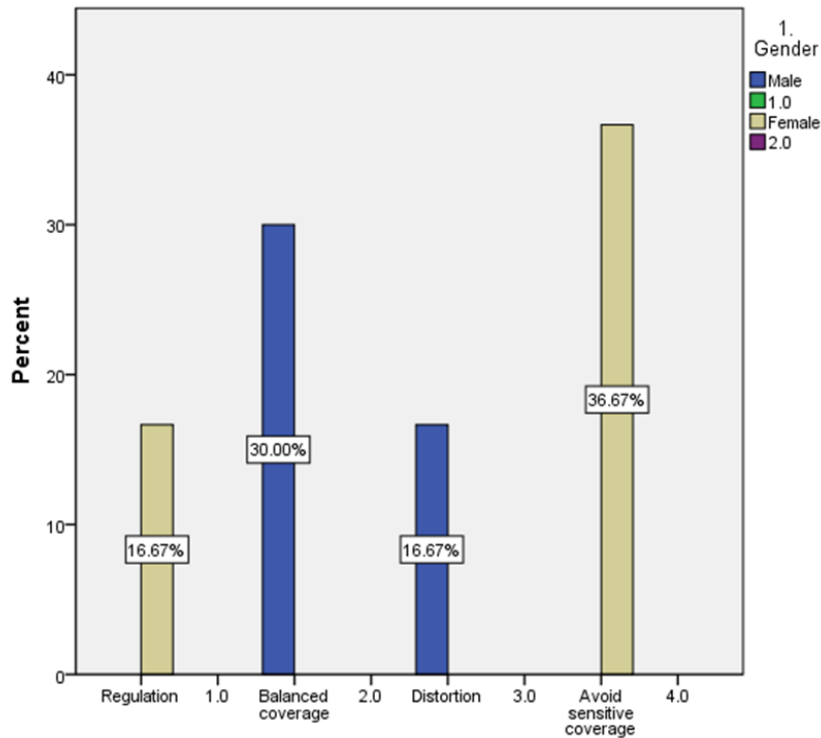
Figure 5



8. What role should the 2 play in regulating media coverage of sensitive issues?

LEGEND : The graph represents the difference of opinion of the respondents on what role the government should play in regulations

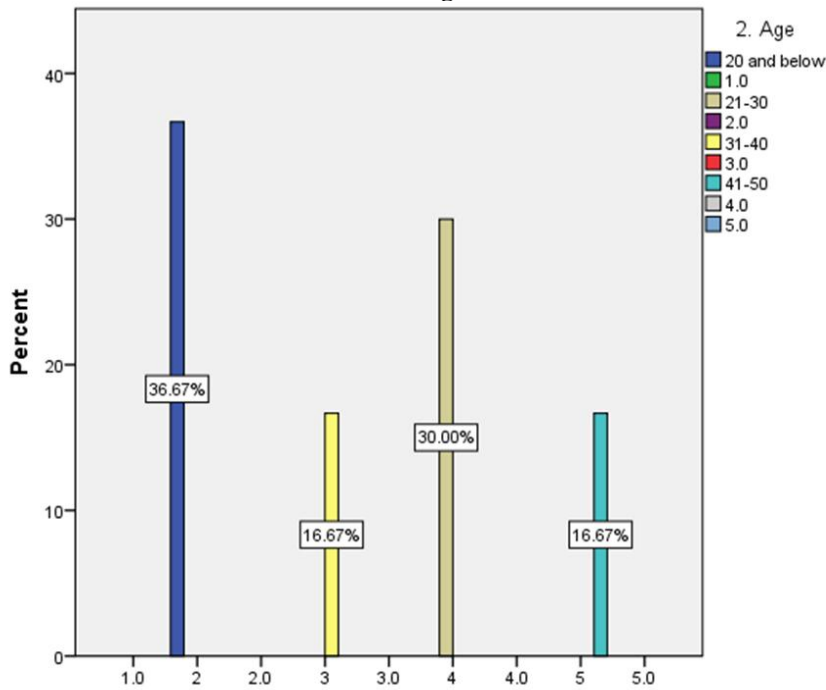
Figure 6



8. What role should the government play in regulating media coverage of sensitive issues?

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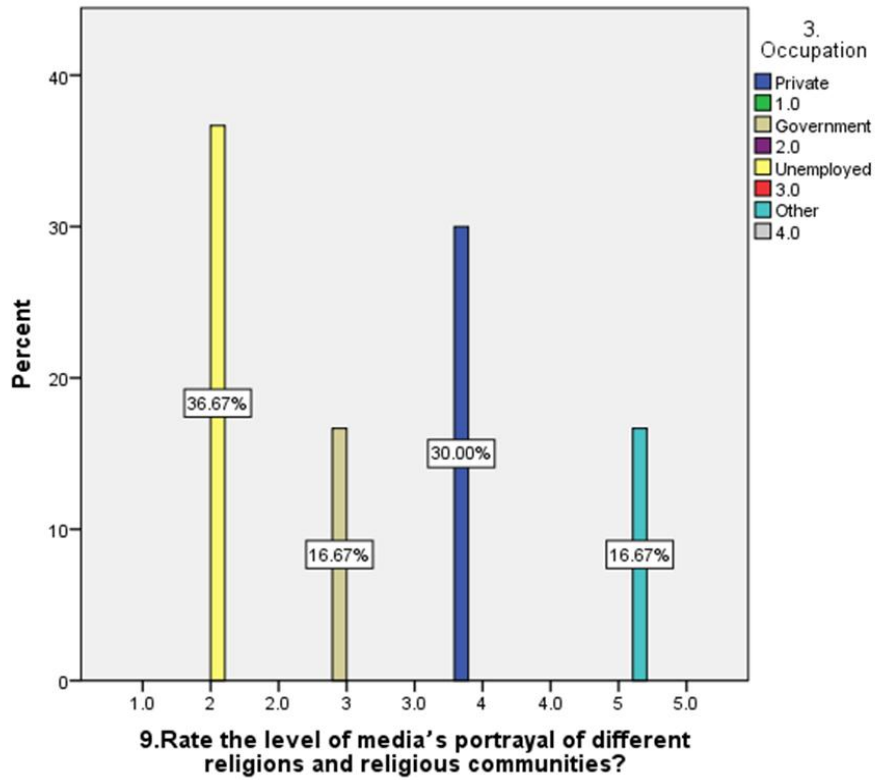
Figure 7



9. Rate the level of media's portrayal of different religions and religious communities?

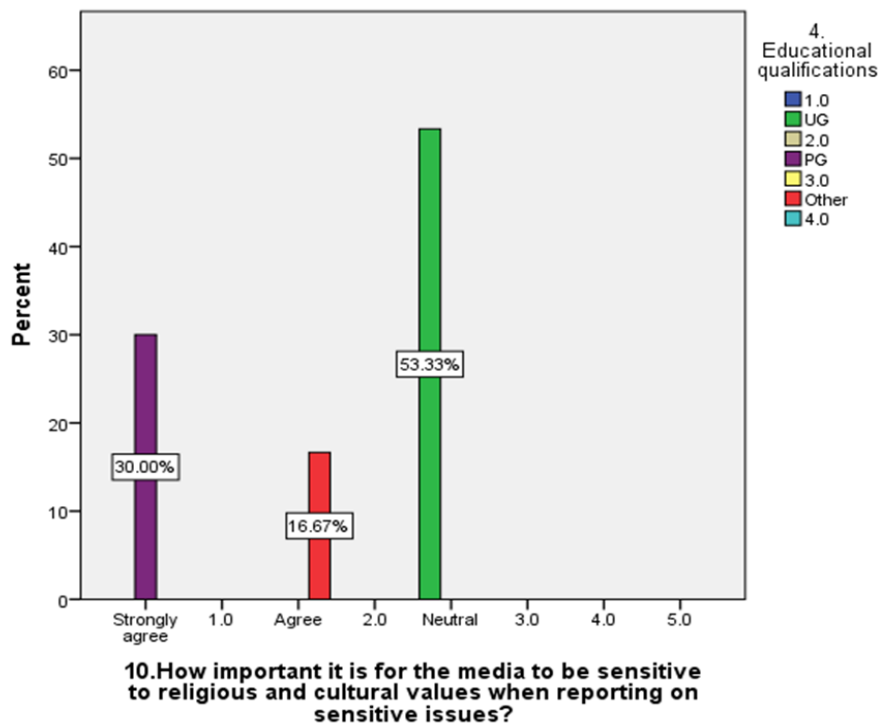
LEGEND: the graph represents the relationship between the age of the respondents and their view on media's illustration on religious communities

Figure 8



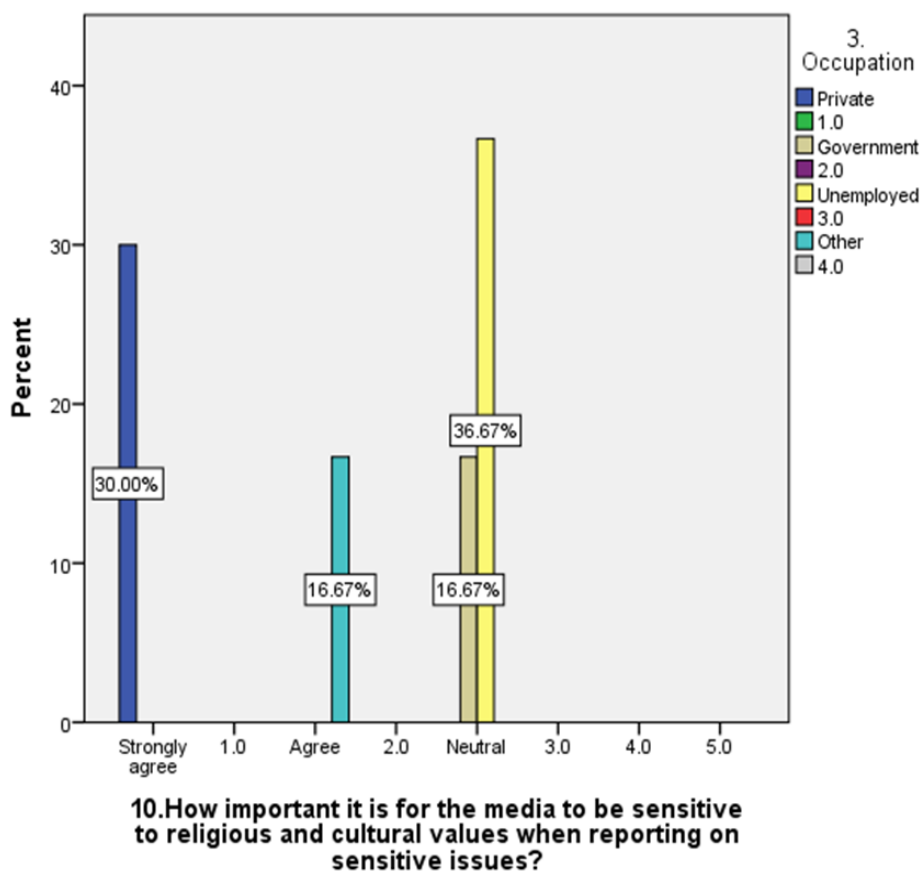
LEGEND: the graph represents the relationship between the occupation of the respondents and their view on media's illustration on religious communities

Figure 9



LEGEND : the graph represent the opinion of the respondents on the importance of media coverage on sensitive and religious issues

Figure 10



LEGEND : the graph represent the opinion of the respondents on the importance of media coverage on sensitive and religious issues

IV. Result ;

Fig1 30.00% male respondents agree on media restrictions to be imposed 53% female respondents stated no for media restriction to be imposed **fig 2** respondents of age 20 and below agree on media restrictions 36.67% and 21-30 state no 30.00% of respondent **fig 3** 30% of private sector state diversity and 16.67% of govt respondents state on specific objective and 36.67% state transparency on how the media can provide a neutral media coverage **fig 4** pg respondents 30% ug respondents on 16.68% others on 36% state transparency on how the media can provide a neutral media coverage **fig 5** avoid sensitive coverage 36.67% distortion 16.67% regulation 16.67% the role govt should play on media regulation **fig 6** male respondents 30% and female respondents 36% the role govt should play on media regulation **fig 7** age 20 and below 36.67 and age 21-30 30% different forms media portrayal on various sensitive issues **fig 8** 36.67% unemployed 30% others on different forms of media's portrayal **fig 9** pg respondents responded about 53.33 % on that media should have a neutral standpoint of view on reporting news **fig 10** 53% respondent who are unemployed responded that media should remain neutral while reporting any news

V. Discussion :

The legal frameworks that govern media coverage of religious and sensitive issues in different countries. This highlights the differences and similarities between the legal standards and explores how they align with international human rights standards. The graphs also discuss the challenges in implementing these regulations and how they affect media outlets' ability to report on sensitive issues. The current practices of media outlets in covering sensitive issues. It discusses the ethical guidelines and best practices that media outlets use to ensure fair and unbiased coverage of sensitive issues. This also examines the challenges that media outlets face in implementing these practices and how they balance the need to inform the public with the need to be sensitive to cultural and religious sensitivities. This will provide case studies and comparisons of media coverage of sensitive issues in different countries. It will analyze the media's role in shaping public opinion and examine how media

coverage affects cultural and religious relations. The question of yellow journalism would always remain on news the media displays but most of the media outlets try to remain neutral when publishing any news ,they take a particular stand that would also change the society's look on approaching a particular issue .

VI. Conclusion

This paper concludes that the legal frameworks and best practices for media coverage of sensitive issues are essential to ensure fair and unbiased reporting. However, implementing these regulations can be challenging, and media outlets often face a delicate balance between informing the public and being sensitive to cultural and religious sensitivities. The paper recommends that media outlets adhere to ethical guidelines and best practices to ensure fair and unbiased coverage of sensitive issues. Governments should also ensure that legal frameworks align with international human rights standards and do not infringe on media freedom. media coverage of religious and sensitive issues can be contentious and challenging, but legal and ethical frameworks can help ensure fair and respectful coverage. The legal frameworks and media practices differ between countries, reflecting unique histories, cultures, and legal systems. However, there is room for cross-country dialogue and collaboration to promote best practices and human rights principles.

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