

A STUDY OF GUJARATI NEWSPAPER FOR CREATING AWARENESS ABOUT SECTION 377 IN BHUJ

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Abstract

It is general view of that how the laws regarding section 377 and homosexuality people are aware about it amongst the people of Bhuj. This studies provides an insight into the representation of section 377 in Gujarati Newspaper Kutch Mitra among the people of Bhuj the purpose of this study was to know that Gujarati medium newspaper kutch Mitra was effective in creating the awareness about the issue regarding Section 377 in Bhuj.

In order to examine Kutch Mitra coverage on the issue of section 377 is explored through quantitative research collecting the data through survey among the respondents of Bhuj.

This Study analyse how the media portrayed the issue of section 377 to its readers. News reflects what is important to society. For the study, people located in Bhuj were considered. For this study, quantitative research methodology was used and sample size of 106 was taken. Through this study, we could conclude that kutch Mitra played an important role at among regional newspaper to create awareness about section 377 and people have positive response towards the section 377 and Kutch Mitra Played a major role amongst the Bhuj and its readers but on other side kutchmitra needs to improve the quality of Content it is observed from the survey through the respondents of Bhuj.

Keywords: Section 377, Homosexuality, Awareness, LGBTQ, Regional Newspaper, Quality Content, Impact

INTRODUCTION

The controversy is something that the media have to deal with in their daily operations. Media task is to educate, inform, and entertain people however on the controversial issue media make a balanced and objective perspective, it's delectating to handle the balance of media and policy on the coverage of controversial issues. Over a period of time media has covered different issues around the world on national security, climate change and try to maintain the balance and objective. This study is about how the Gujarati newspaper press coverage of a particularly controversial issue namely section 377 has created awareness amongst the people of Bhuj. The issue of a section 377 is controversial not only in Gujarat but the whole world. Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code was authored by Lord Macaulay, the President of the Indian Law Commission, in 1860. Section 377 of the Indian penal code is segment of the Indian code presented in 1861 during English standard of India. Demonstrated on the Buggery Demonstration of 1533, it makes sexual exercises against the request for nature. On 6 September 2018, the Supreme Court of India decided that the apparatus of section 377 to consensual gay sex between grown-ups was illegal, nonsensical, weak and arbitrary however that Segment 377 stays viable concerning sex with minors, non-consensual sexual acts in LGBTQ community.

On May 30, 2014 the primary authority check of the nation that was 4.9 lakh, while transgender dissident gauge the tally ought to be 6-7 times higher. (Times of India). Homosexuality falls inside such acts and may draw in reformatory measures. The issue of Section 377 was first raised by NGO Naaz Foundation, which had in 2001 moved toward the Delhi High Court which had decriminalized sex between consenting grown-ups of a similar sexual orientation by holding the reformatory arrangement as unlawful. Be that as it may, albeit hardly any arguments against consenting grown-ups have gone to trial the presence of Section 377, and the danger of conceivable capture, have permitted the specialists to victimize gay people and associations working with them. Accordingly, Section 377 has had a huge pessimistic effect on numerous individuals' lives. Bits of the territory were first hit down on Section 377 and was condemned first and considered it as a criminal behaviour by Delhi court in July 2009 at that point it was upset by the incomparable court on 11 December 2013 in Suresh Kumar Koushal versus Nazz Establishment. The court chose to left issue on area 377 to the parliament. On Feb 2016 three adjudicators investigated the petitions and later concluded it will be survey by five appointed authorities.

Homosexuality in India:

Homophobia is still there in India any topics regarding homosexuality is not openly discussed, but in recent years

the attitudes towards homosexual people have changed slightly. News media coverage on homosexuality is been more in recent times.

Over the last three years, media reports on homosexuality have been indicating that homosexuality is widespread in schools, colleges, churches, at workplaces and marriages (Samora M waura, 2009). In spite of late political developments for LGBT rights, there stays a lot of homophobia present among the Indian populace, with around half of Indians protesting same-sex connections as per an ongoing assessment of public sentiment. Acknowledgment of the LGBT people group is most noteworthy among Hindu respondents.

There is also no law for protection against the violence for a transgender person. The criminal law on sexual assault in India presently is still gender-specific. It only recognizes rape and sexual assault where the victim is defined as a 'woman', transgender persons facing sexual violence have no criminal remedy against sexual violence. Violence faced by transgender people doesn't come under any law facing by their family or partner. In India, there need more forums and platforms to discuss openly and share their experience.

Regional Newspaper in India:

While the mainline print media is confronting an existential emergency regarding the rise of advanced media, improvements in the local space paint an alternate picture. Due to the innovative improvement continually in the computerized media, mainline print media is confronting the existential emergency yet though in the provincial paper entire situation is unique. The ascent of provincial paper is continually becoming phenomenally in the course of the most recent couple of years.

Hindi newspaper is overtaking the advertising in English paper in terms of readership numbers the vernacular press has broadly evolved to become the backbone of the industry. Compared to the English newspaper regional newspaper have immensely grow in last few years, it is driving growth story of print media. Regional language newspaper is also easy to understand.

1.4. Overview of Kutch Newspapers

Kutch Mitra:

Kutchmitrais Gujarati language newspaper circulated in Kutch region providing local news of happening in Kutch in broadsheet format founded in 1947. Kutch Mitra founder, owner and publisher is Janmabhoomi media group It is daily published newspaper from Bhuj-Kutch Gujarat district and circulated through then different regions of Kutch. First, it was providing news in a newspaper but due to the technological advancement, Kutch Mitra has started its news website. The most top 2 newspapers which circulated mostly and preferred newspaper for readers are kutchMitra and DivyaBhaskar.

DivyaBhaskar:

DivyaBhaskaris a Gujarati paper in Gujarat, India, claimed by D B Corp Ltd. It is one of the most elevated flow Gujarati dailies, with the most number of versions in Gujarat. In 2003, the Bhopal-based Bhaskar Group distinguished Ahmedabad, Gujarat as the city with the most noteworthy potential for the fourth dispatch of DainikBhaskar outside MadhyaPradesh.

DivyaBhaskaris most read paper in Gujarat in view of its sensual news and articles sections. DivyaBhaskar is a leading newspaper in Gujarat and it made a record by highest circulation among all Gujarati newspaper. To counter the Bhaskar's gathering's risk, the main Gujarati papers thought of shading pages, value decreases and a few high-esteem client offers.

With the help of this study, the researcher wants to identify that kutch Mitra newspaper was efficient in creating awareness about section 377 amongst the people of Bhuj. The findings of this research will contribute to the already existing body of data on the trends of Gujarati newspaper coverage on section 377. The beneficiaries of the results of research are varied. The newspaper analysed of the publication are expected to gain from the research findings as the research will strengthen publication for better response to the raised questions regarding section 377 and sexual orientation news which avoid stereotyping, sectionalisation and setting other groups of people against being discriminated by the community. It will help its agencies and institution to make policies and to give human rights and protection to the minority community.

It will also help the journalist to have insight on the news like section 377 and they can contribute to well-balanced objective reporting on minorities groups and section 377 issues in Gujarat. This research will be vital in helping lecturers, researchers and students interested in the area under study as the findings will be a vital reference point for information on media framing of homosexuality and homosexuals in the country. Many respondents of Bhuj prefer to read other than kutchmitra so it could be known from this study that which preferable newspapers and content they like to read in newspaper and from which source The research will help to know the acceptance of minority of homosexual people in the society of Bhuj and it provides information on awareness regarding section 377 amongst the people of Bhuj.

Cultivation:

The first theory will be reviewed is cultivation how media trying to focus on the information. The cultivation theory was developed primarily by George Gerbner and the theory claims that television influences how audiences perceive their social reality (Lamb, 2013). In an overview of cultivation research, individuals are seen as living in a world commandeered by the own stories that are told (Gerbner, 1998). Nowadays or since the invention of television, most of those stories are being told through the media. Both of these theories build information and background to further understanding the main theory used and discussed by this study, agenda-setting theory.

Framing:

Framing theory is chosen for this research because this study aims to find out how section 377 in kutchMitra have given emphasises. According to Entman (2003), frames can take the form of sentences, images or words which, when arranged together, do reinforce several clusters of judgments or facts.

Framing theory states that the media focuses on certain topics and delivers information on them in a motive conscious way. The media is said to highlight specific events and place them in a certain context to either encourage or discourage interpretations. Because of this, the media produces a particularly selective influence in the way people view reality as they see it in media, the ways to ries about homosexual issues are framed also plays a large role in what ends up being viewed, in turn affecting the attitudes of the viewers to come out of it. For example, the attitudes emerging from the news of homosexual marriage becoming legal would be significantly altered if news stories include condescending and negative language or bias(CNN).

Agenda-Setting

Agenda setting theory explains the ability of the news media to influence the importance of topics on the public agenda So, the more the topic of homosexuality is covered in news media, the more an audience will regard it as prominent, news worthy and applicable to others' lives as well as their own.

As one prominent theory in mass communication, agenda setting chiefly claims that mass media is more effective in prioritizing which societal agenda public should look into rather than shaping how public looks into it (Cohen, 1963; McCombs & Shaw, 1972). Through various empirical studies and meta- analysis, substantial evidence has been provided to justify this core thesis. The contention, however, still exists.

Homosexuality and law in India:

India being diversified country the rules and law sarevery powerful and dynamic the constitution of India protects every right of each subject in the country, theconstitution of India deals with no biased and treating equally to everyone it is the necessity of the state to no one to be victimized, while it comes to LGBT people they are in minorities so they fair rules should be formed for them also, society should not tratthem in unexpected way, Homosexuality should not be treated as disease run natural offense butit should be treated as natural they should have every right to access as other people in society.

Although the government and other development agencies have been hard pressed to demonstrate that it protects and provides equal rights to homosexuals (GALCK Report, 2009).

The concept of homosexuality under Indian lawwasundertheSection377oftheIndian Penal Code, a figment of colonial creation, has criminalized „unnatural sexual acts“ since its application as law in 1862. Homosexuality falls within such acts and may attract punitive measures. The paper is an attempt to extricate the significance and far-reaching effects of this judgment in the face of systemic abuse of homosexuals and transgender, by enforcers of the law under the facade of upholding Section 377, prior to this judgment. This paper shall examine the constitutional aspects of the judgment i.e. the constitutional validity of the impugned statute against Article 14, 15(1) and 21(Das 2010).

Homosexuality-Legal status AROUND THE GLOBE:

Many of the countries like Sudan, Saudi Arabia and Yemen homosexuality is still considered crime and the same they deserve the death under the law and order and same apply to other parts of Somalia and northern Nigeria. The punishment of Syria is no less than that of Pakistan, Afghanistan, UAE, Qatar and Mauritania although there is no proof that is executed for same sex. Homosexual people whichis against the nature of act could prompt them to prison. Although same sex is legal in somecountry such as northern hemisphere but across Middle East Asia and Middle East remain illegal. The punishment for homosexual people leads to death and other countries like Turkmenistan, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe it only illegal for men and legal forwomen.

Homosexuality –Legal Status in India:

Section 377 of the Indian penal code(IPC) it allstartedfrom2006whenBJPleaderBP Singhal's plea, opposing decriminalizing gaysexanditheldlonga18yearsoldbattle that fought to decriminalizing the homosexuality in India till 2018 states that who have carnal inter course was against the nature of the act men or women and was give imprisonment under the law of India and was liable to the fine and considered it as unnatural and criminal

offence, additionally it also imposed the section 294 of IPC alludes to profanity and there is abundant extension to incorporate homosexuality under this and penalizes any sort of obscene behavior in public and it was considered illegal under the section 377. Two decades battle was over when supreme court judgment was passed in 2018 under the five judge bench mark states that it is irrational, indefensible and manifestly arbitrary," marking a triumphant end to a lengthy struggle for justice.

Constitutional rights of LGBTQ in India:

The Preamble to the Constitution of India orders Justice - social, monetary, and political, equity of status. The Constitution gives each individual an equivalent status before the law and an equivalent assurance of laws inside the region of India. The word any person here implies each person, with no segregation dependent on any of the class which incorporates, position, statement of faith, religion, sex, and so on.

A transgender in India is incorporated inside the words any person what's more, is given equivalent status to that of each cissex in India. The transgender network can't be segregated on the ground of non-use of any of the laws inside the country by reason of their disparities and partitioning them dependent on any discretionary class. The option to pick one's own personality is one of the most basic right under this article to existence with poise, and this perspective is secured and ensured by this Article as it symbolizes the most significant right being a human, an option to live, which the State is required to shield from infringement.

The transgender communities have a right to dignified life which is one of the most important aspects of Article 21 of the Constitution of India (Daulaire 2014).

The recognition the gender identity provides them the right to dignity and non- recognition violates the same, if they express their gender freely they can live without the fear in their life and to additionally right to reputation supports their protection. Article 23, in India very widely describe and it is against any form of discrimination. Activities such as prostitution are usually considered down in the society.

Every one has right to personal development and it is only protected when right to exploration is formed under the law so they can freely do whatever they wish and creates the free environment for an individual. LGBT community are most victims of exploitation as they do not have any rights to protect them from violence and often degraded the status in the society so this article 23 provides them from preventing them from exploitation. Articles 15(2) and 16(4) has also been interpreted to provide social equality and power to make any special provision for the enhancement of these vulnerable minority who are now included within the category the coverage, which the transgender could understand.

Media Representation on social Minorities:

Media plays an important role in portraying the particular story in the news, they break down the boundaries for homosexual people and give them the opportunity to represent them media representation regarding social minorities affect the mentality of people and help them to change their minds also. Media plays an important role in framing of particular news and how people perceive it and also helps in accepting the particular issue and educating them by providing proper trivia of the issues.

For many young LGBT individuals often search for resources with which to educate themselves about their burgeoning sexuality. Media does play a role in teaching individuals about sexuality and sexual behaviour (Hetsroni, 2007) so analysing exactly what young LGBT individuals might be learning about themselves from the media has myriad merits. Other research has shown that heterosexual men are especially influenced by portrayals of homosexuality in media (Calzo & Ward, 2009). A court in the Indian capital, Delhi, has ruled that homosexual intercourse between consenting adults is not a criminal act. On the other hand, the newspaper plays a central role in shaping political and social reality because the editors and publishers are usually members of the elite (Weill and Castenada, 2004).

After the [December 2013 Judgment of the supreme court of India](#), section 377 of the Indian penal code (IPC) which criminalises against the order of nature. Coverage of media of the LGBTQ issue has given a lot of attention. All the news channels, Magazines, newspapers had the coverage of this sensitive issue of the LGBTQ cause (Feminism in India)

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The objective of the research are to analyse how regional newspaper emphasises on section 377, to understand if regional newspaper helps to create awareness about section 377 amongst people of Bhuj, also to find out number of people aware about section 377 and by which media source and to assess the content and its influence of regional newspaper amongst people of Bhuj. The researcher decided to conduct the survey with respondents of Bhuj. The Study was conducted through Qualitative research method and data collected through survey in the region of Kutch in the age range of 20-30 on the topic section 377 to generate answers of the research questions above.

FINDINGS AND OBSERVATIONS

The research finding indicates that people of Bhuj read the newspaper more compared to the people who are non-readers. The percentage indicates 69.1% people are readers amongst the respondents of Bhuj. Generally respondents have preferred the reading both the newspaper that is national and regional and then after giving the utmost importance to regional newspaper over the national newspaper it is seen from the survey of the respondents that Kutchmitra from all the other newspapers and with higher percentage it plays an influencing role in creating the awareness about section 377 amongst the people of Bhuj. On one data it is observed that people usually prefer not to read physical copy of newspaper because they prefer mostly the internet in this age of digital world and other data some people have no time to read newspaper and other were not interested but the higher parentage was there of choosing internet to read than other preferences.

It is also found that respondents of Bhuj give more attention to the content of the stories and it gives utmost importance to the content determine how its covered, written and explained than the factors like regularity and price generally. Though second importance is given to regularity because it is very important to read it regularly to know about the news. It is viewed from the respondents survey that the regional newspapers generally provide the average kind of content and it is determined that highly preferred newspaper Kutchmitra in Bhuj also provide a neutral kind of content.

It is also determined that respondents have positive impact regarding section 377 and coverage of section 377 in the newspaper it also impacted positively amongst the respondents of Bhuj and mostly it seen that it people are in favour of section 377 than the people who are against and negatively impact is low on the issue.

It is also found that people who known about the section 377 where of higher percentage compared to the people who don't know. Majority of respondents known about section 377 so it is determine that people came across such social issue and its coverage on the newspaper.

The data is observed that Kutchmitra helps in creating awareness to the extent and changing the minds of people with providing sufficient information and keeping updated with the social issue which changes the norms and mind of the society. Though the different regional newspaper have covered the news of section 377 in similar guideline but then also people of Bhuj prefer to read Kutchmitra over other newspapers and it plays an important role in framing the news. Though the quality of content falls under the good rather than excellent and so it is observed that still Kutchmitra have to work on quality of content of the writing.

It is also observed that Kutchmitra in terms of creating awareness and sufficient information comes under the neutral base on the scale of 1 to 5 so Kutchmitra should also try to do more coverage on the issues that help to bring more awareness among the people and try to impact more and it also improve the quality of content also and bring to excellent quality of content as we have observed that there is less number of responses of respondents when it comes to quality content.

As the percentage of ratio of positive impact was also more because respondents of the Bhuj are tend more likely to read on stories of social issues and keep updated with social issues by giving more importance to it than stories like crime, political, business than all other stories.

CONCLUSION

The research found that despite being a small town the newspapers had raised awareness and presence of information about section 377 in the people. The impact of which has been positive in the mind of people and it is all due to more readers of newspaper and the coverage of Gujarati newspapers of section 377. The findings conclude that Gujarati newspaper amongst the people of Bhuj was mostly read by the respondents than other newspapers among national and regional and it is observed that social issue content was read more by respondents giving importance to social issue stories and people where more aware about section 377 than the people who were not. Though it is observed in the region like Bhuj did not recognize sexual relations between the people of the same sex but the same time impact of the issue section 377 read by the people of Bhuj were positive so it seems that now people are more open about it and discuss it more openly.

This study also concludes various evidence it shows that among the While doing this research it is found that when it comes to prefer the newspapers among regional and national respondents prefer mostly was KutchMitra, so if they improve their accuracy and quality of content and covered all the issues in more better way than the average way then it grow its readers higher and it will also have more impact of the news to the readers.

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