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Original Research Article

REPRESENTATION OF MINORITIES IN URDU PRESS IN PAKISTAN

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ABSTRACT

The fundamental goal of this research article was to investigate the coverage of minority groups in Urdu press of Pakistan. For this purpose, 1 Pakistani newspaper daily Jang Karachi and 1 weekly magazine Akhbar-e-Jehan was selected. 198 newspapers and 48 magazines were selected through systematic sampling from June 2020 to June 2021. It was found that 100 news stories were published in daily Jang while 10 news stories about minorities were published in Akhbar-e-Jehan, which means during the last year from June 2020 to June 2021, minorities have been represented only 0.404% in Daily Jang Newspaper and only 0.771% in weekly Akhbar-e-Jehan. For this purpose, a content analysis of selected news items were undertaken in which it was also found that 40% positive news and 60% negative news were published related to minorities of Pakistan in Daily Jang while 90% negative and 10 positive news were published in weekly magazine Akhbar-e-Jehan during June 2020 to June 2021. The research also revealed that the major problems which minorities are facing that is blasphemy allegations forced conversions etc. were not highlighted as it should be. Two hypotheses have been developed and tested. The facts and figures firmly supported the foretell of these hypotheses. Overall, it was found that the Urdu Press of Pakistan is not covering the issues of minorities properly.

Keywords: Minorities Urdu Press, Pakistan, Representation, Portrayal.

Author contributions: The author have materially participated in the research and in article writing. 1. Conception, Study design, data collection & processing, critical review. 2 & 4 Conception & study design, data collection & processing. 3-4 Data Analysis and/or interpretation. 3 Drafting of manuscript. 4 Drafting of manuscript, critical review

INTRODUCTION

Minorities are playing and efficacious part in all aspects of life. They provide valuable contributions to Pakistan's progress and prosperity. They are well known educator's, government officials, judges, business persons and media persons. Webster's Dictionary defines minority as "Minor as less than half of the total national religion or a political group that is smaller and different from the level control group to which it belongs". International encyclopedia of the Social sciences outline "same society by race status faith all language who suppose themselves as a differentiated cluster and are thought of by the others as differentiated group with negative connections".

According to Oxford lexicon (dictionary) "Minority is a smaller cluster in a very community, nation etc. it's completely different from alternative in role, faith, language".(Oxford advanced learner's dictionary 1992:570).

Minorities are regarded distinguish part of every society. They play a very crucial role like any other societies .The role of minorities has been very prominent and imported in Pakistani society as well, they stand by Muslims in every situation. They had also played a very significant role in the Pakistan movement. The importance of minorities can easily be presumed from the white part of our national flag. In Pakistan other than religious minorities there are a lot of ethnic minorities as well.

Minorities of Pakistan:

The minorities consists of 4% of Pakistan's population.Various ethnic minorities are also in Pakistan as well. According to Pakistan Beareu of Statistics data of Census 2017, 96.47% of Pakistan's population are Muslims, 2.14% are Hindus followed by 1.27% Christians, 0.09% Ahmadi's and 0.02% others including Parsi's, Sikhs, Buddhists, Baha'isetc.

Table 1. Religious demography on thebasis of Census 2017 Pakistan Beareuof statiscis

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION BY RELIGION (PERCENTAGE)						
AREA	MUSLIMS	CHRISTIANS	HINDU	QADIANI	SCHEDULED CASTE	OTHERS
	1	2	3	4	5	6
PAKISTAN	96.47	1.27	1.73	0.09	0.41	0.02
KP	99.77	0.15	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.03
FATA	99.91	0.06	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00
PUNJAB	97.77	1.88	0.18	0.14	0.01	0.01
SINDH	90.34	0.85	6.99	0.05	1.74	0.03
BALUCHISTAN	99.28	0.27	0.37	0.02	0.03	0.03
ICT	95.43	4.34	0.03	0.14	0.01	0.06

Hindus:

Hindus are the biggest minority in Pakistan. Large population of Hindus are living in the interior of Sindh for a protracted time. Hindus are divided into several castes.

Christians:

Christians are the second-largest minority in Pakistan. Sizable amount of Christians resides in the province of Punjab.

Sikhs:

Sikhs are largely settled in small customary communities in Khyber Pukhtunkhwa and Punjab.

Ahmadi's:

Ahmadis were declared non-Muslims in 1974 during Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto period, most of them hailing from the central parts of Punjab.

Parsi's:

Parsi's are strictly a non rural and business community primarily based in Karachi.

Baha'is:

Baha'is are generally converts and middle class citizens. They also keep their profile very low.

Major problems faced by minorities in Pakistan

The major problems faced by the minorities in Pakistan are as follows

- 1) Forced Conversions.
- 2) Blasphemy Allegations.
- 3) Target Of Terrorism.
- 4) Attacks On Worship Places.

In addition to these problems, there are many other problems that minorities in Pakistan often faces.

Major incidents:

- In June 2009, a Christian woman named Asia Bibi was sentenced to death by a Pakistani court for blasphemy, After spending eight years in jail , In October 2018 she was acquitted by the Supreme Court of Pakistan on the basis of lack of evidences.(The Express Tribune, 2016).
- In May 2013, an enraged mob badly destroyed and set fire to a temple within the city of Larkana. (The Express Tribune, 2016)
- In September 2013, two suicide bombings in Peshawar's All Saint's Church is considered as country's worst and bloodiest attack on the Christian community, As a result, 83 people lost their lives. (The Express Tribune, 2016)
- In May 2010, about 94 people lost their lives while 120 were seriously injured in attacks on two mosques of the Ahmadi community in Lahore. (The Express Tribune, 2016)
- In March 2013, a large mob set fire to 200 houses and three churches in Joseph Colony, all of which resulted when member of the colony was accused of blasphemy. (The Express Tribune, 2016)
- In November 2014, an enraged mob killed a Christian couple accused of martyring the Holy Quran and burned their bodies in the brick kiln. (The Express Tribune, 2016)
- In May 2015, gunmen on motorcycles opened fire on an Ismaili community bus in Karachi , killing 43 passengers. (The Express Tribune, 2016)
- In November 2015, a mob in Jhelum set fire the factory, belonging to the member of the Ahmadi community. (The Express Tribune, 2016)
- In March 2016, a suicide attack struck a crowded park in Lahore where the Christian community was celebrating Easter Sunday, killed at least 72 people and seriously injured more than 300 people. (The Express Tribune, 2016)
- Shia community have been specifically targeted and killed by guns and bombs. In Baluchistan, Hazara community has been a constant target of terrorism.

In December 2020, a mob of 1,500 locals under the guidance of a Islamic cleric attacked and set fire to an ancient temple in Karak. (Dawn, 2020)

LITERATURE REVIEW

In 1970's media researches on minorities largely began in Pakistan. These researches were very helpful because they gave a deep insight about problems and insecurities in which minorities of Pakistan are living with.

Musferah Mehfooz in a research paper "Religious Freedom in Pakistan: A Case Study of Religious Minorities" concludes that Islam and the constitution of Pakistan both assure full religious freedom to the minorities of Pakistan. Ghulam Mustafa Tuba Ahmed and Mohammed Arsalan in their research paper "Minorities of Pakistan: An Analytical Analysis of the 1973 Constitution Of Islamic Republic Of Pakistan" discusses that The constitution of Pakistan has assured equal rights to each and every citizen no matter what his or her religion is but the governments which have been formed in Pakistan so far, they have not given much attention to minorities or put their problems in their priorities which they should have given, their full attention has always been on the majority who are Muslims. Shahzad Ali in his research paper "Portrayal of Minorities in Elite English press of Pakistan: The study of Daily Dawn and The Nation" concludes that the English press of Pakistan gave positive coverage to minorities. Shahzad Ali in his research article concludes that Daily Jung and daily Nawa-i-Waqt portrays minorities in a positive manner. (Ali, 2004). Massoud Ansari critically analyses about the problems faced by Ahmadi Community in Pakistan in his study named "Minorities In Pakistan". (Ansari, 2006). M. Ali Yousuf in his research study explains that Violence against Christians and Ahmadi's at any level are portrayed regularly. In his research he also founds Hindus are often tolerate prejudice. (Yousuf, 2006). Qandeela Ambreen in her research article examines portrayal of minorities in the Print media of Pakistan for the span of 2 years i.e from 2009 to 2011. (Qandeela Ambreen, 2014).

"Religious and ethnic minorities have been overlooked in the country's mainstream media and it is because reporting priorities in the media interest rather than human rights or public good" (The News International, 2021).

"In efforts to protect minority rights come Pakistan must also focus on changing" (Dawn, 2020).

Adnan Rehmat in his article named "Religious minorities overlooked in Pakistan's Mainstream Media" on IMS (website) explains that Pakistani media is not presenting the minorities because the media is enormously stereotypical about them." (Adnan Rehmat, IMS, 2019). "Pakistan's minorities often live under a cloud of fear and insecurity" (Dawn, 2020).

Objective of the study

To determine the number of news published in daily Jang and weekly Akhbar-e-Jehan related to minorities from June 2020 to June 2021.

1. To determine whether minorities are being properly represented.
2. To determine whether issues faced by minorities be presented in the right way.
3. To examine whether news about minorities being presented in a positive manner.
4. To examine whether news about minorities being presented in a negative way.

Research Question:

How minorities are represented in daily Jang newspaper and weekly Akhbar-e-Jehan magazine from 1st June 2022 to 1st June 2021.

Hypothesis:

H1) Problems of Pakistani minorities have not been covered well in the print media since last year.

H2) The news regarding minorities have been presented in a negative way.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Methodology

For this research 1 Pakistani newspaper of Urdu language daily Jang Karachi and 1 weekly magazine Akhbar-e-Jehan have been selected. The basis of their selection included.

1. Leading Urdu language newspaper of Pakistan.
2. Leading magazine of Urdu language.
3. Both are popular among the people of Pakistan.

Research design

In this research Quantitative cum Qualitative methods are used along with content analysis.

Population:

The population of this study comprises of the last year of the daily Jang newspaper and weekly Akhbar-e-Jehan that is from June 2020 to June 2021.

Sampling

In this research population has been selected through systematic sampling, which is a type of probability sampling.

Techniques

For this research descriptive method has been conducted along with observation which is a type of non-measuring tool.

Tools

Following tools have been used in this research,

- 1) MS Word
- 2) MS Excel
- 3) Meta-chart.com

Data analysis

“Findings regarding representation of minorities in daily Jang newspaper, Karachi” Representation of minorities in daily Jang newspaper from June 2020 to June 2021

Positive/negative manner in which minorities related news were published:

Sikhs, other than these three minority groups, Bohra Community, Agha Khanis', Jews, Qadianis, while 2 religious Minorities i.e. Hazara Community and Shia Community are also represented. 8 news were also published which does not address a particular community.

Positive/negative manner in which minorities related news were published

Representation of Christian community in daily Jang newspaper

Representation of Hindu community in daily Jang newspaper

Representation of Sikh community in daily Jang newspaper:

Representation of Qadianis in daily Jang newspaper

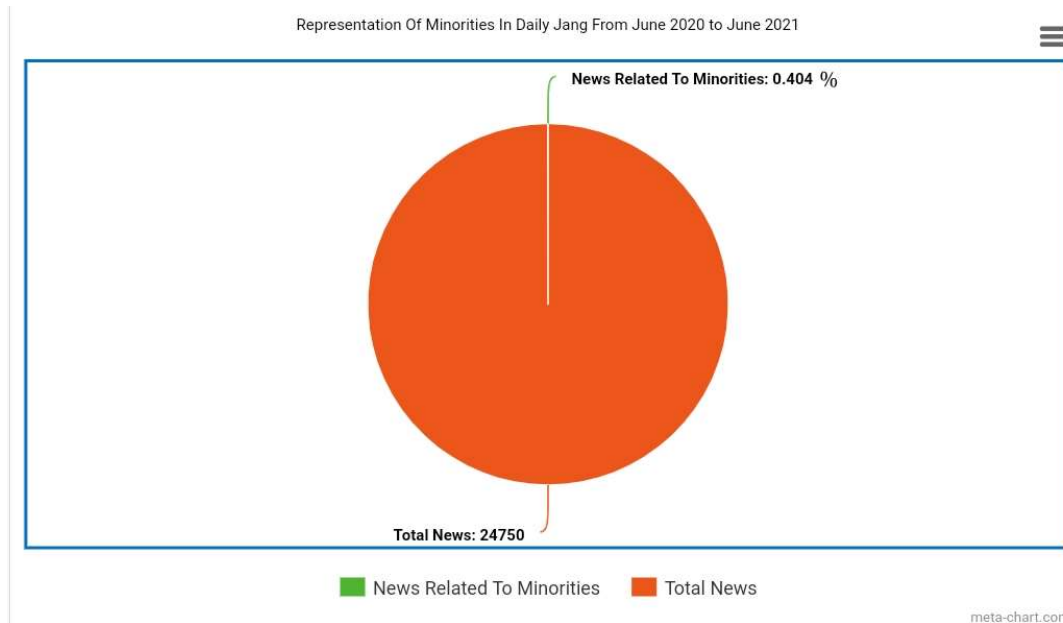
Representation of Bohra community in daily Jang newspaper

Representation of Agha Khan community in daily Jang newspaper

Representation of religious minority Hazara community

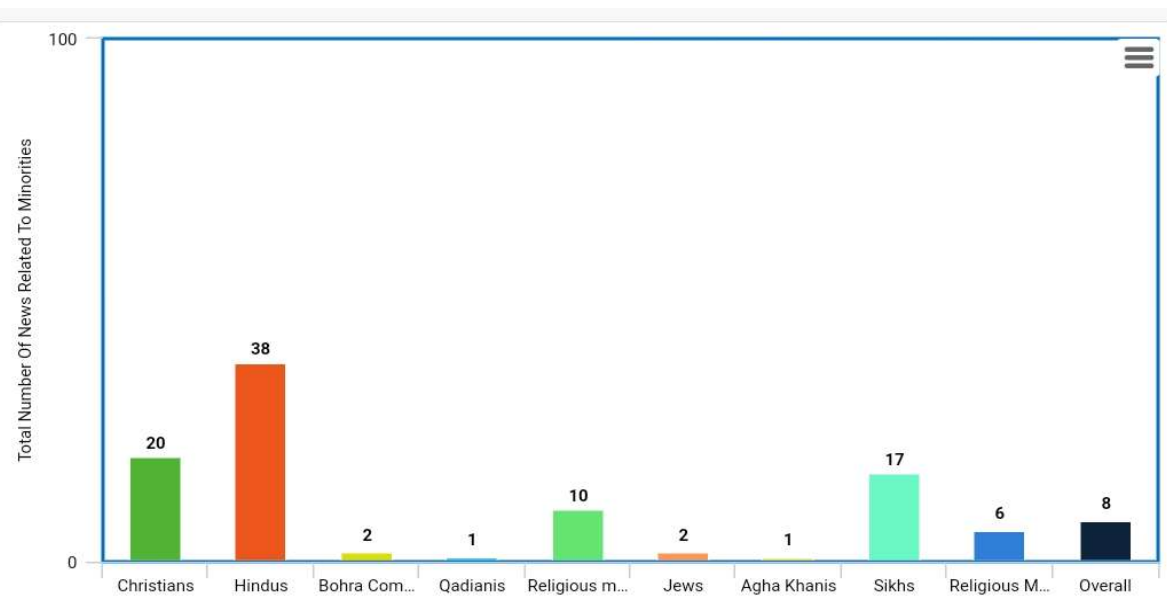
Representation of minority Shia community in daily Jang newspaper.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

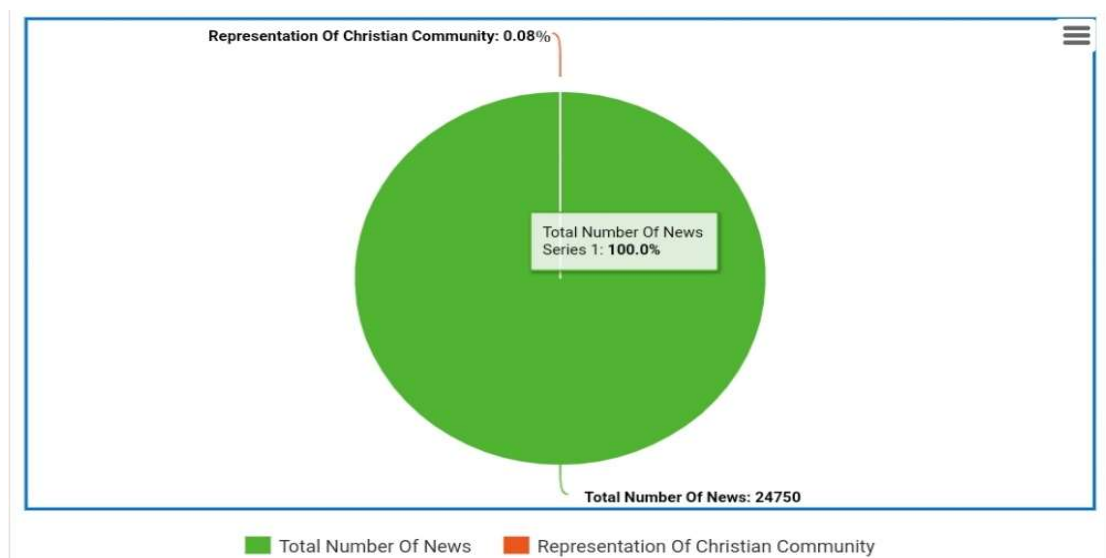


Graph 1: The above graph shows that minorities are not being represented as they should be. Out of 24,750 amount of news of one year, the news related to minorities are just 0.404%.

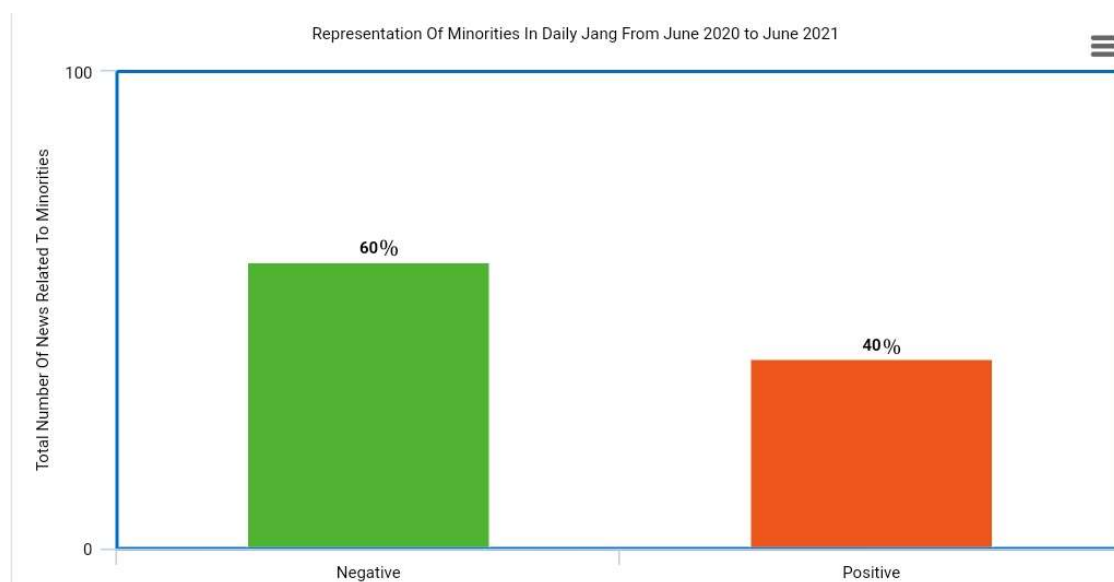
Number of news published about each minority group in daily Jang newspaper



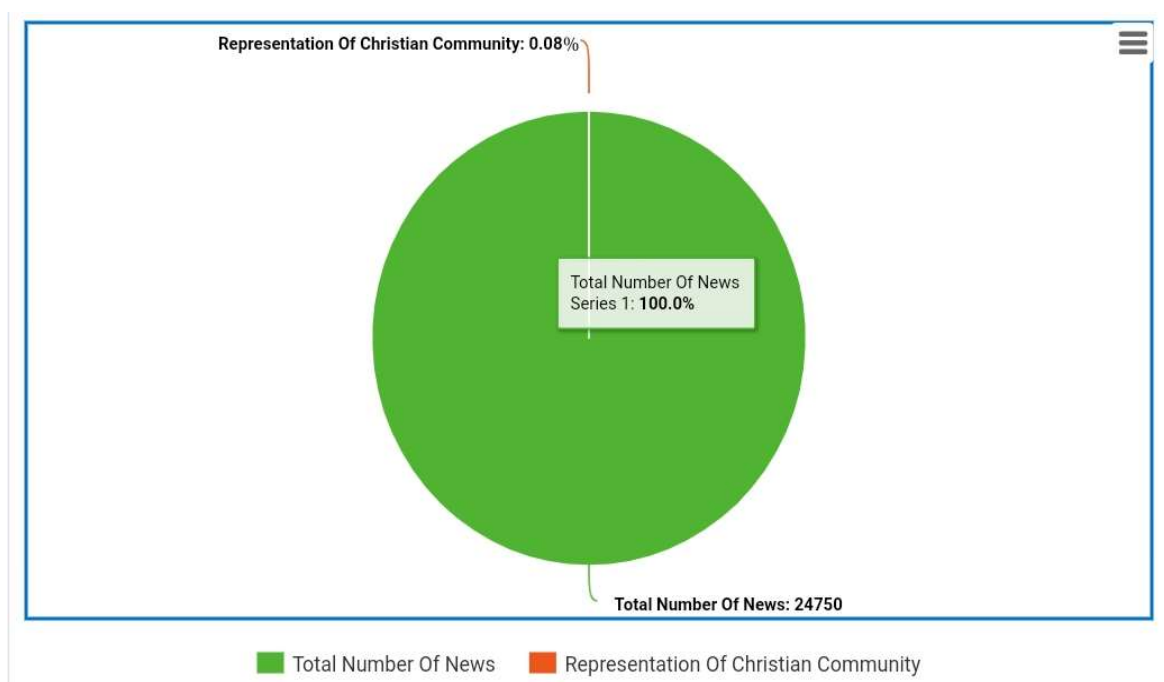
Graph 2: The above graph shows the number of news of each minority group published in Daily Jang Newspaper From June 2100 n to June 2021. Most number of news are about Hindu Community, out of 100 news stories 38 news are about Hindus, while 20 news are about Christians, 17 news are about Sikhs, other than these three minority groups, Bohra Community, Agha Khanis', Jews, Qadianis, while 2 religious Minorities i.e Hazara Community and Shia Community are also represented. 8 news were also published which does not addresses a particular community.



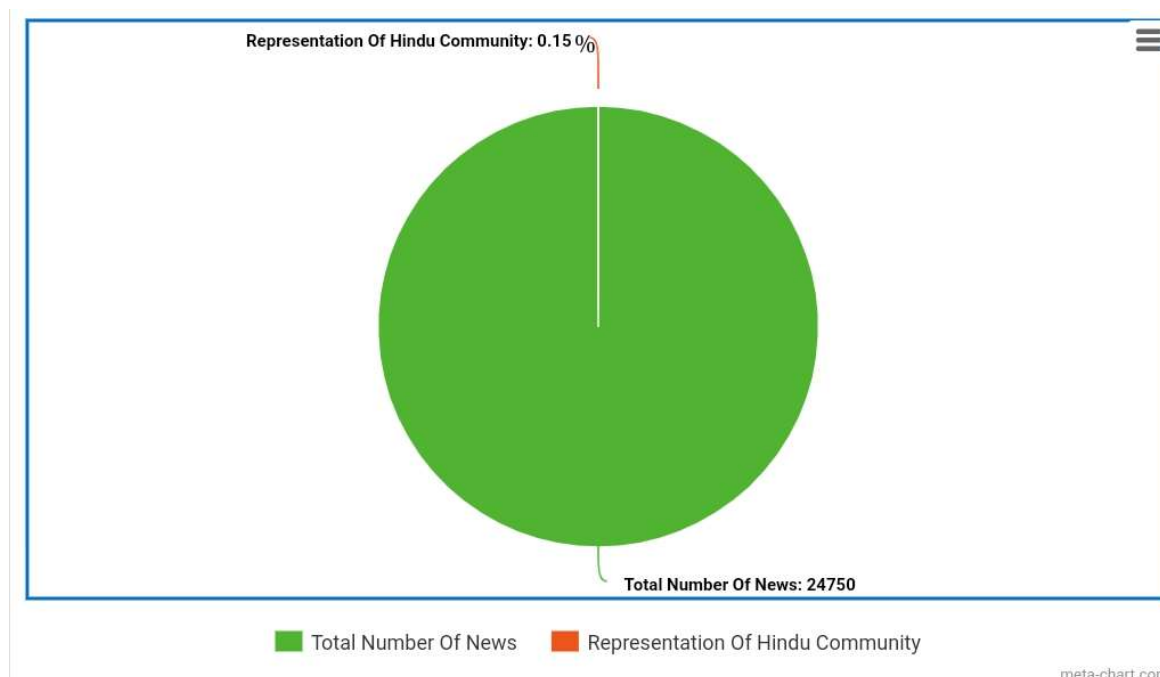
Graph 3: The above bar chart shows that out of 100 news stories, 60% news were published in a negative manner while 40% news published in a positive manner



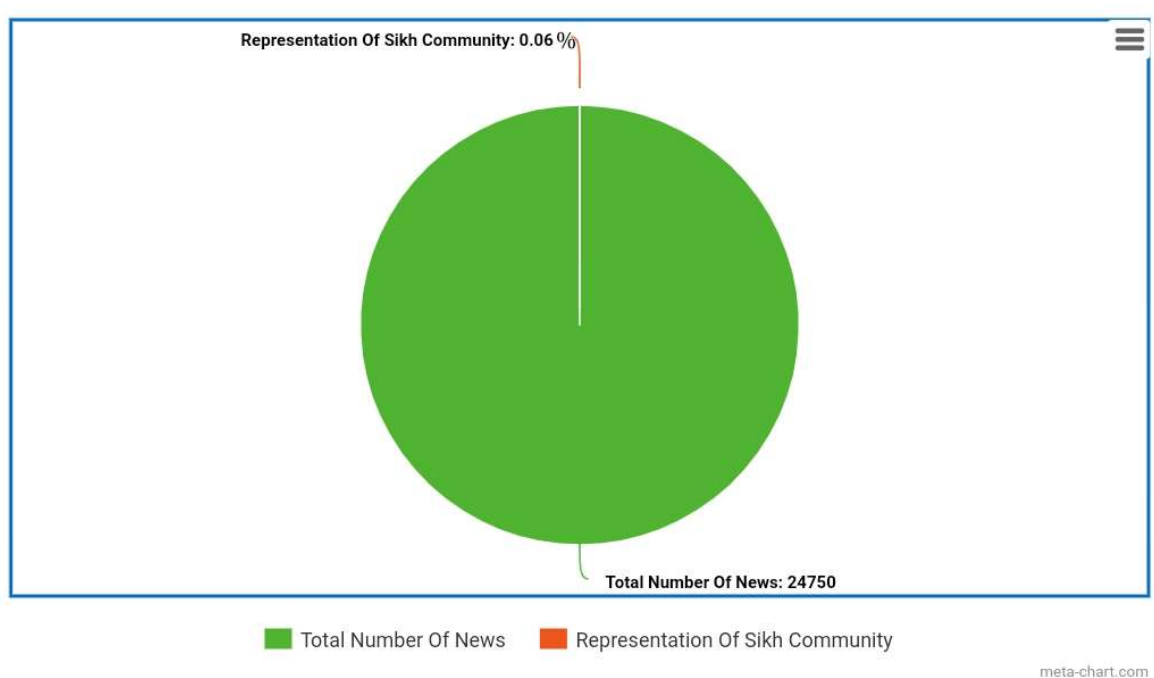
Graph 4. The above graph highlights that the representation of Christian Community in Daily Jang Newspaper during the last year was just 0.08%.



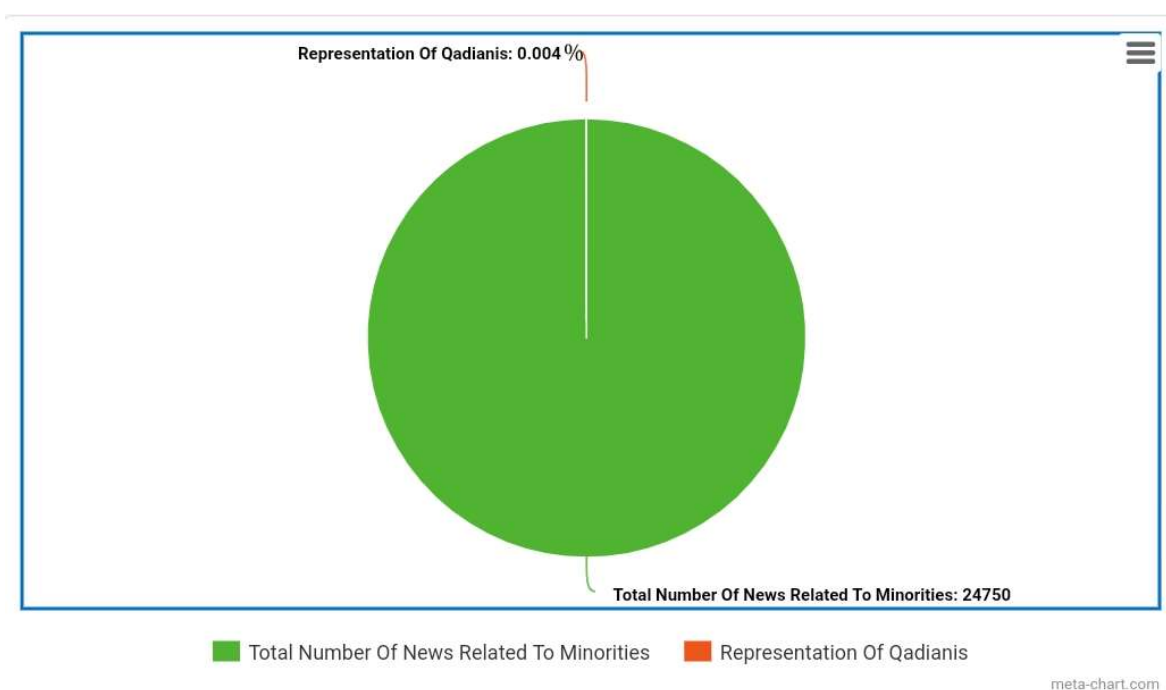
Graph 5: The above graph showcases that the representation of Hindu Community in Daily Jang Newspaper from June 2020 to June 2021 was 0.15%.



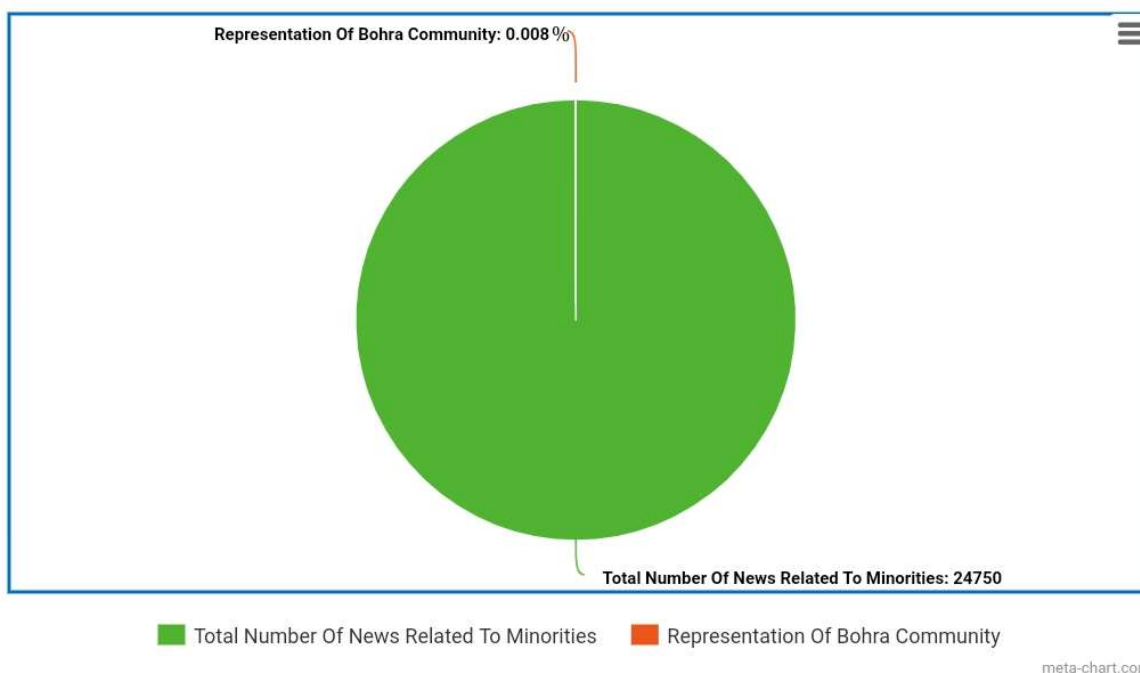
Graph 6: This graph points out that the representation of the Sikh Community in Daily Jang Newspaper during last year was 0.06% out of 24,750 news stories



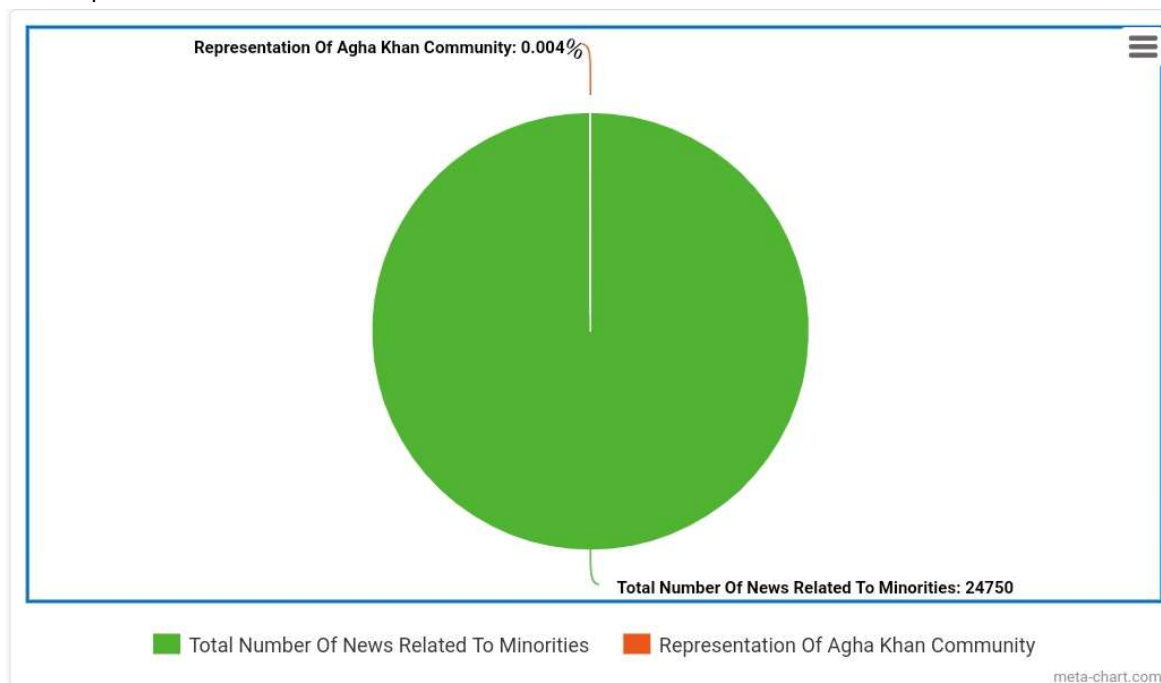
Graph 7: The above graph shows that Qadianis were represented 0.004% out of 24,750 news stories in Jang Newspaper.



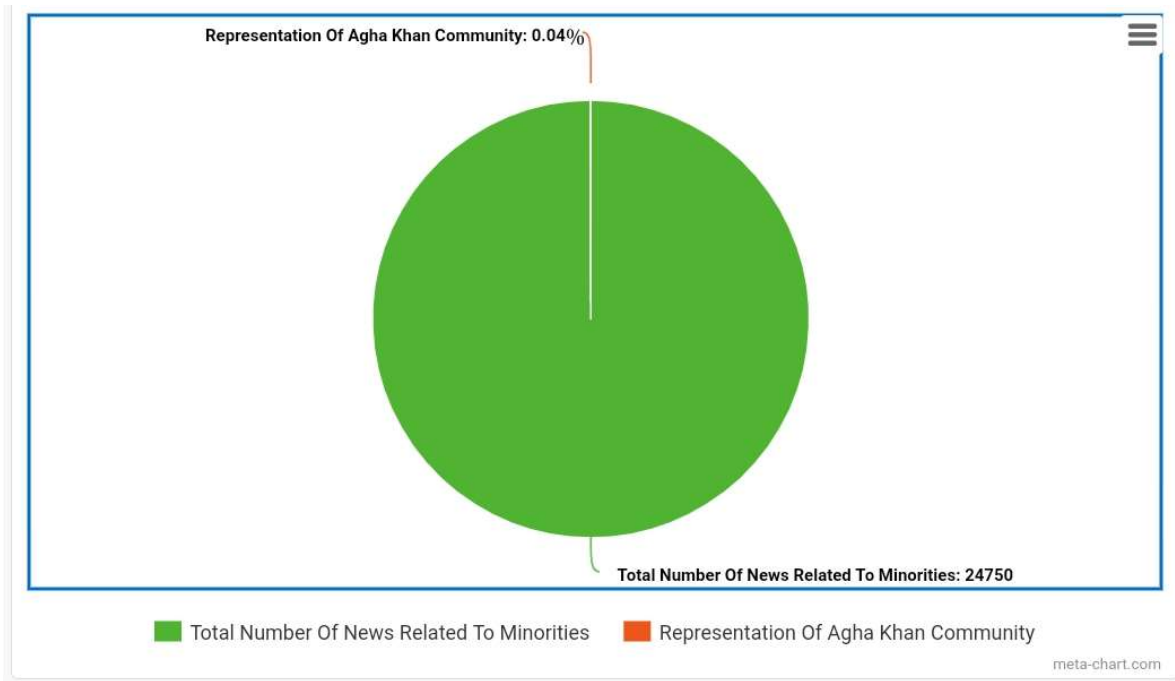
Graph 8: This graph highlights that Bohra Community was represented only 0.008% out of 24,750 total news related to minorities



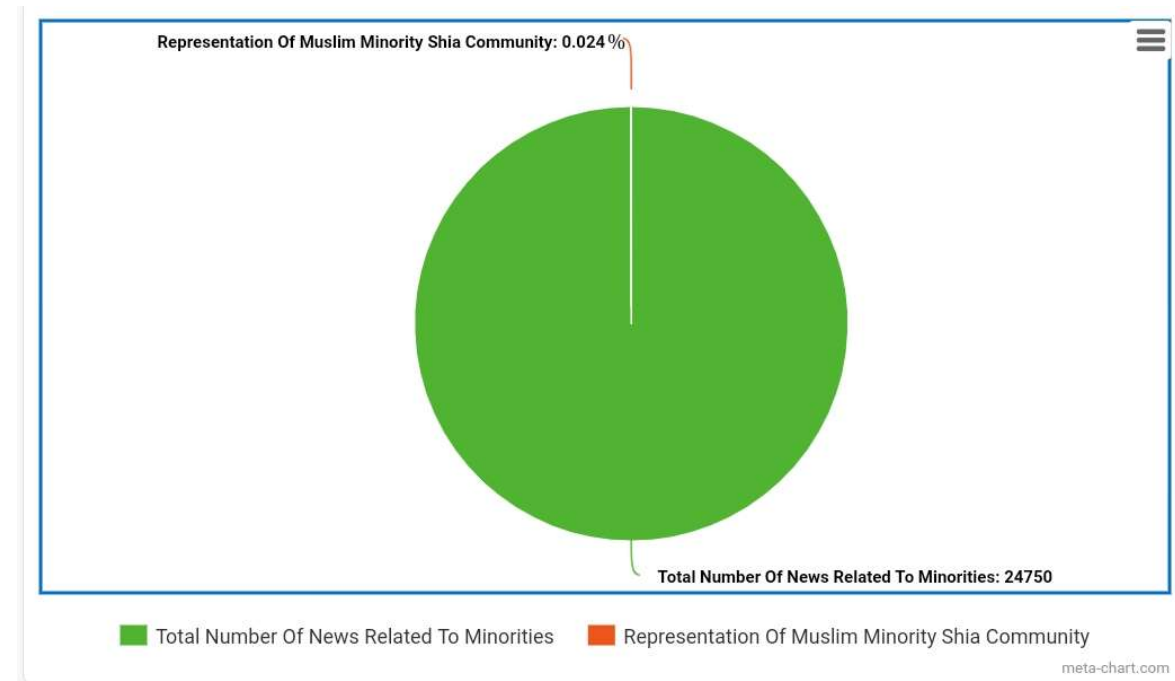
Graph 9: This graph highlights that out of 24,750 news of one year time period, Agha khan community was represented 0.004%.



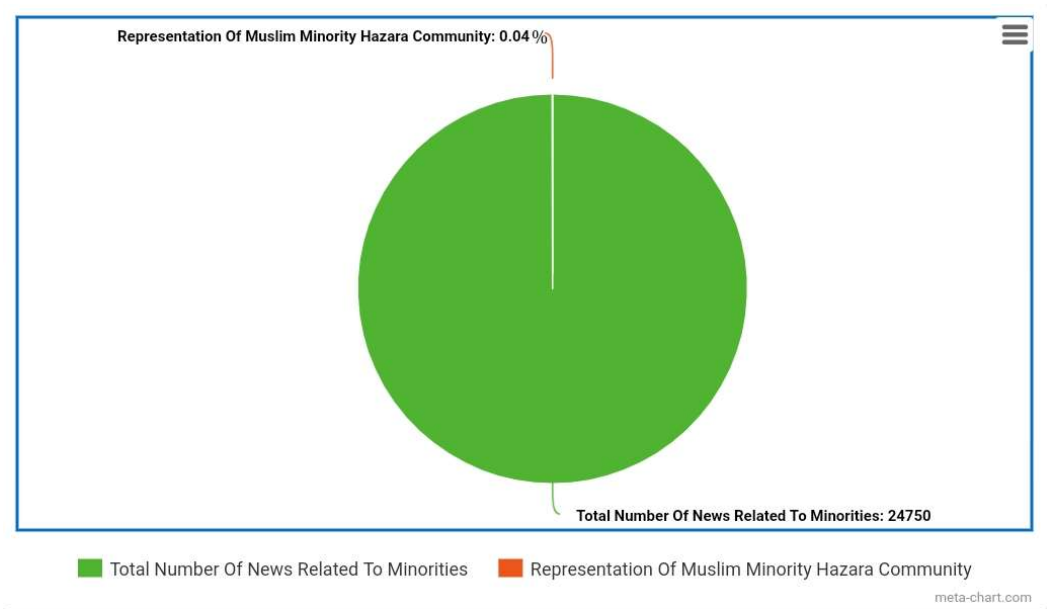
Graph 10: The above graph showcases that Agha Khan Community was represented only 0.04% during June 2020 to June 2021 in Daily Jang Newspaper.



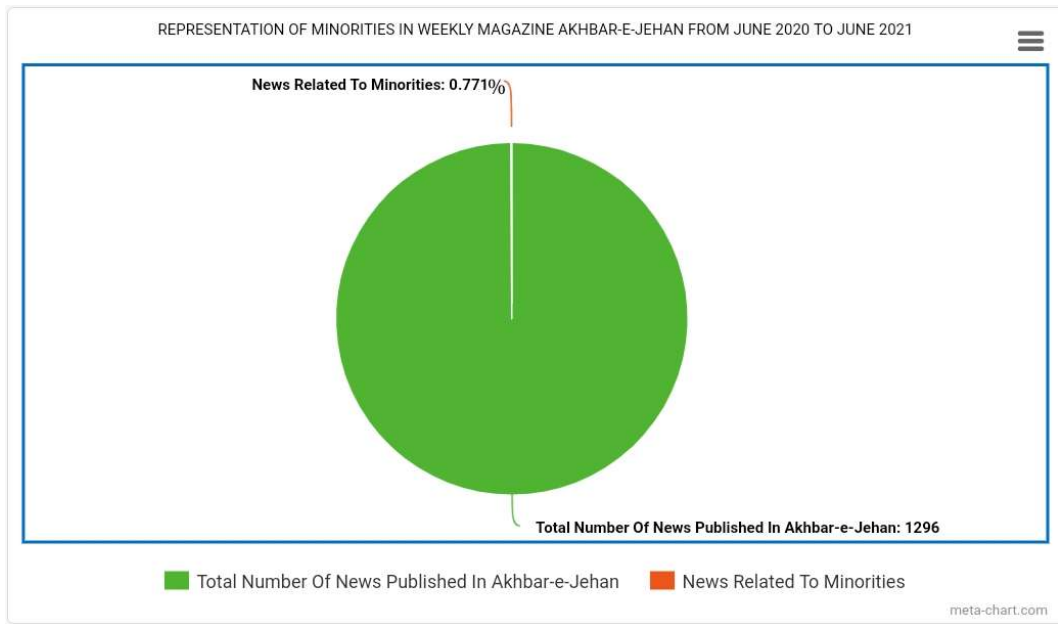
Graph 11: This graph highlights that Hazara Community in Daily Jang Newspaper was represented 0.04% during last year.



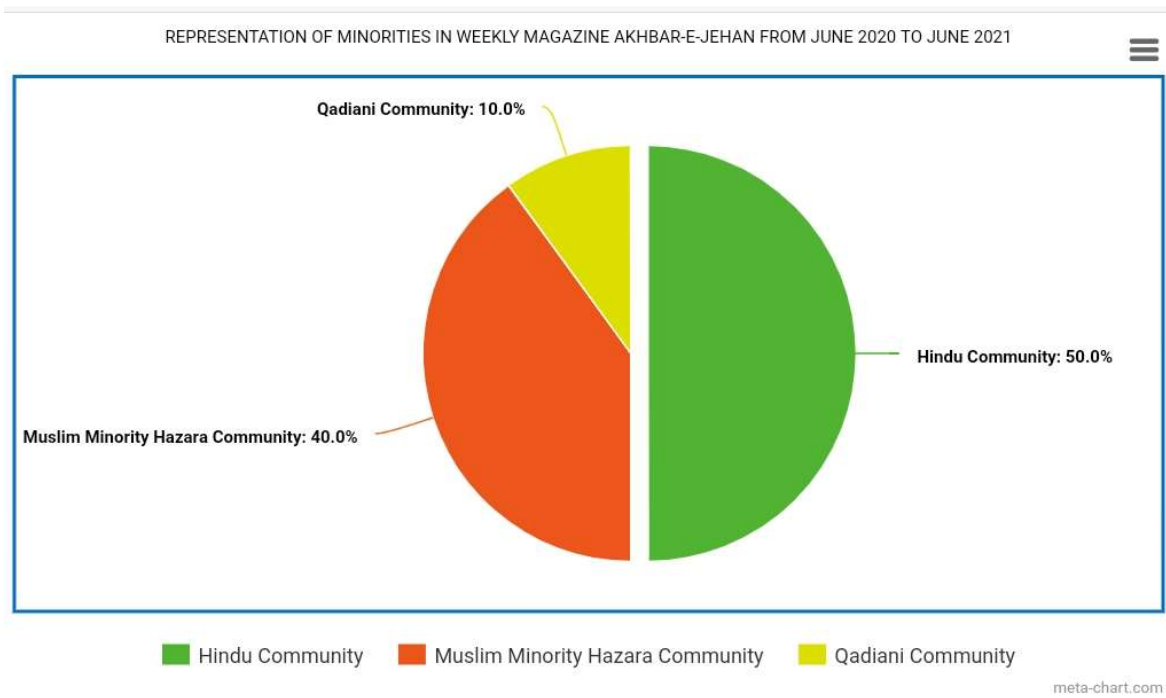
Graph 12: The above Graph shows that minorities are not being represented as they should be. Out of 1,296 number of news of one year, the news related to minorities are just 0.771%.



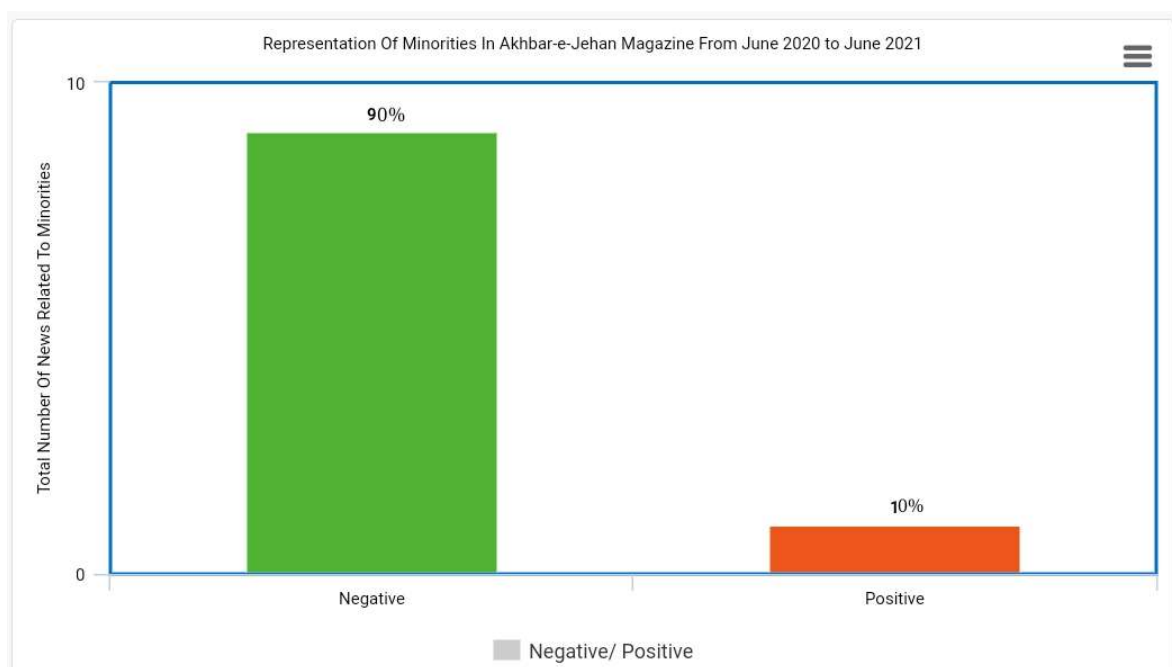
Graph 13: The above graph showcases that Agha Khan Community was represented only 0.04% during June 2020 to June 2021 in Daily Jang Newspaper.



Graph 14: Weekly Akhbar e Jahan.



Graph 15. Weekly Akhbar e Jahan.



Graph 16. Akhbar e Jahah Magazine.

Representation of Muslim minority Hazara community in daily Jang 8 news stories were also published during June 2020 to June 2021 in daily Jang Karachi, in which no specific minority group was addressed. Findings regarding representation of minorities in weekly magazine Akhbar-e-Jehan
Representation of minorities in weekly Akhbar-E-Jehan from June 2022 to June

Number of news published about each minority group weekly magazine Akhbar-e-Jehan
Positive/Negative manner in which minorities related news were published

This Bar chart shows that 90% of the total news regarding minorities are published in negative manner while 10% of this news were published in a positive way or manner.

This research article has presented a content analysis of news coverage of Pakistan's minority group into leading Urdu publications of Pakistan that is daily Jang Karachi and weekly magazine Akhbar Jahan from the year June 2020 to 2021.

Daily Jang Newspaper

To investigate the representation of Minorities, For this purpose, through systematic sampling 198 newspapers were selected out of 365 newspapers published during the year June 2020 to June 2021. Overall the study found that 100 news stories were published in daily Jang while 10 new stories about minorities were published in Akhbar-e-Jehan regarding minorities. If we describe this result in percentage Out of 24,750 number of news published in daily Jang in one year, the news related to minorities were just 0.404%, which is very less. In 0.404% minority related news, news about Christians were 0.08%, News related to Hindus were 0.15%, News related to Sikhs were 0.06% while news regarding religious minority Hazara Community were 0.04%, Qadianis, Bohris, Agha Khanis, Religious minority Shia Community, Jews were 0.004%, 0.008%, 0.004%, 0.024% and 0.008% respectively while 0.032% are those news in which specific minority community is not addressed, all minorities are mentioned in the news as a whole. This research on Jang Newspaper revealed that most news related to minorities consists of 1 or 2 columns, only news related to major incident which happened earlier this year consists of more than 2 columns and the background of the news were also not clearly stated. It means that news about minorities is not given much importance or is not taken seriously. This research also revealed that most news of Minorities were about Hindu, Christians and Sikh Community. Another important fact this research highlighted is that the basic issue that minorities are facing in their daily lives which is force conversion, news regarding this issue was not properly showcased. This research also points out that out of 100 news which were published during last year related to minorities, 60% news were showcased negatively while 40% news were presented in a positive way or manner.

Weekly Akhbar-E-Jehan

For this research, content analysis on weekly magazine Akhbar-e-Jehan has been conducted. This study found that out of total 1,296 news stories published during June 2020 to June 2021, only 10 news were about minorities which is only 0.771%. Out of these 10 stories only 1 news was highlighted positively while remaining 9 news were portrayed in a negative manner, it means that these news were negative in their point of view. Only 3 Communities were represented among which were Hindu Community, Hazara Community and Qadianis. Out of 10 news, the representation of Hindus were 50%, whereas Hazara Community were 40% while news about Qadianis were 10%. Only 1 positive news which was published was about The Appointment of Sindh's first Hindu woman DSP. While the remaining 9 negative news were about Killings, Abduction and Terrorist acts on these communities. Overall this research revealed that Urdu Press of Pakistan is not representing minorities as they should be and their problems are not highlighted properly during the last year from June. Problems of Pakistani minorities have not been covered well in the print media since last year.

CONCLUSION

H1) This hypothesis is proven positive because through this study, the researcher found that the Problems of Pakistani minorities have not been covered well in the print media since last year i.e. from June 2020 to June 2021. The representation of Minorities during the selected period of time in Daily Jang Newspaper was 0.404% and 0.771% in Weekly Akhbar-e-Jehan magazine. As long as so little news is published about them, their problems will not be properly identified and represented. Thus this hypothesis is proven positive.

H2) This Hypothesis is proven positive because the facts and figures firmly supported the prediction of the Hypothesis i.e. Minorities are portrayed in a negative manner in Urdu Press of Pakistan. This study shows that in Daily Jang Newspaper Karachi, 60% of the total news related to minorities were portrayed in a negative manner and In Akhbar-e-Jehan 90% of the news regarding minorities are published in negative manner. Thus this hypothesis is also proven positive that the news regarding minorities have been presented in a negative way.

RECOMMENDATIONS/ IMPLICATIONS

The Urdu Press of Pakistan should publish news related to minorities as much as possible and highlights the issues facing them in a positive manner so that their issues can reach the ruling or elite class, in order to solve their problems immediately and permanently. The Urdu Press of Pakistan should also realize how important the news published by them is in the society. So they should publish more relevant news which will help to resolve their problems, Through which their sense of deprivation can be alleviated and they can feel safe in Pakistan

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