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**COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF PAKISTANI MAINSTREAM URDU NEWSPAPERS
REGARDING CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN; A FRAMING PERSPECTIVE**

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ABSTRACT

Present study examined the coverage of crimes against women in Pakistani mainstream Urdu newspapers (Daily Khabrain & Daliy Jang) from January 2016 to June 2016. Employing quantitative content analysis Study followed episodic and thematic frames proposed by Iyanger (1990, 1991 and 1996) . To deeply investigate the journalistic values some other aspects were also checked types of news stories on crimes against women and sources of information cited in the newspapers. Findings show that Daily Khabrain given more coverage to crimes against women than Daily Jang. While Daily Jang's number of thematically framed stories was greater than Daily Khabrain. Collectively both dailies framed the crime stories more episodically than thematically. Maximum news stories reported in the occurrence of crime category and most of these were on the domestic violence issues and least coverage was given to the abduction cases collectively.

**Keywords: Crimes against Women, Episodic, Thematic, Framing, Patriarchy, coverage,
Information sources**

INTRODUCTION

In Islamic Republic of Pakistan majority of the population are Muslims so the mores and traditions are likely to follow the Islamic laws, Islam granted respectable status to

women. She is acknowledged equivalent to men in the reproduction of mankind. No doubt Women acquired tremendous rights in all areas of life either the marital or the

social. Islam never declare female low-grade than men [1]. “He (God) it is who did create you from a single soul and there from did create his mate that he might dwell with her (in love)”... (Qur'an 7:189). But Pakistan ranked 134 out of 135 countries among the worst places for women in the world [2]. Likewise ranked at 123rd out of 148 countries in the 2012 Gender inequality index [3]. Only 19.3 percent of women reach secondary education compared to 46.1 percent of men [4]. Pakistan is a male dominating society [5-7]. Practice of patriarchal system in Indo-Pak societies prioritize the male over females which meant to be acceptable to the ideologies which lesser the individual rights of women before cultural expectations [8-9] and demands from women to behave like ideal women by obeying the males [10-11]. So Studies shown that religious and cultural factors render women to be vulnerable to the domestic Violence [12]. Furthermore low literacy rate of women is a major cause of their deprivation and violence as experienced by them. It is also a root cause of women's low input in the economic, political, and social spheres of life. It leads to the social and economic dependence of women which consequently makes sure the male domination in social order [13]. Every second women suffers from some form of

domestic violence in Pakistan [14]. United Nations General Assembly defined violence against women as

“Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, Physical, Sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women” is crime against women [15]. *“It can include physical, sexual, psychological and economic abuse and it beyond the boundaries of age, race, culture, wealth and geography. It takes place in the home, on the streets, in schools, office/the workplace, in farm fields, refugee camps, during conflicts and crisis”*[16]. Gender based violence come into sight in numerous ways as per *“sexual, physical, emotional abuse by an intimate partner, and forced labor or sex”* [17]. In Pakistani perspective violence against women has been categorized into crimes including abduction, murder, domestic violence, suicide, honour killing, rape, sexual assault, acid throwing, burning, forced marriages, custodial abuse and torture [18-20].

SOCIAL STATUS OF WOMEN IN PAKISTAN

Some harmful rituals in Pakistan aim at preserving the cultural traditions and religious connotations affecting the dignity of women [21]. In Patriarchal societies such as Pakistan a girl child from her birth is taught

to follow or obey the males [22]. Traditional brought up rules for a girl child demands a selfless person who remains silent and submissive in social and domestic relations, particularly to keep happy her in-laws and husband [23-25]. Although the data obtained from the past five population censuses indicated that there has been less number of women than men in each period. The feminity ratio at birth time has generally been between 105 and 107 males per 100 females in the country [26]. Female literacy rate is lower than males due to patriarchal mind-set and lack of awareness [27]. Enrollment level of males in education institutions is 56% and the enrollment of females is 44% only [28] however, the higher enrollment ratio of males show the gender inequity that males are more preferred by their parents and the society [29]. Centuries old tribal and feudal cultural traditions impose restrictions on the socially active role of woman in Pakistan. Such social forces impose their own interpretations of the religion on social and economic life of the women. The gender issues become much more complicated when they confront with bigoted cultural traditions of the Pakistani society [30]. Low literacy rate, lack of medical care in rural areas, low source of income for household women create problems in the social life of women.

Males have the decision making power regarding all important decisions about women's life. Feeble rights for decision-making [31] and discrimination between men and women in all spheres of life is common. Many other problems are common in Pakistan like no approval for work outside, restrictions on higher education, forced removal of property ownership right; In addition, insecurity in free movement in society, stigmatization of divorcees, economic dependency on husband after marriage, and detest for women who demands justice are key troubles of women in Pakistan [32].

Violence against women has two dimensions to understand this dilemma, VAW committed by society as well as VAW practiced by the media which resulted in the distorted reflections, sexism and silencing the women's voice [33-34]. Pakistani media deals with the crimes against women stereotypically in Patriarchal and biased way which reinforce the male supremacy in Pakistani society. Pakistani media represent the weak and dependent roles of women rather than the successful characters of Pakistani women [34-36]. Media always capture the minds of general public in social issues [37]. through news [38] construction media provides basic information to the

audiences and this information could be influential in deciding the direction and understanding of the citizens about the issues, in other words [39-40] explained that media is a driving force in shaping how actions and situations of individual group experiences are being formed. News stories chose the interpretive frames which help citizens to understand or make clear events that take place around them. Media plays role of a news maker who define events, happenings, measures, reasons and penalties. Iyengar [41-43] divided the news stories into thematic and episodic frames while covering the social issues. In particular, thematic frames highlights the systemic and societal aspects of issues) and episodic frames emphasis on the isolated and micro parts of issues which have straight effects on the public opinion and awareness [44, 42]. Usually, episodic reports include vivid, sensational, or provocative images and less likely to involve reporters to bother to interpret an issue. While thematically framed stories induce more structural attributions, there are background stories in which the objective of the coverage is abstracted [39, 45].

After reviewing the past researches, facts and figures provided by the national and international NGO's (Non Governmental

Organizations) about the most occurring crimes against women in Pakistan [18-20, 46]. Researcher finalize the below mentioned crime categories to analyze 1.Domestic violence, 2.Burning, 3.sexual violence, 4.workplace harassment and 5.abduction.

OBJECTIVES

1: To check the coverage of Daily Khabrain and Daliy Jang regarding crimes against women. 2: To examine the quantity of crime news stories published by the both newspapers. 3: To find out the thematic and episodic treatment of the selected newspapers towards crimes against women. 4: To measure the quantity of episodic and thematic frames in the said newspapers.5: To dig out the information sources mentioned in the crime stories.6: To evaluate the types of news stories published on crimes against women in both newspapers.

RATIONAL OF THE STUDY

Crimes against women is never a new subject in the history of human race because female is biologically feeble than man and it's a rule of nature that powerful always suppress the weak ones. So the violence against women or crimes against women remained a nonstop debate among social scholars from the beginning, immense literature is accessible on this subject. Present study strokes this problem with a different perspective.

Episodic and thematic framing of the Pakistani Urdu newspapers (Daily Khabrain and Daily Jang) within the decided time period is focused additionally types of news stories and information sources of the newspapers are concerned. Study will check the social and gender lenses of Pakistani English newspapers with the help of Episodic and thematic framing of the said issue.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Critics have pointed out that media represent the unrealistic and distorted picture of crime in the society [47]. But in the feminist perspective scholars pointed out many flaws in the press coverage of violence against women everywhere in the world irrespective of culture and societies [48-50]. Such out of order and inconsistent representation of VAW conceals the original numbers and patterns of crime [51]. Scholars explored that VAW is a pillar of patriarchy and media support the patriarchal arrangements of crimes against women intentionally or unintentionally [50, 52]. Jukic [53] pointed out the faults of reporting regarding violence against women and domestic violence, such as insufficient attention given to the issues of domestic violence as the issues of concern for the whole society and to the prevention of the violence. Press covers the rape “with bias,

and sometimes with cruelty” because rape is commonly covered by the male reporters and edited by the male editors [54].

Bullock [55] explored domestic violence as a socially accepted, gender-based power imbalance in news by ignoring male violence against women is possibly media’s most primary way of reinforcing the patriarchal ideology. Media’s depiction of violence against women leans to reinforce patriarchal ideologies by blaming the sufferer. By justifying the executor, and reporting violence as a private matter rather than a larger social problem [56-57]. Present study is concerned with the representation of crimes against women in Pakistani press so the cultural normative factors are imperative to understand in south Asia which influences the media framing. Analysis of the studies showed that religious and cultural factors render women to be vulnerable to the domestic violence [12, 58]. Traditional values of subcontinent demands from women to behave like an ideal person by obeying the males, being submissive and meek [59]. South Asian countries practice the Patriarchal system especially in India and Pakistan. This system prioritize the male over female members that make them acceptable and conforming which lesser the

individual rights and freedom before community expectations [9]. Some of the expected behaviors from these women to having permission to socialize with the new people, to get education and to work outside [60]. In the same way Pakistani media cover the crime against women in patriarchal and biased ways which reinforce the male hegemony in the society. Stereotypical framing of women represent the distorted images of Pakistani women like victim of violence both domestic and societal, passive, dependant, weak, engage in domestic roles and sex objects. They ignored the powerful and successful face of the Pakistani women [35]. Some scholars consider the cultural factors are endorsed and backed up by religions that sanction the violence against women. They suggested that religious interpretation is distorted in the subcontinent. General concept about Islam and Hinduism is to sanction violence against women. For instance, Hinduism defined the ideal women as dutiful, sacrificing and proscribed wife [61-62] Muslims adopted many cultural and religious mores from Hinduism in the united Indo-Pak. After independence Muslim women is facing same handling and consideration in Pkistan [60]. Pakistani media represent the distorted images of

Pakistani women in stereotypical ways [35].

A feminist such as Sarnavka [33] expressed another way to looking at VAW he stated that violence against women is being practiced by society as well as by the media simultaneously. It indicates all the falsifications, distorted reflections, prejudice and silencing of women's voices on gender bases, which violate women's right to equal access to public discourse. Ross [34] stated that violence against is also committed by the media itself. She stated that *"Women are dismembered, denied agency and humanity as they become rather less than the sum of their body parts"* She explained that it forms a male-ordered environment which habitually is unfavorable to women, and close the eyes to the success of women in the society. Media never present women as news to society when she do something great, but is speedy to put up negative images of women. Malamuth & Briere [63] proposed that some cultural factors together with mass media as well as individual factors affect people's opinion and responses that may lead to unsociable behavior, including aggression. Disclosure to the sexually violent media widens the thought patterns that support the violence against women.

Vincent [64] stated that construction of crime can disclose the types of relationships that tie news agencies to their sources, and the organizational boundaries that run the news-gathering practice. The traditions in which news media collect, place, and contextualize the crime news help to form the public opinion. [65] "*Mass media serve as a system for communicating images to the general populace*" (p.16). Akmes & Deniz [65] news is a dynamic study area to get information how social roles, stereotypes and representations of a certain group of people in society are building. Nicely [66] found emerging themes in the three women sports magazines. The portrayal depicted the themes applied on women mental weakness, male reference, motherhood, sisterhood, and celebrity. Researcher suggested some solutions which lessen the negative portrayal of women in the sports. Siddiqui [67] conducted study on the women magazines of Asia and Middle Eastern countries. Reviewed studies did not provide any hard confirmation of western influence on cultural forms of media. She made clear the causes behind the changing depiction of women in the media are not due to the western influence. Asian and Middle Eastern societies are changing it.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Gitlin [68] frame could be built through choice of highlighting or omitting selected aspects of any issue. It can change publics' center of attention and their concentration on some messages, by including in the content, and by ignoring some other aspects of those messages. Gamson & Modigliani [45] stated that *a central organizing idea or story line that provides meaning to an unfolding strip of events, weaving a connection among them*", Journalists, who are determined to tell an attractive story and are bounded by the news organizations, time and space limitations, use framing to shape the reality by deciding what will and what will not be included in the news. Framing takes place when some portions of the news story are preferred over others, by defining and assessing the dilemma, highlighting the causes and suggesting the solutions of the problem and, eventually, building a frame, is a process that has been called frame building due to its resemblance with the process of agenda building.

Present study will follow the (episodic and thematic) perspective proposed by Iyengar to measure the coverage of crime news stories by Pakistani newspapers "Daily Khabrain and the Daily Jang Framing of the Pakistani news papers will be checked that how they

cover a social dilemma of crimes against women.

Iyengar [42] proposed difference between two types of frames in news coverage. An episodic frame, which spotlight the characterization of the criminal, the victim, or describing the murdered woman's family by interviewing neighbors and care-giving facilities; and a thematic frame, which deals with the broader context within which the events take place. In the case of the thematic frame, the source of the problem is found in the wider social sphere, or the care-giving facilities and reporters also bear the responsibility for solving the problem as well.

Research Questions

R.Q: Is there any difference between Daily Khabrain and Daily Jang in the use of thematic and episodic frames?

R.Q: How daily Khabrain covered the crime against women news stories?

R.Q: How Daily Jang covered the crime against women news stories?

R.Q: what information sources are used by the reporters of both newspapers?

HYPOTHESIS

H₁: Daily Khabrain will frame crime against women news stories more thematically than Express tribune.

H₂: Daily Khabrain will frame crimes against women news stories thematically than episodically.

H₃: Daily Jang will use thematic frames more than episodic frames while covering the crimes against women news stories.

RESEARCH DESIGN

Quantitative content analysis technique has been chosen for the purpose of analysis in this study. Population of the present study is news items published on crimes against women on all pages of two Pakistani highly circulated Urdu newspapers "Daily Khabrain" and "Daily Jang" during the months of January 2016 to June 2016. Whole population has been selected as sample of the study. Total 250 news stories have been collected, 132 from Daily Khabrain and 118 from daily Jang during the selected time period. Whole news story has been taken as the unit of analysis. News stories have been divided into episodic and thematic frames. Some other aspects were also analyzed to understand the coverage of crimes against women comprehensively. Study taken into account the types of news stories and information sources cited in the news stories on crimes against women. Content types were divided into investigative news, news about the remedial actions of the government, occurrence of the crime, official

statements as well as facts and reports published in the newspapers on crimes against women. Assumed Information sources are Police, doctors, courts, family members, journalist's observation and others. If any news story carries more than two sources then each separate source will be counted

Thematic Frame

Taking crime as a larger social problem like focusing on the risk factors, prevention strategies, awareness, and demand for justice will follow the thematic frame. If any news story has information regarding risk factors, and prevention strategies which tend to help readers to learn more about the context in which crime and violence occurs, support prevention strategies in addition to punishment; discussed the societal risk factors and causes of crime and violence was considered thematically framed story.

Episodic frame

Reporting of violence as a private matter rather than a larger social problem, mere description of the crime and taking crime as individual problem is an episodic way of framing the crime stories. As well as the episodic frame stories induce the individualistic attributions. According to Iyenger [42] episodic frame focuses on capturing the characterization of the criminal,

victim and describing the victim's family. So news stories following above mentioned parameters will be taken as episodically framed stories.

Operational Definitions

Mainstream newspapers: Means highly circulated Urdu newspapers of Pakistan, with maximum readership including the highly educated upper middle class and the lower middle class.

Women: In this study woman means an adult female human being above the sixteen years of age.

Crime: Any offensive and punishable act committed by any person against women.

Domestic violence: Any act or attempt of physical or emotional violence (beating, wounds, broken bones, Karokari, murder, honour killing and suicide due to emotional abuse) committed by any domestic relationship (the husband, father in-law, brother in-law, mother in-law, sister in-law, father, mother, brother, or any other relative) will be considered the domestic violence.

Burning: Any act or endeavor of de-shaping the face and body of a woman by any family member, stranger, friend or lover with any substance (liquid, gas, acid) will fall under this type of crime.

Sexual violence: Illicit sexual act or attempt by an adult male human being against women will be considered sexual violence.

Workplace Harassment: Dishonest sexual act, attempt or gesture by an adult male human being at the workplace against women will be regarded as workplace harassment.

Abduction: Kidnapping of a woman with any illegitimate motives will be graded in this crime category.

Occurrence of the crime: News based on the first information regarding occurrence of crimes against women like honour killing, acid attack etc.

Investigative news: Follow ups about the investigations against crime cases, news about the performance of the law enforcement institutions against crimes against women.

Remedial actions: News about the remedial actions of government and civil society to prevent the crimes like introducing laws and acts to reduce the crimes, awareness campaigns by the civil society and N.G.Os .

Official statements: News items related to the statements of officials like prime minister, federal/provincial ministers, chief justice, and heads of other institutions of Pakistan on crimes against women.

Facts and reports: Reports published in the news papers on facts and figures regarding crimes against women.

RESULTS

Table No: 1 shows that Daily Khabrain given more coverage than Daily Jang but both newspapers given maximum coverage to Domestic violence issues. Daily Khabrain given less coverage to the cases of Abduction while Daily Jang given less coverage to Workplace Harassment.

Table No 2: Shows Daily Khabrain published episodic stories (64.39%) more than thematic news stories (35.60%). Jang also published episodic (55%) more than thematic (44.91%) news stories. All hypotheses are rejected by these results.

H₁: Daily Khabrain will frame crime against women news stories more thematically than Daily Jang.

H₂: Daily Khabrain will frame crimes against women news stories more thematically than episodically.

H₃: Daily Jang will use thematic frames more than episodic frames while covering the crimes against women news stories.

Table No: 3. explains the types of content published on the crimes against women in both newspapers. Both newspapers published maximum news items in the occurrence of

crime category and minimum stories in the facts/reports category.

Table No: 4. presents the information sources mentioned in the both newspapers. Overall Daily Khabrain cited (75) sources maximum information was taken by police and

minimum information was taken by the doctors. Whereas Daily Jang mentioned total (124) sources Jang’s maximum reliance was also on police (65) and information taken from the court room and (9) doctors (10) are the less cited sources.

Table No. 1: Crime category wise comparison between Daily Khabrain and the Daily Jang

| Crime Categories | Daily Khabrain | % | Daily Jang | % |
|----------------------|----------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Domestic Violence | 68 | 51.51 | 46 | 38.98 |
| Burning | 20 | 15.15 | 16 | 13.55 |
| Sexual Violence | 19 | 14.39 | 26 | 22.03 |
| Workplace Harassment | 15 | 11.36 | 10 | 9.47 |
| Abduction | 10 | 7.57 | 20 | 16.94 |
| Total | 132 | 100 | 118 | 100 |

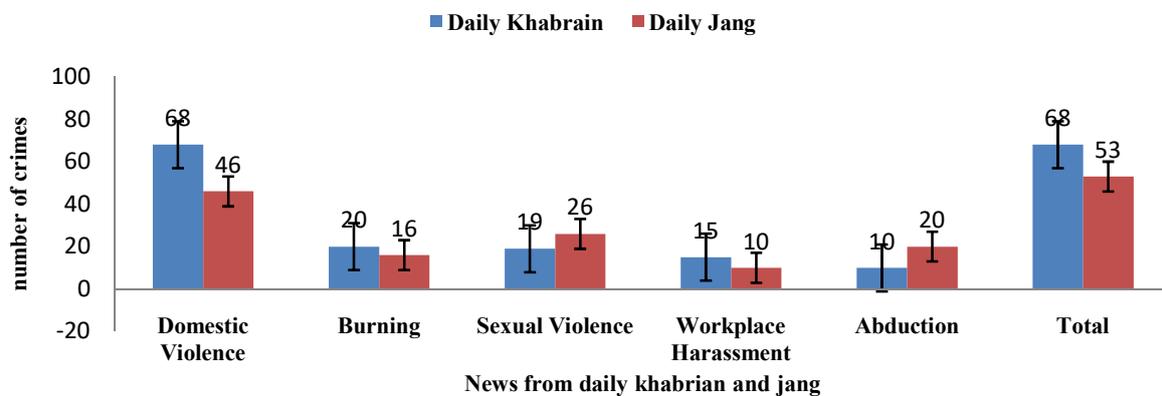


Figure 1: Crime category wise comparison between both Newspapers

Table No. 2: Comparison of Episodic and Thematic frames between Daily Khabrain and Daily Jang

| Frames | Daily Khabrain | % | Daily Jang | % |
|-----------------|----------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Episodic Frames | 85 | 64.39 | 65 | 55 |
| Thematic Frames | 47 | 35.60 | 53 | 44.91 |
| Total | 132 | 100 | 118 | 100 |

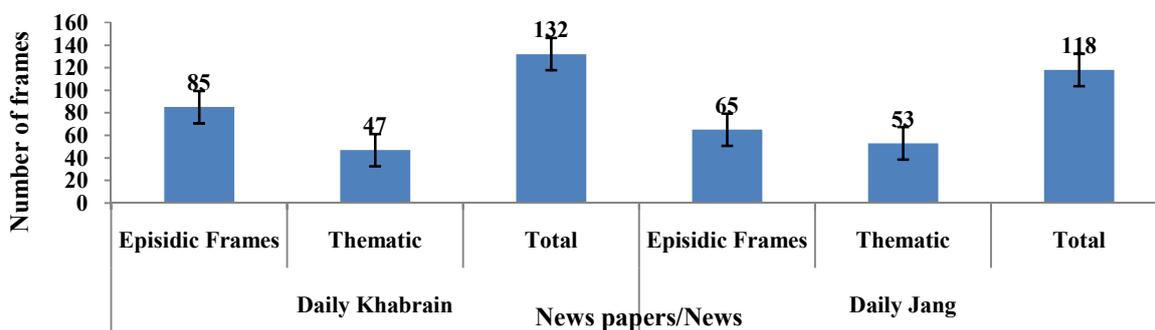


Figure 2: Detail of Episodic and Thematic frames

Table No. 3: Comparison of content types between Daily Khabrain and Daily Jang

| Content Type | Daily Khabrain | % | Daily Jang | % |
|------------------|----------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Investigative | 12 | 9.09 | 20 | 16.94 |
| Remedial Actions | 11 | 8.33 | 11 | 9.32 |
| Justice | 9 | 6.81 | 8 | 6.77 |
| Occurrence | 81 | 61.36 | 61 | 51.69 |
| Statements | 12 | 9.09 | 10 | 8.47 |
| Facts/Reports | 7 | 5.30 | 8 | 7.77 |
| Total | 132 | 100 | 118 | 100 |

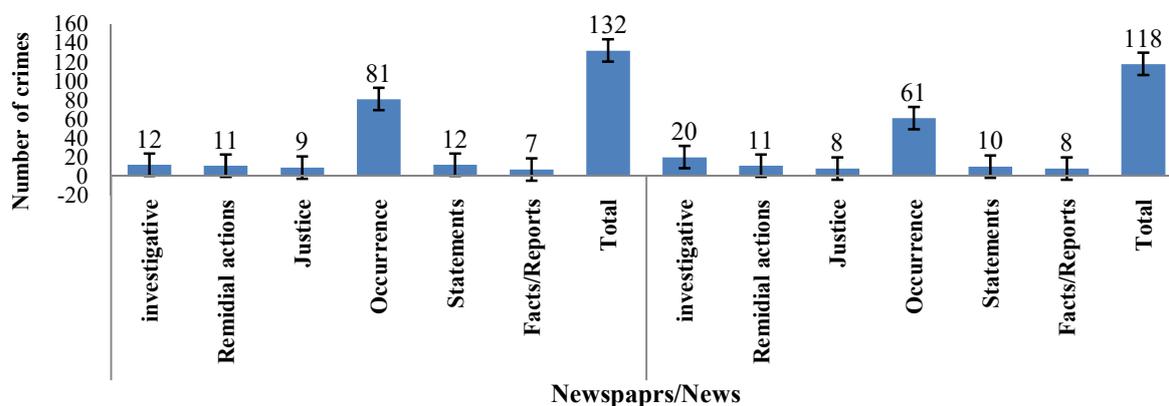


Figure No. 3. Detail of content types published in both papers

Table No. 4: Comparison of source of information between both newspapers

| Source of Information | Daily Khabrain | % | Daily Jang | % |
|-----------------------|----------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Police | 75 | 53.57 | 65 | 61.5 |
| Doctors | 9 | 6.42 | 10 | 3.8 |
| Court | 7 | 5 | 9 | 3.8 |
| Family | 10 | 7.14 | 25 | 11.5 |
| Others | 9 | 6.42 | 15 | 19.23 |
| Total | 140 | 100 | 124 | 100 |

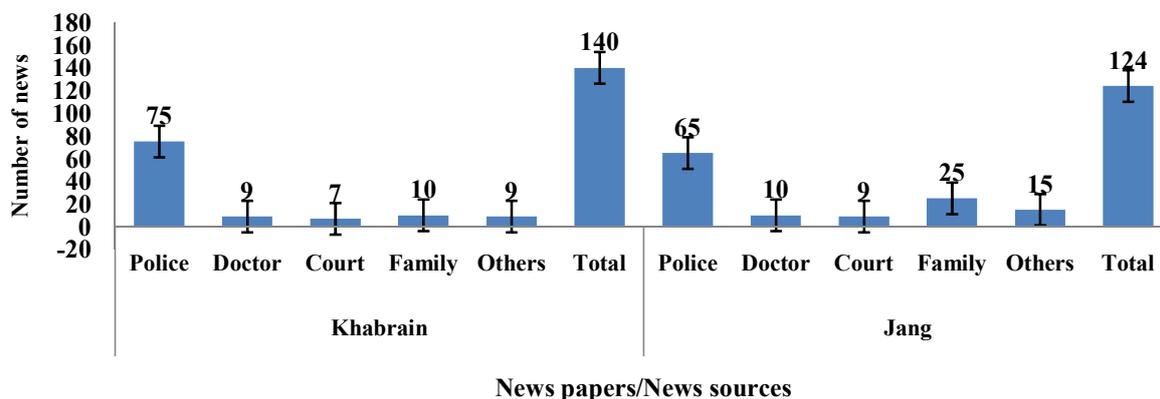


Figure No. 4: Detail of sources of Information mentioned in both newspapers

CONCLUSION AND DISCUSSION

Findings of the study explored that both newspapers being of commercial mindset framed maximum news stories on crimes against women episodically. Daily Khabrain Published total (132) news stories from which 85 news stories were episodic and 47 were thematically framed news stories. On the other side Daily Jang published total (118) news stories on crimes against women from which (65) were episodic and (53) news stories were thematic. Both newspapers gave maximum coverage to domestic violence issue and less coverage given to the abduction cases and workplace harassment issues. While discussing about the content types it was observed that Daily Khabrain covered 81(61.36%) and Daily Jang 61 (51.69%) news on occurrence of crimes. Less published content category was Facts and reports in both news papers. Both news papers captured the individual cases of

crimes against women and rarely talked about the need to take social steps to eradicate these crimes.

Remedial actions were equally discussed in both dailies Daily Khabrain 11 (8.33%), Daily Jang 11(9.32%).Only 9 (6.81%) cases achieved justice according to the Daily Khabrain and 8 (6.77%) according to Daily Jang.

Present study also checked the information sources of crime reporters in selected time period. Information sources were divided into five categories Police, Doctors, Courts, Family and Others. It was tested which sources were trusted by the reporters of both newspapers? Highest mentioned source was police in both dailies, Daily Khabrain 75 (53.57%) times mentioned Police source in its news stories and Daily Jang 65 (61.5%) times cited this source but comparatively Daily Khabrain relied on Police source in maximum stories. Family sources were

remained second highly cited source Daily Khabrain quoted this source in 10(7.14%) news stories and Daily Jang 25(11.5%) times. But greater difference 15 numbers was observed in between the Dailies in this source category. Less cited source remained court proceedings collectively. This shows that both Urdu news papers didn't report the follow ups of the crimes properly and till the end of the cases. Once again if we talk about the episodic and thematic frames in selected Urdu newspapers, it is revealed by the study that Pakistani Urdu newspapers didn't cover the crimes against women in broader context rather they follow the commercialism to attract the readership. Overall findings shows covering the crimes against women in both Urdu newspapers as social dilemma was abandon

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