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: The Portrayal of Women in Leading Newspapers

of India and Indonesia

ABSTRACT

Print media has been accepted as an important means of communication. It is the greatest channel of communication in every field. It is often said that we are entering 'the electronic age'; there is no sign of the decline of print media. The Indian media are booming on all the fronts print, electronic and web journalism. The roles of various media however, have stretched far beyond the supply of information now, because of the outreach and technological sophistication. Media influences the process of socialization and shapes ideology and thinking. The Reformation and the freedom of the press era obviously bring further development to the mass media industry in Indonesia.

This study examines the portrayal of women in four leading daily newspapers of India and Indonesia: *The Hindustan Times, The Times of India, Kompas* and *The Jakarta Post*. The researcher in conducting this study has used content analysis method. Unit analysis of this present study is any newspaper items that concerned women's activity or event. A constructed week method was applied in the selection newspaper issues that the data are collected from issues covering the entire selected year.

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The research objectives of the study are 1. To identify the kind of newsworthiness determinants of leading newspapers of India and Indonesia about women. 2. To examine the news categories of the women news portrayed by the Indian and Indonesian daily newspapers. 3. To analyse which issues are deemed sufficiently salient to be disseminated by the leading newspaper of India and Indonesia. 4. To find out how the daily newspapers of both countries handle photographs and what is the difference in the proportion of space measurement by women news with photographs.

The overall of portrayal of women in *The Hindustan Times, The Times of India, Kompas, The Jakarta Post* newspapers was concentrated in the national news section and was covered typically as soft news. The finding indicates that total only five percent of the women news is published on the front page by selected newspapers in this study. The findings reveal that more than half of women news stories were supported by photograph presentation. As noted in the description of the news categories, most portrayal was inclined towards specific major subject such as culture and arts. The results of this study indicated that festival/inauguration/art & entertainment represent the highest issue by selected newspapers. Consequently, there was less portraying on some other stories viewed as important by the audience. When women did appear in the newspaper, the study found that they were more likely to appear in the entertainment or lifestyle sections of the newspaper, which are stereotypically female sections. Women were less likely to appear on the sports or business pages. Thus, it is recommended that a relatively reasonable balance be exercised in portraying of women news.