



Understanding the Perspective of Indian Newspapers on Covid-19: A Critical Analysis of the Editorials Published During Lockdown

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Abstract

The entire world is facing unprecedented losses amid Corona virus outbreak. India too has not remained untouched by this crisis as the virus is slowly spreading its foot in the whole country. While the government is fighting at its own level to deal with this epidemic, in the meantime the role of Press, the fourth pillar of the democracy, also becomes very important. The press helps in disseminating the authentic information from the government to the common man as well as public awareness campaigns are also conducted time to time for the welfare of the people. In India, thousands of newspapers and magazines and hundreds of news channels reach to the homes of people daily which have a very significant role in their lives. An editorial is a reflection of a newspaper's editorial policy and also has great impact on its readers mind and thought process. Actually, a newspaper is always considered as opinion maker.

In the present investigation, content analysis of the editorials of 10 leading newspapers of Hindi and English language published during the first lockdown of 21 days (March 25-April 14, 2020) in India has been undertaken. The broad objective of the research was to find out how the country's major newspapers approach the national and international level events took place during Corona crisis and how the newspapers react to the steps taken by the government to deal with the epidemic. It was also aimed to find out the similarities and differences among the opinions of these newspapers regarding the decisions taken by the government.

Key words: Content analysis, Corona virus, Editorial policy, English, Hindi, Print media.

Introduction

The press has an important role in strengthening any democratic system. Especially in a country like India with a diverse culture and world's largest democratic system, the press has far more responsibilities on its shoulders. After legislature, executive and judiciary, the press is considered as the fourth pillar of democracy. In the changing environment, newspapers are a good source of information, education and entertainment as well as have become the guide and important axis of life of the people. Although the worldwide circulation of newspapers is steadily decreasing, on the other hand, their circulation in India is continuously increasing and this trend shows the importance of this particular medium in India (Add Ref.). According to the data available on the website of Registrar of Newspapers for India accessed in April 2020 shows that more than one lakh publications are registered (www.rni.nic.in). Among them, the number of newspapers published in Hindi and English language is the highest. Besides that, more than 42,000 newspapers are published in Hindi language and more than 13,000 newspapers in English language. There is no denying the fact that newspapers have become the most powerful tool of social change. Keeping this feature of the newspaper in view, former US President Thomas Jefferson has also said that *If it were left on me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the later* (Humphrey, 1996).

It is well known fact that Indian print media has left remarkable footprints on the pages of history and it has played an important role in the freedom struggle as well. However, during the Emergency in the year 1975-76, the activities of the Indian press were tightened and strict orders were issued against media groups. But after that period, Indian newspapers emerged as more powerful survivor and came closer to the hearts of common people becoming their mouthpieces. It is meant to say that the Indian print media has done a commendable job in every phase and under all type of circumstances. Indian populace has a faith in the newspaper and later has also met their expectations always. Likewise, in the prevailing covid-19 pandemic it is natural to expect from Indian newspapers that they will stand strong in bringing out the hard core facts, unbiased opinions, fruitful suggestions and constructive criticism before the public for the welfare of the country.

Today, where the whole world is locked inside the four walls, the journalists especially the Indian journalists are faithfully discharging their obligations. Newspapers are not only doing extensive media coverage but are also conducting awareness campaigns to protect people from corona contagion. Along with the news, the editorial also has its own special importance in the newspaper. Editorial is a mirror of the customs of any newspaper or magazine. The personality of the newspaper and its editor is expressed through the editorial.

A 21-day lockdown was announced amidst Corona crisis in India. During the period of lockdown, a few major events took place all over the world and many important decisions were taken by the Indian government. The overnight scenario in the country changed with the announcement of the lockdown.

While it was expected that the spread of corona infection might reduce due to the lockdown but many new challenges also came out before the government. Exodus of laborers, lack of safety equipment for medical workers, attacks and abuses on medical team, media censorship, relief package, the incident of Tabligi Jamaat and many other such issues came in to light. Therefore the analysis of editorials during this period is more significant with an aim of understanding the reaction of newspapers and the usefulness of government's decisions. Keeping this in view, the present study is based on the content analysis of the editorials of 10 major newspapers of Hindi and English of India.

Objectives of the Study

- To find out what is the reaction of the newspapers on the outbreak of corona epidemic and how they react on lockdown decision of Indian Government.
- To analyze up to what extent newspapers agreed with the steps taken by the government to deal with the Corona epidemic and what were the newspaper's own suggestions in this regard.
- To study the newspapers' perspective on the important events that took place at national and international level during the lockdown.
- To study the variation in the response of Hindi and English newspapers in the context of the above mentioned points.

Methodology

For the present work, five major Hindi dailies of India, namely *Dainik Bhaskar*, *Dainik Jagran*, *Hindustan*, *Navbharat Times* and *Jansatta* and five major English language newspapers of India, namely *The Times of India*, *The Hindu*, *Hindustan Times*, *The Indian Express* and *The Tribune* were selected. The editorials of these newspapers published during the first 21-day lockdown (March 25-April 14, 2020) have been critically studied. All selected newspapers selected for research are prestigious and have a special place in the Indian media and society in terms of their content and credibility. A brief profile of these newspapers is shown in Table 01.

Table 01: A Brief Profile of Newspaper Selected for the study

(Source :)

Sr. No.	Name of Newspaper	Language	Founded	Headquarter	Owner
1.	Dainik Bhaskar	Hindi	1958	Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh	D B Corp Ltd.
2.	Dainik Jagran	Hindi	1942	Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh	Jagran Prakashan Ltd.
3.	Hindustan	Hindi	1936	New Delhi	H.T. Media Ltd
4.	Navbharat Times	Hindi	1946	Mumbai	Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd.
5.	Jansatta	Hindi	1963	Delhi	Indian Express Group
6.	The Times of India	English	1838	Mumbai	Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd.
7.	The Hindu	English	1878	Chennai	The Hindu Group and Kasturi and Sons Ltd.
8.	Hindustan Times	English	1924	New Delhi	H.T. Media Ltd
9.	The Indian Express	English	1932	Noida, Uttar Pradesh	Indian Express Group
10.	The Tribune	English	1881	Chandigarh	Tribune Trust

OBSERVATIONS OF THE STUDY

It was observed that editorials of all the newspapers covered some major issues and had different opinions on those which are being discussed in the ongoing account.

1. Lockdown Announcement

This prevailing outbreak of COVID-19 has crippled the world as well as India. The country is facing this type of the situation for the first time in last few decades in which lockdown was the only and probably the best solution before the government. Although, all the selected newspapers appreciated the decision of lockdown taken by the government, still a deep concern was also expressed as it would be very difficult to handle the circumstances since the present administrative officials do not have any experience to deal with such an issue. The metaphor '*Jaan hai to Jahaan hai*' (It means we would be able to enjoy the luxury of life only if we could survive in present crisis) was aptly used by the Prime Minister during the announcement of lockdown but the newspapers were known to the fact that in an unplanned lockdown, it is the '*Jaan*' (life) which will be first in danger due to the side effects of the lockdown. In editorials, newspapers raised various questions about the implementation of lockdown and challenges coming before governments and authorities.

According to **The Times of India** a sound economic chain and access to food and health facilities are major issues to be entertained. **Dainik Jagran** talked about the social distancing process which is very hard to follow in congested areas of India. Besides this, it raised the issues like safety of health personnel's, testing facility and food supply chain throughout the country. **Hindustan Times** raised another important issue which is the enforcement of lockdown by extra-legal measures. It is rightly imagined that in the times of chaos law enforcement agencies may try to use extra-legal measures which can be counter-productive at this time. The newspaper also emphasized that maintaining the law and order during the days of lockdown should be for safeguarding the future of the people, not for imprisoning them. The State must ensure to minimize pain, maximize the of fulfillment basic needs. **Indian Express** was much concerned about the success of the lockdown because sometimes during sensitive circumstances the faith of the people on the government and vice versa get weakens.

The Hindu said that the unprecedented lockdown can work only if government helps people stay home bound and should focus on the wellbeing of poor and marginalized. **The Tribune** talked about the large number of poor people employed in the informal sector who are living away from homes and for them food and shelter is a basic necessity. The most surprising thing is that all the above discussed challenges and concerns were experienced by the authorities. In this sense, editorials of major newspapers understood the situation very well and executed their responsibility by raising issues and telling the government about its loopholes.

2. Relief Package

The second important thing which the government did after lockdown was the announcement of relief package of about 1.7 Lakh Crore. The package was declared almost two days after the PM announced the lockdown on Tuesday night *i.e.*, March 24. Almost all the Hindi newspapers selected for the study hailed the package but their concern was regarding the delivery of the package to the needy. The Hindi Dailies raised the issues of shortage of ATMs in rural areas, corruption in PDS (Public Distribution System) and identification of the beneficiaries. They were not convinced that relief package will reach to the last man in the queue. Announcement of the package is one thing and its reach to the needy is another and particularly in Indian context.

On the other hand, English newspapers were more concerned with the reviving of economy. They said that relief package is good but it will not help in reviving the economy and government needs to focus on revival of the worsening condition of Indian economy. **Indian Express** said that PM-KISAN (*Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi*- A scheme of Indian government for the upliftment of farmers) is not an additional allocation rather government tried to balance the fiscal deficit through it. It doubts the functioning of PDS system and the actual reach of food and cereals to the deserving man. According to **The Hindu** at some point soon, the government will have to break the fiscal deficit shackles. **The Tribune** has thrown the light on the issue that the government must ensure that the benefits should reach the intended beneficiaries. This doubt was raised because of an incident happened in year 2007 in West Bengal when widespread corruption in the food distribution system triggered the food riots. A repeat of this mayhem is not ruled out, unless the government tries to remove the bottlenecks virtually overnight to reach out to genuine beneficiaries. **Hindustan Times** said that decision of Direct Benefit Transfer in the relief package was much satisfactory but it pressurized on to shore up business and economy.

The day after the announcement of relief package by the Finance minister, RBI (Reserve Bank of India) announced some relief measures for the banks and customers. The RBI has asked all lending institutions to allow a three-month moratorium on EMI payments. The central bank has also allowed banks to defer repayment of interest on working capital loans till June. **Times of India** said that the highlight of this package is that RBI has chosen to prioritize financial stability. Now, government needs to back this with a fiscal response. Hindi newspapers unanimously agreed it will provide liquidity in the market. Besides this, it will positively affect the middle class and MSMEs. **Indian Express** elaborated that these measures are just initial and as the pandemic evolves, it will demand more. But RBI has shown that it will not hesitate to take conventional and unconventional measures to float the economy. Above and all, these measures were appreciated whole heartily by the newspapers.

3. Migrants Movement

As were anticipated by the newspapers during the lockdown announcement, thousands of migrant workers started their journey to their villages on foot. Suddenly, all the objectives of lockdown shattered and public health challenge turned into humanitarian crisis. **Dainik Bhasker** blamed the government for unplanned lockdown and asked that why food was not given to them two days before the lockdown. It blamed the local administration for this mayhem. **Dainik Jagran** highlighted the Prime Minister's apology to the migrant workers. This apology itself proved the point of unplanned lockdown. **Hindustan** newspaper pointed another important issue of non-coordination between the center and the states. It emphasized on the federal structure of government in which center and states work together for common good of the people. Newspapers appreciated the states for handling the situation. **The Times of India** said that the abrupt announcement of the lockdown and directions to citizens to stay put saw contradictory impulses surfacing. Police forced even essential services off the roads while many landlords nudged out tenants unable to pay rent. **Hindustan Times** explained that poor planning led to the exodus of migrant workers. A great human tragedy is underway; the central and state governments need to remedy this by being sensitive to the needs of migrant workers, while preventing a health crisis.

4. Tabligi Jamaat

As all this was going on, suddenly Tabligi Jamaat in Delhi posed another challenge before the authorities. At the time of biggest human tragedy, religious angle was surfaced and the whole media coverage was shifted from Corona crisis to Jamaat crisis. **Jansatta and Dainik Bhasker** explained it in a balanced way. They said that it was a serious offence on the part of Jamaat but other stakeholders like Delhi police, Home ministry and Delhi government are equally responsible. **The Tribune** blamed the religious body, but also mentioned that it is wrong to vilify a community. **Hindustan Times** agreed to the fact that the gathering of Jamaat was an offensive act. Besides this, it also pointed out that after this unfortunate activity the focus of the authorities should be on identifying and tracing out the locations of the people participated in the assembly and testing them for the infection. The concept of Hotspot

emerged from this crisis. **Indian Express** said that the act by Tabligi has hurt the feelings of every faith. This battle can be won at community level and it is the responsibility of community leaders to make it happen.

5. American President Trump's Statement

In the meantime, American President gave a statement regarding supply of HCQ (Hydroxychloroquine) medicine for the treatment of COVID-19 in which he tried to rebuke India. He said that America will retaliate if India would not supply HCQ to U.S. Most of the newspapers did not cover the matter. But it was a big statement as before the outbreak of corona virus, President Trump visited India and both the leaders, Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and President Donald Trump were showed great association with each other. **Dainik Jagran** said that it is disrespect to the diplomacy ethics. The newspaper described this statement as immature. Newspaper also mentioned that India showed more maturity in its response as India agreed to provide HCQ to every needy. Although it is important to mention that English newspapers did not write exclusively regarding the matter.

6. Essential Equipments for Health Workers

In this whole crisis, one of the most important things is health infrastructure. The main purpose of the lockdown was to get time to improve the health facilities in the country. It was shocking that Hindi newspapers did not write any exclusive editorial on health infrastructure. In a few editorials of Hindi dailies the matter was touched but in a not much in a sensitive way. **Nav Bharat Times** wrote that there is a shortage of instruments and it is the duty of the government to provide essential equipments to the doctors. It is like that soldiers have been sent in the battlefields without guns. Safety of medical staff should be the prime concern of the government. **Times of India** said that they need full support in this time of crisis. The newspaper appreciated the laudable step of government of providing Rs 50 lakh insurance cover to all healthcare professionals. But it also emphasized that the real need is personal protection equipments (PPEs) which are in short supply. **Hindustan Times** explained aptly that each passing day without adequate gear puts at risk the lives of doctors, medical staff, their families, and patients they are treating. It deals a blow to the morale of the medical fraternity. There are already reports of doctors and nurses contemplating mass resignations which authorities are in no position to accept. The government should empathize with the frontline workers and should act by giving them what they actually need to save their lives and lives of the citizens. **Indian Express** said that PPEs supply will be possible with international cooperation. Their distribution should be equitable. English newspapers wrote on all the aspects of safety for health workers and on infrastructure in detail.

7. Attack on Health Workers

In the times of crisis, it is the duty of the media to report with quite responsibility. In the country like India where social, educational and income differences are so high that it is near impossible to implement the lockdown in full spirit. It should not be supposed that the whole nation will get the guidelines exactly as they were told. In the middle of the lockdown, suddenly the whole focus turned towards the Tabligi Jamaat incident. There is no denying to the fact that Tabligi Jamaat was a blunder mistake. The behavior of the people from Jamaat was not appropriate at some hospitals. But, the coverage of the whole incident by electronic and social media has provided space for fake news and disturbance in the country.

The whole Muslim community was blamed. Whereas some incidents came in the light in which nurses were humiliated by the residents of their society. Pilots from Air India were humiliated by the residents of their colony. **Dainik Jagran** wrote that attacks on health workers should be considered as sedition. It asked for a rigorous imprisonment for attackers. But unfortunately, its whole concentration was on Tabligi Jamaat. **Dainik Bhaskar** on the other hand wrote with great sense of maturity and called upon to the opinion leaders of the society to come forward in this situation.

Jansatta newspaper demanded that strict action should be taken against those who attacked the doctors. **Times of India** wrote rightly that grip of fear, panic and hate induced by fake news has begun affecting the peace of the citizens. Authorities need to fine tune communication strategies and win over those swayed by false narratives or social indoctrination. **The Hindu** wrote that the safety of the health workers is the responsibility of the government. It focused on incidents but not on religious basis. **Dainik Bhaskar** in its editorial has targeted the people who are abusing health workers. The newspaper writes that if some people are not allowing doctors to enter the society, while some are threatening them to vacate the houses. The newspaper has recommended a strict action against such people. In fact, these incidents are reprehensible and this will lower the morale of people associated with the medical profession. The newspaper writes that the medical personnel are the real warriors in the fight against Covid-19 epidemic and that everyone should respect them.

8. Reviving Economy

After the lockdown announcement, it was the economy which was discussed at large. **Hindustan Times** perfectly explained that the nature of the disease is such that there is an inherent tension between preserving lives which involves large scale lockdowns, restrictions on travel, and social distancing and economic activity which is based on mobility, migration, supply chains, trade, demand, and consumption. **Indian Express** made a very valid point that economy is a living machine. The distinction between essential and non-essential commodities is not a good idea. Sugar is essential but it needs sugarcane and other chemicals to be made. **Nav Bharat Times** advocated the resumption of economic activities on a limited level. **Jansatta** highlighted what the prime Minister said that *Jaan* (means life) is important but *Jahaan* (means world) is also equally important. Within the 10 days of lock down, Prime Minister realized that economic activities are as important as lives. English Newspapers were more concerned with reviving economy in comparison to Hindi newspapers. American president was more concerned with the economy but the Prime Minister of India chose human lives as more important over the economy. But, India is not in a position to hold economic activities for too long. **The Times of India** said that Covid-19 crisis should catalyze an economic reforms push. Instead self-reliance should be re-coded to mean transforming India into an export powerhouse, for which a general openness to imports is essential. There is no other way by which India can become globally competitive. It's time to be bold. A casual approach in today's context could tip India into recession.

9. Fake News

One more important thing which created chaos during lockdown was speculations about the extension of lockdown by media. **Dainik Jagran** wrote that it is unfortunate that speculations were being made for extension of lockdown. **Hindustan** wrote that mainstream electronic media broadcast various programs regarding this. This coverage made the migrant workers anxious. Supreme Court of India had to intervene into the matter and it directed the government to make arrangements to counter the Fake news. **Hindustan** newspaper called fake news a virus which is more dangerous than corona virus. Newspaper writes that sometime it seems that it is easy to fight against corona virus in comparison to fake news virus. The whole world is experiencing this virus in one form or the other. English newspapers were talking about the exit plan of lockdown and they were more serious about the resuming of economic activities. In this sense, they were more accurately concerned with the right thing. They hailed the announcement made by the home ministry regarding the extension of lockdown in which the ministry refused to extend the lockdown.

10. Media Censorship on Covid-19 Coverage

The exodus of migrant workers was the biggest incident that took place during of the lockdown. Supreme Court of India listened to the petition regarding this. Government blamed the Fake news for this exodus. The government argued in the Supreme Court that to prevent fake news, it should have control over the news that is published during the lockdown, and especially the news related to Covid-19 which is released by the government.

The Indian Express wrote that fake news could be a reason for that but absence of credible communication and assurance from the government also contributed in this. It said that only official communication that the migrants received were delivered by the policeman's heavy handness. The Supreme Court rightly directed the government to activate a mechanism for delivering official updates on the coronavirus crisis and measure to contain it every 24 hours. But, health bulletin and statements made by the government officials may not depict the actual picture of the crisis. It must be supplemented with critical reporting of facts and figures by the mainstream media.

Navbharat Times in its editorial has expressed deep concern over the government's insistence on controlling the news. The government believes that the situation in the lock down worsened due to misinformation given by traditional media, social media and other information media. The government's attitude was criticized in the editorial. It was written in the editorial that the media is fully accountable, that if the news depended only on government sources, then its consequences could be quite fatal. It is a violation of freedom of expression by the government to take the control over news in front of any crisis. The newspaper has written in its editorial that in emergency situation, the media always operates wisely with the government in national interest. Pulling it excessively is not good for a democratic society like India. It was shocking that the solicitor general of India requested for a direction to restrain the media from publishing and reporting anything without ascertaining the factual position from the government. The purpose of this request was to control information. **The Hindu** praised the Supreme Court for not accepting the request.

The Indian Express wrote that people have the right to information. This right needs to put on the list of essential service during the lockdown so that it can bring credible news of the pandemic both to the people and the government. It has done its job and will continue to do so. That is the essential service protected by the constitution. This kind of request from government regarding media censorship in the Supreme Court was not covered by 7 newspapers out of 10 selected for the study. One more important aspect which makes Indian media more credible is the editorial written by **Hindustan**. In this particular editorial newspaper reported a research which was carried out by America's medical institute **GoodRX**. In this research, peoples from the lockdown states were asked regarding the same and it was found that more than 15 percent people did not know that this lockdown was being implemented on them. In some states that percentage was more than 50 percent. This aspect of American lockdown might be analyzed in different ways but one thing is quite clear that media in the America could not perform well as far as information dissemination is concerned.

11. Extension of Lockdown

By the time first lockdown was about to complete, it became clear to the governments that extension of the lockdown was need of the time, but with some modifications.

Hindustan Times talked about a Smart Lockdown as it became clear that India needs another lockdown. It emphasized on India needs to get both health and the economy right. On Saturday, Prime Minister said, "*Jaan bhi, Jahaan bhi*" (means life and economy both are equally important). Here PM seemed to hint that India also has to restore a degree of economic normalcy and allow everyday life to resume, where possible. It is time to move to the next phase of, as a government official put it, "Smart Lockdown". Besides this, it pointed out that the intra-government communication is an illustration of the gap that exists between policy framed at the top, and implementation on the ground. It is revealing that the commerce ministry is complaining to the home ministry, which in turn, is telling the states to improve their record, two-and-a half weeks into the lockdown. This shows that for this duration, many industries, businesses, and peoples suffered due to this.

Times of India published editorial for second lockdown as '**Life, Livelihoods.**' Between the pandemic and poverty, India has tough choices. So, the lockdown cannot be absolute. By April's end, the window for extending the lockdown will rapidly shrink irrespective of the Covid-19 trajectory. Strategies other than extension of lockdown will have to be conceived in the interim to bring back the life on track. Shielding vulnerable sections like the elderly from the disease could become one focus area. April-June is a critical agricultural season in India. Social distancing must be tweaked for it. It is also time to reform land leasing legislations to give farmers more options. Often times, agriculture is seen as a drag on the rest of the economy. This time, it can be at the forefront of revival.

Dainik Bhasker included that lockdown-2 should be more calculative and some sort of economic activities must be permitted. It focused on the harvesting season and advocated for a farmer sensitive lockdown.

The Tribune wrote that the lockdown may continue, but a graded plan on easing restrictions can check economic distress and social tension. Getting into the lockdown was tough, getting out of it is going to be tougher.

12. Other important National and International Activities

During the lock down period some major incident other than corona virus also took place. For example, Gurudwara was attacked in Afghanistan and 25 people killed, Withdraw by Bernie Sanders, cease fire violation in Kashmir, but these big incidents were not covered in editorials of almost all the selected newspaper for the study except Jansatta which discussed about the Afghanistan and Kashmir issue.

Isolation had a bad effect on mental health during the lock down. The issue was discussed in **Navbharat Times**. Citing a survey conducted by Indian Psychiatric Society, the newspaper wrote in its editorial that during the first week of the lockdown, a 20 percent increase in mental illness was reported. The editorial says that the lockdown has made human realize the importance of the real world not only from practical point of view but also from psychological point of view.

Hindustan Times covered a very unique topic '**Disasters can lead to peace**'. It said that In Indonesia, it was after the natural disaster that the government and separatists in the Aceh province signed a peace deal, ending an armed conflict. The Maoist has offered a ceasefire and said that it will not launch any attacks on police personnel till the threat of the pandemic subsides and asked for a response from the government. Further the newspaper mentioned that crisis such as the pandemic should make all stakeholders in a conflict recognize that there are common challenges humanity faces and there is a bigger battle to be fought, in unity with each other, not in conflict.

Major Findings of the Study

1. All the newspaper predicted that lockdown will be a mess and surprisingly it happened as they predicted. It is a matter of joy and sorrow at the same time. Newspaper understand the shortcomings of India very well, it is a matter of joy but lockdown was not implemented very well, it is a matter of sorrow.
2. Seven newspapers out of the ten did not write anything about the government's effort to censor the media. It is unfortunate that they remained silent on a very crucial topic in the middle of a pandemic.
3. It is also very unfortunate that not even a single newspaper wrote anything about the irresponsible behavior of electronic media, particularly on the treatment to the Tabligi Jamaat incidence. Inter-media criticism in the middle of a crisis could help the newspapers in becoming more responsible.
4. Newspapers even did not recognize that major reason behind the exodus of migrants was because of the mainstream electronic media as they were discussing the extension of lockdown and creating panic about corona virus.
5. Newspapers wrote editorials in an overall balanced way about the Tabligi Jamaat incident. They did not communalize the issue and suggested that government should learn from this incident and try to find other hotspots of Covid-19.
6. One thing that newspapers wrote about time and again was the safety of health workers. It showed that they were writing by understanding the need of the hour and by this way they performed their duty very well.
7. English newspapers were writing about the economy from the first day of the lockdown. Whereas Hindi newspapers were not so much concerned about economy in the beginning but as the time passed, they too wrote on it.
8. English newspapers wrote about the exit plan of the lockdown.
9. English newspapers covered topics like family time, salaried class, unemployment crisis, disasters can lead to peace. On the other side, Hindi newspaper did not touch soft topics related to middle class and other positive issues in the pandemic.

Conclusion

In the nutshell, Indian newspapers have performed their duty with maturity and according to the established patterns. At the time of crisis, it is the duty of the media to criticize the government constructively, guide it towards other unknown aspects of crisis and suggest the best possible solutions to the anticipated problems. Besides this, it should evolve a consensus for government's decisions among people and direct them to behave maturely. It has become more important in the situation where fake news through some of the irresponsible news channels of electronic and social media have the maximum reach to the people.

Newspapers showed that they have the experience of about 200 years and they once again proved their maturity. They maintained the diversity as well as unity at the same time. Their editorial policy will again guide the media towards responsibility. It is a crisis that happens once in a life time, and newspapers are far ahead from other so called performative media.

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