

**Notification No. 560/2024**

**Date of Notification: June 14, 2024**

**Name of Scholar: Nishant Kumar Bhardwaj**

**Name of Supervisor: Prof. Manisha T. Pandey**

**Name of Dept: Sociology**

**Name of Topic: Media and Environment: Reality and Representation of Kosi River Floods in Bihar**

**Keywords: Media, Environment, Flood, Framing, Content Analysis, Representation, Kosi**

### **Findings**

The findings discuss the reality around Kosi river floods (constructed and observed) and representation of Kosi river floods besides process of the news-making related to environment, mainly Kosi river floods in regional newspapers in Bihar. The findings of the research are placed under the following themes:

**Nature and Culture:** The nature and culture both is very much embedded in the Kosi basin area and people live here in a symbiotic relationship with the nature.

**Man and Nature Conflict:** The barrage on India-Nepal border on the river, hydropower project and embankments on both the sides of Kosi river and the proposed multi-purpose dam on it near Varahkshetra in Nepal (by India) are some example of interventions in the river. Now, due to embankments, there is high silt deposition in the areas inside the same besides frequent breaches in the embankments thus causing severe devastation and severe seepage outside the bandh which have become an identity mark of the man-nature conflict in the Kosi basin area.

**Reality Around Kosi River Floods:** The present research has investigated the constructed reality and the observed reality along the Kosi river floods. Overall, the constructed reality and the observed reality which the researcher experienced during the present investigation confirmed the embeddedness of nature with culture in the area besides an adverse aftereffect of the modernization in terms of construction of the embankments along with the Kosi river to tame it.

**Representation of Kosi River Floods:** The content analysis of all the three newspapers carrying a total of 387 news stories on Kosi river floods during a time period of three months indicated that it is the local editions of the Hindi newspapers which opt to highlight the flood issues and problems faced by the people due to floods more as compared to the mainstream English daily.

**Discourses and Actions Related to the Kosi River Floods:** The news frames set by the newspapers trace the discourses and actions related to the Kosi river floods while giving salience to any issue over others. Major frames which were set by the newspapers to establish the discourses related to flood news stories were crisis, attribution of responsibility and economic consequences.

**Process of News Making Related to Kosi River Floods:** Under this theme, the results of the study concluded that most of the ongoing debates related to the woes of Kosi floods have been circling around excessive rains from Nepal and faulty embankments. Though, very less salary for them, sometimes issue of not getting bylines, pressure of getting advertisements for the newspaper are some constraints, which make them feel at low in their job and impact the flood reporting.