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**Title: Minorities and Print Media: A Study of Select English Newspapers with Reference to Muslims in India:1986-2007**

This study, titled ‘Minorities and Print Media: A Study of Select English Newspapers with Reference to Muslims in India:1986-2007’ is an attempt to examine how India’s two major leading broadsheet English dailies (‘The Times of India’ and ‘The Hindu’) looked at four major episodes that profoundly impacted the lives of contemporary Indian Muslims. The study examines how these dailies covered the Shah Bano case, the Babri Masjid demolition, the 2002 Gujarat carnage and the Sachar Committee Report and seeks to find out the aspects that were left out in the coverage.

The method of content analysis was used for this study. All kind news elements in a newspaper such as reports, headlines, sub headings, straps, introduction of a report, photos, captions, cartoons, editorials, analyses and letters to editors were carefully studied for the research purpose. Other than this, primary data were obtained from the reporters who covered some of these events. Interviews of editors, news editors and chief sub editors, who are responsible for selection of news, were also taken. Views of political activists, academics and religious leaders who are quoted or responded to the media reports have also been included. The secondary sources also include government’s policy statements, debates in Parliament, books, journals, Internet sources and so on.

The study concludes that Indian media (both regional and national) do play an undeniable role in the process of creating a mass hysteria against the Muslims, who constitutes 13 per cent of its total population of India. Indian media, by limiting their role in exposing the everyday life of common Muslims and their socio-economic deprivations to the audience, who belongs to a multi ethnic society, failed to portray the 'real' life of Indian Muslims. A public perception is constructed by the media that the Muslims are not part of "our" culture and they are the "others" who have invaded "our" space.

Though these two newspapers played a positive role in highlighting the problems of Indian Muslims in identity-related (Shah Bano) or security-related (Babri Masjid, Gujarat) issues, they failed to focus on the economic and social deprivation (Sachar) of Muslims. This was visible in the coverage and follow-ups of the Sachar Committee Report. The scanty reporting of Muslim material deprivation establishes the media houses' reliance on market forces and neo liberal policies by the Centre and States. As Elizabeth Poole (2002) in her work on the media representations of British Muslims argues, the media limited the information and knowledge and understanding on Islam to their audience, who show desire to learn more on the "other" culture. Here, the Indian media, by limiting their role in exposing the everyday life of common Muslims and their socio-economic deprivations to the audience, who belong to a multi-ethnic society, failed to portray the 'real' life of Indian Muslims.