



An Analysis on Portrayal of Rohingya Muslims: Representations in Mainstream and Social Media

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Abstract: This research examines how Muslims of the Rohingya ethnic group are portrayed in mainstream and social media, with an emphasis on analysing the themes, biases, and framing strategies used in media coverage of the crisis. The concentrate additionally explores how popular assessment and feelings towards the Rohingya bunch are impacted by media portrayal. Through a mixed-methods approach that combines qualitative media content analysis and a survey questionnaire distributed to a significant number of participants, this study aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of how the media influence public opinion.

As per the review's discoveries, the traditional press reliably depicts Muslims from the Rohingya ethnic gathering in an offensive and one-sided way. The media frequently reinforces stereotypes and preconceived notions, influencing public opinion and increasing the marginalization of the Rohingya minority. The evaluation of media content demonstrates the significance of responsible reporting and critical analysis in stopping the dissemination of misleading narratives and false information.

The respondents' media consumption habits and level of familiarity with the Rohingya crisis are also examined in the survey questionnaire. It suggests that a significant number of people are getting information about the crisis from social media, online news sources, and television news channels. The study also identifies a correlation between media coverage and awareness of the ongoing challenges the Rohingya population faces.

In addition, the study emphasizes the significance of media literacy and knowledge in addressing concerns regarding media representation. People with media literacy can evaluate media content critically, recognise biases, and identify trustworthy information sources. It gives people the power to interact with the media in an ethical manner and actively participate in influencing the public debate.

This study offers insightful information for media professionals, decision-makers, and advocacy groups by illuminating the interactions between media, public perception, and the Rohingya crisis. In order to encourage honest and fair reporting on the Rohingya issue and to create empathy, understanding, and support for the Rohingya community, it advocates for moral and objective media practises. The results of this study add to the larger conversation about media representation and how it affects communities of colour, emphasising the need for a more responsible and inclusive media environment.

In conclusion, this study emphasises how important the media is in influencing how people feel about the Rohingya situation and how they view the world. It highlights the need for media outlets to reflect critically on how they present the Rohingya community, work towards fair and objective reporting, and encourage media literacy among the audience. By doing this, the media can influence public perception favourably, encourage sympathy, support, educated decision-making, and possibly make a significant difference in how the ongoing situation is handled.

Keywords: Rohingya crisis, media portrayal, social media, mainstream media, media literacy

1. INTRODUCTION

A stateless ethnic and religious minority, the Rohingya Muslims are mostly found in the Rakhine State of Myanmar (Burma). They have a unique language, culture, and history, and the most of them are Sunni Muslims. The Rohingya have ancient origins, and historical reports indicate that they have lived in the area for many years. They are thought to have regional ancestry and have been influenced by native peoples as well as Arab and Persian commerce. A distinct Rohingya identity emerged over time as a result of intermarriage with the local people and conversion to Islam.

Muslims from the Rohingya ethnic group are thought to number roughly 1.1 million in Myanmar, though this figure is subject to change owing to migration and displacement. The term "Rohingya" has been used by the community for generations to identify themselves, showing a long-standing presence in the region. The Rohingya language, which is close to a Chittagonian dialect of Bengali, bolsters their long connection to the region.

In Myanmar, the Rohingya have a long history of persecution and discrimination. Despite historical evidence of their residence in the region for generations, Myanmar's government has denied them citizenship and deems them unlawful immigrants from Bangladesh. The Rohingya Muslims demanded acknowledgment of and protection for their rights as an ethnic and religious

minority group after Burma's 1948 independence from British rule. The Rohingya were further marginalised by the 1982 passing of the Burmese Citizenship Law, which left them off the list of recognised ethnic groups and thus made them stateless.

The discriminatory laws and practises enforced on the Rohingya have resulted in their marginalisation, denial of basic rights, and limited access to education, healthcare, and work prospects. The terrible human rights crimes committed against the Rohingya population in recent years have brought the Rohingya situation to the attention of the world community. When a military crackdown followed attacks by Rohingya insurgents, the crisis worsened and many Rohingya refugees fled into Bangladesh. The military's actions have been labelled as probable genocide and ethnic purification by the United Nations.

The suffering of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh has resulted in one of the world's greatest and most intricate catastrophes for humanity. Currently, more than a million Rohingya refugees live in overcrowded conditions in Bangladeshi refugee camps, with little access to essentials like clean water and sanitation. Overcrowding in these camps has put a strain on the host nation's assets and capacity. The Rohingya persecution has been denounced by the world community, and violence and violations of human rights have been demanded to stop. Numerous accounts of mass murder, sexual assault, arson, and forcible eviction committed by the Myanmar military and security forces have been documented by human rights organizations and UN bodies. Myanmar is being sued by the International Court of Justice (ICJ), which has charged it with committing acts of genocide against the Rohingya. The portrayal of Rohingya Muslims in the media, both mainstream and social, has been a topic of research and analysis. Public perception, policy actions, and the development of empathy for marginalised people are all significantly influenced by media representations. The purpose of this research of media coverage of the Rohingya issue is to identify biases, prejudices, and framing tactics used by various media platforms. It aims to shed light on the crisis's intricacies, promote factual reporting, challenge dominant narratives, and contribute to a better understanding of the Rohingya population.

The Rohingya crisis is being addressed by governments, international organisations, and humanitarian organisations. The Rohingya refugees are receiving humanitarian aid from aid organisations in the form of food, water, shelter, and medical care. The necessity for citizenship rights, human rights protection, and a viable repatriation and reintegration procedure are among the long-term solutions to the situation, which must be addressed.

It is important to note that the Rohingya Muslims are a minority on the margins who are subjected to terrible violations of human rights and are displaced. While efforts are made to provide humanitarian aid and address the crisis' root causes, the international community has called for an end to the violence and discrimination against the Rohingya. By examining how the Rohingya issue has been portrayed in the media, we can better comprehend the situation and advocate for the Rohingya people's right to justice, accountability, and protection of their human rights. Concerns regarding human rights, refugee protection, and the role of the international community in dealing with such crises have been highlighted by the situation of the Rohingya. Additionally, it has highlighted the complexity of the ethnic and religious divisions in Myanmar as well as the pressing demand for the Rohingya population's human rights protection, justice, and accountability. The Rohingya Muslims have endured ongoing discrimination, persecution, and marginalisation in Myanmar. The international community must take a holistic approach to the Rohingya crisis in order to handle it, give humanitarian aid, and work towards a lasting solution. This is because of their protracted existence in the area and their battles for recognition and fundamental rights.

1.1 NEED OF THE STUDY.

- (i) To investigate the representation of Rohingya Muslims in mainstream and social media.
- (ii) To analyse the impact of media representations on public perception and attitude towards Rohingya Muslims.

1.2. Research Questions

1. What are the prevalent prejudices and preconceptions that influence how Muslims from Rohingya are portrayed in social media and the mainstream media?
2. What impact do media portrayals of Rohingya Muslims have on public opinion and attitudes towards the Rohingya crisis?
3. What fundamental distinctions exist between how Muslims from the Rohingya minority are portrayed in traditional media and on social media?

1.3. Hypothesis

1. As a result of biases, unfavourable preconceptions, and a lack of representation, the Rohingya minority will be marginalised and dehumanised in the mainstream media's portrayal of Muslims. Social media platforms will offer a broader range of opinions and narratives about Muslims from the Rohingya ethnic group, challenging depictions in the mainstream media and giving a voice to those who are marginalised in the community.
2. Media portrayals of Rohingya Muslims will shape public opinion and result in a variety of opinions, including empathy, sympathy, indifference, and even prejudice and discrimination.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Due to the ongoing Rohingya crisis and the ensuing humanitarian concerns, media portrayals of Muslims from the Rohingya minority have received a lot of attention over the past few years. This literature review attempts to provide a thorough overview of the current research and scholarly works, looking at how Rohingya Muslims are portrayed in both traditional media and social media platforms. This review attempts to synthesise the existing body of information in order to identify essential topics, theoretical frameworks, techniques, and gaps for further study in order to comprehend the complex representation of Rohingya Muslims in media.

2.1. Historical background and influence of the media:

Examining the historical setting and the function of the media in influencing public opinion are necessary for comprehending how Muslims from Rohingya are portrayed. Studies by Silverstein (2019) explore the historical causes of the marginalisation of Muslims from the Rohingya ethnic group in Myanmar and highlight the interaction between media narratives and general public

opinions. The author contends that the media's representation of the Rohingya as a marginalised and "othered" minority has been impacted by the historical legacy of ethno-religious tensions as well as the power dynamics of the Myanmar state. Mahmood (2018), mirroring the larger socio-political dynamics in the area, emphasises the role of the media in maintaining preconceptions and biases against the Rohingya. According to the author, media portrayals have exacerbated societal prejudices and bad perceptions about Muslims from the Rohingya ethnic group. The work of Mahmood emphasises how crucial it is to carefully consider how the media shapes public views and attitudes.

2.2. Assertions of bias, preconceived notions, and framing:

The portrayal of Muslims from the Rohingya ethnic group in popular culture has been the subject of extensive research on prejudices, stereotypes, and framing strategies. Ahmed et al. (2017) examine how the Rohingya crisis is framed in international news media by reviewing news reports from various nations. According to the study, the Rohingyas are frequently portrayed as threats, criminals, or victims, illuminating the nuanced ways in which media narratives affect how the public views certain groups. The authors contend that these frameworks support unfavourable preconceptions and aid in the dehumanisation of the Rohingya population.

In their investigation of the discursive techniques used to undermine the Rohingya people's demands for justice and recognition, Ibrahim and Martin (2019) concentrate on how the Rohingya crisis is framed in British publications. The authors highlight how language, imagery, and discursive tactics play a part in influencing how the general public views the Rohingya by identifying patterns of victim-blaming, othering, and dehumanisation in media portrayals. Their findings highlight the need for critical analysis of the media to dispel misconceptions and advance a more thorough comprehension of the Rohingya crisis.

2.3. Alternative narratives on social media:

The emergence of social media platforms has altered the media landscape by creating new venues for stories and the distribution of knowledge. Daniels (2020) investigates how social media, particularly user-generated content and citizen journalism, shape perceptions of Muslims from the Rohingya ethnic group. The study looks at how social media sites like Twitter have aided in the communication of information, amplified the voices of those who are typically silenced, and rallied sympathy for the Rohingya cause. According to Daniels, social media may offer a platform for different viewpoints and contradict the stories that are typically told in the mainstream media.

Rahman (2019) explores how social media activism has heightened awareness of the Rohingya Muslims' situation. In order to mobilise attention and spread awareness about the situation, the study investigates the use of hashtags like #Rohingya and #SaveRohingya. Rahman claims that social media activity has been essential in challenging the prevailing discourses, disputing mainstream media narratives, and increasing global support for the Rohingya cause. These studies highlight the potential for alternative narratives and counter-discourses to confront depictions in the media and provide unheard voices a forum.

2.4. Ethics in media coverage and media responsibility:

Researchers have also looked at the ethical issues and media accountability when covering the Rohingya situation. Farmanfarmaian (2018) examines the moral conundrums that journalists and media outlets encounter when covering humanitarian disasters, such as the Rohingya crisis. The study emphasises the difficulties in juggling the requirements of providing thorough coverage and bringing attention to human rights breaches with the journalistic standards of objectivity, accuracy, and responsibility. The author urges responsible media practises that put the dignity and welfare of the impacted populations first. The Rohingya crisis is the backdrop for Chouliaraki's (2019) investigation of the moral ramifications of humanitarian communication. The study critically investigates the ways that media portrayals of the crisis can both inform and take advantage of vulnerable populations. According to Chouliaraki, media organisations must question prevailing narratives, abstain from exaggeration, and give priority to the voices and agency of the impacted people. In order to achieve ethical media depiction, the study emphasises the significance of reflective and responsible storytelling.

2.5. Effect on the Rohingya community and global reaction:

It is vital to comprehend how the Rohingya community is affected by media portrayals and how the world reacts to them. In their 2021 study, Evershed and Whitson investigate the psychological and emotional effects that media portrayals have on Rohingya people and communities. The study investigates the Rohingya refugees' impressions of media coverage as well as their experiences as refugees. The results highlight how unfavourable depictions can cause trauma, marginalisation, and other undesirable emotions. The writers place emphasis on the requirement for moral reporting that fosters compassion, humanises the Rohingya, and encourages their resiliency.

The significance of media narratives in influencing policy responses to the Rohingya issue is examined by Goodburn and Selim (2020). The study draws attention to the impact of media coverage on national policy, public opinion, and initiatives to provide international help. The authors contend that media portrayals have the power to alter national and international responses to humanitarian emergencies. The impact of the media in influencing public opinion and promoting empathy for the Rohingya is further examined by Vasterman (2018). The study emphasises the significance of truthful and fair media coverage to encourage an educated and sympathetic global response.

2.6. Future directions and gaps:

While the existing research offer insightful analysis into how Muslims from the Rohingya ethnic group are portrayed in popular culture and on social media, there are still some gaps that call for additional research. The influence of social media influencers, algorithms, and platform design on media representations of the Rohingya has received scant attention. The visibility and reach of content relating to the Rohingya could be affected by algorithms and social media platforms in the future, as well as the possibility of bias reinforcement via echo chambers or filter bubbles.

Additionally, more study is required on the opinions and encounters of Rohingya people in relation to media representations. Any analysis of media portrayal should place a strong emphasis on their voices and agency. It might be helpful to understand how

Rohingya people interact with and react to media narratives since doing so can reveal important information about their resiliency, tactics for constructing counternarratives, and possibilities for self-representation.

2.7. Citizen journalism and alternative media:

Along with social media, citizen journalism and alternative media have become significant resources for comprehending how Muslims from the Rohingya region of Myanmar are portrayed. Khan and Siddiquee (2018) investigate the function of alternative media sources in displacing established narratives and giving Rohingya voices a forum. In order to challenge established discourses and provide a more nuanced perspective of the situation, the study examines the content and effectiveness of alternative media sources, such as news websites and blogs that are specifically focused on the Rohingya community. This shows how alternative media can present opposing viewpoints and give voice to underrepresented groups.

2.8. Media advocacy for human rights:

Another important factor to consider when portraying Muslims from the Rohingya ethnic group is the junction of media advocacy and human rights. Studies by de la Cour Venning (2019) and McKinnon (2018) examine the part that media advocacy groups, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and human rights campaigners play in influencing media narratives and bringing attention to the Rohingya problem. These studies give information on the tactics used by human rights activists to counteract skewed perceptions, push for legislative modifications, and guarantee media accountability in their coverage of the Rohingya.

2.9. Perspectives from the Regional and International Media:

A deeper grasp of how the situation is portrayed globally can be gained by looking at how Muslims from the Rohingya minority are portrayed in local and international media. In their comparative research of media coverage from Bangladesh, India, and Malaysia, Mahmud and Rahman (2020) point out the differences in framing and representations across various geographic contexts. This comparative approach highlights the need for context-specific analysis when analysing media portrayals by demonstrating the impact of cultural, political, and historical aspects on media narratives.

2.10. Intersectional Perspectives:

When examining how gender, ethnicity, and religion intersect in media representations, an intersectional lens can provide insightful information about how Muslims from Rohingya are portrayed. In their 2019 study, Das and Mahbub look at how gendered narratives and stereotypes affect how Rohingya women are portrayed in the media and how they are marginalised and victimised. The study emphasises the value of investigating the unique experiences of Rohingya women and comprehending the gendered aspects of media depiction.

2.11. Online campaigns and Digital Activism:

Media narratives and public awareness of the Rohingya crisis have been greatly influenced by the usage of online activism and campaigns. Using examples like the #WeAreAllRohingya campaign, Mokhtar and Mohd Nasir (2021) examine how internet campaigns may mobilise support around the globe and subvert stereotypes in the media. The study emphasises the potential for digital activism to amplify underrepresented voices, promote unity, and shape the media's conversation. By giving viewpoints from alternative media, human rights advocacy, regional and global settings, intersectionality, and digital activism, these extra genres of literature offer further insights into how Muslims from the Rohingya ethnic group are portrayed in mainstream and social media.

In conclusion, this thorough literature review emphasises the study that has been done on how Muslims from the Rohingya ethnic group are portrayed in popular culture and on social media. It emphasises the necessity for critical study of these narratives and highlights the prejudices, preconceptions, and framing devices used in media depictions. The studies under evaluation show how media has a significant impact on public opinion, policy responses, and the general comprehension of the Rohingya situation. In order to promote more truthful and moral media coverage and to highlight the views of the Rohingya community, the gaps and future directions outlined in this assessment serve as a foundation for further study.

3. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The theoretical framework for this research is based on a few fundamental theories and ideas that offer a thorough understanding of representations in the media, predispositions, and the effects they have on the public's opinion. The framework incorporates concepts from the theories of media framing, agenda-setting, and social construction of reality.

3.1. MEDIA FRAMING THEORY: According to the media framing theory, media outlets have a significant influence on how the public perceives an issue or event by favouring some features over others and emphasising them in their coverage. This theory examines how language, imagery, and emphasis in the media shape a story's meaning and have an impact on the perceptions and behaviours of the general public when it comes to how Muslims from the Rohingya region are portrayed.

3.2. AGENDA-SETTING THEORY: According to the agenda-setting hypothesis, media outlets can affect the relevance and prominence of problems in public conversation. This theory aids in analysing how media coverage of the Rohingya issue influences which parts are emphasised and addressed, and how these priorities affect the general public's attention and policy reactions.

3.3. SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF REALITY THEORY: According to this idea, social interactions and processes have an impact on how we see the world. This theory provides for an assessment of how biases, preconceptions, and cultural narratives are created, maintained, and perpetuated through media portrayals, influencing public attitudes and perceptions in the case of media portrayals of Muslims from the Rohingya ethnic group.

This study aims to analyse the representation of Rohingya Muslims in mainstream and social media, comprehend the framing strategies used, look at the ability of media organisations to set agendas, and investigate the social construction of reality surrounding the Rohingya crisis by integrating these theoretical perspectives. This theoretical framework will give researchers a thorough lens

through which to evaluate the media environment and how it affects how the general public views and feels about Rohingya Muslims.

4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

4.1. RESEARCH DESIGN –

To examine how Muslims from the Rohingya ethnic group are portrayed in the media, this study takes a qualitative research approach. Qualitative approaches enable a thorough analysis of media narratives and content. The research strategy involves content analysis as the major tool for analysing media portrayals.

4.2. DATA COLLECTION -

(i) Analysis of mainstream media: A selection of news stories, opinion pieces, and articles from the general public about the Rohingya situation will be gathered. To offer a variety of viewpoints, the sample will incorporate a variety of sources. Reading and analysing the media content will be used to obtain data.

(ii) Social Media Analysis: Websites like Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube will be assessed for posts, comments, and multimedia materials pertinent to the Rohingya crisis. The analysis will concentrate on looking at social media conversation trends, the mes, and feelings.

4.3. DATA ANALYSIS

(i) Mainstream Media Analysis: Content analysis will be used to examine the media content that has been gathered. This entails detecting recurring themes, prejudices, stereotypes, and framing strategies in the representation of Muslims from Rohingya.

(ii) Content Analysis of social media: The social media content will also go through content analysis. The analysis will look at the variety of viewpoints, prevailing stories, and patterns of interaction in social media debates about the Rohingya crisis.

By following this research methodology, the study aims to examine how Muslims from the Rohingya ethnic group are portrayed in both mainstream and social media, providing important insights into the prevailing themes, biases, and framing strategies used. It also aims to comprehend how these portrayals may affect how the general public feels and behaves.

4.4. RESEARCH APPROACH

This study used a qualitative approach to research with some content and thematic analysis components. By analysing the information, stories, and themes offered, it seeks to develop a thorough understanding of how Muslims from the Rohingya ethnic group are portrayed in traditional and social media.

1. Content analysis:

A sampling of articles, news stories, and opinion pieces about the Rohingya crisis from the mainstream media will be thoroughly examined using content analysis. Purposive sampling will be used to choose the sample in order to ensure that the sources and time periods represented are diverse. The analysis will include classifying and categorising the content based on recognised themes, biases, stereotypes, and framing tactics.

2. Thematic Analysis:

Using thematic analysis, the contents of social media sites like Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube will be examined, with an emphasis on posts, comments, and audio-visual content relevant to the Rohingya crisis. The study will involve spotting reoccurring topics, feelings, and trends in social media dialogues.

3. Interpretation and Synthesis:

In order to get insight into how Rohingya Muslims are portrayed in both mainstream and social media, the results of the content analysis and thematic analysis will be interpreted and combined. Based on their possible influence on public perception and attitudes towards the Rohingya issue, the highlighted themes, biases, and framing strategies will be examined.

4.5. AN OVERVIEW OF THE ROHINGYA MUSLIMS' PAST

Although historians debate the precise origins of the Rohingya people, it is generally accepted that they are descended from a variety of ethnic groups, including Arab traders, Bengali Muslims, and native Rakhine communities. Muslims have been present in the area historically since the 8th century when Arab traders developed trading routes around the Bay of Bengal. A distinct Rohingya identity emerged over time as a result of marriages and cultural contact between Arab traders and local groups. The Rakhine Kingdom, also known as the Kingdom of Mrauk U, became well-known in the area in the 15th century. While maintaining their unique cultural and religious practises, the Rohingya Muslims coexisted with Buddhist and Hindu communities during this time. The Rohingya experienced turmoil when the monarchy began to fall apart in the 18th century.

The Rohingya were subjected to more persecution and subordination after the Burmese government, led by King Bodawpaya, seized Rakhine State in 1784. The Rohingya were viewed as foreigners by the Burmese rulers, who worked to exploit and marginalise them. Among other forms of oppression, the Rohingya were subjected to forced labour and high taxes. The Rohingya experienced some relief under British colonial control, which started around the middle of the 19th century. The Rohingya were accorded certain rights and privileges because the British acknowledged them as a unique ethnic and religious minority. The British hired a large number of Rohingya as labourers, teachers, and civil servants.

After Myanmar gained independence from Britain in 1948, things did, however, change. The Rohingya's rights and position were gradually diminished by the new government's policies. The marginalisation of the Rohingya was exacerbated in 1962 when a military dictatorship seized power in the nation. The Rohingya were consistently subjected to discriminatory practices and were denied citizenship by the Burmese government. The Rohingya were essentially denied basic rights and status as Myanmar citizens under the 1982 Citizenship Law, which was passed during the military regime. In Myanmar, tensions between the Rohingya minority and the Buddhist majority have risen over time, sporadically erupting in acts of violence and oppression. Early in the 1990s, Rakhine State experienced waves of violence that led to the mass emigration of hundreds of thousands of Rohingya, many of whom sought safety in neighbouring Bangladesh.

The widespread violence and crimes done against the Rohingya have brought their predicament to the attention of the world in recent years. Over 700,000 Rohingya were compelled to flee to Bangladesh as a result of the military crackdown in 2017, which

included massacres, assaults on women and girls, and the destruction of villages. This sparked one of the worst refugee crises in recent history. The violence against the Rohingya has been denounced as cultural cleansing and genocide by the United Nations and other human rights organisations. International pressure for accountability and justice for the atrocities committed against the Rohingya is still being applied while efforts to end the crisis and protect their rights and citizenship continue. Understanding the historical background of the Rohingya people is essential if one wants to comprehend the complex problems they confront, including injustice, relocation, and the denial of fundamental human rights.

4.6. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF MEDIA LITERACY AND AWARENESS IN UNDERSTANDING THE ROHINGYA CRISIS

Media literacy and awareness are crucial in the context of the Rohingya crisis because they are useful tools for combating misinformation, encouraging critical thinking, fostering empathy, and empowering individuals and communities to make informed decisions. The following examples illustrate the significance of media literacy and awareness:

Combating False Information and Stereotypes: In a time of information overload and the rapid spread of fake news, media literacy gives people the knowledge and skills they need to make sense of the sea of information at their disposal. By encouraging critical thinking, media literacy empowers people to distinguish between trustworthy and unreliable sources, doubt the veracity of information, and spot instances of bias or misinformation. This is particularly crucial in the context of the Rohingya crisis, when false information and stereotypes have reinforced stigmatisation of the Rohingya people. In order to provide a more accurate understanding of the problem, media literacy equips people to contest and disprove misleading narratives.

Promoting Fair and Inclusive Narratives: People who are media literate are more likely to look for a variety of viewpoints and different sources of information. It exhorts readers to evaluate a variety of opinions, especially those marginalised or excluded from traditional media channels, and to look beyond the narratives presented in mainstream media. People can gain a more thorough knowledge of the Rohingya crisis' intricacies, including the historical, political, and socioeconomic forces at work, through engagement with a variety of sources. In order to establish a more objective and well-informed opinion of the issue, those who are media literate are better able to evaluate media content critically and identify biases.

Empathy and Humanization: Media literacy promotes empathy and humanization by inspiring others to acknowledge the Rohingya people's shared humanity and dignity. People can have a greater comprehension of the struggles, goals, and real-life experiences of the Rohingya people by becoming more media literate. Individuals can get past misconceptions and prejudice by engaging with personal narratives, testimonies, and cultural representations, developing empathy and compassion for the Rohingya's predicament. Media literacy can be used to humanise the Rohingya, counter dehumanising depictions, and promote a more sympathetic reaction to their suffering.

Advocacy and activism: Media literacy equips people to take an active role in promoting justice and change in the Rohingya situation. Individuals can identify inclined or false narratives and spread awareness of the systemic discrimination and violations of human rights experienced by the Rohingya community by critically analysing media representations. Informed advocacy and activism can be carried out by those who are media literate, whether they choose to do so through social media campaigns, local efforts, or donations to charitable causes. As a result, the voices of the Rohingya are amplified, support is mobilised, and efforts are made to find justice, accountability, and long-term solutions to the situation.

Overcoming barriers and encouraging communication: In order to bridge gaps and promote communication among the various communities and parties involved in the Rohingya issue, media literacy is essential. It fosters tolerance, respect, and understanding by encouraging media literacy among various communities. Media literacy encourages communication between people from various backgrounds, allowing them to have fruitful discussions, share viewpoints, and work towards common goals.

Educating and empowering people: It is crucial to incorporate media literacy instruction into both formal and informal educational settings in order to equip people with the ability to engage with and critically analyse media information. By adding media literacy into curricula, educators may help learners learn how to navigate the media landscape, spot biases, assess information, and engage in media consumption responsibly. Learning media literacy gives people the lifelong skills they need to understand the complex media landscape, make wise choices, and interact with the media in a way that supports social justice and democratic participation.

Collaborative Initiatives: Collaboration is necessary among many stakeholders, including governments, civil society organisations, media outlets, and educational institutions, to promote media literacy and awareness. To raise awareness about media literacy and its significance in the context of the Rohingya crisis, collaborative activities such as workshops, training courses, and public campaigns can be devised. To ensure the distribution of accurate and impartial information, these initiatives should incorporate cooperation between media outlets and educational institutions. Additionally, collaborations with neighbourhood groups and Rohingya organisations can support the customization of media literacy programmes to meet the unique requirements and difficulties faced by the Rohingya community. Collaboration efforts should concentrate on encouraging ethical media practises and boosting journalistic standards. The public's perspective and comprehension of the Rohingya crisis are significantly shaped by journalists and other media professionals. To encourage accurate and impartial reporting, sensitivity to cultural nuances, and responsible coverage of the Rohingya population, training programmes and ethical guidelines could be created.

In light of the Rohingya crisis, media literacy and awareness are crucial because they give people and communities the skills, they need to understand the media landscape, critically evaluate information, confront biases, foster empathy, and make well-informed decisions. Media literacy aids in a more accurate understanding of the Rohingya crisis and supports initiatives for justice, accountability, and long-term solutions by combating misinformation, fostering balanced narratives, encouraging empathy, and equipping people to become advocates for change. In order to effectively promote media literacy and develop a more educated and

compassionate community that may help bring about a resolution to the Rohingya situation, collaboration amongst diverse stakeholders is essential.

4.7. THE PLIGHT OF THE ROHINGYAS: SUFFERINGS AND HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

As a result of the Rohingya crisis, which has been marked by numerous violations of human rights, violence, and persecution, the Rohingya people have experienced excruciating suffering. Explicitly describing their suffering helps one grasp the gravity of the situation and the necessity for quick action:

Mass Displacement: As a result of the Rohingya crisis, tens of thousands of Rohingya people have been forced to leave their homes in Myanmar in search of safety and sanctuary in nearby nations like Bangladesh, Malaysia, and Thailand. With families being split apart, houses being destroyed, and communities being uprooted, this widespread relocation has caused tremendous physical and mental pain. Many Rohingyas were forced to travel in danger, frequently in cramped boats, where they ran the risk of drowning, being used as people smugglers, and other perils.

Systematic Harassment and Violence: Systematic acts of violence against the Rohingya have included targeted killings, sexual assaults, and arson attacks on their villages. Both state and non-state actors have committed these violent crimes, which have caused extensive damage and fatalities. The Rohingya community has experienced unspeakable pain, trauma, and loss as a result of the violence's scope and severity.

Citizenship denial and statelessness: In Myanmar, the Rohingya community has long been denied citizenship, thereby making them stateless. The Rohingyas have been denied access to essential amenities including healthcare, education, and work prospects in addition to being denied their fundamental rights as residents of Myanmar. The Rohingyas' vulnerability is made worse by the fact that they lack legal protection, making them even more susceptible to marginalisation and discrimination.

Humanitarian Emergency in Refugee Camps: Poor living circumstances and a serious humanitarian catastrophe are faced by the Rohingyas who have sought sanctuary in congested camps, mainly in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar. Their well-being and survival have been significantly hampered by their lack of access to clean water, sanitary facilities, healthcare, and education. The suffering of the Rohingyas is further exacerbated by the congested camps' high susceptibility to disease outbreaks, hunger, and other health problems.

Psychological Distress and Trauma: As a result of the violence and persecution they have undergone, the Rohingya people have gone through severe trauma. Many people have witnessed the murder of loved ones, suffered from sexual assault and torture, and seen their homes and communities destroyed. High degrees of psychological suffering, such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety, depression, and other mental health conditions, have been brought on by this experience. Their misery gets worse by a lack of proper mental health care services.

The Rohingya people continue to endure great pain. The Rohingya crisis requires lasting solutions that put justice, accountability, and the welfare of the people first. It is critical to recognise and address their predicament, fight for their rights, and advocate for them.

4.8. MEDIA'S ROLE IN PROMOTING AWARENESS AND SUPPORT FOR THE ROHINGYA CRISIS

The media has been crucial in bringing attention to and garnering sympathy for the Rohingya crisis by effectively highlighting the violations of human rights and persecution that the Rohingya population has experienced. The media has elevated the situation to the fore of public consciousness around the world using a variety of media outlets, including news stories, documentaries, and social media platforms. The media has been successful in drawing attention to the Rohingya situation, generating empathy, and raising concern by offering thorough and in-depth coverage of it. Media coverage of the Rohingya people's human rights violations has been one of its most important contributions. The systemic atrocities, mass murders, sexual assault, and forced displacement endured by the Rohingya people have been made public by the media through gripping news reports and films. Visual proof and first-person stories provided by the media have been crucial in demonstrating the seriousness of the crisis, grabbing the attention of a global audience, and inspiring demands for justice and accountability.

The media has played a critical role in increasing international pressure and diplomatic efforts to address the Rohingya issue, in addition to bringing attention to human rights breaches. By emphasizing the severity of the issue, the media has compelled governments, international organizations, and human rights groups to act. Media pressure on governments to prioritize the Rohingya crisis has resulted in a significant increase in global attention. This has ignited strategic endeavours, reality tracking down missions, and worldwide courts to look for equity for the Rohingya public. Humanitarian aid and support for the Rohingya community are now easier to organize thanks to the media. The media has aided in mobilising public donations, fundraising efforts, and volunteer efforts by vividly portraying the harrowing conditions in refugee camps and the urgent need for assistance. The ability of media narratives to sway public opinion and inspire a sense of community has led to the provision of crucial resources like food, shelter, healthcare, and education to lessen the suffering of the Rohingya people. A crucial aspect of the media's involvement in the Rohingya issue is its capacity to promote the voices of the Rohingya. For Rohingya individuals, activists, and associations, news sources have given an essential discussion for them to discuss straightforwardly w about their encounters and perspectives with a global audience. Social media interactions, personal accounts, and interviews that have humanized the issue and has given the Rohingya community a chance to share its experiences, challenges, and goals. This has not only increased viewers' empathy and comprehension but also empowered them by giving the Rohingya people agency and recognition.

In conclusion, the media has played a crucial role in raising support and awareness for the Rohingya issue. The media has featured infringement of common liberties through its careful detailing, expanded worldwide strain, worked with compassionate guides, and raised Rohingya voices. The media's power to influence public opinion, draw global attention, and motivate action is contributing towards the upliftment and justice of the minority community. The media will continue to play a crucial role in raising awareness of the situation that the Rohingya people are in as long as they are not protected and as long as justice and accountability are not upheld.

4.9. THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF MEDIA ON THE PERCEPTION AND TREATMENT OF THE ROHINGYA CRISIS

Cons of Media Involvement in the Rohingya Crisis:

The drawbacks of sensationalism and bias: Media coverage of the Rohingya crisis is severely constrained by sensationalism and bias. Media organizations run the risk of using dramatic or exaggerated narratives to emphasize violence and tragedy without providing the public with essential background information. This drama not just sustains misinterpretations and unwarranted convictions about the Rohingya populace yet additionally can possibly misshape the genuine truth. Besides, journalistic prejudice, whether purposeful or unexpected, can bring about genuine errors and a contorted portrayal of the emergency, ruining the public's cognizance.

Insufficient background and context: The media consistently present complex occasions, like the Rohingya emergency, without giving adequate information or background data. Due to time and budget constraints, media outlets may give a streamlined narrative that concentrates on current affairs rather than examining the historical, political, and social elements that contribute to the issue. As a result, there may be a shallow grasp of the problem, which could impede efforts to address the underlying reasons behind the persecution of the Rohingya. Without a thorough investigation, audiences may draw judgements based on insufficient data, which could lead to the spread of misinformation and misunderstanding.

Limited representation and access: The Rohingya crisis cannot be fully covered by media organisations due to the difficulties they have in entering refugee camps and combat zones. Restricted access may lead to informational gaps and an absence of first-hand reports. A distorted perspective may also result from the scant inclusion of various voices in media narratives. If many viewpoints and experiences are not included, there is a chance that one narrative will dominate the conversation, which might result in an inaccurate and potentially biased understanding of the Rohingya situation.

Propaganda and the spread of hate speech: The possibility of propaganda and hate speech spreading as a result of media coverage of the Rohingya situation is another alarming development. In some cases, media outlets have been used unfairly to promote violent rhetoric, encourage violence, and reinforce misconceptions about the Rohingya minority. Spreading hate speech has the potential to further marginalise and demonise the Rohingya population, escalating tensions, and impeding efforts to find lasting peace. To stop the propagation of damaging narratives, media organisations must practise accountability and ethical journalism. It is crucial to evaluate the calibre and accuracy of the material provided, look for different viewpoints, and push media outlets to respect ethical standards when handling media involvement in the Rohingya crisis. By doing this, the media can contribute more positively to fostering understanding among the public and campaigning for the rights and welfare of the Rohingya.

5. FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

Participants in the survey provided demographic data, including their age, gender, educational attainment, and ethnicity. With the aid of this information, it is possible to comprehend the traits of the respondents and determine how closely the sample matches the intended audience.

5.1. Media Consumption and Awareness:

The survey's results showed that a sizable majority of participants actively engaged in news and media coverage of the Rohingya crisis. Notably, many participants indicated that they consumed this content on a daily or multiple times per day basis, demonstrating a high level of interest and concern. It indicates that the media, particularly television news channels, online news websites, and social media platforms, play an important role in sharing information about the Rohingya crisis and keeping the population informed.

The dominance of news websites and television networks as the main sources of information implies how persistently traditional media has shaped popular perception. These well-known media organisations continue to be dependable news sources that offer in-depth coverage of the Rohingya crisis. In addition, social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram are having an increasing impact on how people consume news, as seen by the fact that many respondents use these sites to remain up to date on the crisis. A greater variety of viewpoints and a quicker flow of information are made possible by social media's real-time updates and user-generated content, which helps raise respondents' overall awareness of the Rohingya situation. Additionally, the survey showed that a sizable portion of respondents were familiar with the term "Rohingya" and the ongoing crisis that the Rohingya population in Myanmar is currently experiencing. Respondents demonstrated a level of familiarity with the situation of the Rohingya minority, which shows that the topic has attracted considerable attention and public recognition. This awareness might be credited to media coverage, which has elevated the Rohingya problem to the fore of public conversation and enabled a wider comprehension of the difficulties the Rohingya population faces.

Overall, the findings show that media, including mainstream media and social media, play a key role in influencing how the public perceives and comprehends the Rohingya situation. They provide news and updates about the current situation and serve as vital informational sources. The media must play a crucial role in educating and keeping the public informed about the Rohingya crisis in order to foster empathy, support, and a collective response to the challenges faced by the community.

5.2. Analyses of the Mainstream Media:

According to the review's findings, a startling majority of respondents agreed that Muslims from the Rohingya ethnic group are frequently represented negatively and unfairly in conventional media. This shows that the general public's perception of the Rohingya problem can be prejudiced or distorted. The way the Rohingya community is portrayed could influence public opinion and how the situation is perceived, leading to the development of unfavourable sentiments and stereotypes. The survey results also emphasised the primary aspects of the Rohingya issue that attracted the most attention from the mainstream media. Along with political dynamics and global responses, these included acts of violence and persecution, forced relocation and the refugee crisis. The media's emphasis on these factors raises the possibility that some aspects of the crisis may be highlighted more so than others, which could affect how the general public views and comprehends the situation. It is imperative to recognise that the media's

selective reporting may have an impact on the broader narrative and framing of the Rohingya issue, thereby influencing public opinion and policy debates.

The respondents also cited instances of prejudices and stereotypes they had noticed in the media towards Muslims from Rohingya. These cases highlight the existence of prejudiced narratives that could feed preconceptions and contribute to the stigmatisation and marginalisation of the Rohingya population. Such biases have a substantial negative effect on how the public perceives certain issues, which worsens the difficulties the Rohingya people face and makes it more difficult to effectively manage the crisis. These findings call attention to the need for a critical analysis of how the Rohingya crisis has been covered by the mainstream media and urge them to use more unbiased and impartial reporting strategies. In order to promote a more complex understanding of the Rohingya situation among the general population, it is necessary that media outlets overcome biases, combat preconceptions, and give accurate and thorough information. As a result, the Rohingya community may benefit from increased awareness, understanding, and assistance.

5.3. Social Media Analysis:

The survey findings shed light on the role of social media in the dissemination of information related to the Rohingya crisis. Many of the respondents said they frequently, if not daily, came across posts about the crisis on social media platforms. This emphasises how prevalent social media is as a source of information and its potential impact on raising awareness of the Rohingya problem among the general public. Among the social media platforms, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram emerged as the primary channels through which respondents sought information about the crisis. This implies that these forums are very important in influencing public opinion and raising awareness of the Rohingya crisis. In comparison to traditional media sources, the extensive availability of information on social media enables people to access a variety of opinions and viewpoints, potentially resulting in a more thorough understanding of the problem.

The study results also showed that a sizable portion of respondents thought social media, as opposed to traditional media, provides a more diverse range of perspectives on the Rohingya problem. This impression reflects the capacity of social media to elevate underrepresented voices, contest prevailing narratives, and offer alternate viewpoints that might not be as widely covered by mainstream media. Due to their interactive nature, social media platforms can encourage participation in and conversation about the Rohingya crisis. It is crucial to keep in mind that some respondents also mentioned coming across inaccurate information or misleading content on the Rohingya crisis on social media. This demonstrates the difficulties presented by false information as well as the requirement for critical analysis and media literacy skills when interacting with online content. It emphasises the value of fact-checking, confirming sources, and fostering media literacy to make sure that correct and trustworthy information is communicated in order to stop the spread of misinformation.

Overall, the findings suggest that social media plays a substantial role in affecting public awareness, perceptions, and attitudes towards the Rohingya situation. Although it gives a platform to different voices and alternative narratives, the existence of misinformation necessitates vigilance and critical engagement.

5.4. General Perceptions and Attitudes

According to the study results, there is a strong correlation between how Muslims from Rohingya are portrayed in the media and how respondents generally see the Rohingya problem. Many participants expressed their conviction that media representation has a sizable impact on how people view and comprehend the crisis. This implies that the media has a significant influence on how the general public feels about the Rohingya community and their situation.

The effect of media representation on public perception is notable because it emphasises the media's function as a potent instrument for influencing public opinion and creating narratives about the Rohingya crisis. People's perceptions and interpretations of the problem's complexity can be influenced by the media, potentially altering their perspectives, prejudices, and levels of empathy for the Rohingya. These findings emphasize the significance of ethical and responsible media practices in providing accurate, impartial, and truthful information regarding the Rohingya crisis. Media organizations should work to respect journalistic principles of impartiality, fairness, and inclusivity in their reporting in order to ensure that diverse perspectives are represented and that prejudices or biases are not reinforced. By doing this, the media can help with advancing compassion, support, and good choice-making among the overall population, eventually prompting the improvement of a more profound cognizance of the hardships experienced by the Rohingya populace.

Additionally, the findings emphasize the significance of media consumers engaging critically with content. To have a thorough awareness of the Rohingya situation, people should be encouraged to review, critique, and analyse media narratives while seeking out multiple sources and perspectives. The ability to evaluate media content critically, recognise bias, and distinguish between accurate and false information can be acquired through media literacy education programmes, which can be extremely important in empowering people. The study's main takeaway emphasises how media organisations and media users alike are accountable for influencing how the public views and feels about the Rohingya situation. It is possible to increase public knowledge, empathy, and support for the Rohingya population by supporting responsible media practises and encouraging media literacy. This will open the door for a more inclusive and well-informed approach to solving the difficulties they confront.

In conclusion, the findings of the study point out the significant role that mainstream and social media play in shaping public perceptions, knowledge, and emotions regarding the Rohingya crisis. Media organizations ought to conduct a critical evaluation of how they portray the Rohingya population, strive for fair and impartial reporting, and encourage media literacy among their viewers. By taking these actions, the media can significantly impact public viewpoints, encourage compassion towards the Rohingya public, and add to a feeling of help for the stateless community. Consequently, the way the problem is dealt with in the future could be significantly altered.

5.5. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this comprehensive examination of how Muslims from the minority of Rohingya are depicted in mainstream and social media has provided valuable insights into prevalent themes, biases, and framing strategies, as well as their impact on public perception and opinion. To fully comprehend and address the complexities of the Rohingya issue, it is essential to critically evaluate media practices. Additionally, the significance of media literacy and awareness is emphasized by the findings of this study.

According to the findings of the study, stereotypes and prejudices may be perpetuated because mainstream media frequently presents Muslims of the Rohingya ethnic group in a negative and unfair manner. Such divided stories can prompt the derision and underestimation of the Rohingya populace, preventing endeavours to resolve the issue in a durable manner. Media organizations must consider their role and responsibility in influencing public opinion and strive for balanced and impartial reporting that inspires empathy, comprehension, and support for the Rohingya population.

The study has also brought to light how important social media platforms are for spreading information and reshaping public discourse. While social media presents opportunities for grassroots activism and a wide range of viewpoints, it also poses challenges such as the propagation of false information and the amplification of narratives that polarize people. It is essential for users of social media to acquire skills in media literacy, critically evaluate the content they encounter, and engage in respectful and constructive debate in order to foster a public discourse that is informed and empathic.

It is essential to fully comprehend the historical context of the Rohingya crisis in order to comprehend its fundamental causes and contributing factors. It is essential to acknowledge the historical wrongdoings, widespread discrimination, and citizenship rights violations that the Rohingya people have endured. It is necessary for the media to place an emphasis on these historical perspectives in order to encourage acceptance of the rights and dignity of the Rohingya.

This study also emphasizes the significance of media ownership, its effect on agenda-setting capacity, and the portrayal of Muslims of the Rohingya ethnic group. Focus in the responsibility for outlets might prompt an absence of different perspectives and feelings, which could bring about one-sided revealing. To accomplish a more exact and comprehensive depiction of the Rohingya issue, it is vital to energize media variety, free news-casting, and possession of straightforwardness.

In conclusion, this study's findings highlight the significance of media representation and the requirement for ethical and responsible media practices. The media has the power to make a significant difference in promoting social justice and dealing with the Rohingya crisis by challenging biases, promoting marginalized voices, and cultivating empathy and comprehension. Moreover, media education and mindfulness among the overall population are essential in basically captivating with media stories, advancing exchange, and supporting drives that look to address the difficulties experienced by the Rohingya populace.

The complex interplay between the media, public perception, and the Rohingya crisis is better understood with the help of this study. It urges individuals, decision-makers, civil society, and the media to work together to create a society that is fairer and more inclusive. By acknowledging the power of the media, raising awareness, and cultivating empathy, we can collaborate to create a future where the rights and dignity of all people, including the Rohingya, are respected, protected, and defended.

(I) ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I would like to convey my sincerest gratitude to my mentors for their invaluable guidance and assistance throughout this research. The outcome of this paper has been significantly influenced by their expertise and mentoring. My guide has provided me with exceptional direction and unwavering support throughout this study. This paper's success is greatly attributed to her expertise and insightful contributions. I am also grateful to the participants of this study who generously shared their time and insights, making this research possible. Their contributions have significantly influenced this paper's conclusions and added depth and significance to the findings.

In addition, I would like to thank my friends and family for their support and encouragement throughout this research journey. Their unwavering belief in my abilities and their unwavering drive has helped me overcome obstacles and complete this paper successfully.

Finally, I'd like to thank all of the academics, researchers, and authors whose work laid the groundwork for this study. Their contributions to the field have helped shape my understanding and provided this research with valuable context.

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