

A Study Of News Sources About North-East India In Newspapers Published From Delhi

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Abstract:

This article outlines in which way News reporting has been conducted in the Northeast region on the national newspapers. It is assuming that Northeast India has given less importance in national media. This study analysis news Reporting tendencies of this selecting newspapers. The analysis of reporting tendencies and reporting locations study has been conducted on quantitative analysis methods. In this study, the researcher has to try to figure out the characters of news sources and many more through content analysis methods.

Keywords: North-east India, News Reporting, News sources, National Media, Content analysis.

INTRODUCTION:

Apart from the Indian state, the term North-East came to be used at all levels of discourse by mainstream Indian media, social scientists, and academicians. The region's encounters with outsiders' actors were said to be responsible for the evolution of the northeast concept. However, the final official stamping of the northeast entity occurred in post-independent India in the form of legislation by the Indian state, such as the establishment of the northeastern council in 1971 and the department of development of the North-Eastern Region (DONER) in September 2001. DONER was upgraded to a fully-fledged ministry (DONER) in May 2004^[i]. Also, the entire northeastern region of India came to be administrated under the ministry of home affairs, Govt. of India. Now one can also see the presence of centers for studies on the northeast agency from the development of the eight states.

The most common perception of observation of northeast India is the commonalities and the shared experiences of the region, as well as its diversity. One such commonality is the geographical aloofness of the northeast, connected with the rest of India by just a 22 km land corridor in Siliguri, North Bengal, referred to as the chicken's neck(also known as the Siliguri corridor) perceived as a peripheral geographical entity of India inhabited by a significant number of people of Mongoloid race, the north-eastern region of India is seen by many as having a collective entity. Moreover, the term North-east has been commonly used at all levels of discourse to refer to the northeastern states of India. Nevertheless the clubbing together of the region in one basket, or the question of single northeast entity, continuous to be questioned and critiqued by some scholars, academicians and others^[ii] on northeast India in premier educational institutions of the country such as Jawaharlal Nehru University(JNU) and Jamia Malia Islamiyah in new Delhi(JMI), and Guwahati University in Assam(CUG) to mention a few.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

The political conflicts and life situations of the people of India's northeastern corner comprising the eight states are some of many spaces of invisibility of regions every-day is indicative of a crisis of representation in newspapers or other forms of mass media, and the ignorance goes continuing deeper.

Northeast in the Delhi based English press means that no pressure is mounted on the central and /or state governments to address its problems. It is considered to the Indian English language national press based in New Delhi stands out for its contribution to national building, professionalism, and Freedom, it has failed to adequately report and represent the peoples, cultures, and issues of the country's north-east region.

AIM OF THE STUDY:

The study aims to understand the nature and extent of news issues covered by the daily English newspapers in Delhi. To analyses, the coverage and North-East issues in four selected newspapers, The Times of India, Hindustan time, The Hindu, and Indian express the research method has been applied.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To find out the news sources about North-east India.
2. To find out the Picture sources about Northeast in study newspapers.
3. To find out the exact reporting locations of northeast reporting.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY:

It is agreed that this study has some limitations as well, this is:

1. The study involves data collection from a single state capital only.
2. The period of twenty (20) days actually cannot dictate the trend of publishing houses, as they keep changing their patterns and policies according to the situations.
3. The present study is only involved with English dailies and no other print media is taken into consideration.

THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

Agenda setting theory:

An agenda is a selection of items arranged to give some items more important than others. Agenda theory says that the news media presents the public net with a picture of the world as it is but with an agenda of their own - a selection of reports about what is happening in the world. The term agenda setting was coined by Maxwell McCombs and Donald L Shaw (1972) in the context of an election campaign where politicians seek to convince the voters about the party's most important issues. Agenda theorists try to describe and explain (a) how stories are selected, packaged and presented a process known as Gatekeeping, (b) the resulting agenda, and (c) how the agenda affects what people think about the relative importance of the issues presented [iii].

REVIEW OF LITTERATURE:

The political conflicts and the life situations of the people of India's North-eastern corner..... are some of the many spaces of invisibility in the Indian press. The Northeast rarely figures in the news discourse of the New Delhi based press, which means that its events and issues rarely figure in the public agenda⁴⁵. As for Prasun Sonwalkar in his research article "Mediating otherness: India's English Language Press and the north-east" states that...." I ... as much from an academic perspective as that of a journalist, having covered the region and written on it for several years for The Times of India and other publications. In the cut and thrust of power politics in the national capital, there is little time for the Northeast. Worse, the distance from New Delhi and the region's complexities combine to reify a general disinterest among policy-makers. This also is evident among journalists of the New Delhi-based press. [iv]

Crucial to the impasse between the Northeast and the rest of India is the 'absence of cultural and psychological integration with the mainstream⁴⁷. In mainland India, the North-eastern inhabitants' Mongoloid features work them as strangers or even foreigners. Not many know that people with Mongoloid features are also Indians. The marginalization of the Northeast in the national consciousness of India is reflected in the country's mainstream media content..... The 'invisibility of the region's every day is indicative of a crisis of representation on television . . . Instances of mixing up names and accompanying visuals abound in television and the print media'. [v]

METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION

The study used content analysis methods for the collection of data for analysis. Content Analysis method had been carried out to know the coverage of north-east news contents in daily newspapers.

The present study comprised of quantitative analysis of northeast India coverage in the selected newspapers. Analysis of Four daily English newspapers (All are National newspapers) that were being circulated in the National Capital Region (Delhi) had been carried out.

Four daily newspapers had been selected for the present study:

- I. The Times of India
- II. The Hindustan Times
- III. The Hindu
- IV. The Indian express

SELECTION OF TIME:

The study was covered the selected four newspapers collected from 1st July 2018 to 20th July 2018 for twenty (20) days each.

I. The time of a selection of newspapers included the starting of several sevenths (7) months and as the second half of the respected year as a general condition.

II. One of the most important festivals of the Jaintia people is the “Behdeinkhlam Festival” (Meghalaya). It is celebrating by the people of the Niamtre religion and celebrated in July before the seed sowing season.

So, considering these events during this period, the researcher had selected the period.

The analysis had been comprised of a total of eighty (80) newspapers for a period of this research. No supplements and other extra edition pages (like city edition or others) had not been included for the analysis.

UNITES FOR ANALYSIS

The units of analysis for the study were: news-articles, Photo/ graphics/ cartoon-illustrations, news analysis, interview/discussion, Science fiction, letter to the editor, editorials, and queries published in the selected four daily newspapers.

VARIABLES

The variables of the study were Reporting location, States of reporting, Picture courtesy, reports from agencies, etc.

DATA CODE BOOK

The codebook was prepared including all the categories of units and variables under study. The units and variables were coded by assigning numbers to specific units and variables. The data regarding each unit and variable was fed into Code Sheets using codebook. The data analyzed was arranged into tabular form and charts were drawn with the help of MS excel [\[vi\]](#).

ANALYSIS:

The All Eighty (80) days newspaper samples that the researcher measure in square centimeter-scale was total 3456824.82 Sq-cm as of total print area. And 2264394.91 sq cm had been devoted as news space or news hole which accounts for 65.5% all of the total print areas. Otherwise, the advertisement space was 34.5% as a total printing percentage which amount was 1192428.52 sq-cm.

The below table: 1 clarify the news sources that had been getting by this research newspaper. In means of correspondent collected news are used very little, only 20 news are collected by as terms of correspondent out of total 234 news items. And by mentioned of stuff reporter and byline news are published as maximum amount as 159. The selected newspapers also used agency provided news as much. The number of 42 news items source had been the agency's news. Also, there had been some non-mentioned (source) news, in number that was 12. The researcher has found only one Op-Ed page article that has sources that had not been categorized as general news sources.

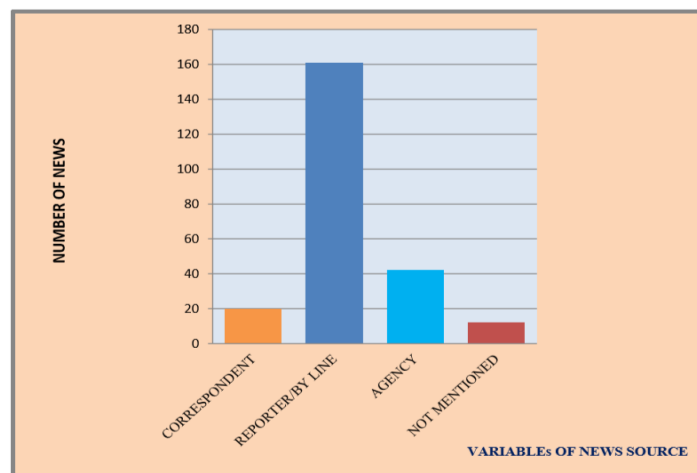
Table 1: Mention of news sources

S. N O	NEWS PAPERS	CORRESPONDENT	STUFF REPORTER/ BY LINE	OP-ED/ EDITORIAL	NEWS AGENCY/ BUREAU	NOT MENTIONED	TOTAL
1	TIMES OF INDIA	0	35		8	5	48
2	HINDUSTAN TIMES	6	35	1 (OP-ED)	3	3	48
3	THE INDIAN EXPRESS	0	43		5 (PTI)	1	49
4	THE HINDU	14	46 (1 EDITORIAL)		26	3	89
5	TOTAL	20	159	1	42	12	234

There was no any in terms of correspondent on the northeast coverage in The TIMES OF INDIA Publications. In the research study, the researcher found that TOI had a maximum of its news published on the name of the source of stuff reporter or by line, they had published a little story on the name of news agencies, especially sports events.

On the terms of the source of news, The Indian Express had been publishing its coverage on the byline sources, and they had some little agency provided news on sports and others all was from Press Trust of India (PTI). The Indian Express also had not any correspondent provided coverage on the period of study. The Hindu, on the contrary, had much of its correspondent coverage news issues concurrently different agencies news on it at the time of study period. Also, it had a big amount of stuff reporter and byline news coverage.

Graph 1: News Sources of selected newspapers

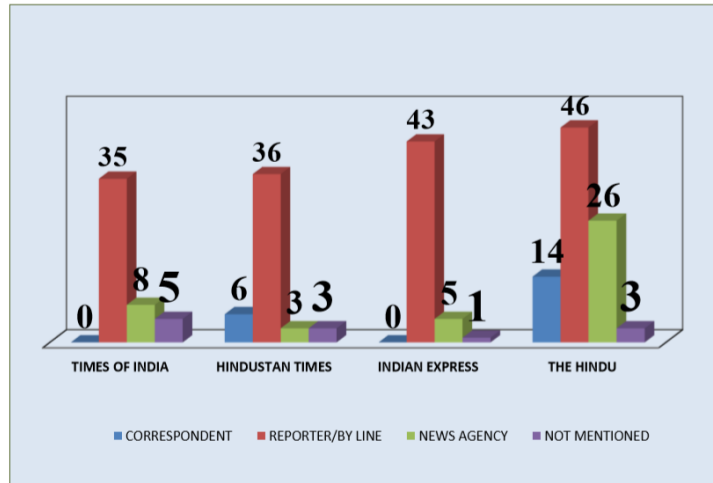


The researcher tries to categories sources of news in 4 forms. That is correspondent, means who's are not permanent stuff of house and cover the issues far from the house, they are specialists in their field or locally active individuals in one region. Sometimes they had given support to the reporters(stuff). Stuff reporters or by line sources are the permanent or own personnel of any house.

The table: 11 and Graph: 19 together shows the detailed about the news source. The graph 19 shows that in terms of correspondent news that was not found in Times of India and The Indian express's publications, on the contrary, The Hindu and Hindustan Times had 14 and 6 news items following mentioned as a source the correspondent.

There had been found as the source of the reporter or by line reporting much of the sample newspapers. There had 46 news covered by reporters in The Hindu as the highest number of news collected by this section and The Indian Express as a second position on 43 news.

Graph 2: Comparative weight of News Sources



Following Hindustan Times 36 and Times of India had mentioned its news source as staff reporters namely 35 items. Generally, The Indian Express had published most of its North East news source as a byline form.

On the other hand, in terms of news agency provided the news the Hindu mentioned most of the numbers of twenty-six (26) as an agency provided news or photo together. Times of India as a second position by eight (8) news items and The Indian Express and Hindustan Times as following five (5) and three (3).

Table 2: Reporting Location of North East

S. NO	LOCATIONS	TIMES OF INDIA	HINDUSTAN TIMES	THE INDIAN EXPRESS	THE HINDU	TOTAL
1	ASSAM	15	18	35	32	100
2	MEGHALAYA	2	4		3	9
3	ARUNACHAL PRADESH				7	7
4	MONIPUR	3	4	1	9	17
5	TRIPURA	3	3		4	10
6	NAGALAND	1				1
7	MIZORAM				2	2
8	SIKKIM					
9	DELHI	11	12	8	14	45
10	OTHERS	3	2	1	11	17
11	NOT MENTIONED	10	5	4	7	26
12	TOTAL	48	48	49	89	234

The researcher found that most amounts of coverage of news in terms of the source were from Assam and New Delhi. There was found that the huge amount of difference locations news cover from Assam (GUWAHATI) by the researcher. As the biggest city of the region, most of the newspapers prefer to importance GUWAHATI based journalists as their source through the different parts of the North East are so far away from Guwahati. The researcher had found that the far most location of Guwahati mentions as a source of news to all over the 7 states issues so many cases of every newspaper.

As an Eighth North East states SIKKIM had not found any news coverage by the researcher during the period of study of this selected newspaper. The Times of India had not any news of Arunachal Pradesh or Mizoram as a location of reporting news. Hindustan Times had not been mentioned of Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, and Nagaland as to any reporting location of news. At the same time, The Indian Express had collected its almost total news from Assam or Delhi. They had the insight stories in some cases but all of its managed from Guwahati or Delhi or both together.

The Hindu's behavior about news collection from the various location was hugely differenced among all of the selected newspapers. They had been collecting its immense news from every part of seven sisters' nations. At least they had any correspondent there. And one notable finding notices from the researcher's table, The Hindu did not prefer Delhi to gather coverage as much prefer other selected newspapers during the study periods.

Table 3: Exact location of Reporting

NORTH-EAST STATES	TIMES OF INDIA	HINDUSTAN TIMES	INDIAN EXPRES	THE HINDU	TOTAL LOCATIONS
ASSAM	GUWAHATI DIBRUGARH SILCHAR	GUWAHATI	GUWAHATI KARIMGANJ	GUWAHATI DIBRUGARH DHING	GUWAHATI DIBRUGARH SILCHAR KARIMGANG DHING SHILONG ITANAGAR IMPHAL DIMAPUR AGARTALA AIZAL
MEGHALAYA	SHILONG	SHILONG		SHILONG	
ARUNACHAL PRADESH				ITANAGAR	
MONIPUR	IMPHAL	IMPHAL	IMPHAL	IMPHAL	
NAGALANG	DIMAPUR				
TRIPURA	AGARTALA	AGARTALA		AGARTALA	
MIZORAM				AIZAL	
SIKKIM					

From table:3, it is very clear that Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, and Mizoram was very neglected to news coverage from there. Though as much as not mentioned amount news on this state but this news is gathering from the far more areas. As per the table, Sikkim was the highly neglected states among North East regarding News Coverage from the national capital.

Assam and its most large city Guwahati were the main hub to coverage news to newspapers regard to region. Therefore, all newspapers focus on cover the region through Guwahati and little other state capitals.

The above table: 3, mentioned the exact location or state wise locations through where news was covered.

CONCLUSIONS

It is a good sign of the selected newspapers that they have published a sufficient number of news issues with pictures but graphs and charts are not much being used. Though the maximum picture was taken from agencies. The Hindu had been published the maximum amount of news stories with pictorial support. But a major amount of news about Northeast was found in a piece of single-column news. The researcher found the proportion of 1/3 news was single columns.

The researcher did not find any single news issues about Sikkim in that period of Study. And Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh had rarely in front of coverage. The maximum amount of news found about political, crime, and social unrest. Also, sports issues came in front at that time for two big events.

Guwahati and Delhi had been the big location of news collection. An otherwise small proportion of seven sisters state capitals were the news circulating location. Rest of Guwahati there was few amounts of locations that were covering news.

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