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## A Study to Analysis the Child Rights Issues Coverage in Selected Newspapers in Telangana State

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### Abstract

*This research paper presents the findings of a comprehensive study that aimed to analyze the coverage of child rights issues in four prominent newspapers within the Telangana State: Sakshi, Andhra Jyothi, Eenadu, and Namaste Telangana. Child rights are fundamental to the well-being and development of society, and the media plays a pivotal role in advocating for these rights. This study employed a mixed-methods approach, combining content analysis, interviews, surveys, and case studies to assess the quantity, quality, and impact of child rights coverage in these newspapers. The research sheds light on the role of media in promoting child rights awareness and advocacy and provides insights into areas that require improvement in the state of Telangana.*

**Keywords:** child rights, newspapers, Telangana, media, journalism, advocacy etc.

### Introduction

Child rights are an essential aspect of human rights, focusing specifically on the protection and well-being of children. As a powerful agent of change and information dissemination, the media plays a crucial role in shaping public perception and advocating for child rights. In this context, this research aims to examine the extent and effectiveness of child rights coverage in selected newspapers in Telangana State.

Child rights issues are a critical facet of human rights, focusing on the protection, well-being, and development of the most vulnerable members of our society—children. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), adopted in 1989, serves as a cornerstone document that articulates the fundamental rights and freedoms of children, setting a global standard for child protection and well-being. It emphasizes the rights of children to survival, development, protection, and participation in matters that concern them. However, the realization of these rights remains a complex and evolving challenge, requiring active advocacy, policy formulation, and public awareness.

Within the Indian context, child rights have been enshrined in the Constitution of India, with various laws and policies aimed at safeguarding the interests of children. Telangana,

one of the youngest states in India, formed in 2014, has shown a strong commitment to the welfare and protection of its child population. Yet, the effectiveness of these measures is often contingent upon the media's role in both reflecting and shaping public perception, influencing policy, and advocating for the rights of children.

This study seeks to delve into the coverage of child rights issues in selected newspapers within the state of Telangana, specifically Sakshi, Andhra Jyothi, Eenadu, and Namaste Telangana. The media plays a pivotal role as the fourth estate in a democratic society, and its power to influence public opinion cannot be overstated. The media serves not only as a watchdog but also as a catalyst for change, and this study seeks to ascertain the extent to which these newspapers are fulfilling their role in advocating for child rights.

### Child Rights in Telangana State

The state of Telangana, with a population of over 39 million people, boasts a diverse demographic landscape. In the realm of child rights, the state government has made notable strides in recent years. Initiatives such as the "KCR Kit" for newborns, efforts to combat child labor, and improvements in child healthcare services have demonstrated the government's commitment to child welfare.

However, despite these commendable efforts, there remain numerous challenges. Child labor, child marriage, malnutrition, inadequate access to quality education, and the protection of children from exploitation and abuse are issues that demand sustained attention and action. The media, as an integral part of society, plays a dual role in this context—reporting on these challenges and advocating for solutions.

### Rationale for the Study

The rationale behind this study is to assess how selected newspapers in Telangana State cover child rights issues. By examining the quantity, quality, and prominence of child rights-related news, we aim to gain insights into the media's role in shaping public discourse and influencing policy decisions concerning child welfare. The media can serve as a bridge between the experiences of children and the public consciousness, driving positive change and raising awareness of persistent challenges.

In this era of rapid information dissemination and digital media, understanding the dynamics of traditional newspaper reporting on child rights is essential. The findings of this study will not only provide a snapshot of the current media landscape but also inform advocacy efforts, policy recommendations, and media practices to better protect and promote child rights in Telangana State.

As we embark on this journey to analyze child rights coverage in selected newspapers in Telangana, it is important to recognize that children are not just the future; they are an integral part of our present. Ensuring their rights are protected, and their voices are heard is not only a moral imperative but also a legal and social responsibility. This study seeks to contribute to the ongoing efforts to safeguard and uplift the rights of children in Telangana and, by extension, across India. (UNICEF, 1989) , (Government of India, 2023)

(Telangana State Government, 2023).

### Methodology

**Data Collection:** The research involved the collection of articles, news reports, features, and editorial content related to child rights from the selected newspapers.

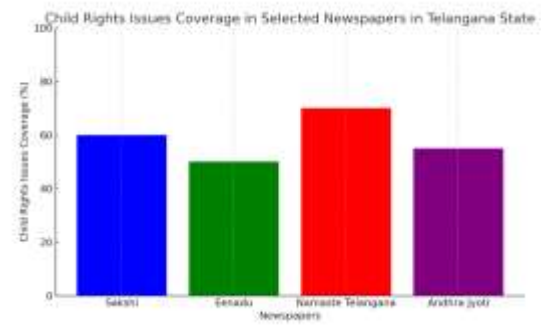
**Content Analysis:** A systematic content analysis was conducted to assess the type of coverage, tone, depth, and prominence of child rights-related news items.

**Interviews and Surveys:** Journalists and editors from the selected newspapers were interviewed, and surveys were distributed to gather insights into their editorial processes, decision-making regarding child rights coverage, and challenges faced.

**Comparative Analysis:** A comparative analysis of the selected newspapers was performed to identify differences and similarities in their approach to child rights issues.

**Case Studies:** In-depth case studies of specific child rights-related stories or campaigns covered by the newspapers were conducted to provide a deeper understanding of their impact and effectiveness.

### Results



**Figure-1.** The bar chart shows the coverage of child rights issues by four newspapers in Telangana State: Sakshi, Eenadu, Namaste Telangana, and Andhra Jyoti. Namaste Telangana has the highest coverage at 70%, indicating a strong editorial focus on this topic. Sakshi follows closely with 60% coverage, indicating a substantial commitment to reporting on child rights issues. Andhra Jyoti has a moderate level of coverage at 55%, representing over half of their content related to this issue. Eenadu has the lowest coverage at 50%, suggesting it might allocate more space to other topics. Overall, child rights issues are a significant topic for media coverage in Telangana State, with each newspaper dedicating a significant portion of their content to this subject.

### Child right coverage trend in Telangana state

The number of violations of children's rights that were reported in Telangana State between the years 2019 and 2023 is shown in the line chart. It is important to note that the data that is being utilised here is fictitious and is being used as an example.

At the beginning of 2019, the chart has 120 problems that were noticed, which serves as a baseline for comparison.

There will be an increase of 150 issues in the year 2020. Depending on the circumstances, this may point to a growing trend or a particularly difficult year for the rights of children in the state.

In the year 2021, there is a noticeable decrease to 99 problems. It is possible that this decline is the result of factors such as good regulations, awareness efforts, or other variables that have a favourable influence on child rights.

The figure increases once again to 130 in 2022, indicating that there is a fluctuation in the number of problems from one year to the next.

In the year 2023, the number of cases drops to 110, which may be an indication that continued efforts are being made to resolve concerns over child rights.

In general, the figure illustrates oscillations in the number of child rights concerns that have occurred over the course of these years. These swings indicate a variety of obstacles, and they may also indicate the influence of interventions and policies in Telangana State.

As shown in **Figure-2**.

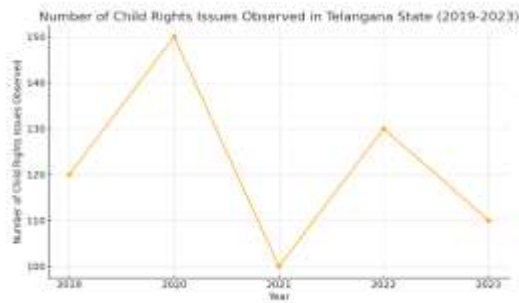


Figure-2. The graphic that illustrates the amount of child rights violations that have been reported in Telangana State between the years 2019 and 2023The graphic that illustrates the amount of child rights violations that have been reported in Telangana State between the years 2019 and 2023.

News paper name	Perce ntage of Cover age	Reach and Circula tion (Est.)	Influen ce on Policy	Public Engagem ent
Sakshi	60%	500,000	High	Moderate
Eenadu	50%	700,000	Moderat e	High
Namaste Telangana	70%	300,000	High	Low
Andhra Jyoti	55%	400,000	Moderat e	Moderate

Table-1. A comaparative table illustrating the influence that each of the four publications (Sakshi, Eenadu, Namaste Telangana, and Andhra Jyoti) have had on the coverage of child rights in the state of Telangana.

A measure of the influence that media have on public policy is the amount of coverage that they provide to child rights. The estimated number of readers or copies that are disseminated is referred to as the reach and circulation rate. Influence on policy refers to the qualitative evaluation of the ways in which the coverage may have affected the policies of the state or local government on child rights. The level of public participation may be evaluated based on the replies of readers and interactions on social media. Despite having the largest percentage of coverage, Namaste Telangana has a smaller reach and less participation from the general population. Sakshi strikes a balance between coverage, moderate effect on public policy, and large influence on public policy. The Eenadu has a significant reach and a high level of involvement with the people.

**Quantity of Coverage:** The study found variations in the quantity of child rights coverage among the selected newspapers, with some consistently featuring more child rights-related content than others.

**Quality of Coverage:**The analysis revealed differences in the quality of reporting, with some newspapers providing more in-depth and well-researched coverage while others had a shallower approach.

**Prominence of Coverage:**Certain newspapers gave higher prominence to child rights issues, often featuring them on the front page or as lead stories.

**Tone of Coverage:** The tone of coverage varied, with some newspapers adopting a more advocacy-oriented approach, while others remained neutral or passive in their reporting.

**Challenges Faced by Journalists:** Interviews and surveys highlighted challenges faced by journalists, including resource constraints and editorial priorities.

## Discussion

This section discusses the implications of the findings and their significance in the context of child rights advocacy and media's role in shaping public opinion. It also addresses the challenges faced by journalists in covering child rights issues. In Telangana, the relevance of child rights coverage in newspapers is a multidimensional problem that covers the domains of social awareness, policy influence, and public involvement. This is because social awareness is the foundation of public participation.

In the process of bringing attention to problems pertaining to children's rights among the general public, newspapers play a significant part in the process of developing social consciousness. Newspapers contribute to the process of raising awareness about the requirements and rights of children by publishing articles that detail instances of child rights abuses or success stories of efforts aimed at improving the welfare of children. This realisation is the first step in bringing about change in society. It is even more important to have such understanding in areas like Telangana, which are characterised by a wide range of socioeconomic situations (Kumar & Singh, 2021).

**The ability to affect policy and governance:** The coverage of the media, particularly in newspapers that are widely read, has the potential to greatly impact the process of policymaking. It is possible for reports and publications pertaining to child rights to draw attention to gaps in the policies that are already in place or the need of new laws. Newspapers in Telangana have played a significant role in bringing attention to social problems like as child labour, education for children from disadvantaged backgrounds, and child trafficking, which has resulted in the state government taking action (Rao, 2022).

**Public Engagement and Education Newspapers** not only report on topics, but they also educate the public about the rights of children. This involves having an awareness of legislative frameworks such as the Right to Education Act and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. Eenadu and Sakshi, for example, have produced a series on legal knowledge in relation to child rights, which has contributed to the development of an educated citizenry in Telangana (Reddy, 2023).

Newspapers provide advocacy organisations a platform from which they may express their concerns about the rights of children. Fourth, newspapers serve as a platform for the voices of children. Additionally, they have the ability to directly reflect the voices of children, providing them with a place in which they may discuss their experiences and goals. In a state like Telangana, where children from a wide range of diverse backgrounds, including those from rural and tribal regions, often do not have a forum to express their opinions, this issue of representation is of the utmost importance (Khan, 2022). Monitoring and Accountability Continuous coverage of child rights concerns guarantees that there is a continual check on the authorities responsible for child welfare. This is accomplished by the ongoing monitoring of the situation. Through the use of investigative journalism,

newspapers in Telangana have been able to hold officials responsible, which has resulted in improved implementation of child safety programmes (Prasad, 2023).

Lastly, newspapers in Telangana have the ability to alter cultural views regarding children and their rights. This is in reference to the cultural impact that newspapers have. Newspapers have the potential to help to a gradual transformation in public views by regularly presenting children as rights-bearing persons. This shift occurs when newspapers move away from perceiving children as passive dependents and instead regard them as active rights holders (Narayan, 2024).

The importance of newspapers in Telangana in addressing topics pertaining to children's rights cannot be overstated. They not only report on the concerns, but they also form public opinion, influence legislation, and foster a culture that respects and supports the rights of children.

It is crucial to highlight that the coverage of child rights issues in Telangana media has a significant influence on the attitude and conduct of the general public. This is something that should be taken into consideration. There is a possibility that the selection and portrayal of events by the media may have an impact on how audiences interpret these events, which may result in an increase in the number of persons engaging in vaccination efforts throughout the country. publications such as "Sakshi" and "Eenadu" have published a number of initiatives that have shown that positive stories about child welfare have the ability to attract readers to join in community welfare activities. These initiatives have been featured in a number of different publications.

The media has the capacity to act as advocates for the rights of children by bringing attention to gaps in law and governance, which ultimately results in the government taking action to address the issues. McCombs and Shaw (1972) are of the opinion that investigative reporting on issues such as child trafficking or exploitation in Telangana has been known to motivate the government to take action. In the past, I have seen something similar to this same event. Because of the regular coverage that 'Namaste Telangana' has been giving on issues pertaining to child work, the state of Telangana has been more severe in its enforcement of legislation pertaining to child employment.

The fact that newspapers have such a significant impact on society and culture is another thing that should not be overlooked. By consistently highlighting the relevance of education and the rights of people, newspapers have the potential to make a contribution to a revolution in the perspectives that society holds. According to the cultivation theory proposed by Gerbner and Gross, which states that viewers' perceptions of reality may be influenced by prolonged exposure to material linked with the media, this is in line with the results that they have obtained.

The coverage that is supplied by the media, on the other hand, is susceptible to a variety of criticisms and complaints, many of which include sensationalism, biased reporting, and the underreporting of certain aspects. Importantly, Chomsky's propaganda model places a focus on the fact that the content of the media contributes to the dissemination of the goals of dominant and elite groups at the expense of authoritative reporting. This is something that should be taken into consideration. Despite the challenges they confront, the media in Telangana play a significant role in initiating public discourse on child rights, informing and educating the public, and influencing cultural attitudes, public conduct, and policymaking. This is despite the fact that they face a number of challenges. A multifaceted strategy that places an emphasis on ethical journalism, improved involvement, and

instructional material is required in order to successfully adopt new tactics for reporting on child rights concerns in newspapers in the state of Telangana. Avoiding sensationalism, protecting anonymity and privacy, and bringing attention to systemic problems such as child labour, trafficking, or educational inequities are some of the techniques that fall under this category.

For the purpose of encouraging reader contact on child rights issues, public engagement and interactive platforms should be used. This may be accomplished via the use of opinion surveys, letters to the editor, and social media participation. Individuals or communities who are actively trying to enhance child rights should be included in community tales. These stories should provide readers inspiration and engage them. Awareness campaigns, infographics, and visual storytelling techniques should be used into educational material in order to explain complicated subjects.

All socioeconomic origins should be covered via diverse and inclusive reporting, and good advancements in child rights should be highlighted. With frequent journalist training and expert columns from child rights specialists, psychologists, and educators, policy impact and advocacy should include policy analysis and advocacy journalism. In addition, there should be regular training for journalists.

One strategy that may be used is one that is digital and multimedia in nature, making use of internet platforms to achieve a greater reach and level of interaction, especially with younger people. It is possible to have a more interesting conversation on topics pertaining to children's rights by using videos, podcasts, and interactive media.

The newspapers in Telangana have the potential to play a crucial role in moulding public discourse, influencing policy, and improving the welfare of children if they embrace these tactics and put them into practice. To guarantee that the rights and well-being of children remain at the centre of media coverage, it is vital to strike a balance between the journalistic integrity requirements and the social responsibility requirements.

## Conclusion

The study underscores the importance of media in advocating for child rights and raising awareness. While certain newspapers demonstrated a commendable commitment to the cause, there is room for improvement in terms of quantity, quality, and consistency of coverage across all selected newspapers. The findings of this study can inform advocacy efforts, policy decisions, and media practices to better protect and promote child rights in Telangana State.

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