A Critical Analysis of Coverage on Environmental News in Two Pakistani National Leading Newspapers (Daily Dawn and Jung "May to July 2024")

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ABSTRACT

This study critically examines the coverage of environmental news in two of Pakistan's leading national newspapers using both qualitative and quantitative research methods. The research investigates the extent and nature of environmental reporting, identifying key trends, themes, and biases in news coverage. By employing content analysis and statistical evaluation, the study measures the frequency, depth, and framing of environmental issues in leading newspapers. The findings reveal that environmental news is often underreported, with coverage heavily influenced by political and economic factors. Additionally, the study highlights a tendency toward event-based reporting rather than in depth investigative journalism. The data indicates that while climate change, pollution, and natural disasters receive occasional attention, long term environmental concerns are largely overlooked. This research provides valuable insights into the patterns of environmental journalism in Pakistan, contributing to the broader discourse on media representation of ecological issues. The study underscores the need for a more structured and consistent approach to environmental reporting to ensure greater public awareness and policy engagement.

Keywords: Critical Analysis, Environmental News, Pakistan, Newspapers, Daily Dawn, Jung

INTRODUCTION

In modern day world environment has become a key subject for study and for the researchers it is a very vast paradigm to explore further and gather more accurate data and understand it's dynamics. Environmental issues are prevailing on planet earth day by day and with the passage of time our coexistence with environment and nature is becoming more challenging. The world is experiencing many challenges and it is becoming more life threatening with every other day. Governments, non-political

organizations, environmental activists and media is playing their roles remaining in their respective boundaries. "Climate change, deforestation, pollution and loss of biodiversity are some of the threats facing our planet. It is through the coverage and investigation of these issues that the media can raise awareness and mitigate the challenges of climate change and environmental degradation for a sustainable future." Limukani Ncube Editor, B-Metro (Zimbabwe). Media organizations across the globe has made environmental news coverage an important part of their dissemination. "It is the responsibility of journalists to take up such issues so that public awareness could be raised and the decision makers' attention could be diverted to environment, health and nutrition issues." Afia Salam Journalist, from Pakistan.

In the case of Pakistan, science and environmental journalism is crucial for sustainable development "ranging from facilitation of good governance to social cohesion, peace, public participation, empowerment and inclusion" (Chacchar, 2021). Environmental journalism aims to document, analyze, and report on the various environmental phenomena affecting the country. By covering a wide range of topics such as biodiversity, natural resource management, and environmental conservation efforts, this type of journalism helps shape public understanding of the environment (Sharma, 2024).

Environmental journalism in Pakistan refers to the reporting of news and issues related to the environment, particularly the effects of human activities on nature and ecosystems. It involves covering topics such as pollution, climate change, deforestation, and water management, providing the public with essential information about the state of the environment (Robbin, 2016). We find that a range of factors on individual, routine, organizational, and extra-media level influence media reporting of the environment in Pakistan and shape the professional identities of environmental journalists. The environmental beat is regarded as lacking in prestige compared to politics or the economy, and resource constraints prevent on the ground reporting (Quisen, 2016).

Discovering the importance of Coverage of environmental issue the researchers has decided to take this opportunity and critically analyze the two leading newspapers Pakistan Daily Dawn and. Daily Jang one Urdu Newspaper and other english medium newspaper which are widely read in Pakistan were selected to study the reporting style, techniques, forms, and editorial policy of a limit to which extant both newspapers can publish the news. It has been also a matter of concern for researchers to find out which medium of language newspaper gives more preference to which will bring clarity to the researchers in analyzing more between local language newspapers and English language newspaper.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Environment: Environmental means concerned with the protection of the natural world of land, sea, air, plants, and animals (Guardian., 2017) Environment is defined as natural things include in plants see air animals human.

Environment can be defined as sum of all the living and non-living elements and their effects that influence human life. While all living or biotic elements are animals, plants, forests, fisheries, and birds, non-living or abiotic elements include water, land, sunlight, rocks, and air (Sharma., 2023).

The environment refers to the surroundings and conditions in which living organisms exist. It encompasses the natural world, including air, water, and land, flora, fauna, and climate, as well as human-made factors such as pollution, urbanization, and technology. The environment sustains life, providing essential resources like food, shelter, and energy (Woodwell., 1990).

The complex of physical, chemical, and biotic factors (as climate, soil, and living things) that act upon an organism or an ecological community and ultimately determine its form and survival. The aggregate of social and cultural conditions that influence the life of an individual or community (Gupta., 2022).

The environment, from a scientific perspective, encompasses the biotic (living) and abiotic (non-living) components that interact within an ecosystem. It comprises atmospheric, hydrological, geological, and biological systems (ek Dikshit., 1984).

Looking at all, these issues and problems related to environmental reporting, the researcher decided to discuss how the media in Pakistan is covering and presenting this topic, for which Pakistan's two major newspapers, Daily Dawn English and Daily Jang Urdu, were taken so that a comparative analysis of Urdu and English reporting could also be presented.

Global Environmental Issues: Finding solutions for environmental problems that we are facing have become very important (Wang Jinnah., 2014). Environmental problems, which may have global impacts, are complex and often interrelated with socio-economic factors. Environmental issues transcend national borders, becoming global concerns. International environmental problems include Climate change: Rising temperatures, melting ice caps, and extreme weather events. Biodiversity loss: Species extinction, habitat destruction, and ecosystem disruption. Deforestation: Rainforest clearance, soil erosion, and water cycle disruption. Ocean pollution: Plastic waste, oil spills, and marine life decline. (Wang Jinnah., 2014).

One of the important dimensions of the efforts for environmental protection is raising public awareness and participation. The problems can only be properly addressed through cooperation among public sector along with the private sector, non-governmental organizations and the civil society (Anna Dubrova., 2019). These issues require cooperative solutions, international agreements (e.g., Paris Agreement), and collective action to mitigate their impact on human health, economic stability, and planetary well-being.

National Environmental issues: Now a day's Pakistan facing serious environmental problems that Pakistan is facing, and they are getting worse as the country's economy expands and the population grows. Although some NGOs and government departments have taken initiatives to stop environmental degradation, Pakistan's environmental issues remain. Pakistan is facing a significant challenge as its natural resources and ecosystems encounter increasing pollution and strain. The foremost environmental concerns in the country revolve around the excessive use of limited natural resources, contamination of air and water, diminishing energy reserves, the reduction of forests, and the management of waste (Afzal., 2014).

There are lot of issues in Pakistan according to environmental such as water pollution, soil pollution, Noise pollution and climate change. All these changes are having a very bad effect on our society, which is very dangerous for human life. Due to these changes our society is not progressing and people are suffering from diseases. Environmental issues refer to harmful impacts on the natural world, threatening the health, well-being, and survival of living organisms. These issues result from human activities, natural disasters, or technological failures, affecting air, water, land, and living organisms.

Importance of Environmental Journalism: Environmental journalism plays a vital role in addressing global crises like climate change and biodiversity loss, educating the public and holding policymakers accountable. However, it is a high-risk profession, as journalists often face threats while reporting from remote and hazardous locations on issues such as deforestation and pollution. (Sachman., 2020).

Environmental journalism is a significant aspect in the society. They are made aware of climate change biodiversity deforestation and pollution (Hasen., 2019). This career is quite dangerous age journalist. They are encountering numerous issues when they go to report a story in remote and hazardous places such as before castration and pollution zones (Mocatta, 2015).

Other objectives of environmental journalism besides informing and creating awareness to the people in the society include: Creating a debate on issues that concern the environment. Promoting among the

population and offering synergies to the subjects that are overlooked in the mainstream media (Araf., 2016).

Besides the job of information and awareness provision within the society, the journalist also has another job. Environmental journalism encourages people to act, get involved in environmental movements and promote change. One cannot overestimate the significance of environmental journalism. It is crucial to the preservation of the planet and the sustainable future (Kumar., 2023).

Introduction to Environmental Journalism in Pakistan: In Pakistan, environmental journalism has become prominent because of the rising environmental issues like climate change, cutting down trees and pollution. Nevertheless, the media coverage of such issues is not very consistent. According to a study by (Chachhar et al., 2020), English-language newspapers such as Dawn offered a broader coverage of environmental issues than Urdu-language newspapers such as Jang, which meant that there was a difference in how the environment was covered in newspapers of different language mediums.

Framing and Representation of Environmental Issues: The framing of environmental news has great impact on the perception of the population. Nazeer et al., (2024) conducted a research on a critical discourse analysis of environmental news in the major English newspapers and revealed how metaphors and other rhetorical devices are used to either stress the urgency or tone down the seriousness of environmental problems. Their research pointed out that more balanced and informative reporting is necessary to encourage the participation of the citizens. Likewise, (Ahmed et al., 2025) compared the coverage of climate change in Dawn and The News International and discovered that Dawn was dominated by policy debates and scientific progress, whereas The News International was dominated by socio-economic consequences and grassroots movements. This shows different editorial priorities in environmental reporting and approaches used by English language newspapers.

Challenges in Environmental Reporting: Pakistan has many challenges that environmental journalists encounter such as lack of editorial support, specialized training, and political pressure. A report by The News International in 2024 emphasized the need for investigative and data-driven journalism to effectively report on environmental issues. The report stressed that ethical conduct and in-depth knowledge are the key to effective and successful environmental reporting.

Furthermore, a study by (Riaz et al., 2023) noted that climate change stories are often relegated to less prominent sections of newspapers, reducing their visibility and impact. The study advocated for prioritizing climate change stories on front pages and increasing coverage of mitigation efforts to enhance public awareness.

Comparative Analysis of Urdu and English Newspapers: Comparative studies have shown that English-language newspapers in Pakistan tend to provide more comprehensive coverage of environmental issues than their Urdu-language counterparts. A study by (Zahir., 2015) found that while both English and Urdu newspapers covered environmental topics, English newspapers offered more in-depth analysis and utilized a wider range of sources. This disparity suggests a need for improving environmental journalism across all language mediums to ensure broader public engagement.

According to the literature, the awareness about the environmental problems in Pakistan is increasing, the media coverage is not balanced and lacks depth. The coverage of environmental issues in English-language newspapers such as Dawn and The News International have improved, but there are still issues facing the coverage, such as lack of framing tactics and investigative journalism. To solve these problems, one needs to take coordinated action to improve the journalistic activity, give specific training and focus on environmental news in all media.

Dr. Abdul Razzaq wrote an article on "Media Coverage in Environmental Issue in Pakistan assessing print media coverage on Environmental issues in Pakistan" in which he wrote about the issue of environment and collected data from three newspapers Dawn, Jang and Kawish. Three newspapers are sample for study Daily Dawn, which is in English, Jung is in Urdu and Kawish is in Sindhi. The data was collected from 1st January to December 2016. Data was collected to showing how Pakistani citizens are suffering from environmental issues. English newspaper Dawn has given more coverage to these concerned issues, while secondly, Urdu Jang newspaper has given coverage and Kawish has covered a smaller number of stories regarding five major environmental issues (Abdul Raqaz., 2021).

Dr Mohammad Irfan wrote in article on environment issue topic print media coverage of "Environmental issues a comparative study of Urdu and English newspaper" in which he describes about the issues of environment and collected data from two newspapers Daily dawn and Ajj. Two newspapers are sample for study Daily Dawn Which is English and Ajj is in Urdu. Data was collected from 4 months of 2015. The result of the researcher about the question does English newspaper coverage more to environmental issue then Urdu but final result date Urdu newspaper his give more coverage environmental issue than English newspaper (Irfan., 2017).

Dr Dastar Ali chandoi wrote in his article on Environment issues topic "analyse in the coverage of environment news in major newspaper of Sindh Pakistan" in which he describes the issues of environment and collect the data from daily Dawn, daily Jang and daily kawish 3 specific newspaper which are sample for four months of 2022. When researcher explored major environmental issues in Pakistan through two National and one regional newspapers. The finding show that Pakistani media does not play major environment and issues. Daily Dawn cover more coverage of environmental issues as compare to daily Jung and daily Kawish (Arain Shabir., 2024).

Research Objectives

- To explore challenges faced by Pakistani print media in covering environmental issues.
- To examine the frequency, prominence, and quality of environmental coverage in Pakistani print media.
- To assess the level of attention given to local versus global environmental issues.

Research Questions

- What is the frequency and prominence of environmental coverage in Pakistani print media?
- What role does print media play in raising awareness about Pakistan's specific environmental challenges (e.g., water scarcity, air pollution)?
- How do Pakistani print media outlets cover environmental conflicts (e.g., deforestation, industrial pollution)?
- How much Pakistani print media give importance to an environmental news in a meaning of front-page headline

Significance of Study

The aim and goal of this research were to explore and analyse the coverage of two newspapers about the environmental issues in print media. The content analysis was selected by to find out that how much environment issues have been covering.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

For the study, we have used research qualitative and quantities mean mix method. For the study we have adopted research approach like qualitative and quantitative research method and content analysis of two newspapers namely the (DAILY DAWN) English national newspaper and the (JUNG) Urdu national newspaper.

The aim and goal of this research were to explore and analyse the coverage of two newspapers about the environmental issues in print media. The content analysis was selected by to find out that how much environment issues have been covering.

Research Tools

In this research, we used content analysis and interviews. Qualitative research is a research methodology that focuses on gathering and analysing numerical data to gain deeper understanding particular phenomena theme issues. It involves collecting and interpretation data through methods such as

Interviews

Interviews to be conducted: Qualitative interview tool was used, whereby topic-related experts were interviewed.

- Environmental/Climate Journalist
- NGO worker or any designated holder working on environment and climate
- Editor of Daily Dawn & Daily Jang (2)
- Environmental Science Department & Media Science Department HOD or Teacher
- Daily Jang and Daily Dawn active Readers
- Environmental/Climate Journalist

Quantitative Research

Content analysis

We used common method used to quantitative research content analysis the help of using tow national newspapers (daily dawn) (Jung)It can provide valuable insight into their coverage to specific topic issue. We choose specific time (2024 May, June and July) to find out environmental issues data are as follows.

Explanation of Total Content Breakdown:

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS COVERAGE IN DAILY JANG AND DAILY DAWN

The data from *Daily Jang* and *Daily Dawn* over a three-month period presents a contrasting approach to environmental journalism in Pakistan. While both newspapers covered environmental issues, their emphasis, depth, and placement of content varied significantly.

1. Overall Coverage

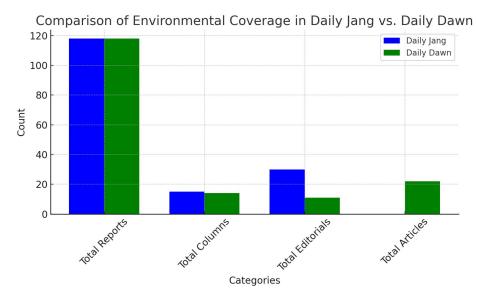
Daily Jang:

Total Reports: 118Total Columns: 15

Total Editorials: 30Total Articles: 0

Daily Dawn:

Total Reports: 118
Total Columns: 14
Total Editorials: 11
Total Articles: 22



Analysis:

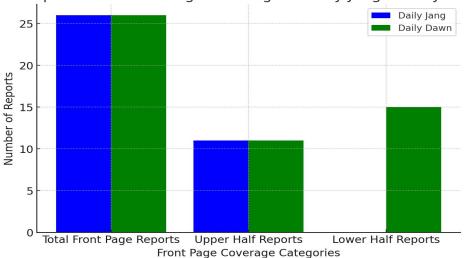
- Both newspapers published an equal number of 118 reports, suggesting a similar level of reporting on environmental issues.
- However, *Daily Dawn published 22 articles, whereas *Daily Jang had none, indicating a more analytical approach in Dawn with in-depth environmental discussions.
- Daily Jang published more editorials (30 vs. 11 in Dawn), showing a stronger editorial stance on environmental issues compared to Dawn.
- The number of *columns is almost the same* in both newspapers (15 in Jang vs. 14 in Dawn), suggesting a similar frequency of opinion-based pieces.

2. Front Page Coverage

- Daily Jang:
 - o Front Page Reports: 26 (Upper Half: *11, Lower Half: 0)
- Daily Dawn:
 - o Front Page Reports: 26 (Upper Half: *11, Lower Half: 15)

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Analysis:

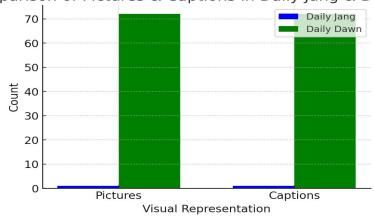
- Both newspapers placed 26 reports on the front page, indicating environmental issues were given similar importance in terms of initial visibility.
- However, Dawn had more articles in the lower half (15) than Jang (0), suggesting Dawn may have given a broader placement across the front page rather than focusing only on the top.

3. Visual Representation (Pictures & Captions)

• Daily Jang: 1 Picture, 1 Caption

• **Daily Dawn:** 72 Pictures, 72 Captions

Comparison of Pictures & Captions in Daily Jang & Daily Dawn

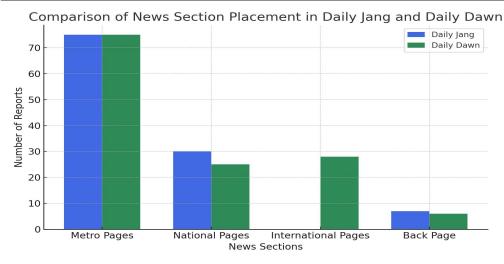


Analysis:

- Dawn utilized visual storytelling significantly more than Jang, enhancing reader engagement through images.
- The *lack of visual representation in Jang (only 1 picture)* shows a major gap in its approach to making environmental news more engaging.

4. Placement in Different News Sections

Section	Daily Jang	Daily Dawn
Metro Pages	75	75
National Pages	30	25
International Pages	0	28
Back Page	7	6



Analysis:

- Both newspapers prioritized Metro pages, with 75 reports each, reflecting a focus on city-based environmental news.
- Jang had more coverage on National pages (30 vs. 25 in Dawn), indicating more emphasis on national-level environmental issues.
- Dawn covered international environmental news (28 reports), whereas Jang had none, showing that Dawn provided a broader global perspective.
- Jang had slightly more back-page reports (7 vs. 6 in Dawn), but in both cases, environmental news was minimally featured in concluding segments.

KEY FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

Depth of Coverage

- Daily Dawn provided more in-depth analysis through *22 articles, whereas *Jang had none.
- Jang published more editorials (30 vs. 11 in Dawn), suggesting stronger editorial engagement in shaping environmental discourse.

Visual Engagement

- Dawn significantly outperformed Jang in visual representation (72 pictures vs. only 1 in Jang).
- This indicates Dawn's stronger attempt to engage readers with images alongside environmental reporting.

International Perspective

Dawn covered international environmental news (28 reports), while Jang had none.

• This suggests Dawn's broader outlook, connecting local environmental issues with global developments.

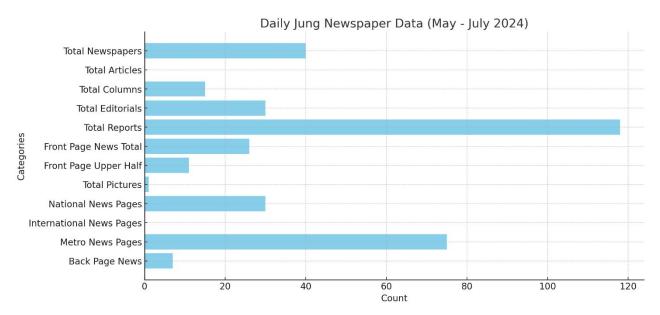
Page Placement and Prioritization:

- Both newspapers featured 26 front-page reports, showing a similar level of prioritization.
- However, Jang focused more on National pages (30) while Dawn balanced its coverage across National (25) and International (28) pages.

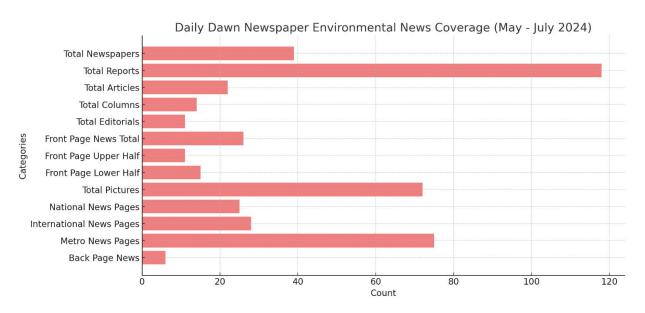
Final Verdict

- Daily Dawn had a more diverse and visually engaging approach, providing in-depth coverage through articles, international reports, and images.
- Daily Jang, while publishing more editorials and national coverage, lacked visual representation and in-depth articles.
- Both newspapers heavily relied on Metro pages, but Dawn's international focus gives it a slight edge in holistic environmental journalism.

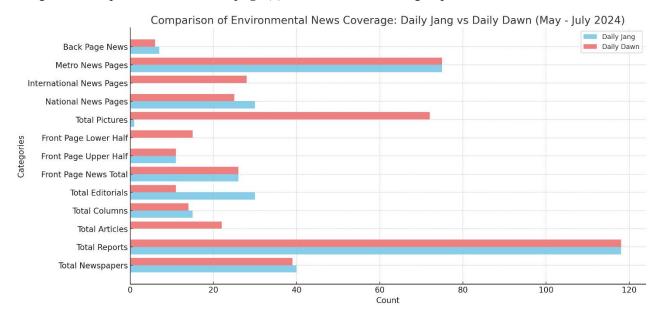
Bar Charts



The data from *Daily Jang* shows that over 40 editions, it published 118 reports but no articles, focusing more on editorials (30) and columns (15). Front-page coverage included 26 reports, with 11 in the upper half but none in the lower half. Visual engagement was minimal, with only one picture and caption. Most reports were on Metro pages (75), while national coverage (30) was prioritized over international news (0).



The Daily Dawn published 118 reports on environmental issues over three months, but with limited indepth analysis, as seen in its 22 articles, 14 columns, and 11 editorials. Front-page coverage included 26 reports, while strong visual engagement was evident with 72 pictures and captions. Most reports appeared in Metro Pages (75), with additional coverage on International (28) and National (25) pages, though minimal presence on the back page (6) reduced its concluding impact.



The comparative analysis highlights differences in environmental news coverage between *Daily Jang* and *Daily Dawn*. While both newspapers published an equal number of reports (118), Dawn provided deeper analysis through 22 articles, whereas Jang had none. Dawn also used 72 images to engage readers, while Jang relied on a single picture. Additionally, Dawn covered international environmental news (28 reports), whereas Jang focused more on national-level reporting.

QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS

Result and Discussions

Environmental journalism plays a crucial role in raising awareness about climate change, shaping public discourse, and driving policy action. Faisal Rehman and Nadeem Khan, both journalists covering environmental issues, offer valuable insights into the challenges and necessities of reporting on climate-related topics. This analysis compares their perspectives and presents suitable solutions to improve environmental journalism.

Comparative Analysis

Aspect	Faisal Rehman's Opinion	Nadeem Khan's Opinion
Importance of	Essential for raising awareness,	Crucial for educating the public on climate
Environmental	shaping public discourse, and	change's impact on daily life and offering
News	driving policy changes.	solutions.
Ensuring	Relies on credible data, expert	Ensures accuracy through expert opinions,
Accuracy	insights, and fact-checking.	studies, and fact-checking.
Challenges	Data inaccessibility, low public	Lack of local data, absence of expert
	interest, and safety concerns.	opinions in Balochistan, and neglect of the
7 .00	~	region in environmental discussions.
Efforts to	Collaboration with experts,	Seeking insights from experts in other
Address	participation in events, and	provinces and evaluating credibility based
Challenges	referencing reputable sources.	on research publications.
Suggestions for	Capacity building, open data access,	Enhancing technical expertise, improving
Improvement	collaborations, increased funding,	tool usage, and gaining deeper knowledge
	and public awareness campaigns.	of environmental reporting.

Key Insights

- 1. **Common Ground:** Both journalists emphasize the importance of environmental journalism, accuracy, and expert-backed reporting.
- 2. **Differences:** Faisal Rehman focuses on broader challenges like public engagement and policy influence, while Nadeem Khan highlights regional disparities, particularly in Balochistan.
- 3. **Shared Challenges:** Both acknowledge issues like data inaccessibility and the need for expert insights to ensure credible reporting.

Solutions

1. Develop a Centralized Environmental Data Hub

 Establish a government-supported or independent database with real-time climate and environmental data for journalists.

2. Increase Expert Accessibility in Balochistan

 Conduct training programs to build a network of local environmental experts and researchers.

3. Enhance Technical Training for Journalists

o Introduce workshops on using digital tools, GIS mapping, and satellite imagery for environmental reporting.

4. Promote Public Awareness and Engagement

 Launch media campaigns to increase audience interest in environmental news and climate issues.

5. Strengthen Collaborations

 Foster partnerships between journalists, NGOs, scientists, and policymakers to improve data sharing and investigative reporting.

CONCLUSION

By implementing these solutions, environmental journalism can become more impactful, bridging knowledge gaps and influencing policy changes more effectively. Addressing the challenges highlighted by both journalists will ensure more accurate, engaging, and solution-oriented reporting on climate and environmental issues.

The results of the current study indicate a noticeable imbalance in the way the issue of the environment is covered by the two most popular Pakistan newspapers Dawn and Jang. Although Dawn as an English-language newspaper portrays a more consistent and thorough commitment to environmental journalism that also includes scientific views, policy-related information, and a global climate story, the Urdulanguage counterpart Jang is more likely to provide event-based and short reporting with little contextual analysis. This shows a vacuum in the dissemination of public awareness especially in the Urdu speaking segments of society who constitute a large percentage of the population.

The study revealed that the environment is often under-covered in comparison to other news categories (politics, sports, entertainment, etc.). What is more, lack of specific environmental sections, inconsistent reporting frequency, and insufficient investigation journalism undermines the possible influence of environmental news on the opinion and policy-making. The disparities in the headline prominence, positioning of the articles and visual accompaniments of the two newspapers not only indicate editorial priorities but also the urgency or otherwise to the environmental issue in the mainstream media in Pakistan.

Considering these results, it is clear that both newspapers need to go further in terms of taking editorial stands in order to give prominence to environmental reporting. These are training journalists on environmental communications, partnering with climate specialists, and giving sustainability stories more space and prominence. The media should be more inclusive and proactive to influence informed debate within the community and policy-making so that the community behaves responsibly towards the environment. Media can play the role of a catalyst in raising awareness, accountability and action towards resolving the increasing ecological problems in Pakistan only through credible and consistent environmental journalism.

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