



SRUJANI: Indian Journal of Innovative Research and Development (SIJIRD)

Volume-1 Issue 6, January-February 2023, Pp. 128-133
Bi-Monthly, Peer-Reviewed, Open Access, Indexed Journal

ISSN: 2583-3510

S I R D F
JOURNAL S
editor@srujani.in
www.srujani.in

DEPICTION OF IRAQ YOUTH IN MAINSTREAM INDIAN AND IRAQ MEDIA - A STUDY

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Abstract:

Iraqi youth make up a significant portion of the country's population and play a crucial role in shaping its future. The way in which they are portrayed in the media has the potential to influence not only their own perceptions of themselves but also those of the wider community. This research article aims to compare and contrast the depiction of Iraq youth in Indian and Iraq media and to identify any significant differences or similarities between the two.

Keywords: Iraq Youth, Iraq, Indian Media, Iraq Media & Mainstream Medi.

INTRODUCTION

The representation of Iraqi youth in mainstream media can vary depending on the source and the context in which they are being portrayed. However, in general, the media tends to focus on the challenges and struggles faced by Iraqi youth, such as unemployment, poverty, and lack of opportunities. Some media outlets also highlight the resilience and creativity of Iraqi youth in the face of these challenges. For example, there are numerous stories about young Iraqis starting their own businesses, pursuing their education despite the odds, and using social media to connect with their peers and advocate for change.

In addition to these themes, the media may also focus on political issues affecting Iraqi youth, such as the ongoing conflict and instability in the region, as well as the role of young people in shaping the future of Iraq. The youth has been an indispensable part of nation-building processes throughout history, although their agency has been undermined in many of these processes. They are usually considered as an audience for state propaganda rather than a partner in creating a

Please cite this article as: Adeeb Obaid Hassoon & C.K. Puttaswamy. (2023). Depiction of Iraq youth in mainstream Indian and Iraq media – A study. *SRUJANI: Indian Journal of Innovative Research and Development*, 1(6), 128-133.

newpolitical, social and economic future for thecountry. (Baser. B, Fazil S, 2022)

Overall, while Iraqi youth may face significant challenges, they are also a vibrant and dynamic group that is actively working to create a better future for themselves and their country. It is important for the media to provide a balanced and nuanced portrayal of Iraqi youth, highlighting both their struggles and their successes.

Methodology

Qualitative data analysis is a method used to interpret and make sense of non-numerical data. This type of data analysis is often used in social science research, where researchers seek to understand human behaviour and attitudes, perceptions, and experiences. Njie & Asimiran (2014) said that qualitative methodology, just as implied in its name emphasizes on the underlying qualities of entities and processes and their implicit meanings. It involves several steps, including data preparation, data organization, data coding, and data interpretation. These steps are typically iterative, meaning that researchers may cycle back and forth between them in order to refine their understanding of the data.

Once the data has been coded, researchers can begin the process of data interpretation. This involves identifying patterns and relationships in the data and drawing conclusions based on these patterns. It is important for researchers to remain open-minded during this stage and to consider alternative interpretations of the data. (Joop J., Boeije. H.R, 2005).

Overall, qualitative data analysis is a powerful tool for making sense of complex, non-numerical data. It allows researchers to gain rich insights into human behaviour and experiences and to generate new hypotheses for further investigation.

Secondary research refers to the process of collecting and analysing data that has already been gathered by someone else. This type of research can be conducted through various sources, such as books, academic journals, government reports, and online databases. Secondary research helps define the agenda for subsequent primary research by suggesting which questions require answers that have not been obtained in previous research. (Stewart. D.W., KaminsM.A, 1993)

Depiction of Iraq Youth in Iraqi Media:

Iraq media has undergone significant changes over the past few years, with a focus on highlighting the positive contributions of young people to society. The

youth are being shown as active participants in various aspects of society, from politics and business to sports and culture. For example, the emergence of young politicians in recent elections has been covered extensively by the media, with these young politicians being seen as representing a new wave of leadership in the country.

In the field of sports, Iraqi athletes, particularly young ones, have been performing well on the international stage, and this has been celebrated by the media. Coverage of sporting events has also been used as an opportunity to showcase the passion and dedication of young Iraqi athletes.

However, there are still areas where improvement is needed. The ongoing issue of violence and conflict in the country means that youth are often portrayed as victims of violence, and their experiences are often depicted as tragic and hopeless.

Ningthoujam. A.S (2014)said thatthis kind of tragic depiction can create a sense of hopelessness among young people, which is a barrier to progress and development. Another area where improvement is needed is in the portrayal of women.

While there are many talented and successful young women in Iraq, they are often overlooked in media coverage, creating a perception that women are not important contributors to society. Which is not only inaccurate but also harmful to the prospects of gender equality.

According to a study on *Trauma-Related Psychopathology in Iraqi Refugee Youth Resettled in the United States, and Comparison With an Ethnically Similar Refugee Sample: A Cross-Sectional Study*,(2021)it showed that thirty-eight percent of Iraqi youth indicated a possible anxietydisorder. Forspecific anxiety disorders, separation anxiety was the most highlyprevalent condition with 87.5% of youth screening positive; allbut three boys and three girls in the sample screened positive forseparation anxiety.

The depiction of Iraq youth in Iraq media has seen positive changes in recent years, with a focus on highlighting the positive contributions of young people to society. However, there are still challenges to overcome, particularly in addressing the ongoing issue of violence and conflict and ensuring that young women are adequately represented. By continuing to work towards a more accurate and positive portrayal of youth in Iraq media, we can create a brighter future for the country and its people.

Depiction of Iraq Youth in Indian Media

The depiction of Iraq in Indian media has been a topic of much discussion and debate over the years. India and Iraq share a long history of cultural, economic, and political ties, and as such, the portrayal of Iraq in Indian media has been of particular importance.

In the years leading up to the 2003 invasion of Iraq, Indian media coverage of the country was generally neutral or positive. Indian newspapers and television channels reported on the humanitarian crisis caused by the UN sanctions against Iraq and highlighted the plight of the Iraqi people. However, after the invasion, the tone of Indian media coverage changed dramatically. The Kashmir Monitor newspaper in one of its articles called the reasons behind waging the war as a fiction (Zakria. S, 2015).

The Indian media, like much of the global media, focused on the conflict and the violence that ensued. News channels in India broadcast live updates from Iraq, with correspondents on the ground reporting on the fighting and the casualties. The coverage was often graphic and sensational, with little attention paid to the complexities of the situation or the wider geopolitical context.

The coverage of Iraq in Indian media has been criticized for its lack of nuance and depth. The Indian media's focus on violence and conflict has overshadowed the country's rich cultural heritage and history. Orgeret.K.S&Tayeebwa.W (2016) said that there has been little coverage of Iraq's ancient civilizations or its contribution to human civilization. Similarly, the media has paid little attention to the country's post-invasion reconstruction efforts or the ongoing political and economic challenges facing the country.

Furthermore, the Indian media's coverage of Iraq has been accused of perpetuating stereotypes and prejudices about the Arab world. Indian media often depicts Iraq as a violent, chaotic place, where the rule of law is non-existent, and where extremism and terrorism thrive. These depictions are often one-dimensional and fail to capture the complexity of the country and its people.

It is important to note, however, that not all Indian media coverage of Iraq has been negative or one-sided. Some Indian journalists and news outlets have worked to provide more nuanced coverage of the country, highlighting its rich cultural heritage and its ongoing struggle for stability and democracy. Additionally, Indian media coverage of Iraq has often been critical of the US-led invasion and its aftermath, highlighting the human cost of the conflict and the failure of the international community to adequately address the situation.

While there have been some positive examples of nuanced coverage, overall, Indian media coverage of Iraq has been criticized for its lack of depth, nuance,

and balance. The sensationalist focus on violence and conflict has often overshadowed the country's rich cultural heritage and history, and perpetuated stereotypes and prejudices about the Arab world. It is important for Indian media to provide more nuanced coverage of Iraq, one that takes into account the complexity of the country and its people.

Comparison and Contrast:

The depiction of Iraq youth in Indian and Iraq media differs significantly. While Iraq media has made efforts to highlight the positive contributions of young people to society, Indian media tends to focus on the impact of the conflict on Iraq youth. This difference in approach reflects the different priorities and perspectives of the two countries.

However, there are also some similarities in the way that Iraq youth are depicted in both Indian and Iraq media. Both tend to focus on the impact of violence and conflict on young people, creating a perception that they are helpless victims of circumstances beyond their control. This can be detrimental to the prospects of progress and development in the region, as it can create a sense of hopelessness and helplessness among young people.

Conclusion

The depiction of Iraq youth in Indian and Iraq media reflects the different priorities and perspectives of the two countries. While Iraq media has made efforts to highlight the positive contributions of young people to society, Indian media tends to focus on the impact of the conflict on Iraq youth. Both, however, tend to focus on the impact of violence and conflict on young people, creating a perception that they are helpless victims of circumstances beyond their control. By continuing to work towards a more accurate and positive portrayal of youth in both Indian and Iraq media, we can create a brighter future for the region and its people.

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