

PRINT MEDIA COVERAGE OF COVID-19 IMPACT ON CHILDREN



ASIAN COLLEGE OF JOURNALISM



unicef

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INTRODUCTION

At the time of writing this report, India is in the grip of the second wave of the COVID pandemic. In a span of a year, much has been learnt about the Sars-CoV2 virus and its infection in humans. In India, the second wave has been particularly devastating in terms of the toll on human lives to the disease. The impact of both waves of this public health crisis on children has, however, been a mixed bag.

Children, for various reasons, have shown better immunity and resistance to the COVID-19 virus, either by being asymptomatic or mildly affected by it and not requiring intensive treatment. During the first wave of the pandemic, one of the reasons children were said to be protected from the infection was the immediate closure of schools and public spaces that restricted their movement and exposure to the virus.

Before the second wave of the pandemic set in, most countries learnt their lessons to handle the virus and improved their public health infrastructure. In India, more children were being tested positive for the virus during the second wave as compared to the first wave. This has been attributed to better testing facilities, awareness and knowledge of the symptoms of the virus. Despite higher paediatric cases during the second wave, healthcare workers and doctors note that the infection is not severe in most cases.

However, the pandemic's impact on children has been manifold. While children have largely been immune to its primary impact, they have been significantly affected by its secondary or indirect impact. A country-wide lockdown during the first wave, disrupted schooling, access to public spaces for recreation or play, created uncertainty and anxiety about future plans among high school students, disrupted access to crucial health interventions and services such as cooked school meals, sanitary napkins or immunisations to tackle childhood diseases, and increased vulnerability within family spaces to violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

Increase in domestic violence cases, abuse within familial spaces, and vulnerability to child labour and drop out from school because of loss of livelihoods and persisting digital divide in accessing online education, has been reported and documented in the media. Girl children are particularly prone to vulnerable situations of being pushed into early marriages, while both the boy and girl child from marginalised families face the vulnerability of being pushed into the labour force. A more heartrending situation amidst the second wave has been the orphaning of children who have lost both parents to the COVID disease.

Any disaster or emergency is said to heighten and multiply vulnerabilities of children. The public health emergency due to COVID-19 has increased children's vulnerabilities and violated several of their rights.

This research is an attempt to understand the print media's coverage of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on children during the first wave of the crisis from March 2020 to October 2020. The chosen time period looks at eight months' coverage of the crisis in two leading national dailies, The Hindu and Times of India.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A quantitative research methodology was used for the purposes of this study. The research method to study the data was content analysis.

RATIONALE FOR THIS STUDY

The ongoing pandemic has often been described as a unique public health crisis for our generation. The experiences and impact of this public health crisis can impact human interactions, behaviour, and living styles in the future. Children will especially bear an imprint of this pandemic for many years to come. A study to understand the media's coverage of this crisis and its impact on children will provide insight into one aspect of how we have understood this crisis.

As the pandemic continues to devastate India in its second wave, we decided it best to thoroughly look at the media's coverage during the chosen time period, which coincided with the first wave in India, instead of choosing a sample within this period. We looked at every news article published in the Times of India and The Hindu for a period of 35 weeks which began on March 1, 2020 and ended on October 31, 2020 and were related to children and their issues.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The purpose of this research was to understand the print media's coverage of the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on children. For this purpose, the following research questions were framed:

1. What were the issues, related to children, covered by the media during the period of the pandemic? Were all stories linked or related to the pandemic?
2. What was the spread of the stories in terms of impact of the pandemic on children – did they discuss the direct impact on children more or were they largely about the secondary impacts?
3. Which issues concerning children (on health, education, or protection and so on) received considerable coverage and attention from the media?
4. Were the stories representational of children from different categories such as age, gender, caste, class, region/location, community, etc.?

CHOOSING THE DATA SOURCES

The data sources for this research were English national dailies, The Hindu and Times of India which command high readership in Chennai. Their Chennai editions were chosen for the purposes of this study.

TIME PERIOD OF THE STUDY

The period chosen for the study was eight months during the first wave of the pandemic from March, 2020 to October, 2020. March 2020 was chosen as the beginning of the study period as the pandemic's impact was widely felt in India around this time. Cases were reported across different states in the country, and the country went into a total lockdown in the third week of March. While the initial idea was to study the impact of the pandemic and reporting in the media till the end of 2020, we had to curtail the time period to eight months. This was done more for convenience and due to time constraints to complete the research.

DATA COLLECTION

Given the pandemic and the sporadic disruptions in newspaper distribution, the research team used multiple sources to collect data. A significant portion of the data was collected by visiting the archives of public libraries in Chennai. The research team visited the archives of Connemara Library and Anna Centenary Library as well as used the archives at the ACJ library to source newspaper copies. The team also used the digital archives of the Times of India for pdf copies of missing editions, apart from sourcing certain issues from their personal subscriptions of the newspapers.

Once we had access to the newspaper copies, we thoroughly scanned them based on certain criteria for looking at news articles related to children. The criteria were:

- a) Any story pertaining to a child up to the age of 18 years was considered
- b) Advertisements, advertorials, oblique references to children or using children's pictures while discussing an unrelated issue in the news story were not considered
- c) Stories on higher education pertaining to admissions and entrance tests into undergraduate programmes were considered as they were about children who were 18 years or had just completed high school
- d) Stories on major policies and government decisions on educational quota, NEET, NEP were also considered.

The identified stories were photocopied, given a unique ID/reference number, and catalogued month-wise before we began the data entry process.

DATA ENTRY

A template was created to identify key elements from the news articles that we wanted to record for our analysis. We categorised each news article under the following heads:

1. Related to the pandemic – Yes/No [These would include stories where children or families may have tested positive or been impacted by measures to contain the pandemic.]
2. Direct/Indirect impact of the pandemic – Within stories related to the pandemic, we sub-classified them into direct and indirect impacts of the pandemic.
 - ➔ Direct or primary impact of the pandemic included children being infected by the virus, studies related to the infections, symptoms, and complications in children related to the virus. It also included stories related to vaccine development.
 - ➔ Indirect or secondary impact referred to effects on children due to the subsequent measures taken to contain the pandemic including lockdown and its impact on migrants and families, school closures, reproductive and menstrual health, mental health, education, increase in child protection issues such as abuse, child marriage, and child labour, and other preventive measures to contain the pandemic.
3. Not related to the pandemic – Included any stories on children that were not connected with the pandemic, such as the National Education Policy, OBC quota in medical seats under NEET, and regular stories related to children that usually get covered in the media.
4. Other details such as the date, byline, position, section in which the news article appeared, headline, head deck, persons interviewed, nature of the story, source for the story, location of the story, number of columns given to the story, age group of children referred to etc. were collected.

These details were meticulously recorded in an XL sheet. [For more details on the categories, refer Annexure II].

In total, 2372 entries were made for the Times of India, and 2334 entries were made for The Hindu. Of these, 67 entries in the Tol and 233 entries in The Hindu were deleted during the data cleaning phase. The reasons for deletion included incomplete information related to the stories, and stories where age of children was not clear or properly mentioned. Vague or generic stories that did not

have adequate information pertaining to children were also deleted. In the end, 2101 entries of The Hindu and 2306 entries of the Times of India were analysed.

SCHEME FOR ANALYSIS

Further to capturing some of the basic details related to the news articles, the scheme for analysis of the news articles is based on the following factors:

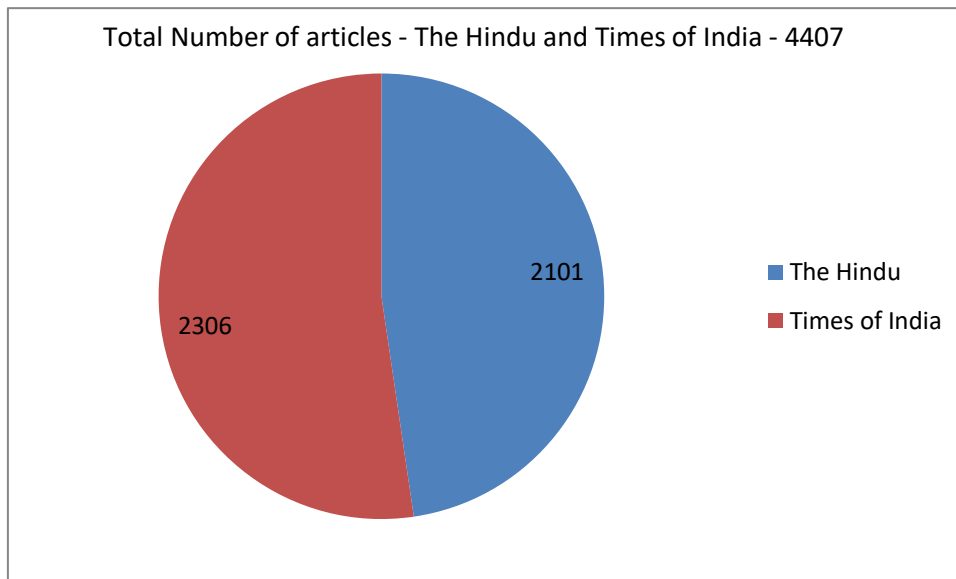
1. News articles related/not related to the pandemic – This is to understand the editorial decisions of the newspapers in publishing articles related and not related to the pandemic during the peak of the first wave in India.
2. Direct and indirect impact of the pandemic on children – To understand the media's coverage of issues connected with the direct and indirect impact of the pandemic. Much beyond contracting infection, children were more affected by the disruptions caused due to the measures taken to contain the pandemic.
3. Rights under the UNCRC – The analysis also tries to map the media's coverage of issues to the four broad rights under the UNCRC – Survival, Development, Protection, and Participation.

FINDINGS/ANALYSIS

STORIES RELATED AND NOT RELATED TO THE PANDEMIC

1. Total number of news articles

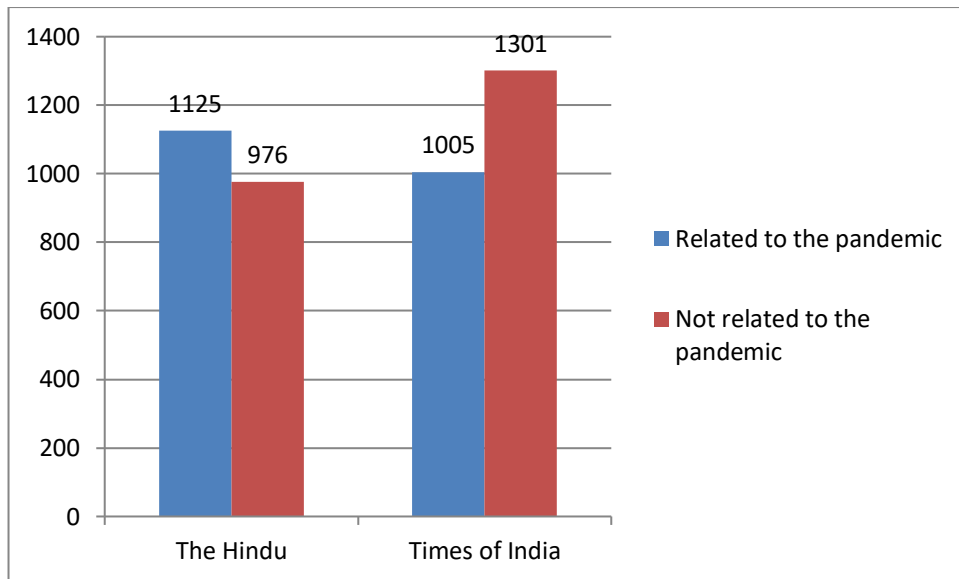
A total of 4407 news articles were collected for both The Hindu and Times of India for the period between March 2020 and October 2020. The break up between the two newspapers is as follows:



Graph 1 – Total number of news articles in both newspapers

2. News articles – Related and not related to the pandemic

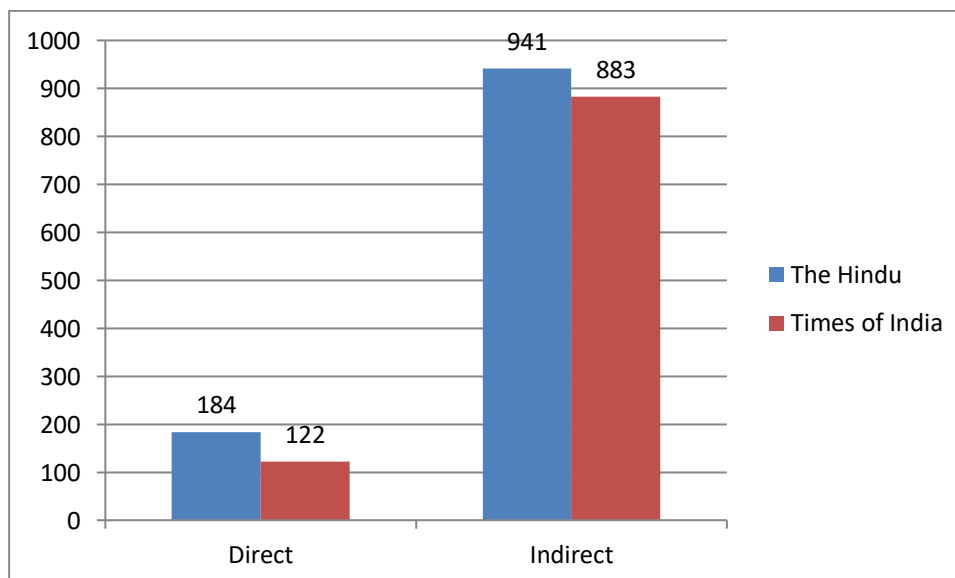
While The Hindu had lesser number of news articles on children overall (both related and not related to the pandemic) during the time period, it had more news articles (1125) than Times of India (1005) which were related to the pandemic. On the other hand, Times of India (1301) had more news articles not related to the pandemic than The Hindu (1005).



Graph 2 – Distribution of news articles related and not related to the pandemic in both newspapers

3. News articles – Direct and indirect impact of the pandemic

Within news articles that were related to the pandemic, The Hindu had more news articles on both direct and the indirect impact of the pandemic on children. Overall, there was fewer news articles related to the direct impact of the pandemic, compared to the indirect impact of the pandemic.



Graph 3 – Distribution of news articles on direct and indirect impact of the pandemic in both newspapers

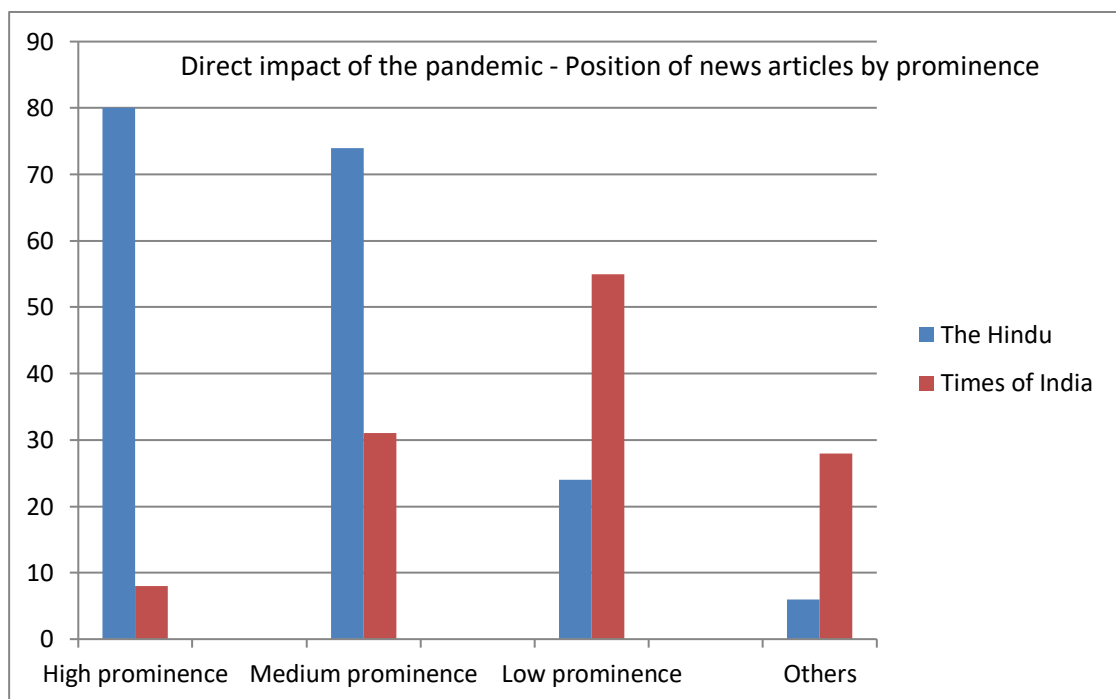
PRESENTATION OF NEWS ARTICLES

A) PROMINENCE

The news articles were classified based on their positioning in the paper as High prominence, Medium prominence, and Low prominence. High prominence included Lead, Second Lead, Anchor, and Leader news articles. Medium news articles included stories appearing in the middle or bottom section of the paper. Low prominence news articles include stories appearing as a single column in any part of the newspaper, including news in brief or digest sections.

i) Prominence – Direct impact of the pandemic

Under news articles related to direct impact of the pandemic on children, The Hindu had more high prominence news articles (80) and medium prominence (74) news articles compared to Times of India, which had less news articles in these categories. The Times of India had more news articles under the 'low prominence' category (55) compared to The Hindu.

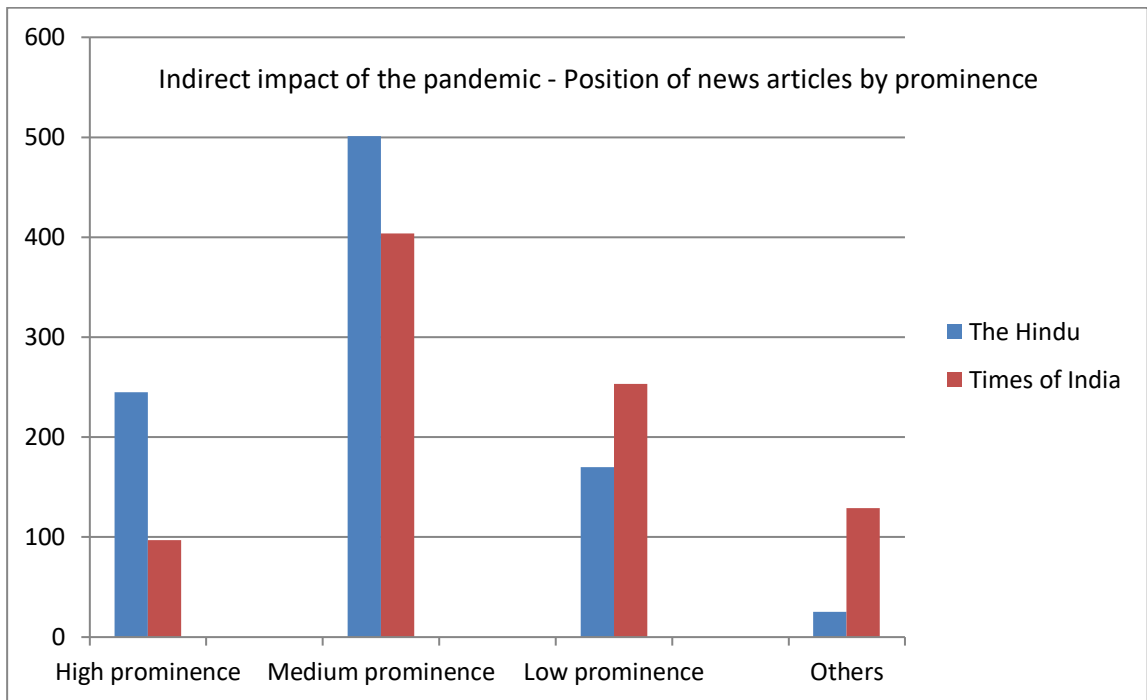


Graph 4 – Distribution of news articles on direct impact of the pandemic based on position

ii) Prominence – Indirect impact of the pandemic

Under indirect impact of the pandemic on children, there was a similar pattern. The Hindu had more high prominence news articles (245) compared to Times of India (97);

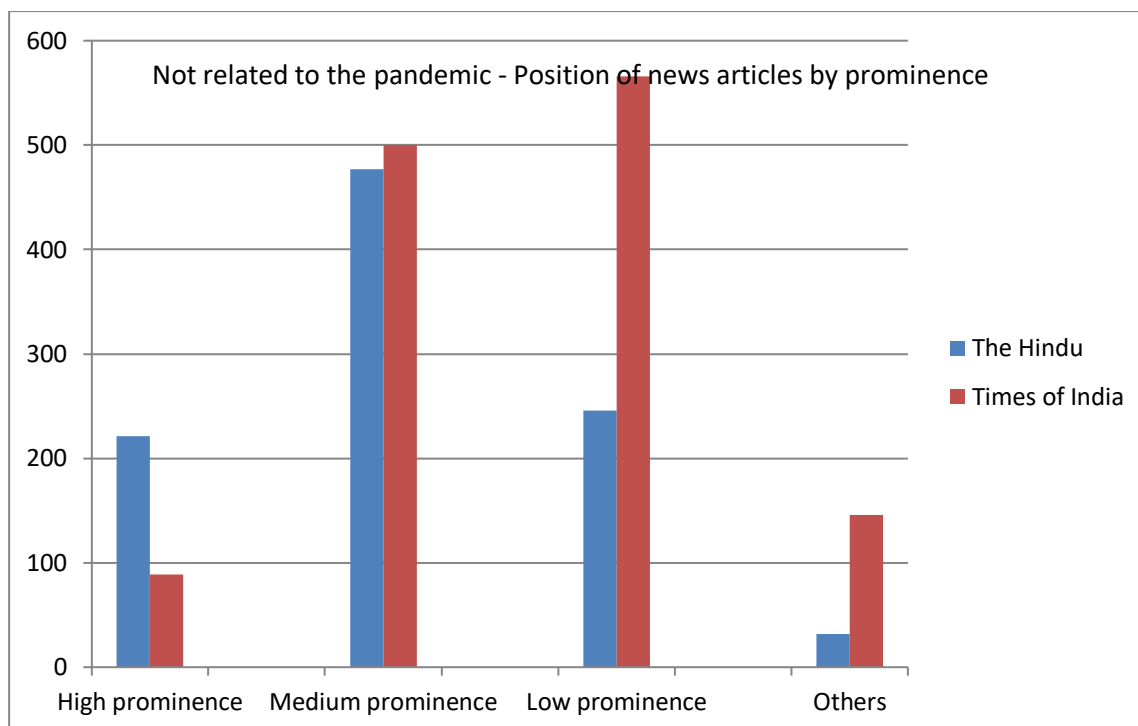
and more medium prominence news articles (501) compared to Times of India (404). The Times of India had more low prominence news articles (253) compared to The Hindu (170). Overall, under the indirect impact of the pandemic, there were more number of news articles in the medium prominence category.



Graph 5 – Distribution of news articles on the indirect impact of the pandemic based on position

iii) Prominence – Not related to the pandemic

While looking at positioning of stories not related to the pandemic, there were differences in each section. High prominence news articles were altogether less in number, within which The Hindu (221) had more high prominence news articles than Times of India (89). Both newspapers had almost equal number of medium prominence news articles (TH – 477; ToI-500). Under low prominence news articles, Times of India had more than twice the number of news articles in The Hindu (566).



Graph 6 – Distribution of news articles not related to the pandemic based on position

B) NATURE OF STORIES

Depending on whether the news article on children was a news report, feature, editorial, analysis etc., the news articles were divided into eleven categories. The spread of stories related and not related to the pandemic are as follows:

i) **Related to the pandemic:**

Most news articles reported in both The Hindu and The Times of India which were directly and indirectly related to the pandemic were news stories. The Hindu had more news articles on the direct impact of the pandemic (155), while the Times of India had more news articles on the indirect impact of the pandemic (761). Overall, there were more news articles in both newspapers on the indirect impact of the pandemic.

The second highest number of news articles was 'Opinion' articles on the indirect impact of the pandemic on children in both The Hindu and Times of India.

Related to the pandemic

NATURE OF THE STORY	Times of India		The Hindu		TOTAL
	Direct	Indirect	Direct	Indirect	
News reports	91	761	155	716	1723
Features	1	37	3	41	82
Editorial	0	1	0	6	7
Cartoons/Illustrations	0	0	0	0	0
Opinions	0	32	1	74	107
Columns	0	2	2	4	8
Analysis	0	1	4	5	10
Photo Feature	0	1	0	0	1
News in brief	2	10	9	41	62
Interviews	0	0	2	18	20
Letters to the Editor	0	0	0	7	7
Others	28	38	8	29	103
TOTAL	122	883	184	941	2130

Table 1 – Distribution of news articles related to the pandemic based on nature of stories

ii) Not related to the pandemic:

Overall, most news articles reported by both newspapers and not related to the pandemic were news reports. The Times of India had almost twice the news reports (1129) of The Hindu (686). Both newspapers carried a similar number of ‘Opinion’ articles while The Hindu had more ‘News in brief’, ‘Analysis’, ‘Interviews’, and ‘Columns’ than the Times of India.

Not related to the pandemic

NATURE OF THE STORY	Times of India	The Hindu	TOTAL
News reports	1129	686	1815
Features	51	49	100
Editorial	3	7	10
Cartoons/Illustrations	0	1	1
Opinions	58	62	120
Columns	4	9	13

Analysis	3	20	23
Photo Feature	0	0	0
News in brief	8	86	94
Interviews	9	11	20
Letters to the Editor	0	8	8
Others	36	37	73
TOTAL	1301	976	2277

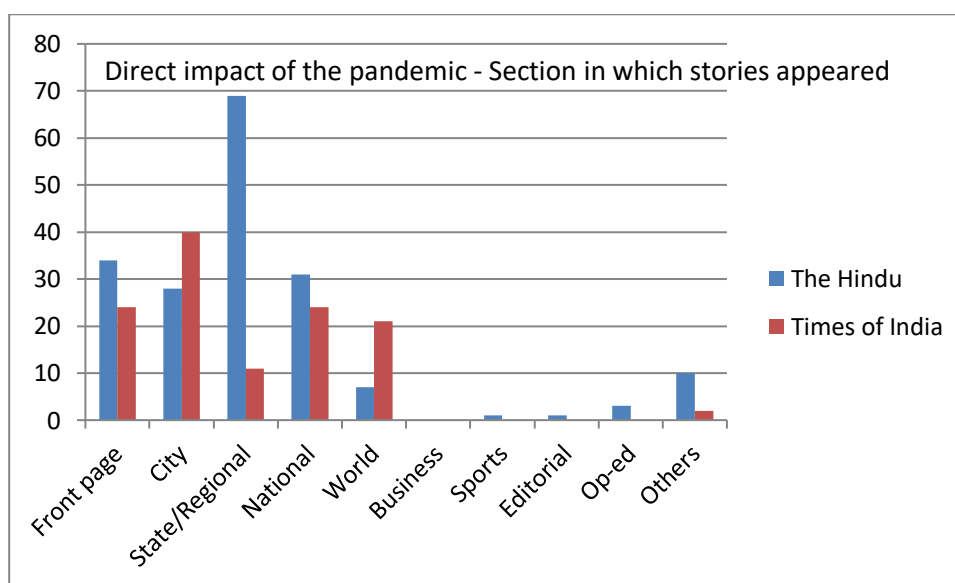
Table 2 – Distribution of news articles not related to the pandemic based on nature of stories

C) SECTION

The news articles were analysed based on the sections in the newspapers in which they appeared. Based on the different sections in which news was carried in both newspapers, ten categories were identified. The spread of stories related to the pandemic, capturing its direct and indirect impacts, are as follows:

i) **Direct impact of the pandemic:**

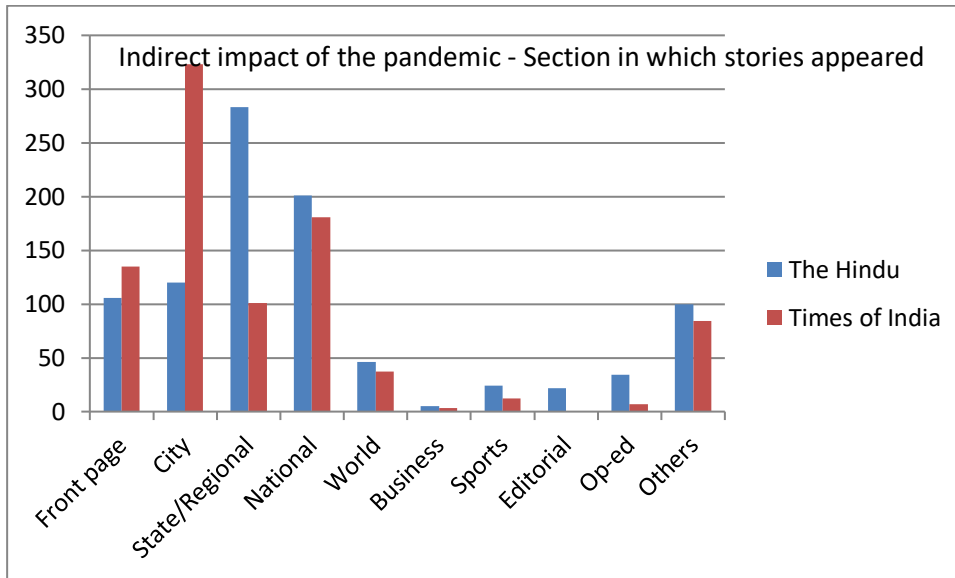
The Hindu had maximum number of news articles related to the direct impact of the pandemic appearing in the State/Regional sections, followed by the Front page, and the National page. The Times of India, in contrast, had only 11 news articles in the State/Regional sections, followed by the City section (40), and equal distribution between Front page and National sections. Times of India (21) also had more stories in the World section compared to The Hindu.



Graph 7 – Distribution of news articles on direct impact of the pandemic based on section

ii) Indirect impact of the pandemic:

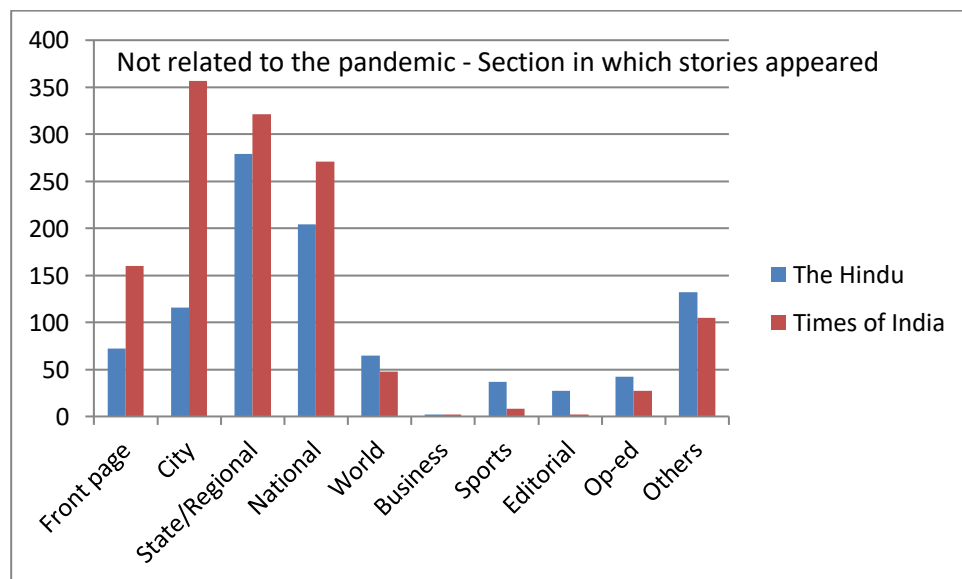
With respect to the indirect impact of the pandemic, the Times of India had the most news articles in the 'City' section, followed by the National and Front page. The Hindu, in contrast, had more news articles in the State/Regional section, followed by the National section.



Graph 8 – Distribution of news articles on indirect impact of the pandemic based on section

iii) Not related to the pandemic:

Times of India had the maximum number of news articles in the City, State/Regional, National, and Front Page sections of the newspaper compared to The Hindu. The Hindu had more news articles in the World, Sports, Editorial, Op-ed sections.



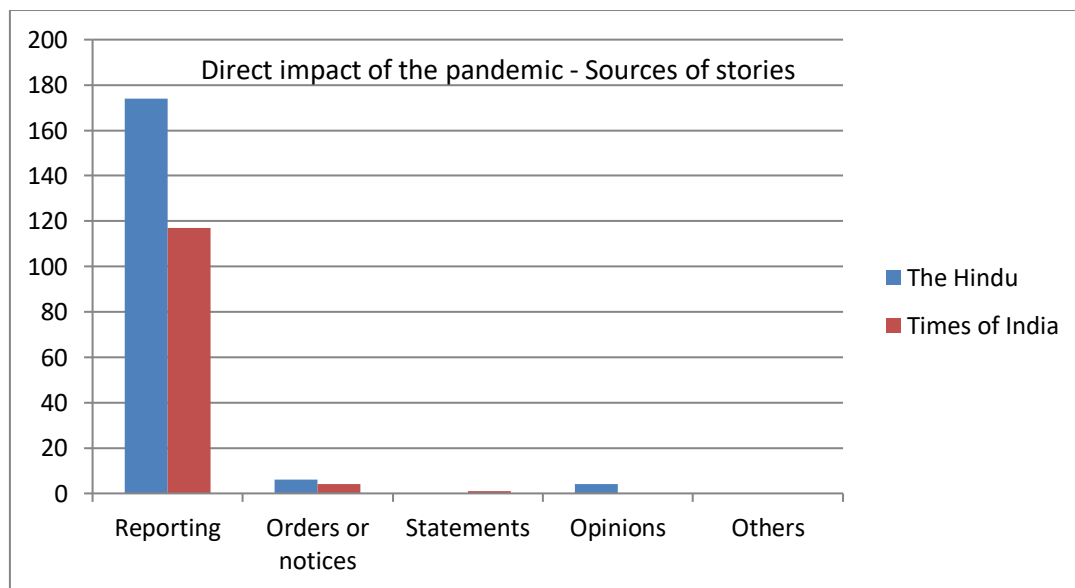
Graph 9 – Distribution of news articles not related to the pandemic based on section

D) SOURCES

To understand the possible sources for the stories that were reported during the time period of our study we categorised them as following – a) Stories that were a result of regular reporting of the journalist (includes stories sourced through beat reporting, event coverage, press releases or conferences or medical bulletins, reporter’s own initiatives) b) Orders or notices (includes stories that were made from orders or notices from State and Central governments, independent bodies, international organisations, educational institutions, Data sets) c) Statements/Resolutions (includes statements made by political parties, individuals, organisations, foreign individuals or governments) d) Opinions (includes guest writers and columns, opinion articles in editorial and op-ed pages e) Others include news items that couldn’t be categorised under any of the above categories.

i) Direct impact of the pandemic:

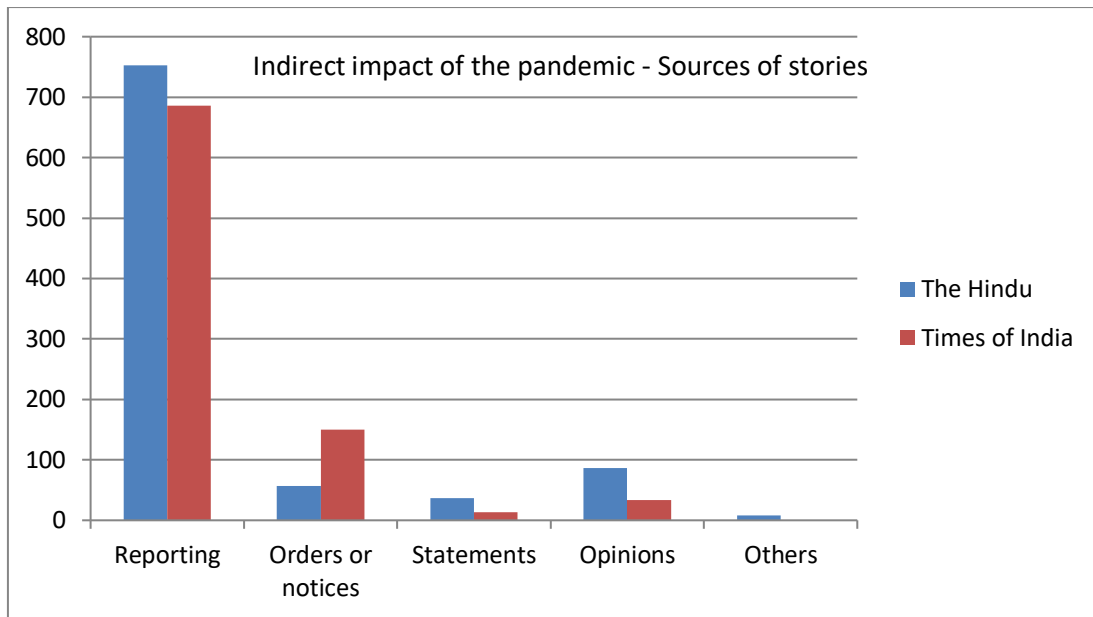
In terms of direct impact of the pandemic on children, most sources for the news articles were from ‘Reporting’. The Hindu (174) had more news articles through ‘Reporting’ than Times of India (117).



Graph 10 – Distribution of news articles on direct impact of the pandemic based on sources

ii) Indirect impact of the pandemic

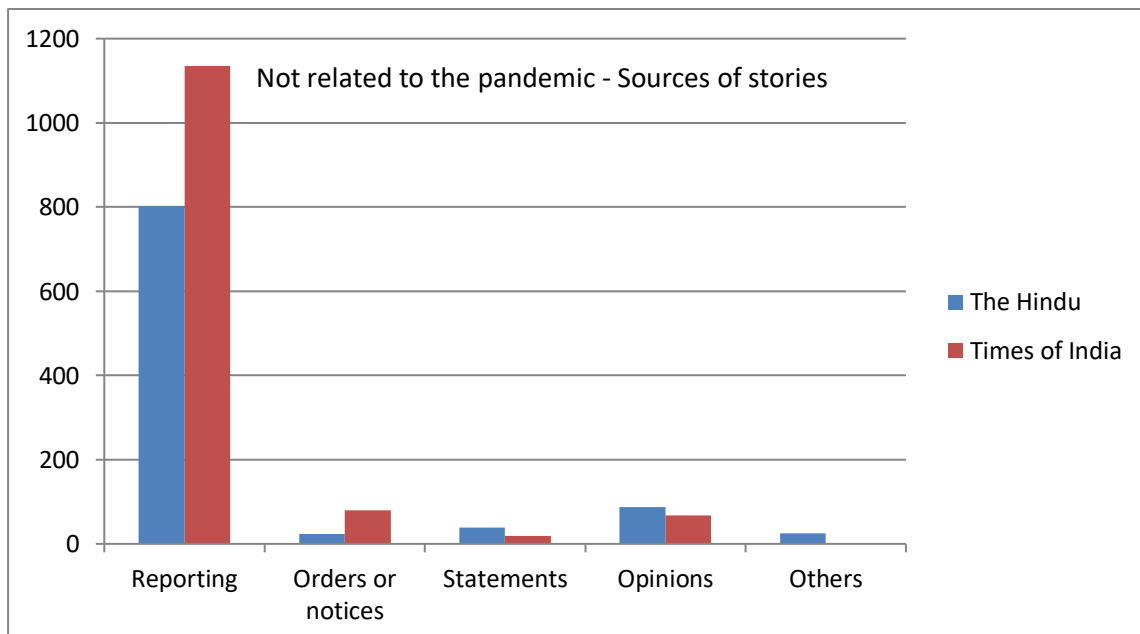
Similarly, The Hindu (753) had more news articles than Times of India (686) through ‘Reporting’ under indirect impact of the pandemic. It also had more news articles under ‘Opinion’ category (88), and Statements/Resolutions (38). Times of India had more articles under Orders/notices (80).



Graph 11 – Distribution of news articles on indirect impact of the pandemic based on sources

iii) **Not related to the pandemic:**

Under news articles not related to the pandemic, the most number of stories were through ‘Reporting’ with Times of India (1135) having more stories than The Hindu (802). The Hindu had more articles under Opinion (88) and Statements/Resolutions (38). Times of India had more news articles in the Orders/notices (80) category.



Graph 12 – Distribution of news articles not related to the pandemic based on sources

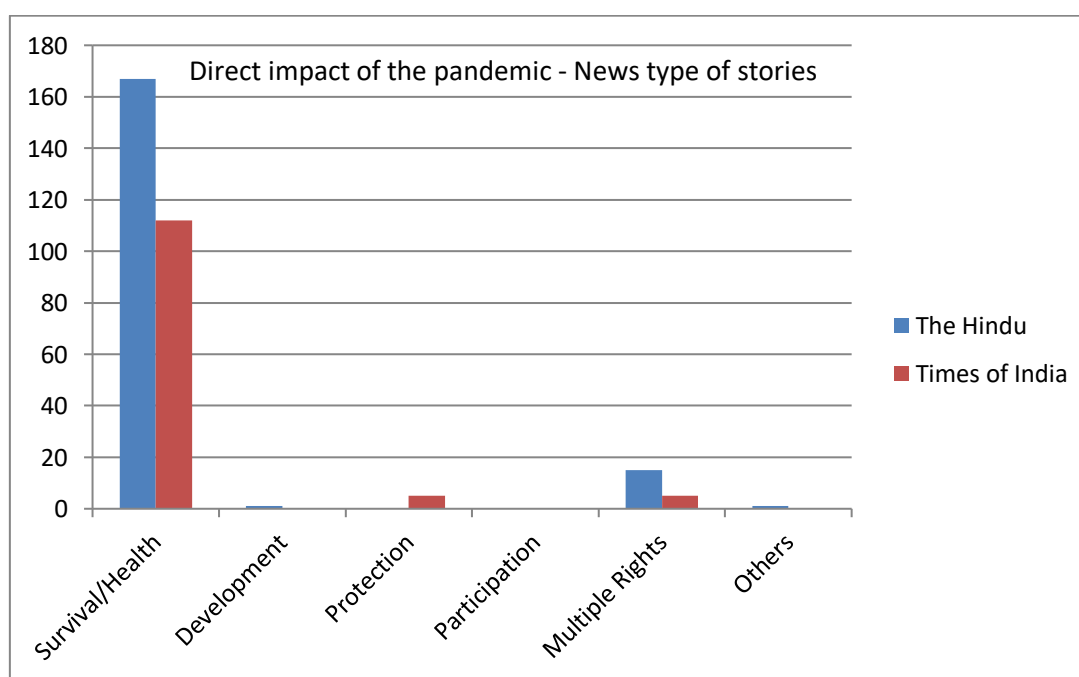
E) NEWS TYPES

The stories in the newspapers were categorised based on the four broad rights under the UNCRC. Stories relating to Survival were related to health, nutrition, COVID-19, specific illnesses, access to healthcare etc. Stories related to education, government policy decisions related to quota in educational institutions, online learning, sports, recreation, parenting, literacy programmes were slotted under development. Stories related to vulnerability, abuse, neglect, violence or exploitation were under protection. Initiatives taken by children such as volunteer work, creative initiatives, campaigns, rallies, and even participating in protests were put under participation rights.

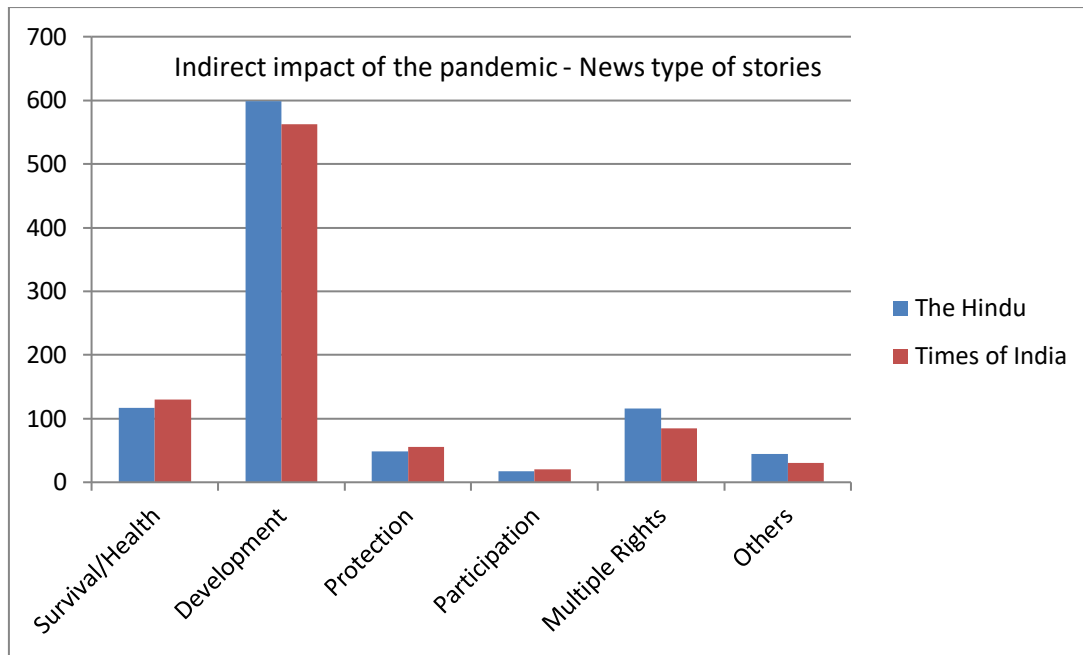
Given the complex nature of stories and the interrelatedness of different rights under the UNCRC, only stories which clearly fit into the above categories were slotted under the said heads. Else, stories with interplay of two or more rights were slotted under 'Multiple rights' category. Category 'Others' include stories where it was difficult or unclear about the specific right being discussed.

i) Related to the pandemic (Direct and indirect impact of the pandemic):

Overall, most news articles related to the direct impact of the pandemic were under the 'Survival' rights for both newspapers, while most news articles related to the indirect impact of the pandemic were under the 'Development' rights. In both cases, The Hindu (Direct – Survival – 167; Indirect – Development – 599) had more news articles than Times of India (Direct – Survival – 112; Indirect – Development – 569)



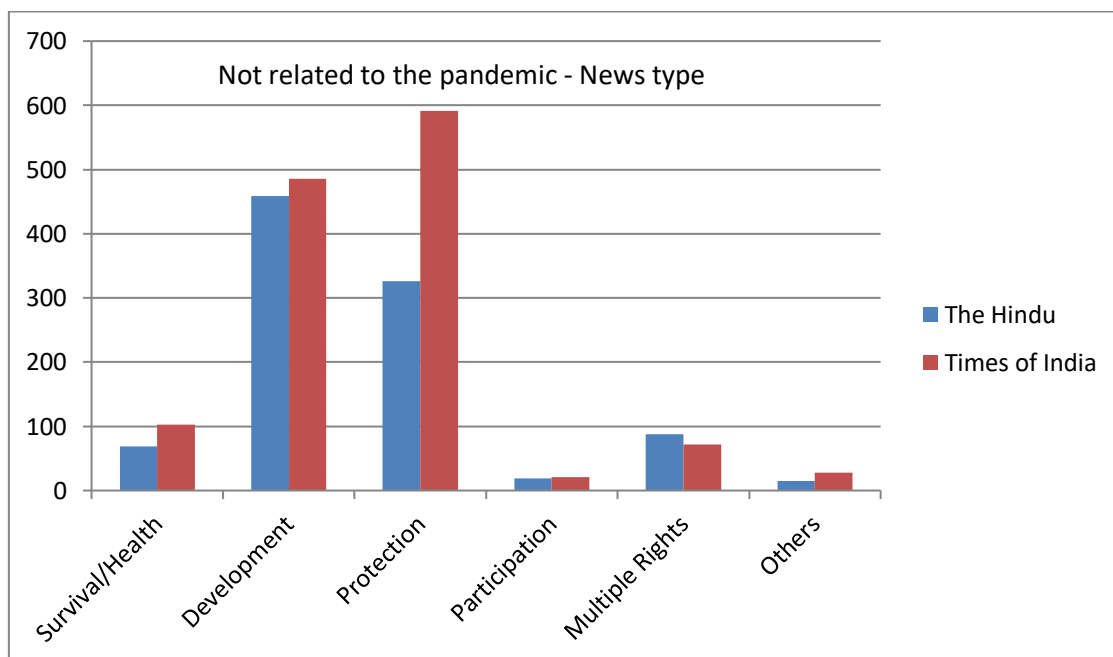
Graph 13 – Distribution of news articles on direct impact of the pandemic based on news type



Graph 16 – Distribution of news articles on indirect impact of the pandemic based on news type

ii) Not related to the pandemic:

A significant number of news articles not related to the pandemic were under ‘Development’ and ‘Protection’ rights. In both categories, Times of India had more news articles than The Hindu. Times of India had 486 news articles compared to The Hindu’s 459 under ‘Development’ rights. Times of India had almost twice the number of news articles (591) under ‘Protection’ rights to The Hindu’s 326.

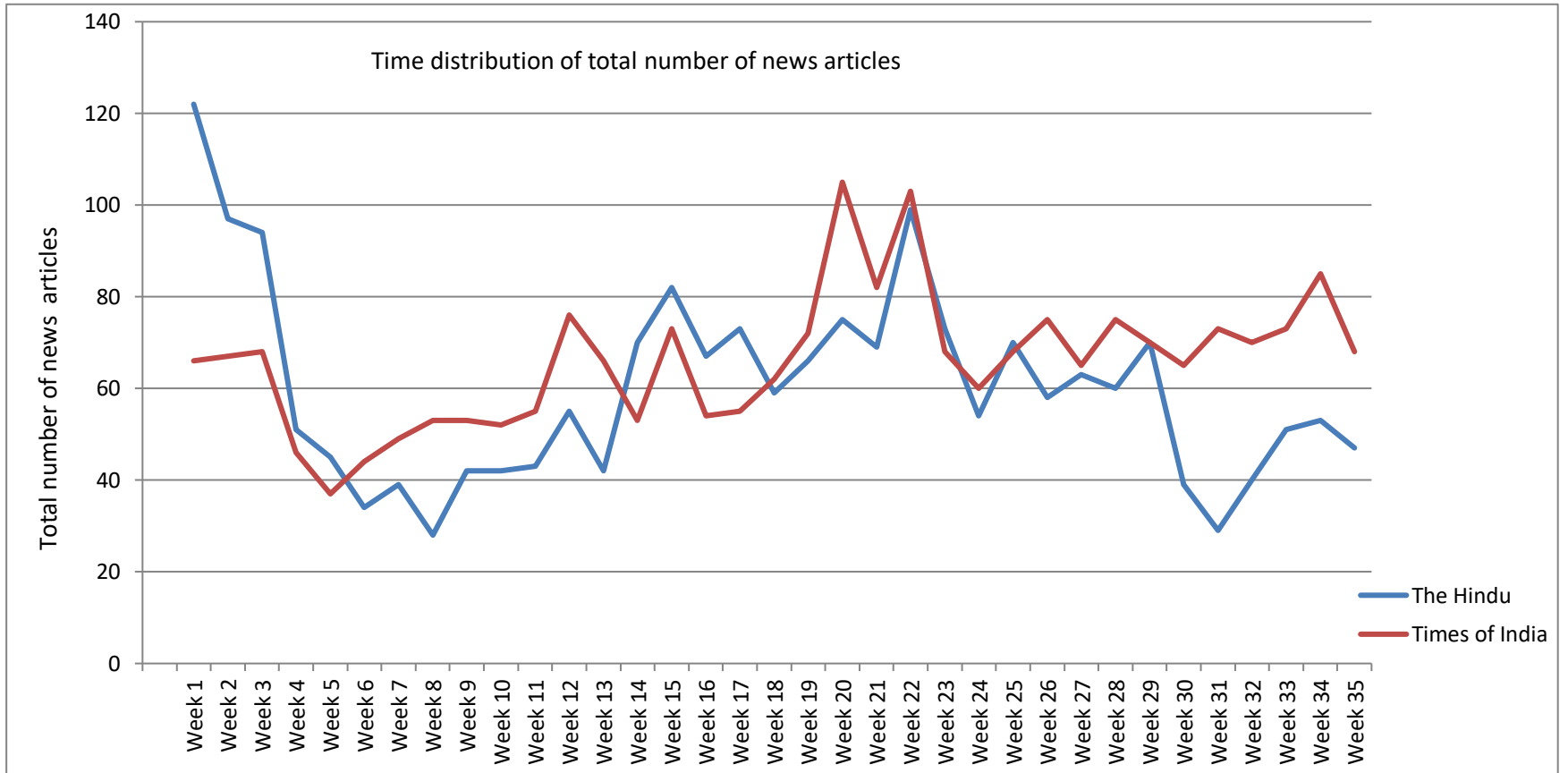


Graph 17 – Distribution of news articles not related to the pandemic based on news type

TIME DISTRIBUTION – NEWS INTENSITY AND NEWS ARTICLES

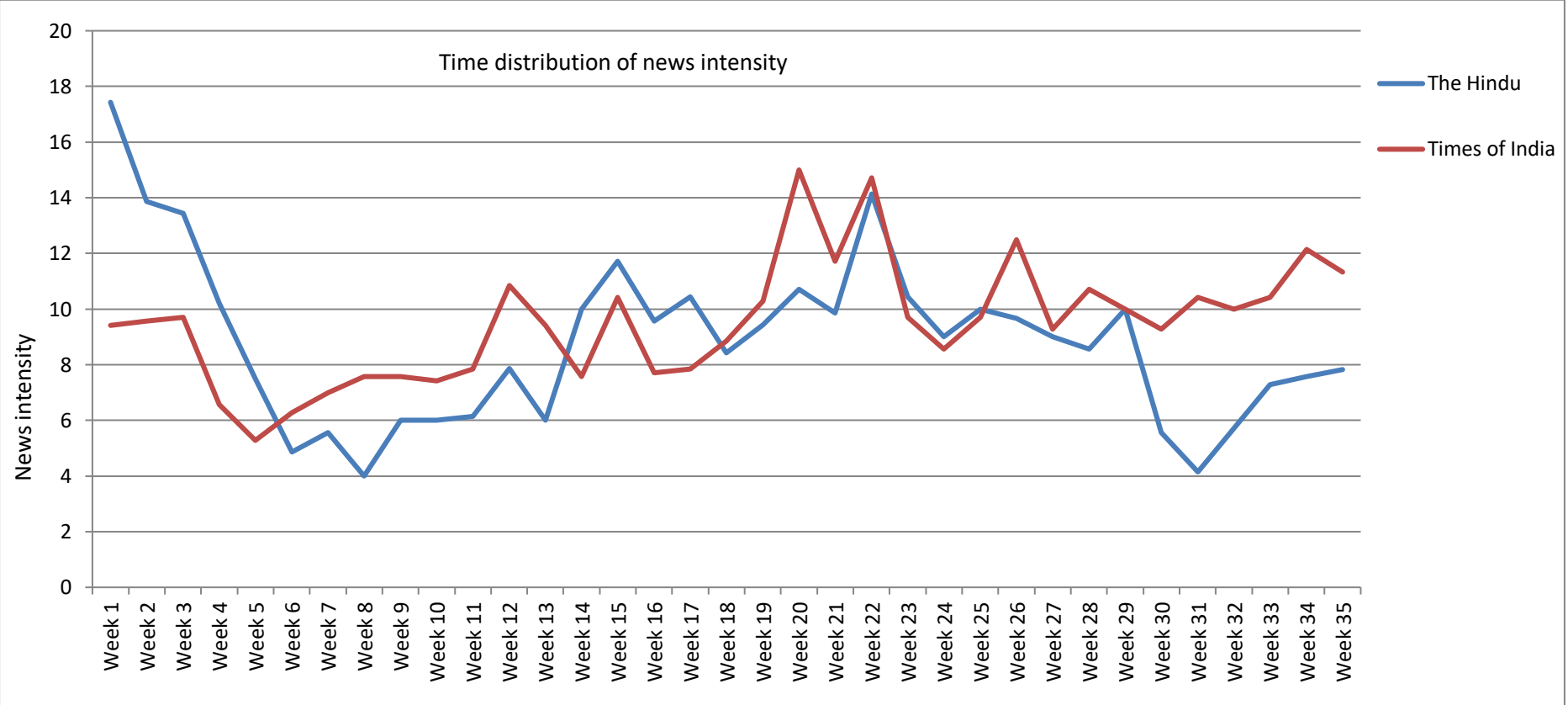
i) While there were news articles related to children on every day in the chosen time period, the time distribution of news articles and the news intensity, week wise, are as follows:

(News intensity is defined as the ratio of the total number of news items published to the total number of news days. It is calculated for each week.)



Graph 18 – Time Distribution of news articles

The time distribution of total number of news articles and news intensity show that between Weeks 12 and 23, there were consistently more number of news articles published on children in both the newspapers. These were the peak seasons where more news articles related to children were published and this time period falls between mid-May to end of July. This time period also coincides with the exam and admission season for schools and universities in India.



Graph 19 – Time Distribution of news intensity

ii) Distribution of news articles during peak and lean season

Based on the news intensity graph above, 11 weeks (Weeks 11 to 16 and Weeks 19 to 23) reported the maximum number of stories in both the Times of India (807) and The Hindu (741). This was almost 35% of the stories for both the Times of India and The Hindu. The next highest number of stories was reported in the final 11 weeks (Weeks 25 to 35) in the lean season of the Times of India (787) which constituted nearly 34% of the stories. Similarly, the next higher number of stories was in the initial 10 weeks of the lean season of The Hindu (594) which accounted for nearly 28% of the stories.

TIME	PRINT		TOTAL
	Times of India	The Hindu	
BUSY WEEKS (11-16; 19-23) 11 weeks	807	741	1548
LEAN WEEKS (17-18; 24) 3 weeks	177	186	363
INITIAL WEEKS (1-10) 10 weeks	535	594	1129
FINAL WEEKS (25 to 35) 11 weeks	787	580	1367
TOTAL	2306	2101	4407

Table 4 – Distribution of news articles during the peak season

iii) Time distribution during the peak season for both The Hindu and ToI

While analysing the distribution of news articles during the peak season alone for both The Hindu and Times of India, the maximum number of stories in The Hindu were on the indirect impacts of the pandemic during the busy weeks (Weeks 11-16 and 19 to 23) of the peak season, while in the Times of India they were not related to the pandemic during the busy weeks. The next higher number of stories was not related to the pandemic in The Hindu (290) and in the indirect impact of the pandemic in the Times of India (343). The Hindu, also

had a high number of stories related to the indirect impact of the pandemic even during the lean weeks of the peak season (104).

Weeks	Times of India			The Hindu			TOTAL
	Related to the pandemic		Not Related to the pandemic	Related to the pandemic		Not Related to the pandemic	
	Direct	Indirect		Direct	Indirect		
Busy weeks 11-16; 19-23	46	343	418	84	367	290	1282
Lean weeks 17, 18, 24	13	59	105	16	104	66	303
TOTAL	59	402	523	100	471	356	1585

Table 5 – Distribution of news articles during the peak season related and not related to the pandemic

NOTE ON LOCATION, AGE, AND OTHER DETAILS

Analysing data based on the location of the story or age of the child was not feasible as generic stories on exams, education, schooling etc., catered to the entire geography of the state or country and were at times not age-specific. While details on age, location, and other specific details were mentioned in individual stories on children, these were less compared to the total number of stories and not sufficient for analysis.

NOTE ON ADVERTISEMENTS

While we did not consider advertisements related to children for data collection or analysis, we found a significant number of advertisements of edutech companies, coaching institutes, colleges, and schools for admission/enrolment in their programmes. These advertisements occupied prominent positions in the newspaper including full-page, half-page, and quarter-page spaces along with appearing on front pages or on top positions in the inside pages in the newspapers.

ANALYSIS BASED ON RIGHTS UNDER UNCRC

- 1. 'Development' issues were dominant under indirect/secondary impact of the pandemic. Of these, stories on 'Education' and related themes were dominant.**

Around 63% news articles (1161 out of 1824) in both newspapers taken together on the indirect impact of the pandemic were on development issues. A significant outcome of the strict lockdown due to the pandemic was on development-related rights of children. This was reflected in the high number of stories reported in the newspapers pertaining to this right.

One of the crucial fallouts of the nation-wide lockdown in March, 2020 was education. Around 86% of stories on Development in The Hindu (484 stories out of 599 stories) and 80% of stories on Development in Times of India (482 of 562 stories) were on the theme of education and related issues. Prominent themes were access to online education, digital divide, postponement/cancellation of exams in schools and universities, and shortening of the academic year.

- 2. Stories related to 'Survival' were the highest under the direct impact of the pandemic in both newspapers.**

Altogether 279 stories, both The Hindu and Times of India put together, were on 'Survival' rights. This was 91% of the total stories (306) under direct impact of the pandemic. Most of these stories were on the number of cases of children contracting the infection reported from different parts of the country, pregnant women contracting the infection, discussions on symptoms and severity of infection in children, and the transmission of the infection from mother to child.

Dominant among these stories in The Hindu and Times of India was the state-wise round up of data on infections which included details of children being infected by the virus. This data was largely put together from government bulletins issued regularly. Almost all stories related to infection among children indicated the age and location of the child but did not identify further details. These daily update stories, in most cases, ensured highlighting instances of children being infected, by prominently mentioning them in the headlines, head decks, and giving further details in the body of the story.

However, disaggregated data pertaining to infections among children were not consistent and were reported sporadically. Lack of disaggregated data age-wise among the population,

particularly with respect to children, has been a consistent lacuna in understanding the spread and impact of this public health crisis.

- 3. Stories on 'Survival' rights, reflecting the direct impact of the pandemic on children, that included details of infections, deaths, symptoms, and effects of the disease on children and pregnant women, were given more prominence in The Hindu than Times of India.**

In The Hindu, stories on daily infections, state, region or nation-wise, with details of infections and deaths among children, pregnant women, symptoms and effect of the disease on children, and data points were given 'high' prominence, i.e., as lead, second lead, anchor stories. 44% of the news articles (74 out of 167 stories on direct impact of the pandemic, under the 'Survival' category) were given high prominence.

In Times of India, stories on similar themes were given 'medium' or 'low' prominence. Only stories relating to data points such as percentage of infections among people below 20 years or percentage of people wearing masks were given 'high' prominence. Around 68% (77 stories out of 112 stories on direct impact of the pandemic, under the 'Survival' category) were given 'medium' or 'low' prominence. Only 8 or 7% of stories were given high prominence.

- 4. Stories on 'Development' rights were more in number and given high prominence in The Hindu compared to Times of India under indirect impact of the pandemic. A majority of these stories were on the themes of education, schooling, exams, higher education, and online learning.**

The Hindu, on the whole had more stories on 'Development' rights under indirect impact of the pandemic. It also gave high prominence to these stories in its coverage, i.e., positioning them as lead, second lead or anchor. The themes of these stories were on education, online learning, exams, and schooling. 80% of stories (121 stories out of 151 on indirect impact given high prominence) were related to the above themes. And, 84% (257 of 305 stories) were given 'medium' prominence.

The Times of India had fewer stories under 'Development' rights than The Hindu. 54 of 62 stories in the high prominence category were on online learning, exams, schooling, education, and higher education. 207 stories of 244 or 84% of stories were given medium prominence.

- 5. Stories on ‘Development’ rights not related to the pandemic and given high prominence were in The Hindu than Times of India. These stories discussed important political issues related to education such as NEP, 7.5% horizontal reservation in medical colleges in TN for government school students, as well as OBC reservation in state surrendered seats in the All India Quota under NEET.**

The Hindu gave high prominence to ‘Development’ rights stories with nearly 80% (95 of the 118 stories on development rights not related to pandemic) being on widely debated and political issues such as NEP, 7.5% horizontal reservation in medical colleges under NEET for students studying in government schools in TN, OBC reservation in state surrendered seats to the All India Quota under NEET. 83% of the stories (185 of 221 stories) on the mentioned themes were given medium prominence.

Times of India gave medium prominence to ‘Development’ stories not related to the pandemic, of which nearly 88% (176 of 200 stories) were on the mentioned themes.

- 6. Stories under ‘Protection’ rights not related to the pandemic were high in both The Hindu and Times of India. While Times of India had the maximum number of stories related to protection rights, The Hindu gave high prominence to more such stories than Times of India.**

Nearly 47 stories under ‘Protection’ rights were given high prominence in The Hindu. 12 of these stories pertained to Sexual abuse while 14 stories were on physical abuse, violence, and murder. 165 stories were given medium prominence and 106 stories were given low prominence. Among these 36 stories (21%) of stories were on sexual abuse in the medium prominence category and 36 stories (34%) on sexual abuse were in the low prominence category. A significant number of stories (20 or 18% of stories) were on protection issues related to the immediate environment of the child, such as drowning deaths, accidental deaths, or natural disasters.

Times of India reported more ‘Protection’ stories under medium (206) or low prominence (350). 30% stories (63 of 206 stories) given medium prominence and 36% (127 of 350 stories) given low prominence were on sexual abuse.

7. The maximum number of stories presented in Times of India and The Hindu were news reports that reported on 'Development' rights in the City and State/Regional sections respectively.

The maximum number of news stories presented in both The Hindu and Times of India were news reports. While The Hindu had most of its news reports in the State/Regional sections, Times of India had a maximum number of its news reports in the City sections. A majority of these news reports were on 'Development' rights for stories reflecting indirect impact of the pandemic or not related to the pandemic.

The maximum number of news reports in Times of India (645 or 32%) was in the City section of which 203 news reports were on 'Development' rights reflecting the indirect impact of the pandemic. 168 news reports on 'Development' rights and 141 news reports on 'Protection' rights were not related to the pandemic.

The maximum number of news reports (35% or 557) in The Hindu was in the State/Regional sections. 147 news reports and 171 news reports were on 'Development' rights not related to the pandemic and reflecting the indirect impact of the pandemic respectively.

The discussion of issues in the Editorial of a newspaper reflects the importance and stand of the publication that promotes further debate on the subject. The Hindu, had the most editorials related to children altogether (13), with 6 related to the indirect impacts of the pandemic. Of these 3 were on education-related issues such as reopening of schools, conducting exams amidst the pandemic, and status of Indian students studying in the US following Trump's decision to cancel their visas. Of the 7 editorials not related to the pandemic, three were on the NEP, quota for government school students in TN, and poor infrastructure in schools.

Times of India had just 4 editorials during the entire time period which focussed on NEP, the controversy over a social media group of school students in Delhi on protection issues, the increase in age of marriage of the girl child from 18 years to 21 years, and the need for the PM to listen to children more.

8. Most of the stories in both The Hindu and Times of India were News reports that were sourced from 'Reporting'. A maximum number of news reports were reported in the Times of India which were not related to the pandemic and were 'Protection' rights.

In The Hindu, 134 of news reports sourced through 'Reporting' were 'Survival' stories reflecting the direct impact of the pandemic. 370 news reports were 'Development' rights stories reflecting the indirect impact of the pandemic. A significant number of news reports not related to the pandemic were on 'Development' (267) and 'Protection' (249) rights.

In Times of India, 79 news reports were on 'Survival' rights reflecting direct impact of the pandemic. 369 news reports reflecting indirect impact of the pandemic were 'Development' rights stories. Under news reports not related to the pandemic a significant number of them were on Protection (566) and Development (312) rights.

9. During the 'busy weeks' of the peak season, which accounted for high number of news articles, a significant number of these stories on the indirect impact of the pandemic were on 'Development' rights in both The Hindu and Times of India.

Of nearly 367 stories on the indirect impact of the pandemic during the busy weeks, 240 stories (65%) were on development rights, with most emphasis on education, exams, and online learning. Similarly, in the Times of India, of 343 stories on the indirect impact of the pandemic during the busy weeks, 222 stories (64%) were on development rights, with most emphasis on schooling, education, and online learning.

10. During the 'busy weeks' of the peak season, which accounted for high number of news articles, a significant number of these stories not related to the pandemic were on 'Development' and 'Protection' rights in both The Hindu and Times of India.

Of 290 stories during the busy weeks not related to the pandemic in The Hindu, 141 stories (48%) were on 'Development' rights and 95 stories (32%) on 'Protection' rights.

Of 418 stories during the busy weeks not related to the pandemic in Times of India, 159 stories (38%) were on 'Development' rights and 188 stories (44%) were on 'Protection' rights. Even during lean weeks of the peak season in Times of India, nearly half the stories (53) were on 'Protection' rights.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Children and their issues received significant coverage in newspapers such as The Hindu and Times of India, during the pandemic.

In a time span of 35 weeks chosen for this study, a total of 4407 news articles related to children and their issues were collected and analysed. This meant an average of 17 stories per day for both newspapers taken together. Further, on almost every day in the chosen time period, we collected stories from the newspapers, except for specific days where we did not have access to the copies or there were no issues of the newspapers. This is an indicator that children and their issues received significant coverage in newspapers such as The Hindu and Times of India.

This assumes significance in the context of the pandemic when the news industry, particularly the print industry, suffered heavily due to reduced circulations, fewer advertisements and fewer pages because of the economic downturn due to the lockdown.

2. Fewer stories related to direct/primary impact of the pandemic on children could be due to the fact that children were less affected by the virus during the first wave.

Among news articles related to the pandemic, there were more news articles capturing the indirect impact of the pandemic than the direct impact of the pandemic. A possible reason could be the general impact of the first wave of the pandemic. Children, while found to contract the infection, showed better immunity and resistance to the virus during the first wave compared to adults. Hospitalisations and severe infection among children were less. This could be a possible explanation for lesser number of news articles related to the direct impact of the pandemic on children, i.e., contracting the infection. Another possible reason could be due to limited and focussed testing of vulnerable populations conducted during the first wave, which did not include children.

3. A majority of stories during the chosen time period were on the indirect impact of the pandemic and under 'Development' rights, which further focussed on themes related to education, exam, and schooling.

This reflects the uneven focus given to 'Development' rights in news coverage. The emphasis on education, schooling, online learning and exams reflect the importance given to education within 'Development' rights by the media when compared to other aspects of a child's development. Mental Health, disruption in social interactions, recreation or play are equally important factors affecting the development and well-being of children, which were not emphasised enough in media coverage. A possible reason for high number of education-

related stories could be because of a dedicated beat for education in both the Times of India and The Hindu which had journalists specifically tracking developments in this sector.

4. The focus on stories on education, exams (board exams and entrance exams) also reflect considerable indecision and delay at the policy level.

Students faced considerable anxiety and stress and were fearful of contracting the infection, unsure about their exams and future plans regarding their school leaving exams and entrance tests to undergraduate programmes. A number of stories on these themes reflected the indecision and delay at the administrative and policy level on making decisions related to exams, evaluation, and conclusion of the academic year for students. Further, public interest litigations at various High Courts and the Supreme Court from concerned parents, students, and civil society members lengthened the decision-making process.

5. Stories on 'Development' rights not related to the pandemic focussed on key political issues such as NEP, OBC quota in medical admissions, and 7.5% reservation for government students in medical colleges in TN.

These stories received prominence due to the political nature of the debates among parties, particularly in the state of Tamil Nadu. Prominent discussions related to the NEP were on the three-language policy, criticisms of the policy, and the lack of discussion in the parliament on the policy.

6. 'Protection' rights of children were of considerable concern despite the pandemic and require serious attention.

The media's coverage of high number of protection issues such as Child Sexual Abuse, Physical violence, Murder, Trafficking, Abandonment, and other issues under the purview of the JJ Act indicate that this remains a core area of concern that requires attention.

7. A high number of news reports on most issues connected to children, show that the media still does not adequately engage with issues concerning children apart from just reporting them.

This also may indicate the lack of balance and nuance in understanding the intersection of children's rights by the media. For instance, this was well reflected in the media's overwhelming coverage of 'online education' and 'digital divide' as opposed to 'online safety' of children.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The study was conducted for a period of 8 months coinciding with the beginning of the pandemic in India. While the stories covered during this period provide a fair idea of the issues and challenges faced by children due to the pandemic and otherwise, a follow-up study to understand the second wave of the crisis and its consequences will be helpful.
2. The study was done for two English national dailies which have high readership. It was also conducted for the Chennai editions of the newspapers. A study of the vernacular press and its coverage from other regions will provide a better understanding of the coverage of children's issues during the pandemic in the print media. This can also be extended to online news platforms and TV news channels.
3. Issues such as NEP, NEET, reservations for OBC quota for students in medical colleges are highly political in a state like Tamil Nadu. A focussed study on each of these issues and their coverage in the media would be interesting.
4. The study was a largely quantitative understanding of the media's coverage of children's issues during the pandemic. To delve further into them, focussed interviews with persons engaged in the field of child rights and journalists covering these issues would be helpful. This would also be a good time to understand the editorial decisions taken in newspapers during trying times such as a pandemic.

ANNEXURE I

Table 1: Total number of news articles for The Hindu and The Times of India

NAME OF PRINT OUTLETS	TOTAL NUMBER OF ARTICLES			
	Related to the pandemic		Not related to the pandemic	GRAND TOTAL
	Direct	Indirect		
The Hindu	184	941	976	2101
Times of India	122	883	1301	2306
GRAND TOTAL	306	1824	2277	4407

TABLE 2 (a): Total number of news articles based on positioning (Related to the pandemic)

POSITION OF THE STORY	Times of India		The Hindu		TOTAL
	Direct	Indirect	Direct	Indirect	
Lead, Second Lead	8	94	79	235	416
Leader	0	1	0	5	6
Anchor	0	2	1	5	8
Middle, Bottom (Bottom, Bottom-left and Bottom-right)	31	404	74	501	1010
News in brief, Single column (Top, Middle, Bottom)	55	253	24	170	502
Others	28	129	6	25	188
TOTAL	122	883	184	941	2130

TABLE 2 (b): Total number of news articles based on positioning (Not related to the pandemic)

POSITION OF THE STORY	Times of India	The Hindu	TOTAL
Lead, Second Lead	85	213	298
Leader	1	7	8
Anchor	3	1	4
Middle, Bottom (Bottom, Bottom-left and Bottom-right)	500	477	977
News in brief, Single column (Top, Middle, Bottom)	566	246	812
Others	146	32	178
TOTAL	1301	976	2277

Table 3 (a): Total number of news articles based on sections in the newspaper (Related to the pandemic)

SECTION IN WHICH STORY HAS APPEARED	Times of India		The Hindu		TOTAL
	Direct	Indirect	Direct	Indirect	
Front page	24	135	34	106	299
City	40	323	28	120	511
State/Regional	11	101	69	283	464
National	24	181	31	201	437
World	21	37	7	46	111
Business	0	3	0	5	8
Sports	0	12	1	24	37
Editorial	0	0	1	22	23
Op-ed	0	7	3	34	44
Others	2	84	10	100	196
TOTAL	122	883	184	941	2130

Table 3 (b): Total number of news articles based on sections in the newspaper (Not related to the pandemic)

SECTION IN WHICH STORY HAS APPEARED	Times of India	The Hindu	TOTAL
Front page	160	72	232
City	357	116	473
State/Regional	321	279	600
National	271	204	475
World	48	65	113
Business	2	2	4
Sports	8	37	45
Editorial	2	27	29
Op-ed	27	42	69
Others	105	132	237
TOTAL	1301	976	2277

Table 4 (a): Total number of news articles based on the source of the stories (related to the pandemic)

Source of the stories	Times of India		The Hindu		TOTAL
	Direct	Indirect	Direct	Indirect	
Reporting	117	686	174	753	1730
Orders or notices	4	150	6	57	217
Statements	1	13	0	37	51
Opinions	0	34	4	86	124
Others	0	0	0	8	8
TOTAL	122	883	184	941	2130

Table 4 (b): Total number of news articles based on the source of the stories (not related to the pandemic)

Source of the stories	Times of India	The Hindu	TOTAL
Reporting	1135	802	1937
Orders or notices	80	23	103
Statements	19	38	57
Opinions	67	88	155
Others	0	25	25
TOTAL	1301	976	2277

Table 5 (a) Total number of news articles based on the news type of the stories (related to the pandemic)

News Type of the stories	Times of India		The Hindu		TOTAL
	Direct	Indirect	Direct	Indirect	
Survival/Health	112	130	167	117	544
Development	0	562	1	599	1152
Protection	5	56	0	48	106
Participation	0	20	0	17	41
Multiple Rights	5	85	15	116	210
Others	0	30	1	44	77
TOTAL	122	883	184	941	2130

Table 5 (b) Total number of news articles based on the news type of the stories (not related to the pandemic)

News Type of the stories	Times of India	The Hindu	TOTAL
Survival/Health	103	69	205
Development	486	459	935
Protection	591	326	889
Participation	21	19	45
Multiple Rights	72	88	159
Others	28	15	44
TOTAL	1301	976	2277

TABLE 6: News intensity of news articles for both newspapers

WEEKS	PRINT					
	Times of India			The Hindu		
	NO. OF NEWS DAYS (A)	NEWS INTENSITY (B/A)	NO. OF NEWS ITEMS (B)	NO. OF NEWS DAYS (A)	NEWS INTENSITY (B/A)	NO. OF NEWS ITEMS (B)
1 (March 1-7)	7	9.42	122	7	122	17.43
2(March 8-14)	7	9.57	97	7	97	13.86
3 (March 15-21)	7	9.71	94	7	94	13.43
4 (March 22-28)	7	6.57	51	5	51	10.2
5 (March 29-April 4)	7	5.28	45	6	45	7.5
6 (April 5 – 11)	7	6.28	34	7	34	4.86
7 (April 12 -18)	7	7	39	7	39	5.57
8 (April 19-25)	7	7.57	28	7	28	4
9 (April 26-May 2)	7	7.57	42	7	42	6
10 (May 3-9)	7	7.42	42	7	42	6
11 (May 10-16)	7	7.85	43	7	43	6.14
12 (May 17-23)	7	10.85	55	7	55	7.86
13 (May 24-30)	7	9.42	42	7	42	6
14 (May 31- June 6)	7	7.57	70	7	70	10
15 (June 7-13)	7	10.42	82	7	82	11.71
16 (June 14-20)	7	7.71	67	7	67	9.57
17 (June 21-27)	7	7.85	73	7	73	10.43
18 (June 28- July 4)	7	8.85	59	7	59	8.43
19 (July 5- July 11)	7	10.28	66	7	66	9.43
20 (July 12-18)	7	15	75	7	75	10.71
21 (July 19-25)	7	11.71	69	7	69	9.86
22 (July 26- August 1)	7	14.71	99	7	99	14.14
23 (August 2- 8)	7	9.71	73	7	73	10.43
24 (August 9-15)	7	8.57	54	6	54	9
25 (August 16-22)	7	9.71	70	7	70	10
26 (August 23-29)	6	12.5	58	6	58	9.67
27 (August 30-September 5)	7	9.28	63	7	63	9
28 (September 6-	7	10.71	60	7	60	8.57

12)						
29 (September 13-19)	7	10	70	7	70	10
30 (September 20-26)	7	9.28	39	7	39	5.57
31 (September 27-October 3)	7	10.42	29	7	29	4.14
32 (October 4-October 10)	7	10	40	7	40	5.71
33 (October 11-17)	7	10.42	51	7	51	7.29
34 (October 18- 24)	7	12.14	53	7	53	7.57
35 (October 25-31)	6	11.33	47	6	47	7.83

* Issues not available/accessible on August 23, October 26 for Times of India

* Issues not available/accessible on March 22, 23; April 4; August 14; October 26 for The Hindu

Table 7a): Cross-tabulation of Nature of stories and Section in which stories appeared – The Hindu

NATURE SECTION	News reports	Features	Editorial	Cartoons/ Illustrations	Opinions	Columns	Analysis	Photo Feature	News in Brief	Interviews	Letters to the Editor	Others	TOTAL
Front page	196	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	11	212
City	248	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	9	0	1	1	264
State/Regional	554	4	0	0	4	1	3	0	52	1	0	12	631
National	380	10	0	0	0	0	1	0	34	5	0	6	436
World	105	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	118
Business	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	7
Sports	36	5	0	0	0	0	3	0	8	7	0	3	62
Editorial	0	0	13	0	19	0	4	0	0	0	14	0	50
Op-Ed	1	4	0	0	54	1	2	0	0	4	0	13	79
Others	32	64	0	1	60	11	16	0	19	12	0	27	242
TOTAL	1557	93	13	1	137	15	29	0	136	31	15	74	2101

7b) Cross-tabulation of Nature of stories and Section in which stories appeared – Times of India

NATURE SECTION	News reports	Features	Editorial	Cartoons/ Illustrations	Opinions	Columns	Analysis	Photo Feature	News in Brief	Interviews	Letters to the Editor	Others	TOTAL
Front page	300	5	0	0	1	0	2	0	4	0	0	7	319
City	645	24	0	0	6	0	0	0	2	1	0	42	720
State/Regional	396	9	0	0	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	433
National	429	25	0	0	3	0	2	0	2	2	0	13	476
World	84	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	11	106
Business	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5
Sports	15	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	20
Editorial	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Op-Ed	0	0	4	0	28	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	34
Others	109	20	0	0	25	6	0	0	1	4	0	26	191
TOTAL	1981	89	4	0	90	6	4	0	20	9	0	103	2306

8 a): Cross-tabulation: Nature of the story and Source of the story – The Hindu

SOURCE NATURE	REPORTING	ORDERS AND NOTICES	STATEMENTS AND RESOLUTIONS	OPINIONS	OTHERS	TOTAL
News reports	1400	81	73	1	2	1557
Features	88	0	0	1	4	93
Editorials	0	0	0	13	0	13
Cartoons/Illustrations	0	0	0	1	0	1
Opinions	6	0	0	131	0	137
Columns	2	0	0	13	0	15
Analysis	22	0	0	6	1	29
Photo feature	0	0	0	0	0	0
News in brief	128	4	2	0	2	136
Interviews	25	0	0	3	3	31
Letters to the Editor	2	0	0	1	12	15
Others	56	1	0	8	9	74
TOTAL	1729	86	75	178	33	2101

Table 8 b): Cross-tabulation: Nature of the story and Source of the story – Times of India

SOURCE NATURE	REPORTING	ORDERS AND NOTICES	STATEMENTS AND RESOLUTIONS	OPINIONS	OTHERS	TOTAL
News reports	1719	229	33	0	0	1981
Features	88	0	0	1	0	89
Editorials	0	0	0	4	0	4
Cartoons/Illustrations	0	0	0	0	0	0
Opinions	0	0	0	90	0	90
Columns	2	0	0	4	0	6
Analysis	4	0	0	0	0	4
Photo feature	1	0	0	0	0	1
News in brief	18	2	0	0	0	20
Interviews	9	0	0	0	0	9
Letters to the Editor	0	0	0	0	0	0
Others	77	23	0	2	0	102
TOTAL	1918	254	33	101	0	2306

Table 9 a) Cross tabulation position and news type of stories - The Hindu

NEWS TYPE POSITION	SURVIVAL	DEVELOPMENT	PROTECTION	PARTICIPATION	MULTIPLE RIGHTS	OTHERS	TOTAL
Lead, Second Lead	118	260	56	9	70	14	527
Leader	1	7	2	0	2	0	12
Anchor	2	2	0	2	1	0	7
	121	269	58	11	73	14	546
Middle, Bottom (Bottom, Bottom-left and Bottom-right)	167	527	195	16	112	35	1052
News in brief, Single column (Top, Middle, Bottom)	57	230	113	9	25	6	440
Others	8	33	0	8	9	5	63
TOTAL	353	1059	366	44	219	60	2101

Table 9 b) Cross tabulation position and news type of stories – Times of India

NEWS TYPE	SURVIVAL	DEVELOPMENT	PROTECTION	PARTICIPATION	MULTIPLE RIGHTS	OTHERS	TOTAL
POSITION							
Lead, Second Lead	34	123	18	4	8	0	187
Leader	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Anchor	0	2	1	2	0	0	5
	34	127	19	6	8	0	194
Middle, Bottom (Bottom, Bottom-left and Bottom-right)	160	461	244	26	19	25	935
News in brief, Single column (Top, Middle, Bottom)	128	336	368	10	15	17	874
Others	64	182	38	8	7	4	303
TOTAL	386	1106	669	50	49	46	2306

10 a) Cross-tabulation of news type and position - Direct impact - The Hindu

NEWS TYPE POSITION	Survival	Development	Protection	Participation	Multiple rights	Others
High prominence	74	0	0	0	0	0
Medium prominence	0	1	0	0	0	0
Low prominence	0	0	0	0	0	0

10 b) Cross-tabulation of news type and position - Indirect impact - The Hindu

NEWS TYPE POSITION	Survival	Development	Protection	Participation	Multiple rights	Others
High prominence	33	151	11	5	36	9
Medium prominence	67	305	30	8	63	28
Low prominence	15	127	7	4	15	2

10 c) Cross-tabulation of news type and position - Direct impact – Times of India

NEWS TYPE POSITION	Survival	Development	Protection	Participation	Multiple rights	Others
High prominence	8	0	0	0	0	0
Medium prominence	28	1	2	0	0	0
Low prominence	49	1	4	0	0	0

10 d) Cross-tabulation of news type and position - Indirect impact – Times of India

NEWS TYPE POSITION	Survival	Development	Protection	Participation	Multiple rights	Others
High prominence	14	62	8	1	10	2
Medium prominence	68	244	24	11	41	16
Low prominence	30	172	17	6	16	12

10 e) Cross-tabulation of news type and position – Not related to the pandemic – The Hindu

NEWS TYPE POSITION	Survival	Development	Protection	Participation	Multiple rights	Others
High prominence	14	118	47	6	31	5
Medium prominence	36	221	165	8	41	6
Low prominence	18	103	106	5	10	4

10 f) Cross-tabulation of news type and position – Not related to the pandemic – Times of India

NEWS TYPE POSITION	Survival	Development	Protection	Participation	Multiple rights	Others
High prominence	7	59	10	4	7	2
Medium prominence	47	200	206	9	27	11
Low prominence	35	140	350	3	28	10

ANNEXURE II

Print categories for data entry

S. NO	CATEGORIES	DEFINITION	CHARACTERISTICS
1.	Article Number	Each article/news photocopied from the print version will be given a number	Ex: TH-1 or Tol-1 TH – The Hindu Tol – The Times of India
2.	Name of paper	This is the name of the paper.	
3.	Related to the pandemic	This is to identify if the story is related to COVID-19 or not.	The typical response in this case will be: 1. Yes 2. No
4.	Direct/Indirect impact of the pandemic	This is to identify if the story concerns a direct or indirect impact of the pandemic.	The typical response in this case will be: 1. Direct 2. Indirect
POSITIONING OF THE STORY			
1.	Position in the newspaper	This refers to the position of the story in the layout of the newspaper.	The different categories are: 1. Lead 2. Second Lead 3. Single column (NIB) 4. Middle 5. Bottom 6. Leader 7. Bottom-left 8. Middle, single-column 9. Top, single-column 10. Bottom, single-column 11. Bottom-right 12. Anchor 13. Others (Box story) 14. Photos (Top, Middle, Bottom, Full page)
2.	Section [Depends on the case study]	This refers to the heads under which the story appears.	The different sections can be: 1. Front page 2. World 3. National 4. Regional/State 5. Op-ed 6. Editorial 7. City 8. Business 9. Sports 10. Others [Can include supplements as well as special pages within the main edition, including for example: Education Plus or

			Opportunities]
REPORT DETAILS			
3.	Date	Each article will have the date on which it was published	
4.	Place in the dateline	Each article will carry a place name in the dateline. This needs to be noted.	
5.	Place of occurrence	Each article will mention the name of the place where a particular incident or event has occurred. This needs to be noted.	
6.	Rural/Urban	This is to note if the story was reported from a rural setting or an urban setting.	The classification will be: 1. Rural 2. Urban 3. Rural/Urban 4. -
7.	Headline	This refers to the headline given to the news story.	
8.	Head deck	This is the strap that captures the essence of the news story below the headline.	
9.	Byline	This refers to the reporter's name or their designation in newspaper. It can also include syndicated news from the wires such as PTI, AFP, Reuters, etc.	
10.	Persons interviewed	This refers to all the people quoted in the story including common people/experts/officials and others in the story.	
STORY CHARACTERISTICS			
11.	Nature of the story	A story appearing in a newspaper can have different characteristics such as a news report, opinion, editorial, cartoon, etc.	Print/Online The sub-categories will be: 1. News report 2. Feature 3. Editorial 4. Cartoons/Illustration 5. Opinion 6. Column 7. Analysis 8. Photo feature 9. News in brief 10. Interview 11. Letters to editor 12. Others (Data, standalone photo, Readers' articles,

			notifications on admissions, research studies)
12.	Number of columns	This refers to the number of columns a story is spread in the newspaper. Typically, the number of columns in a broadsheet is 8.	
13.	Source	This refers to the sources for making the news report or feature.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reporting 2. Order and notices 3. Statements/Resolutions 4. Opinion 5. Others
14.	News type [Depends on the case study]	This refers to the different aspects of news coverage.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Survival 2. Development 3. Protection 4. Participation 5. Multiple rights 6. Others
15.	News type (sub-theme)	This refers to further classification within the main themes.	<p>Survival:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maternal, Child, Reproductive Health 2. COVID-19 related issues 3. General well-being 4. Specific serious illnesses <p>Development:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Education – Admissions, Exams, Dropout, placements, scholarship, syllabus, teachers, vocational education, career counselling, Language skills, Research 2. Government policies or decisions – EWS Quota, OBC/SC/ST quota, NEP, JEE, CLAT, NEET 3. Recreation or play – Online Gaming, extra-curricular activities, TV viewing, Sports-related stories 4. Others – Parenting, Children with special needs, PwD, ECCE, Literacy, Employment, Training, placements, Internships, Jobs, Literacy programmes

			<p>Protection:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Issues of abuse/violence – Physical, Sexual, Verbal, Caste-based violence, abuse or neglect, Domestic violence, Racism 2. Serious CP issues – Child Marriage, Trafficking, Child Labour, Recruitment in armed forces, Murder, Terrorism, Human sacrifice, Riots, War, and communal violence, Infanticide, Abandonment/Kidnapping 3. Children in different settings – CCI, Street-connected, Migrant children, Missing children 4. Government policies/programmes/Orders – Deportation, NCPCR Others – Death by drowning, death by suicide, Accidents, Gas leak, Poisoning, Substance abuse and addiction <p>Participation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Children’s initiatives – Campaigns, Rallies, Raising funds 2. Political - Dissent, Protest, Filing RTI, Elections, filing petitions, Debates 3. Others – Extra-curricular activities, Reading/Writing, Identity <p>Multiple rights: Climate change, Basic survival, poverty, Displacement related stories (Natural disasters, man-made), Generic pieces on child rights</p>
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			Others: Unspecified (Where you cannot determine the particular aspect of rights violation)
16.	Age/Age Group	This refers to the age or age group of the children mentioned in the news story.	The age-groups can roughly be categorized as: 1. 0-6 years 2. 7-14 years 3. 15-18 years 4. 18 years and above 5. All age groups 6. Not specified
17.	Gender	This refers to details of the gender of the child mentioned in the reports.	The classifications can be: 1. Male 2. Female 3. Others (Including transpersons, GNC, or gender-fluid individuals outside the heteronormative gender binary). 4. – (None is specified)
18.	Class/Caste/Community and other details	This refers to specific identifiers related to the child that may be mentioned in the story.	This can include details such as the caste, class or community that a child belongs to. Further, it can also include other details that may be considered as identifiers specific to the child.
OTHER DETAILS			
19.	Summary/Remarks/Quotes	This refers to remarks or quotes or a summary of the news item that we have identified.	



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