

Islamophobia and Media: The Framing of Muslims and Islam in International Media

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### **Abstract**

The focus of this research paper is to explain the negative representation of Islam and Muslims in an international media. The media in all over the world is considered most influential medium, which is shaped the views of people related to every section of societies. The media perform a significant role in constructing the listener angle and attitude related to any complication that emerges in the whole world. In this context, the audiences accept as true and have expectation from media to represent a clear image relate any type of affair which is happening at both national and international surface. In western media, Muslims represented as an “other alien” an international level. After the incident of 9/11, Muslims and Islam have recognized as backward and violent culture and religion. Muslims communities and their families are mostly victims and targeted by non-Muslims, victimization of veiled Muslims female and religious men in public places, as victims and targeted against the law. In present days Islam and Muslims are represented as a terrorist, illiterate, extremist and backward in international media. Although the framing of Muslims and Islam, particularly after the 7/7 bombing, 9/11 terrorist attack and Paris attack, a large number of study and research set up, that an internationally the inclination of media reporting is highly observed negativity toward Islam and Muslims, by affiliating it with extremism and terrorism.

**Keyword:** Islamophobia, International Media, Framing, Muslims, Islam

## Islam Phobia and Media: The Framing of Muslims and Islam in International Media

### **Islam and Media framing**

The priority of this research study is specially focus on Islamophobia and media framing of Muslims and Islam in international level. The electronic and print media consider the distributor of some ideology, which is structure and assign particularly from framing, or the method through which information is structured and presented. (Powell, K. A. 2011). Charlotte Ryan (1991) explains framing as, that “how news stories are made” and what kind of method they used to gather and choose some section of information and structured it systematically to fabricate news program and stories which make clear perception to their audiences and writers.

According to Entman (1993) framing is part of news which has been selected by some characteristic of recognizing some reality and construct them highly prominent and important in news and communicating messages.

In framing the media spotlight on some little piece of information thus “elevating them in salience “persuasion of news values and sources of place where someone spending their lives, for instance, influence news stories and program production (Entman,1989). In outcome of this mainstream reasoning or characteristic, while production in the way frame is recognition of complications, causes, and representative and also influence ethical judgment. (Entman, 1993). As stated by Entman whenever a content frame has significance “in a variety of mutually reinforcing ways that the glass is half full, the evidence of social science suggests that relatively few in the audience will conclude it is half empty.”

As a result, the high number of news coverage by means of words and photos which i impose a negative picture of Islam and Muslims, in the context of some supportive reporting, the viewer is considered to bring off that Muslims are extremist and terrorist, In this context,

media has a significant power to portray the whole world in unquestionable specific manners. The meaning which is interconnected to the world can be formulated, through several contradictory and distinguish methods.

It is important issues that what and who get into portraying, and who and what frequently come by neglected, and which context the media represent people, things, events, and relationship. It depends on that what someone noted about society and how media portray things to people, and what information the people get from it. What peoples do and for which kind of policies they construct to acknowledge. (Miller, 2002).

According to this research article that how the media frame one minorities group, Muslims portray in UK and America. However probably speaking Muslims who are living in European is consider a desperate group which is consisting of several contradictory traditional and cultural background. (Poole, 2002).

Modood (2005;2006) additionally mention that the main diversity promotes an intricate by socioeconomic, cultural and political. Modood (2003) also recommend that the group of 'British' and 'Christian' is not complicated then Muslims group. The research article analyzes previous research study related to media framing of the group of minorities which is focusing on British press discussion about Muslims and Islam.

The representation of British Muslims recommended the reflection of existing research on how islamophobia is framed in media. In several aspects, the media portrays the Islam and Muslims is a 'double-edged sword'. The media firstly ignore voices of minorities, they are considering effectively marginalized or out of sight (Saeed,1999). Simultaneously actual representation of minority groups is often construed in negative discourses (Hartmann and Husband ,1974).

### **What is Islamophobia?**

According to Oxford English Dictionary Islam phobia as “hatred or fear of Islam, esp. as a political force; hostility or prejudice towards Muslims”. In the context of this reference, the term Islamophobia firstly used in 1976 in the international journal of Middle East. The definition of Islamophobia as the alarming and fear of Islam and Muslims. In an internationally the awareness of non-Muslims related to Muslims and Islam has been portraying in a very negative sense. To represent Islam and Muslims in media is conflict, ignorant, barbaric, intolerant maddened terrorist, religious zealots and distorted images are still portrayed to internationally. (Abbas, T.,2004)

Runnymede Trust (2010) the year 1997 was considered more important stage in which the debate arises on Islamophobia, while think-tank of British was recognized for its focused work on multiculturalism which was published a piece of work titled “Islamophobia: a Challenge for Us All.” In this report, they demonstrated islamophobia as a terminology which was approved by several in context of clear interpretation in the progression of existing happening observed by Muslims in Britain. The terminology of Islamophobia become too used by the media just like an explanatory word, and also adopted by Muslims as well as the opinion leader.

According to Dinet & Ibrahim(1925), they said in Their book, that the issues of Islamophobia were not created to represent unelaborated and insufficient awareness and knowledge toward Muslims and Islam, which was also an assaulted by false report. Intentionally represented, Islam and Muslims as an extremist terrorist and backward custom and belief, and also the teaching and message of Islam and related to religion were purposefully misinterpreted by media at the international level. Both scholars did not

consider it essential to give definition of Islamophobia, but their formula put forward that they peer that it as struggle to “do away with Islam all together”

Modood(1997) claim that the step against discrimination creates in Great Britain were structured by mention anti islamophobia program, the United State was providing that experience to other non-Muslims countries.

In the UK the religious prejudice did not have any kind of judicial existence, not including Northern Ireland. This kind of laws are not just brought out space in the legislation, but it also structures a specific system in which human equality and rights declare were construct. In fact, the non-Muslims community is showing biased and discriminative attitude toward Muslims, due to Islamic identity and religious action, which communicate their injustice’s act in racial words. While in media coverage and political debates the Muslims community is consist of in the Asians group, hardly providing several sources to their religions and belief. (Bahçecik, Ş. O. ,2013).

“We recognize with deep concern the increase in anti-Semitism and Islamophobia in various parts of the world, as well as the emergence of racial and violent movements based on racism and discriminatory ideas against Jewish, Muslim and Arab communities.” ((Bahçecik, Ş. O. ,2013).

In this study, the researcher discussed that today the media industries are not performing their real duties, and not showing the real image of event and issues. The media becomes a profit-making industry and an internationally news stories related to Islamophobia and Muslims are a profitable business for media owners. That how the media select a specific frame of news stories to effect audiences, especially in the context of Islamophobia.

According to Lewis (2005), the international media have the tendency to be only one that controlled by some prominent political agendas and also used generate profit for their

interest. This footprint trend of media set by countries of the west after the First World War, where the real motives of news and information changed and the media become the profit-making industry, where businessmen, a group of few people hegemonies media, their prime concentration to make the profit. An internationally in capitalist system the elite class completely dominated media, they have the power to control and keep watch on problems and issues which is interconnected to, propaganda and content of news, programs, and agenda setting. This was absolutely considered what occurred although the incident of the world trade center happened.

### **Literature Review**

The representation of Arab and Muslims in the western media is not currently creating fake news, while it had been well established and functional that the western people has been formulation for since the first connection with Muslims and Arabs. In the third decade, every day European in amplification of Arabs, and particularly in the time of crusade war, in the bottom to Middle Ages, media of the west develop all about the similar stereotypes for Muslims and Arabs. In the same situation, association happened in previous decades or it takes places currently, in the west people take care of determining visualizing perception in context of Muslims and Arabs as foreigner 'other' or somewhat opponent while Muslims and Arabs consider the way of connection and associate with words have familiar some reconstruct. (Ridouani, D., 2011).

### **Islamophobia after 9/11**

The terrorist attack on trade center in America on September, 11 have set a particular and tremendous impression to all over the world. After some namely incident like 7/7 bombing, the Muhammad cartoon issue, Muslims female scarf controversy and Paris attacks have generated a prominent and large number of news stories coverage of Islam.

In this context, the problem of aggressiveness against Muslims and Islam become the most prominent plan which is set up by international media. US news media and its follower, United Kingdom as like British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), Cable News Network (CNN) and some other mainstream print media played their role in effecting the entire world. International media are inclined to relate extremism and terrorism with Muslims and Islam (Zulkifli, 2009).

Edward Said formally indicate prominence of media in west, which is encourage and establish an entrenched prejudice and hatred for Muslims and Islam. The title of Islam as handed down today look like to suggest one effortless object, besides in real is a piece of section narration, a section of the philosophical tag, an episode of a negligible nomination of a faith and believe called Islam. Nowadays the news media in west have great interest to present a distort image of Muslims and Islam. Throughout the time, particularly since occurrence in Iran takes hold of American and European concentration so completely, therefore Islam has been covered by Agha (1995) international media, the media have framed it, feature it, inspected it, present sample route on it, at the end, they have constructed it familiar.

This type of media coverage in United States is fully fallacious; in this context a big concern in mention animated reporting is dependent on afar from unbiased matter. In several examples Muslims and Islam have empower not just impersonate incorrectness, and also a declaration of unconstrained discriminating, societal and cultural, still hatred and racial, extensive even inconsistently openly suggested antagonism. (Agha, O. H. ,1995).

Mc Quail (1995), in certain conditions, media can help the government dealing with terror issues by giving a negative label or name to terrorist groups and generating some panic situations to terrorists through the information spread. In current time there are many

perspectives of people on media responsibilities and coverage of Muslims, Islam, and terrorism. In the time of conflict and insecurity, the media are widely known as an important character in broadcasting and publishing news stories and programs to audience and society.

It is not shocking so that media in United State and West, cover perpetuate and a steady contorted picture of Muslims and Arabs, even if it is printed or televised media. Fake and prejudice set up by Muslims and Islam are predominant in media of the west in all kind of programs, and news even film and dramas. In western media, the Islam and Muslims portray as an isolated existence, their objective to show them brutal evaluate generally sum up as barbaric, anti-rational, terrorism and anti-democratic etc. for getting their goal news media in the west intentionally contorted presentation of several Islamic believes and concepts. (Ridouani, D., 2011).

In the view of Mc Quail (1995) in an inventible situation, the government taking assistant from media when they deal with some terror situation, media put up an obstructive name or label to extremist and terrorist community and presented news stories which creating some agitation and complicated environment for the terrorist with spreading of information. According to Lowenthal (1989) in the absences of the media cooperation, terrorism is considered more significant.

The contribution of media news stories sometimes creates a big confusion for the audience to glamorize the extremist and terrorist and forgotten their victims and brutality, in context of exaggerating the fear and threat of terrorist their desires and by denied to denounce them in every aspect. According to media news and information, to be allowed to present promotion as well as credibility to some specific radical political agenda as a result of specific negligence constructed by the government, in spite all this the participation produced by the news media in constructing sensibility to related to insecurity of terrorist activities

which then guide to create and having feeling of antagonism inside in communities. (Mc Quails, 1995)

The distinguished representation of Islam and Muslims formulate them the alien and this kind of picture is portrayed in goodwill of them, which is premature behavior, still, they represent illiterate backward moral or unfamiliar community who pressurize to bear or supervise in western countries. Dunn (2001: 292) declare that societal establishment of individuality are present life in the way of communication. Indeed, the media claimed are countless for manufacturing an inaccurate picture of Islam and Muslims like representing them as terrorist, militant, sexist, fundamentalist, suicide bombers, violent, hijacker, fanatic, and scriptura list. (Dunn, 2001).

The news stories and news article associated with Muslims and Islam were disrespectful and have relation with fundamentalist and terrorist. It is also constantly professed that Islam has some connection with Middle Eastern culture and Muslims 'jihad' was presented in the antipathetic method, and also judge that Islam and Muslims communities are a prominent threat to culture and security of Western society. Like this type frame of mind develop and encourage the concept of 'Us' and 'them' which is separate fear community and facilities. (Awass ,1996).

### **Islam in United States and Europe**

In the United States, there have been a large number of cases which have a prominent profile, that brings out the Islamophobia have a significant episode. There has some example, In current years, in North West, London on Friday, Abdul Mutalib going to Mosque for offering prayer, was attacked by some knowing people and left him injured, paralyzed and with brain injury. Another attack was faced by Ekram Haque, he was dead on outdoor in

Tooting which was badly beaten. This kind of Islamophobia cases is highly covered by media in a negative sense. (Moosavi, L., 2015)

On the 7th April 2010 the American president Obama give instruction to eliminate those word which is related to religious hatred and racism such as “Islamic extremism” and “jihad” from US national security confidential documents (“Obama bans Islam”, 2010) this act showed government attitudes concerning to Muslims and Islam in time of Obama, that how internationally discrimination, prejudice, and inappropriate words have been practiced for Muslims in West. Especially the US media, western and British media are considering accountable for sowing racism and hatred seeds an unreasonably, showing and framing a prejudiced image of Muslims and Islam in the mind of western people. Islam has been represented as a religion that raises extremism, terrorism, and violence which is considered the threat to the entire world. (Alghamdi, E. A. ,2015).

The terrorist attack in Norway, several western media organizations created connection with Islam whiles other bluntly accused Islam and Islamic organization of the attacks without showing any proof to support their stance. After some investigation, it became clearer that the committee of this attack was really Anders Behring Breivik, a 32-year-old Norwegian, who killed at least 85 civilians and injured many others" *Norway police*".

In the initial coverage of attack concentrated on Muslim present and drag some kind possibility related to an Islamic group, in particular, Ansar al-Jihad al-Alami, or Helpers of the Global Jihad, refer by many experts as declare responsibility for the attacks. American officials said the group was previously unknown and might not even exist. There was ample reason for concern that terrorists might be responsible. (Alghamdi, E. A. ,2015).

In this article the researcher discussed the essence and real meaning of Islam and jihad, primarily, the term itself submerge in, the meaning of Islam is harmony and peace, and it gives thought to a necessary prerequisite for establishing the popular compatibility and cooperation with non-Muslims. On this starting point, jihad becomes just as second different, while harmony and peace are not highly regarded. Although, the impression of jihad has undertaken a progression distortion. In the begging, its connection creates for Muslims to an inhuman and murderous community of people and construct them a harmony and peace violated nation. While depriving Muslims of their spiritual and religious implications, in the western media changed the main concept of jihad and relate it to acts of extremism and terrorism. (Ridouani, D. ,2011).

In this research article the representation of Islamophobia in Australian media, the portrays of Islam originate from the Middle East and overflow into Australian print and televisive media, which is portray the Muslim men terrorist with the machine gun and beards and women resented as illiterate, and wear scarf and hijab. These pictures originated from magazine, television, newspaper and news programs, in which distorted and neglected the diversification of Muslims communities and Islamic teaching and practices. In at the end, those people who have the deficit of awareness toward Islamic teaching collect contrary knowledge and distorted picture of Muslims. The collection of these pictures, the Australian containment with discrimination, this type of situation creates a complicated political and social circumstances where Muslims have been enforced for demolishing and disgraceful declare not Australian-ness, show and promote their commitment and love to this soil. (Akbar Zadeh, S., & Smith, B. ,2005).

The researcher discussed many events in this research to clearly describe Islamophobia Dunn (2002 & 2004) disused several incidents related to anti-Muslims sentiment and racism. He recommended that Australia hold a collected recorded history

toward Islamophobia starting along with Afghan and Malay frosted, who was look like a danger and spotted toward Australian women, in the 1970s Muslims who's travelled from Lebanon and Turkey were fabricated as backward and sexist, that guide to their upcoming fabricate, with another Arab Muslims, extremist and brutal. (Dunn, 2001). In the year of 1980 and 1990s Australian media arise discourses on Muslim women veiling and took news reports related to damage private parts of an African girl. Dunn (2001) declared that Muslims are that one community who permanently faced troubling highly and also anti-Muslims sentiment and racist brutality in Australia, in this context the Muslims who live in Australia are highly feeling unfortified.

The different research studies have explained the particular connection with each other, Islam and international media (Nurullah, A. S.,2010). The framing of Islam and Muslims communities in western media (Poole, 2002) and another element of international media related to Islamophobia presentation of minorities groups in a backward manner. (Poole & Richardson, 2006). In historically, the connection of exploration of western imperialism related to where the East and West were developed (Said, 2003).

### **Research Question:**

Q1. How media negatively framed Islamophobia an internationally?

Q2. Does the media coverage grow Islamophobia day by day in international level?

### **Methodology**

In context of existing research articles analysis attempted for the purpose to understand the coverage of Islamophobia in media and the framing of Muslims and Islam in international media . To realize the real face of international media, this study is qualitative research in nature and gives the complete pictures of Islamophobia by reviewing other paper.

This qualitative analysis related with Islamophobia and framing of media related to Islam. And how international media frame prejudicially Muslims and their religion.

### **Discussion and Conclusion**

According to the review of several research articles has been spotting some light on the contorted pictures, prejudices and excessive generalizations that typically characterize the stereotyping representation of Muslims in the western media. In the current climate, Islam is under siege and Muslim women (and men) 'visible' in all Western societies are at risk of being islamophobia victimization, labeling, stigmatization and violence (Abbas, 2007).

News related Islam and Muslims never ever earlier then hold the main place in media of British, present their usual exclusion from big stabilization, and portrayed their key role in dramas, reality shows, and literature and news programs in television. In this context, it explores the particularly pessimistic 'hyper visibility' of Islam and Muslims cover the media that has motivated portrayal of social threat and negativity (Archer, 2009). the exceptional media observation, which has in fact combined with a growing institutional attractiveness in portraying of Islam and Muslims in press media essentially from experts who are doing hard work in journalism studies.

Muslims and Islam are not completely free from complications. The Muslims are highly ignored by the Australian community. The sense of ignorance creates difficulties and badly hurt the sentiment of Muslims community. This is a great complication in society, through which Muslims spotted the tracked for their issues into the press sheet. The media reporter constructs their social background and sometimes ideological and political significant, in which many people clearly show aggression to Islam.

The difficulties of Muslims groups, have needed vigilant coverage of stories and news, the careful reporting will provide an awareness to different kind of problems that

impact the main subject affair, present clearly to audience. Without prejudice and professional news coverage could provide importantly to educated people and constantly the present situation create discourses related to future of Muslims who live in Australia and Islam (Akbar Zadeh, S., & Smith, B. ,2005)

Eid (2014) Although a great number of information sources present the distorted pictures of Muslims and Islam in the perception of western people, several scholars discussed the representation of media news stories have great effect on audience and reader. The main and relevant source of information is considered media, and whether media provide distorted images of some communities are good image it greatly influences audience because the public have blindly trust on media. In this context, the antipathetic portrayal, and distribution of antagonist propaganda towards Muslims and Islam in popular media in the west is not a current happening. In the research of political and media related debates have appeared that the representation of Muslims and Islam in international media inclined to force discriminatory and stereotypes persuasion, discard, just as not in favorable gleam on Islam and Muslims. The picture of Muslims and Islam as an antipathetic “other” in western communities and usually abnormal and not aware perception related to Muslims and Islam are firmly allocated to media portrayal of Muslims and Islam in the west presented in two frames “in clash with the west and associated with terrorism/extremism or violence”.

In the study of previous research papers, the researcher assume that the main viewpoint of Australia, America and Western coverage related to Islamophobia in international media prove that, the framing of Islam and muslims is considered threat and insecurity to their cultural values and belief. However, the representation of Muslims and Islam is a brutal, backward, illiterate, terrorist etc. show to the public in the west, due to this the sentiment of Muslims hurt and also victimize by non-Muslims in everyday in everywhere.

The lives of Muslims are significantly complicated due to negative and prejudice representation of media.

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