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## Impact of Reappearance of Breaking News on Television Channels

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### Abstract

Television has become an integral part of present human life wherein it plays a dual and important role of providing updated information as well as educating the users. It also helps to create a conscious group of people in society by providing them timely updates. Various television channels provide a wide and live coverage 24/7 to the users thereby providing them repeated telecast of news which might have been missed by the people. Undoubtedly it provides the updated and latest news within no wastage of time along with live coverage it has many disadvantages. The impact of watching the violence and actual death scenes repeatedly may cause psychological disturbances and lead to health hazards. The present paper attempts to study the impact which the repeated news based on various crimes have on the society. A questionnaire has been prepared and circulated to various users. The data which has been collected has been analysed and few suggestions have been put forth. The results of the study reveal that people prefer positive journalism wherein only authentic and unbiased information is delivered to them. They have suggested that repetition of crime news should be controlled and monitored.

**Key Words:** *Television, news channels, media, crime news*

## Introduction

The advances in Information and Technology in the present era have resulted in significant increase in the speed of graphic presentation and live coverage of news through various television channels. Media being considered as the fourth pillar of democracy plays a vital role in providing information, education and keeping the people updated (*Nazir 2006*). The visual media has strong and deep rooted impact on the lives of people and has to capacity to refine the thoughts and actions of people. The news updates on television news channels provide up-to-date and live news within no wastage of time. People tend to spend their leisure time watching television news channels. The news which is shown on these channels has a great influence on our decision making process and also shapes our perspectives for the world (*Wafers R.D*). It is undoubtedly a fact that the news keep us constantly updated but we should be aware that accepting numerous flow of information and allowing it to make our minds can be dangerous. (*Freberg K. and Graham K.*). In a developing country like India which is constantly undergoing social, political, cultural and economic changes to keep them updated majority of the users watch news channels. These channels provide updated instant information along with live coverage with graphical representations. The live coverage of crime attacks and repeated review of events has become a normal routine for these news channels to gain popularity and survival in the news industry. The live coverage of news and the risks taken by the news reporters is worth appreciating but the stress caused by repeated crime news has yet to be studied extensively.

## Review of literature:

A study conducted by *Winkel and Vrij (1990) (Sumaira, Ayub)* on effects of negative coverage of news channels on people at University of Punjab concludes by expressing the need for the media to have a health manager or a psychologist who will ensure that the content and its execution is safe for public health. A similar research study was conducted by *Daredia, K. and Zhera, N. (2014)*, on Psychological consequences of watching television news channels. It covered the psychological impact of news channels on the viewers in Pakistan. The findings reveal that the channels should provide education to the viewers without causing undue sensation and panic to the viewers. Another study conducted on Breaking News TV/ Negative effect of watching TV news (2014) (*Daredia, K.*). A research project submitted by Ayub Sumaira has suggested that all news channels in Pakistan should deliver information that will make people aware of happenings and should avoid creating sensationalism just to get more viewers and higher ratings. A research study was conducted by *Naz, S., Asif, A. and Zafar, M. (2015)* on impact of news channels on youth: a comparative qualitative study suggested that those who were more exposed to news channels got more influenced consequently. The recent study conducted by *Tilak (2019)* suggested that the youth has negative impact of repetitive news broadcasted by various news channels.

## **Objectives of the study**

The following objectives have been set for the study:

- ❖ To collect information of users regarding their habits of watching news channels.
- ❖ To study the impact of crime news shown repeatedly on the minds of users.
- ❖ To assess the psychological effects of repeated crimes news transmissions.
- ❖ To trace the ethical norms to be followed by news channels in respect of transmission of repeated crime related news.

## **Hypothesis:**

The hypothesis put forth for the study includes:

**There is a significant relationship between the psychological effects on people due to crime news shown on TV channels.**

## **Scope and limitations:**

The present scope of the study covers the impact that repeated crime and political news shown on the television channels have on the users. It is limited to these news only and do not cover other news such as sports, entertainment etc.

## **Research Methodology**

The present study is descriptive research based. In this research survey method has been used along with questionnaire technique which has been used as a tool for data collection. The questionnaire includes both open ended and close ended questions. A self made questionnaire consisting of 30 questions has been circulated among the users. The questionnaire covers various aspects related to the topic of research which includes questions such as preference of news channels, impact of watching news channels, psychological effects of watching news repeatedly etc.

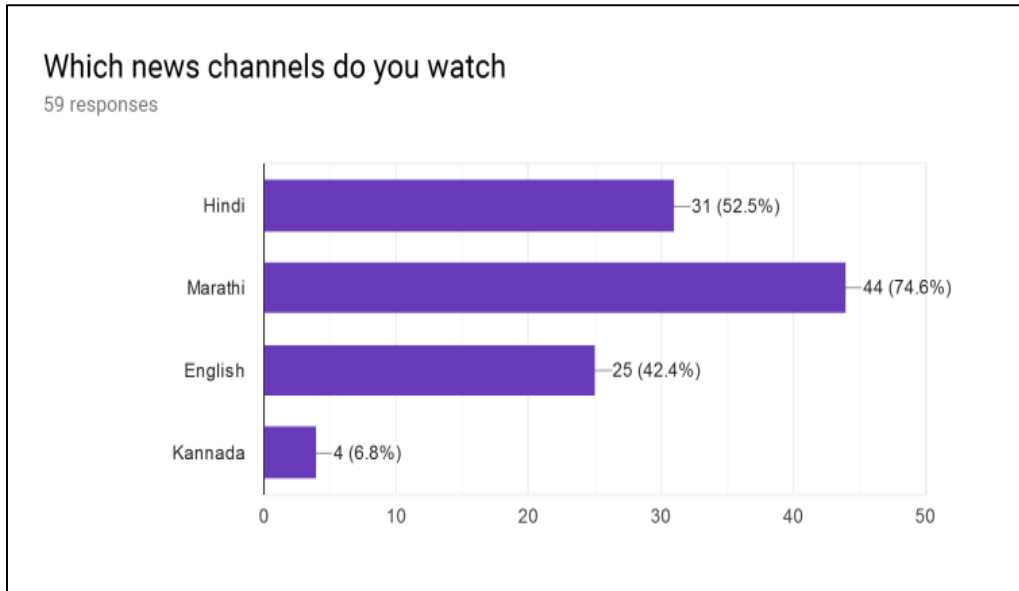
## **Sampling**

The sample was collected using convenient sampling technique. The total sample for this research study was 60 (34 females and 26 males). The age of the sample ranges from 16 to 31 and above years.

## **Data analysis and presentation**

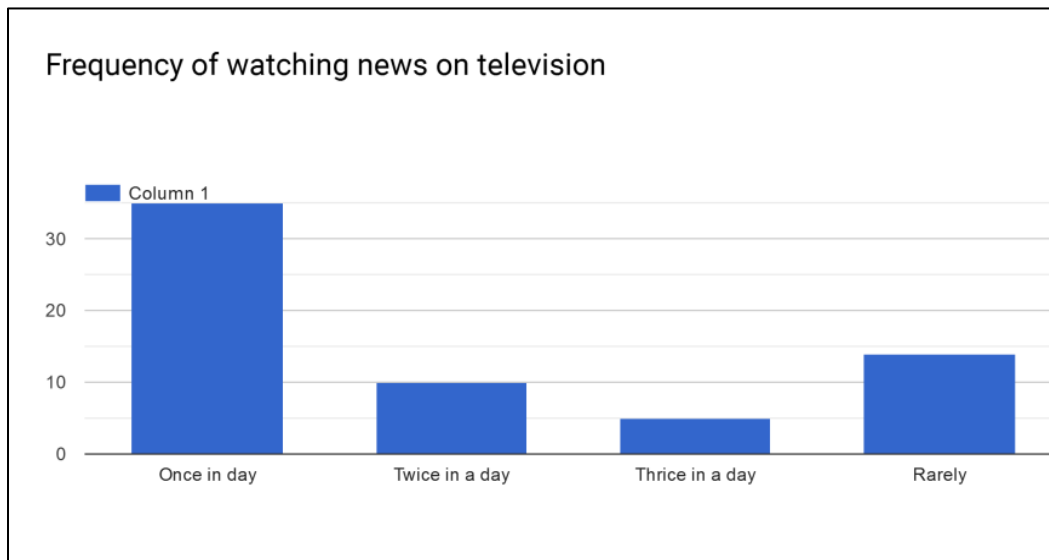
The data which has been collected through the questionnaire has been analysed and presented through various graphs and charts. This has been done by using Microsoft Excel. Most of the

respondents were residing in Urban areas (54) while only (5) in rural areas and 1 from semi-urban area.



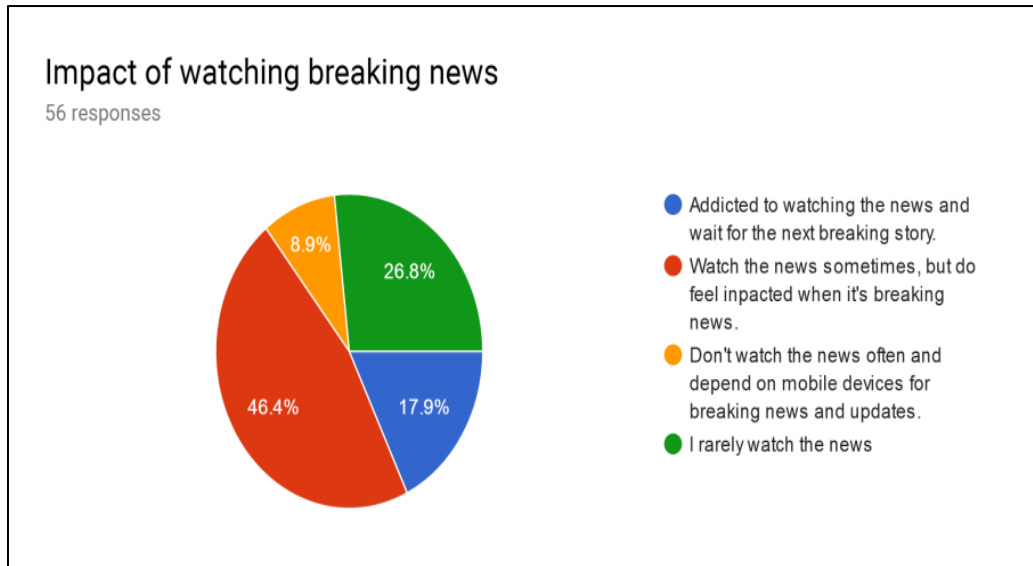
**Fig. No. 1 News channels watched**

The results of findings indicate that (74.6%) of respondents watched Marathi news channel while next was (52.5%) who watched Hindi news channel. The English news channel was watched by (42.4%) while others (6.2%) watched Kannada news channel.



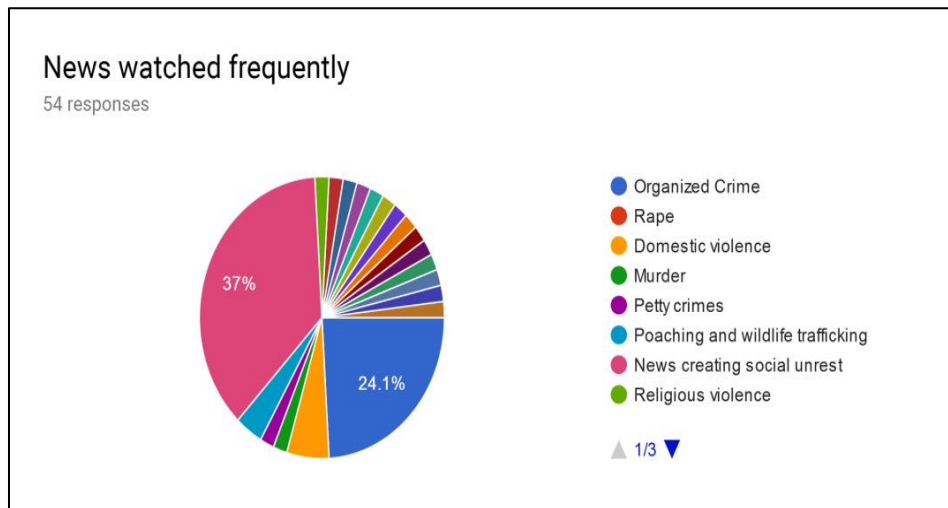
**Fig. No. 2 Frequency of watching news**

In response to this question it can be observed that 53% people watch news once in a day while 23% watch it twice a day. 7% watch news thrice in a day while 17% people rarely watched news channel mainly due to their busy daily routine schedule.



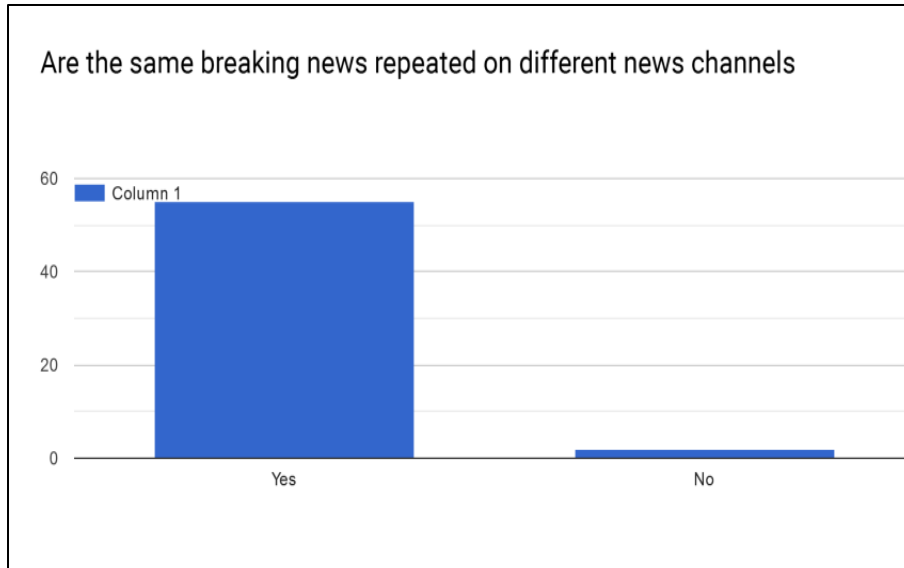
**Fig. 3 Impact of watching breaking news**

The results indicate that 46.4% of people feel the impact of watching breaking news while 17.9% of people are addicted to watching the news and wait for the next breaking story while 8.9% of people don't watch the news on television often and they are much dependent of mobile phones.



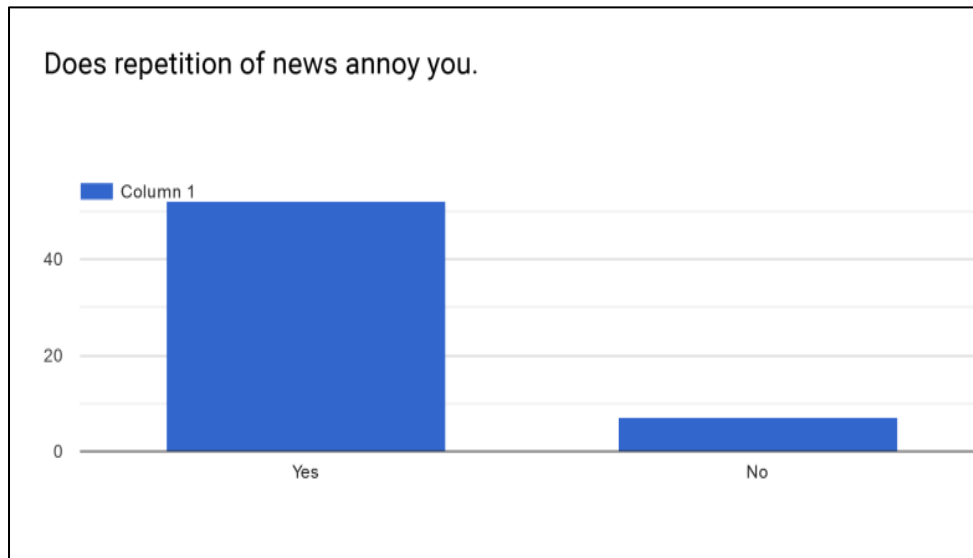
**Fig. No. 4 News watched**

The results indicate that 37% of the news which they watch created social unrest while 24.1% of the news is based on organised crime.



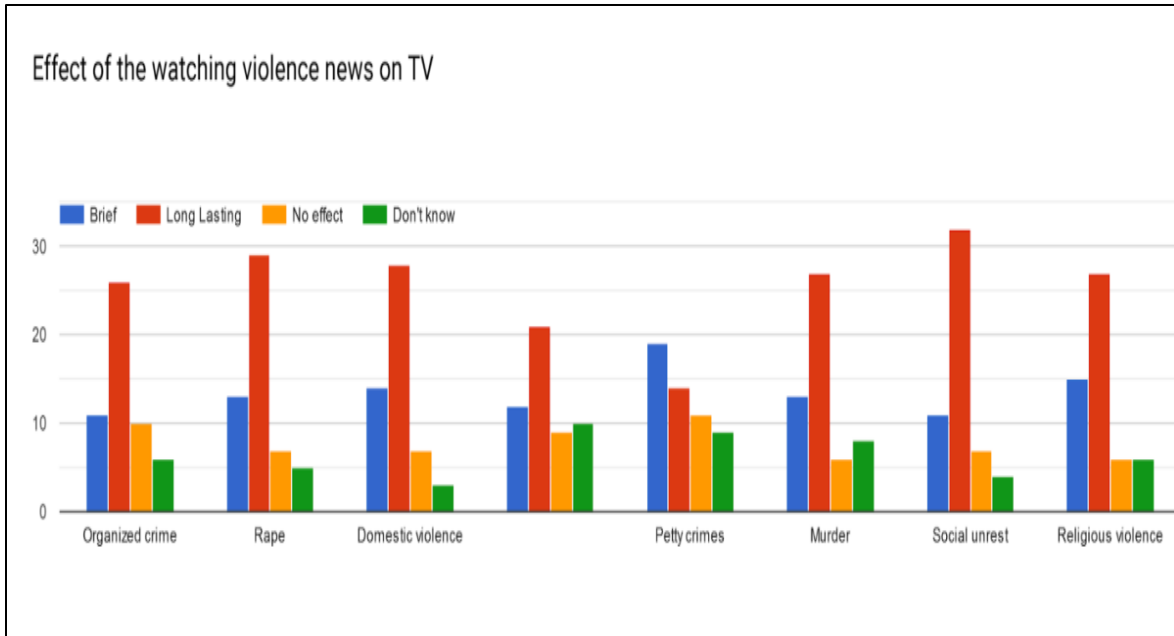
***Fig. No. 5 Repetition of news***

The results indicate that 92% people feel that the same news is repeated on different channel throughout the day while only 8% respondents do not agree with the repetition of news.



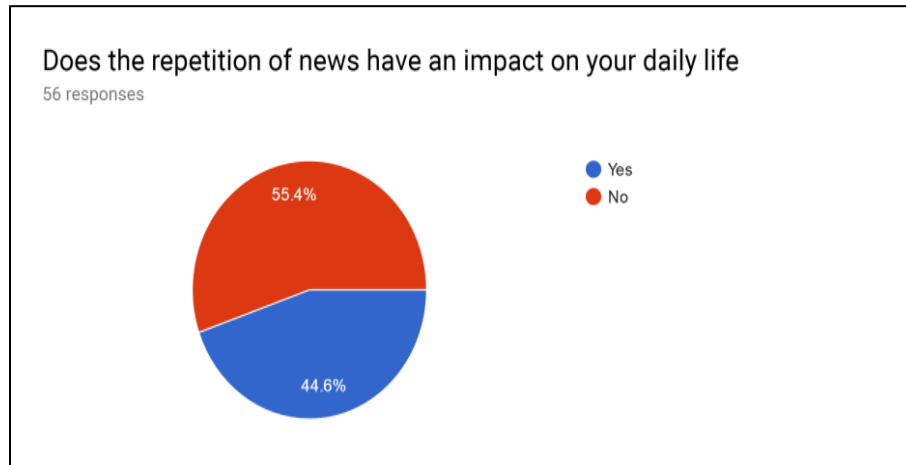
***Fig. No. 6 Annoyance of news***

The results of survey reflected that 88% people are annoyed with the repetition of the news while 12% people do not get annoyed with the repetition of news.



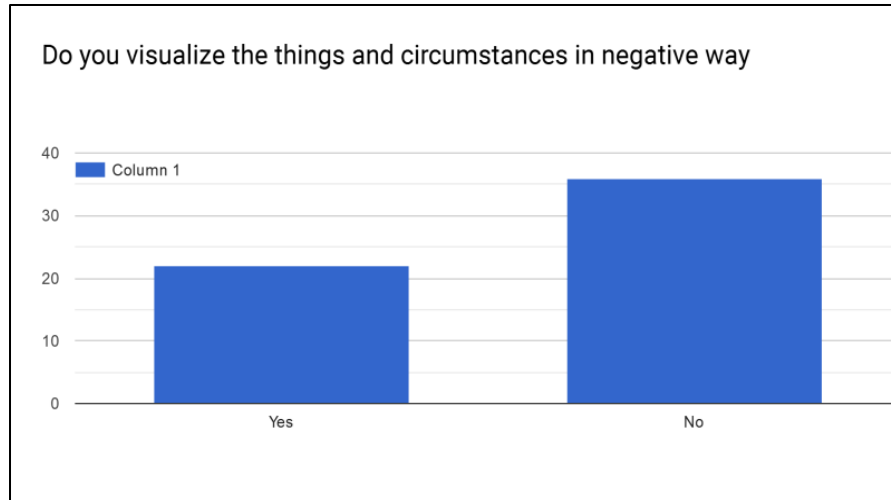
**Fig. No. 7 Effect of watching violence news**

The results of survey indicated that there is long lasting effect of watching news related to organised crime, rape, domestic violence, murder, social unrest and religious violence on majority of the people.



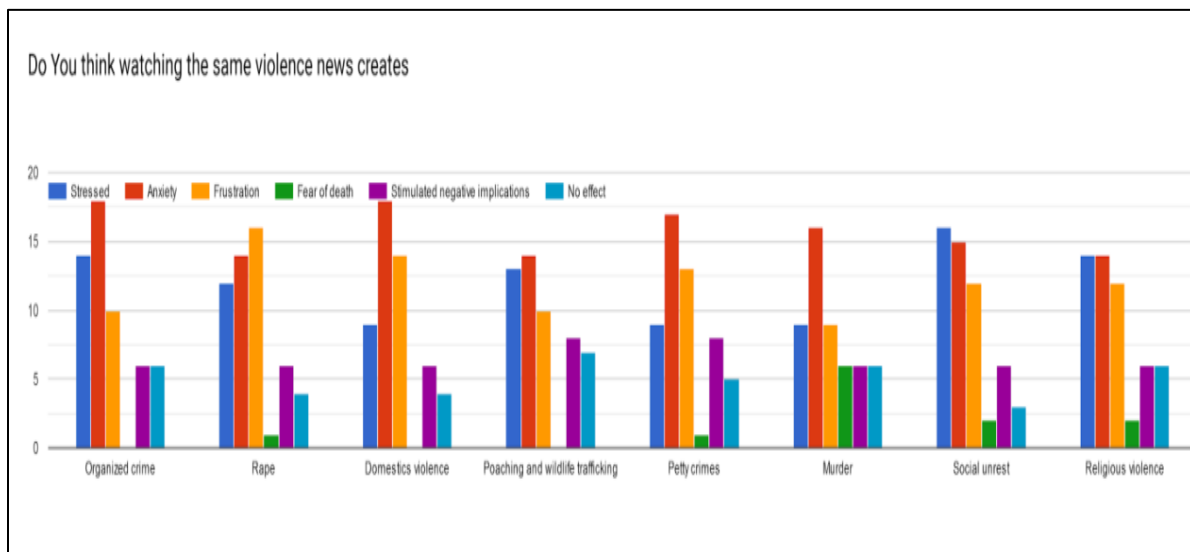
**Fig. No. 8 Impact of repetition**

The results indicate that 55.4% of the people feel that the repetition of news has an impact on their daily life while 44% feel that it does not have impact on their daily life.



**Fig. No. 9 Visualise of news**

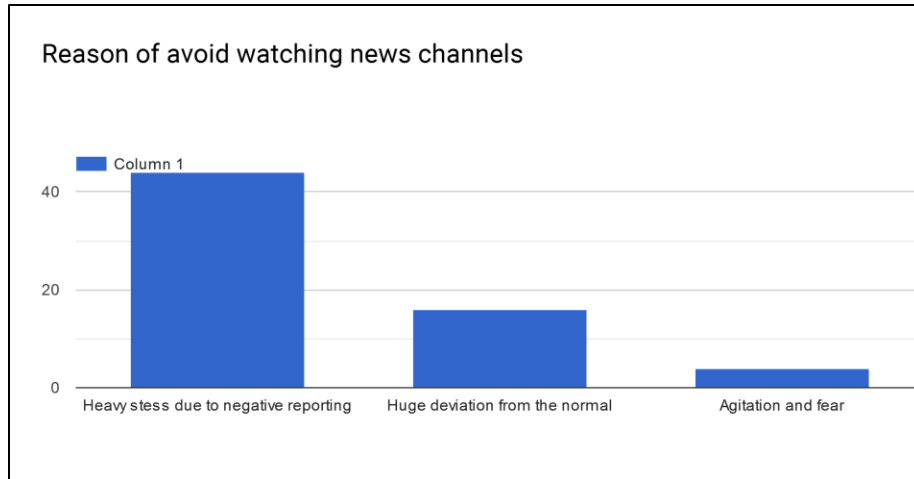
The result shows that 60% people do not visualize the circumstances in a negative way while 40% people tend to visualise the things shown in news in a negative way.



**Fig. No. 10 Effect of watching violence news**

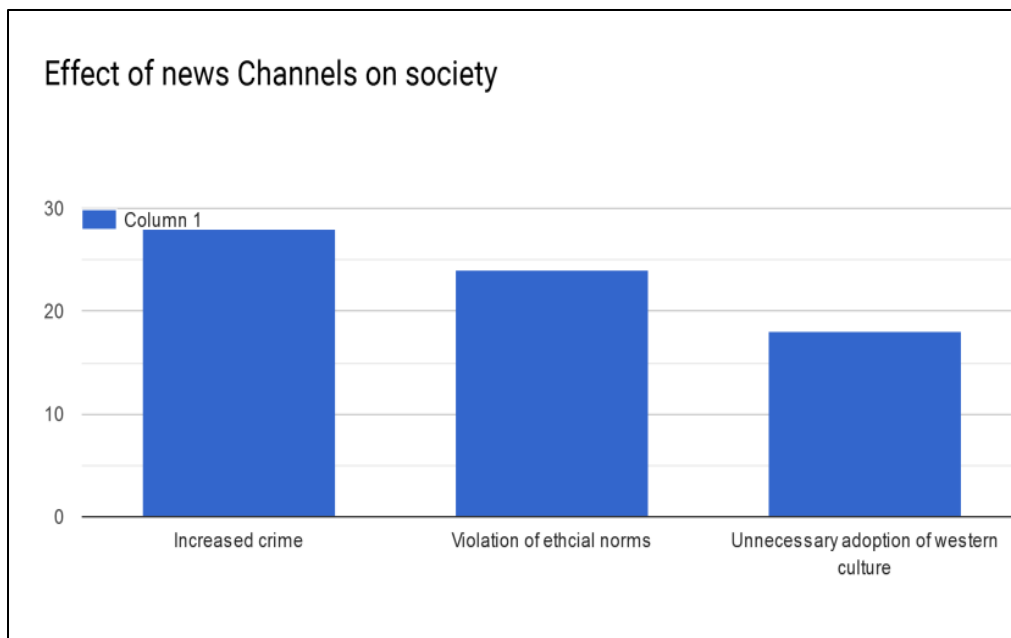
The survey reveals that they feel anxiety after watching same violence news related to organised crime, domestic violence, murder, social unrest and majority of them also feel frustrated while watching the news. Very few people have replied that they have no direct effect of watching the news. Thus, it can be seen that most of the people are directly or indirectly affected by watching these news repeatedly.





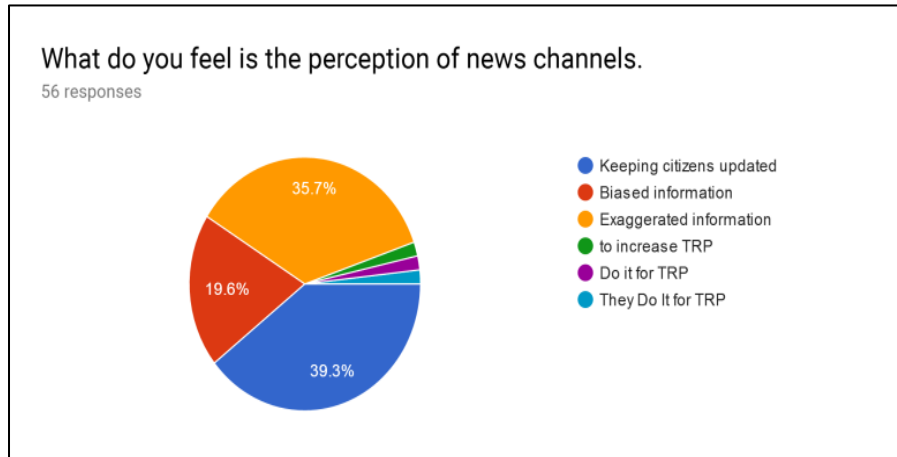
**Fig. No. 11 Reason for avoiding watching news channels**

This was a multiple choice question for the people and the results indicated that 69% people have replied that they avoid watching news channels as it leads to heavy stress due to negative reporting while 25% people have replied that there is huge deviation from the normal while 6% feel that it arouses agitation and fear.



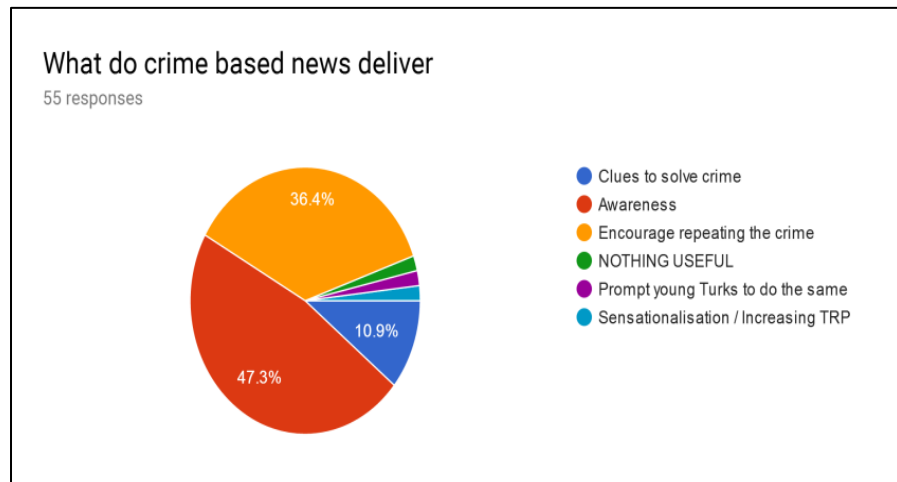
**Fig. 12 Effect on society**

This was also a multiple choice question for the people and 40% people feel that the repetition of news has resulted in increased crime while 34% people feel that there is violation of ethical norms and 26% have replied that it has lead to unnecessary adoption of western culture.



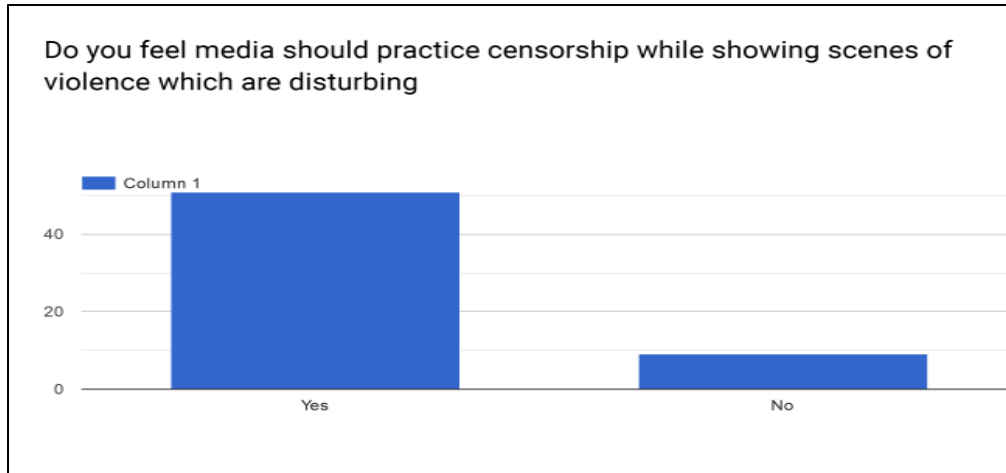
**Fig. No. 13 Perception of news channels**

The results indicated that 38.3% people feel that the news keep the citizens updated while 25.7% feel that there is exaggerated information while 19.6% feel that most of the information is biased.



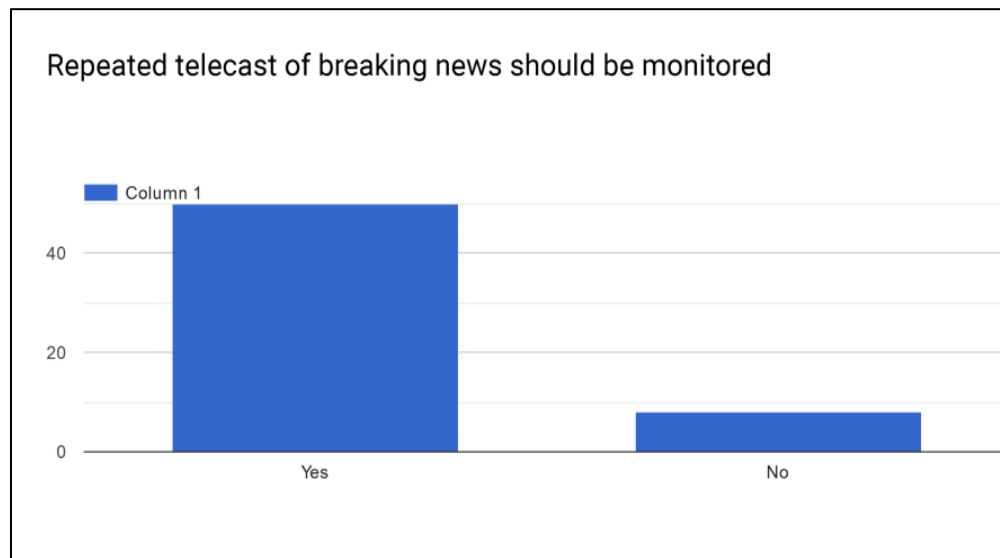
**Fig. No 14 Crime based news deliver**

47.3% of the people feel that the news create awareness while 36.4% people feel that these news encourage the repetition of crime and 10.9% people feel that they provide clues for crimes which is likely to increase crimes in near future.



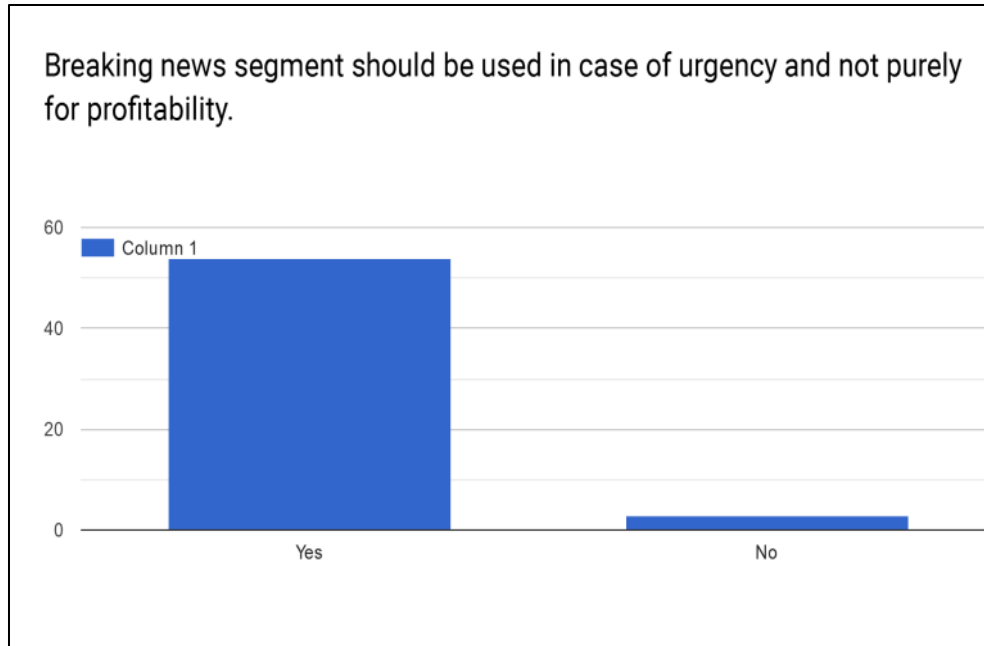
**Fig. No. 15 Censorship**

51(85%) people feel that media should practice censorship while showing scenes of violence which are disturbing while 9 (15%) people do not feel it is necessary for the media to practice censorship.



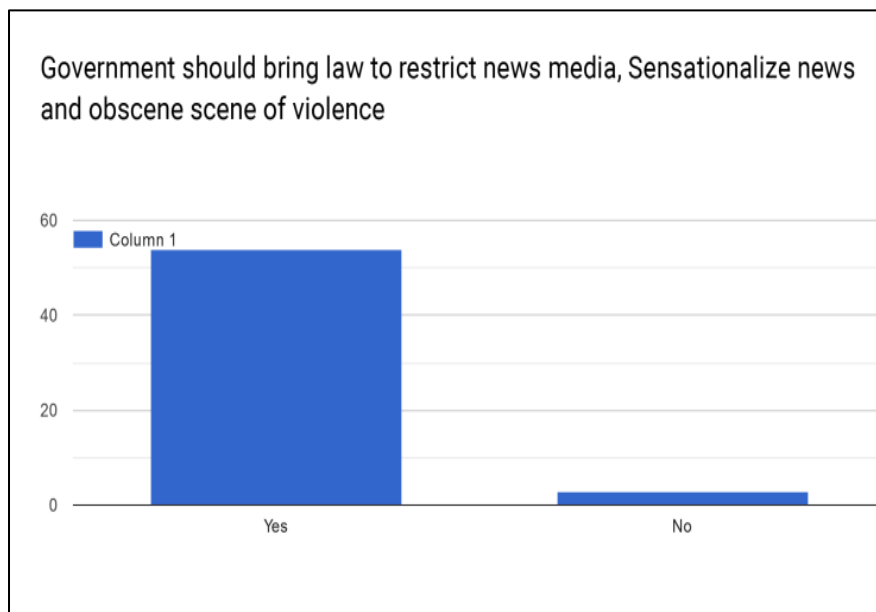
**Fig. No. 16 Monitoring of news**

52 (87%) people feel that the repeated telecast of news should be monitored while 8(13%) people do not feel it is essential to monitor the news telecast.



***Fig. No. 17 Use of breaking news segment***

The results indicate that 56 (93%) people feel that breaking news segment should be used in case of urgency and should not be purely profitable.



***Fig. No. 18 Restriction on news***

54 (90%) people feel that the government should bring laws to restrict news media for sensational and obscene scene of violence being constantly shown on news channels while 10% do not feel it is essential for government to bring in laws.

## Findings and Suggestions

The findings reveal that majority of people prefer ABP news channel while second on list is NDTV. Doordarshan is also preferred by few as it gives authentic and filtered information following the necessary restrictions. The regional Kannada news channel such as Digvijaya News is preferred as there are less negative implications and they try to bring real news along with updates which are not biased. Republic news channel is also preferred by regional people as it gives information on current issues along with national and international updates. The people have suggested that only facts should be informed and the opinions of citizens should be totally left out as it creates social unrest. They also feel it is not easy to bring changes and restrict media as most of the TV channels are either run by the politicians or after increasing their TRPs. Unnecessary repetition of news regarding violence, rape and one sided political coverage, anti- India propaganda should be monitored. News channels should not repeat news again and again as it disturbs social community. They also feel that unrestricted freedom of telecast misleads the public to confusion. Some people have suggested that news channels should not be broadcast for 24 hours rather it should be only for 1 or 2 hours in a day like national or Sahyadri channel. Unless and until it is very essential, do not telecast the news for publicity.

## Conclusion

The present study was conducted to review the impact of repeated news shown on the television channels. From the interviews conducted it can be observed that news channels created both negative and positive impact on the people. These findings reveal that watching news channels on daily basis can cause stressful experiences in one's life while watching Doordarshan channel does not create stressful experiences along with no effect on personal life as well.

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