

*Research Article***A Case Study on Utilization of New Media for Accessing Information on the Triple Talaq Bill and Empowerment****Tasneem Khan**Assistant Professor, School of Journalism,
SAM Global University Raisen, MP.**Article information****ABSTRACT****Volume: 1****Issue: 1****Page No: 11-19****Received: 02.04.2024****Accepted: 10.4.2024****Published: 26.05.2024****DOI No.:****Corresponding Author:**Dr. Tasneem Khan
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Mobile: +91-7771811848**Keywords:**New Media,
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In the rapidly evolving landscape of communication, new media has become a crucial tool for disseminating information and shaping public discourse, particularly regarding socially significant legislation like India's Triple Talaq Bill. Officially known as the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019, this bill addresses the contentious practice of instant divorce among Muslims, sparking widespread debate and attracting significant media attention. This research article explores how new media platforms—such as social media, online news portals, and digital forums—have transformed information access and public engagement with legislative processes. By analyzing patterns of information dissemination and user engagement, the study examines the role of new media in empowering individuals, especially women, through enhanced awareness and participation. Focusing on ten divorce cases in Bhopal, the study assesses the impact of the Triple Talaq Bill and the role of new media in the post-divorce conditions of the participants. The findings aim to inform strategies for leveraging digital platforms to enhance public understanding and involvement in legislative processes, contributing valuable insights for policymakers, social activists, and media practitioners.

INTRODUCTION

In the rapidly evolving landscape of communication, new media has emerged as a pivotal tool for disseminating information and shaping public discourse. This is particularly evident in the context of socially significant legislation, such as the Triple Talaq Bill in India. The utilization of new media platforms, including social media, online news portals, and digital forums, has transformed the way individuals access information and engage with legislative processes. This research article explores the role of new media in providing access to information about the Triple Talaq Bill and its implications for empowerment and social benefits.

The Triple Talaq Bill, officially known as the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019, addresses the contentious practice of instant divorce among Muslims in India. The Bill has sparked widespread debate and garnered significant attention across various media channels. Understanding how new media influences public perception and engagement with the Bill is crucial for assessing its broader social impact.

This study investigates the extent to which new media platforms have facilitated access to information on the Triple Talaq Bill and examines the potential of these platforms to empower individuals, particularly women, through enhanced awareness and participation. By analyzing the patterns of information

dissemination and user engagement on new media, this research aims to highlight the benefits and challenges associated with digital information access in the context of significant legislative measures.

The findings of this research are expected to provide insights into the effectiveness of new media as a tool for social empowerment and to inform strategies for leveraging digital platforms to enhance public understanding and involvement in legislative processes. Ultimately, this study contributes to the broader discourse on the intersection of new media, legislative awareness, and social empowerment, offering valuable perspectives for policymakers, social activists, and media practitioners.

METHODOLOGY

The case study analysis focused on 10 divorce cases in Bhopal resulting from Instant Triple Talaq, aiming to assess the post-divorce conditions of the participants. Through indepth conversations, the study aimed to elucidate the impact of the Triple Talaq Bill and the role of New Media in the empowerment of these women. Specifically, the research sought to investigate how information about the new bill on Triple Talaq, along with access, usage and engagement with New Media, influenced their lives. Specifically, the study sought to investigate how information about the New Bill on Triple Talaq and access, usage, and engagement with New Media influenced their lives.

Case 1

Name- Withheld

Age-35 years

Qualification- 12th

Resident: Bhopal, M.P.

Husband Name: Withheld

Divorced Type: Unilaterally

Duration of marriage: four years.

Children: Two kids, aged 7 and 8 years

Thirty-five-year-old Case 1 resides in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. She has completed her education up to the twelfth standard and is a mother of two children aged 7 and 8. Her husband works as an imam and Qazi and also owns a shop. He unilaterally divorced her four years after their marriage without giving her the Mehr, which was fixed at forty-five thousand rupees in the Nikaahnama. Case 1 encountered numerous challenges during her marriage, including domestic violence, conflicts with her husband and in-laws, dowry harassment, lack of maintenance, and sexual abuse. As a result, her children have been residing with her at her parents' house. She did not receive any of her personal belongings, including her jewelry, at the time of divorce. With only a higher secondary degree and the responsibility of two children, she had to start her own small online clothing business on WhatsApp to make ends meet. Eventually, she

managed to generate income through her business.

Case 2

Name- Withheld

Age-Forty Year

Qualification: Teacher by Profession:
Bachelor's degree in arts.

Resident: Bhopal, M.P.

Husband Name: I don't want to disclose
Doctor by Profession

Divorced Type: Unilaterally

Duration of Marriage: 15 years

Children don't want to be disclosed.

Mrs. Khan, a forty-year-old woman, is a teacher by profession, holding a bachelor's degree in art and education. Her husband, a doctor, unilaterally divorced her and provided her with the Mehr, which was fixed at a total sum of one lakh rupees post-separation. Despite possessing her nikahnama, frequent conflicts between the couple led to the divorce. Currently, she does not reside at her parents' house. While she received her jewelry, she was not given her personal belongings, and no maintenance was provided after the divorce. Mrs. Khan, who has been married for 15 years, has been utilizing the Internet for higher studies (M.Ed.) since her divorce.

Case 3

Name- Withheld

E-ISSN: Applied

Age-Thirty-One Year

Qualification: Master's degree (government job).

Resident: Bhopal, M.P.

Husband Name: I don't want to disclose

Divorced Type: Unilaterally

Duration of Marriage: one month

Children---

Thirty-one-year-old Case 3, residing in Bhopal, works at an Aanganwadi while her husband owns the property. Holding a master's degree, she faced divorce just a month after marriage, unilaterally and in her absence. The mehr was fixed at an amount of 50 thousand rupees, of which she received only half after a fatwa was issued. Post-divorce, she did not receive any maintenance and stayed at her parents' house. The divorce was prompted by continued pressure from her parents, leading to separation after just a month of marriage, after which her husband remarried. Currently, she works as a teacher at the Anganwadi, with her entire work now based on the app, requiring her to report everything to her supervisor via phone and Internet.

Case 4

Name- Withheld

Age: Twenty-eight years old

Qualification: a bachelor's degree in science.

Resident: Bhopal, M.P.

Husband Name: don't want to disclose, Engineer by profession

Divorced Type: Unilaterally

Duration of marriage: 8 years

Children: two children aged 10 and 8

Twenty-eight-year-old Case 4, a resident of Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, holds a bachelor's degree in science. She is a mother of two children aged 10 and 8. Case 4 was divorced eight years after marriage by her husband, who is an engineer by profession. Despite the Nikaahnama specifying a total sum of fifty thousand rupees as Mehr, she has not received the money yet. The divorce was unilateral, and she faced problems due to quarrels with her in-laws. Following the divorce, Case 4 has been residing with her children at her parents' house and has not sought assistance from any individual or institution. She was not provided with any belongings or jewelry after the divorce. Currently, she works at a private school during the COVID-19 pandemic, where she has to conduct online classes and manage tuition payments through the app. Teaching is her sole source of income, supporting her and her two small children.

Case 5

Name- Withheld

Age: twenty-eight years

Qualification: Not received any formal education

Resident: Bhopal, M.P.

E-ISSN: Applied

Husband Name

Divorced Type: Unilaterally

Duration of Marriage: 3 years

Children: 12-year-old daughter

Case 5, a 28-year-old resident of Bhopal, has not received any formal education. She works as a domestic help to support herself, while her husband owns a shop. They have a 12-year-old daughter who now lives with Case 5 at her parent's house after the divorce. The Mehr, fixed at seven thousand rupees in the Nikaahnama, has not been paid to her yet. Case 5 was divorced three years after her marriage, following instances of domestic violence and disputes with her husband, which ultimately led to their divorce, delivered orally. Since the dissolution of their marriage, she has not received any financial support. Her husband remarried without returning any of her personal belongings or jewelry. At the time of her divorce, her daughter was 12 years old and is now being raised in her grandparents' house. Despite not having a formal degree, Case 5 has started utilizing the internet to educate herself and teach her daughter, particularly through platforms like YouTube.

Case 6

Name- Withheld

Age: thirty-six years

Qualification: Basic education

Resident: Bhopal, M.P.

Husband Name:

Divorced Type: Unilaterally

Duration of marriage: 5 years

Children- 0

Case 6, a 36-year-old resident of Talaiya, Bhopal, underwent instant triple talaq in December 2020 after a five-year marriage with Mr. Khan from Aishbagh, Bhopal, which began in 2015. The primary reason for discord was dowry-related issues. The woman's family had provided cash and gold to Nadir as dowry. In December 2012, she and her sister won Rs 50 lakh by participating in Kaun Banega Crorepati in Mumbai. The groom had always been interested in the prize money she won and eventually squandered it all. The woman's family members allege that Mr. Khan's elder brother, a lawyer, threatened them with consequences. Meanwhile, Mr. Khan informed the police that he had attempted to reconcile with his wife, but she refused. After her divorce, she found herself without any means of income. She joined her sister's boutique, despite initially lacking knowledge of design. However, she has since learned to design with the help of the internet.

Case 7

Name- Withheld

Age: twenty-one years

Qualification: Basic education

Resident: Bhopal, M.P.

Husband Name:...

Divorced Type: Unilaterally

Duration of marriage: 5 years

Children- 0

The 22-year-old woman from Bhanpur, Bhopal, married Mr. Khan in April 2021. Shortly after the wedding, she experienced mental trauma due to dowry demands from the groom, which escalated over time. Mr. Khan's family subjected her to extreme torture, alleging that she had not brought sufficient dowry. Within a month of their marriage, the girl was forced to return to her parental home as her husband angrily uttered Instant Triple Talaq three times during an argument. She reported to the police that her husband frequently instigated fights with her. Despite her family's efforts to salvage her marriage, they were unsuccessful. Consequently, Case 7 and her family filed a police complaint against Mr. Khan. While browsing the internet, she came across the BMMA organization, which helped her file an FIR against her husband for issuing Triple Talaq.

Case 8

Name- Withheld

Age: Twenty-eight years old

Qualification: Basic education

Resident: Bhopal, M.P.

Husband Name: I don't want to disclose it.

Divorced Type: Unilaterally

Duration of marriage: 2 years

Children- 0

The twenty-eight-year-old Case 8 entered into a marital union with the accused in September 2017. Dowry demands surfaced after the initial months of marriage, leading to continuous harassment. In 2018, the woman left her husband's home due to the harassment, but the dispute was temporarily settled. However, the harassment resurfaced over the issue of dowry. In September 2019, the accused, Mr. Khan, issued her an instant Triple Talaq. Despite Case 8's efforts to reconcile, their differences could not be resolved. Eventually, she filed a police complaint under the provisions of the Muslim Women's (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019. She utilized the internet and new media to find information about similar cases of Triple Talaq like hers.

Case 9

Name- Withheld

Age: twenty-three years old

Qualification: Basic education

Resident: Bhopal, M.P.

Husband Name: I don't want to disclose it.

Divorced Type: Unilaterally

Duration of marriage: 2 years

Children- 0

Case 9 married Mr. Khan in September 2019. According to the police report, the husband harassed the victim, demanding money from her mother as she was a government employee. When she refused, the harassment escalated. The accused was summoned to his in-laws'

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home to resolve the conflict. However, in a fit of rage, he pronounced Instant Triple Talaq on Case 9, ending their marriage. Subsequently, Case 9 and her family filed a case against him under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act of 2019. The accused was arrested and brought before the court. After the sudden divorce, Case 9 immersed herself in using the internet to alleviate her depression.

Case 10

Name- Withheld

Age: twenty-eight years old

Qualification: Basic education

Resident: Bhopal, M.P.

Husband Name: I don't want to disclose it.

Divorced Type: Unilaterally

Duration of Marriage: 1 year

Children- 0

Case 10 entered into a marital alliance with her husband in 2018. Subsequently, harassment by the in-laws began. Initially, the woman filed a police complaint against the in-laws in 2018, but the dispute was resolved, and she returned home. However, the issue resurfaced as she was regularly subjected to physical abuse by her husband, prompting him to instantly pronounce Instant Triple Talaq. He cited marital discord as the reason. Eventually, Case 10 approached the police and filed a case against the man for Instant Triple Talaq and his family for ongoing harassment. She continued

to endure regular beatings by her husband. Currently residing with her parents, she sought solace by watching motivational videos and speeches by famous women and influencers on the internet.

FINDINGS

- Positive societal change is evident as these women are not only embracing economic independence but also gaining empowerment and confidence.
- The importance of New Media is showcased in Bhopal, where Muslim women have taken on the task of self-reliance by venturing into online business.
- The contribution of WhatsApp and social media has been enormous for them to gain a better understanding of dealing with the aftermath of Triple Talaq. Divorced or separated women are exploring new courses to become vocational experts online.
- Muslim homemakers are learning and gaining knowledge through YouTube about various skills.
- Awareness of the legalities concerning the Triple Talaq Bill, which became the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act 2019, is visible.
- New Media plays a prominent role in this awareness through access, usage, and engagement.

CONCLUSION

The evolution of New Media in humankind began as a technological advancement in the

world of the information superhighway. These digital technologies, which emerged as modernized sources of communication to make tasks easier, have significantly contributed to societies and cultures through their usage and acceptance. New Media penetrated households and lives where communication of important aspects of life was previously far-fetched. It provided a holistic approach for certain people to experience and adapt to the changes the 21st-century world has been witnessing, allowing them to sail in the same boat altogether.

In the case of the Triple Talaq Bill, it was predominantly New Media that made the Muslim women in Bhopal become properly aware of the case and its constitutional changes through the judicial process. Despite the political mudslinging surrounding the Triple Talaq Bill case by Muslim clerics opposing it, the Muslim women of Bhopal kept politics aside and warmly welcomed the bill as a step towards the emancipation of Muslim women from the horrendous practice of Triple Talaq. The Muslim society is hopeful that the bill will serve its purpose and make the lives of such deprived Muslim women better.

The New Media as a transformational tool is important but this study on the issue of Triple Talaq lends credence to the subject matter of how Muslim Women are adapting to changes and bigger transformations in their lifestyle and living. The New Media acts as a mouthpiece for their daily struggles and problems. There is a significant transformation and changes in the social life of Muslim

women who have faced instant divorce in Bhopal and are engaged with new media.

Empowerment in Dealing with Triple Talaq: New media, particularly WhatsApp and social media, have played a crucial role in empowering divorced or separated Muslim women by providing them with information and support networks to navigate the aftermath of Triple Talaq. These platforms offer spaces for discussion, sharing experiences, and accessing resources related to legal rights and emotional support.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflicts of interest

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