Media Authenticity, Construction of Perpetrators' Motives, and Integration of Forensic Communication: The Investigation Process of Sexual Violence Cases in Online Media

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ABSTRACT

This study explores the integration of forensic communication with media analysis to understand and address sexual violence. Media authenticity is examined as a crucial factor influencing public perception and judicial processes. Through a detailed examination of how media constructs motives and the application of forensic communication techniques, the research demonstrates the potential of mass media to serve as forensic evidence. The study employs an interpretive paradigm and Ricoeur's Hermeneutics of Suspicion to analyze media texts and police examination minutes. Findings indicate that the construction of motives in media significantly impacts the evidentiary process in sexual harassment cases. This research underscores the importance of accurate media representation and calls for the media to adhere to accuracy, integrity, and social responsibility principles. Further research is suggested to explore the broader social dynamics and collective motives in criminal cases, particularly sexual violence.

INTRODUCTION

In the digital era, media authenticity remains a crucial issue due to its potential to influence public perception. Authenticity refers to the credibility and veracity of information, assessed through fact verification, content analysis, and source evaluation (Rudeloff & Amin, 2023). Digital forensic techniques like metadata analysis and examination of digital traces have become increasingly important in combating fake news and misinformation (Stevens et al., 2023). The media has played a significant role in shaping perceptions of sexual violence, sometimes normalizing such acts (Zgoba et al., 2023). Understanding the motivations of sexual violence perpetrators requires a multifaceted approach, considering both internal factors like psychological disorders and trauma, and external factors such as patriarchal social and cultural influences (Klein et al., 2023). Forensic communication, which combines communication principles with forensic techniques, is crucial in investigating sexual assault cases. This includes forensic interviews, digital message analysis, and perpetrator profiling (UNICEF Romania, 2024). The integration of media authenticity analysis, perpetrator motive construction, and forensic communication provides a comprehensive framework for understanding and addressing sexual violence (Andonopoulos et al., 2023). This integrated approach contributes to more effective law enforcement strategies and violence prevention through education and social change (International Criminal Court, 2023).

Women possess significant potential to impact the world positively, and physical attractiveness is a key factor in achieving higher societal rankings (Luebke & Steffan, 2023). However, despite this potential, women remain vulnerable to sexual harassment. The complex and dynamic landscape of women's roles as post-feminists necessitates a deeper understanding of gender positions within technological development. Unidentified heterosexual relationships challenge

established social and gender norms closely linked to sex categories. The Sexual Violence Law (TPKS Law), enacted at the plenary meeting of the House of Representatives on April 12, 2022, brought significant hope to the Indonesian nation, particularly for women. It was anticipated that the number of sexual harassment incidents would decrease. Contrary to these expectations, the incidence of sexual harassment has been increasing. Data from the Yogyakarta Gender and Children Information System (SIGA, n.d.) and DP3AP2 indicate a rising trend in sexual harassment cases, particularly in the Special Region of Yogyakarta. In March 2023, there were 32 reported victims of sexual harassment, an increase of 20 from the previous month, totaling 71 victims from January to March 2023. Tribunjogja.com reports that 21 cases occurred in Bantul, including among wrestling athletes. Further records from DP3AP2KB show that from January to September 2023, there were 157 cases of abuse against women and children, highlighting a significant increase. This persistent issue is often observed in social contexts lacking adequate parental supervision. To address this, we structured an argument through a scientific study of Forensic Communication, which explores communication phenomena underlying sexual harassment cases. This research aims to provide a space for justice for those marginalized both morally and socially. Forensic Communication is a discipline that traces communication patterns to clarify events and relationships between actions within a series of occurrences (Barradas et al., 2018). It also seeks to dissect the anatomy of the speech acts of crime perpetrators (Newlin et al., 2015). This approach is expected to shed light on the logical consequences of sexual harassment and contribute to a broader understanding of the issue.

Forensic Communication examines the principles of behavior as a metric, treating all printed words and facial expressions as significant indicators, and incorporates these into scientific inquiry (Kipper & Barrett, 2010). This study uses a qualitative approach at the paradigm level, providing a clearer conceptual framework to focus research. Despite being a relatively new field within Communication Science, Forensic Communication fundamentally relies on both verbal and non-verbal communication elements (Ward, 2023). It is essential for Forensic Communication to reassert its unique identity by demonstrating its strengths through comprehensive analysis. This requires employing dual analyses to uncover new perspectives. Forensic Communication's epistemology and critical outlook should distinguish it from other communication traditions. Although the field may seem to lack established solutions, its novelty must be emphasized in each analytical process to maintain relevance and contribute effectively to the broader discourse on communication and sexual harassment (Roux et al., 2022).

The research positions itself within the study of criminal law, promoting fairness in the courtroom and aiding judges in making just decisions. Hidden facts serve as a tool to break through scientific doubts, offering robust support for arguments in Forensic Communication through rigorous criminal law studies. Initially, this approach may seem insufficient, but with its comprehensive composition and sharp interpretations, Forensic Communication aims to substantiate its claims. Despite the ongoing controversy, Forensic Communication continually revisits and emphasizes human behavior, treating social phenomena as critical actors. This reactivation of mass media functions through textual analysis allows for a clearer understanding of legal positions. Additionally, staying updated through mass media conversations aids in analyzing how victims and perpetrators construct their self-images before and after incidents within the interpretive paradigm (Willis, 2022). Forensic Communication asserts its importance in the courtroom by leveraging scientific references to guide it toward answering research questions. In contemporary trials, the identities of victims and perpetrators can often be obscured or overlooked, failing to reflect the role of communication. This issue highlights essentialist and non-reflective identitarianism (Saduova et al., 2023). Forensic Communication strives to address this gap by providing a structured approach that emphasizes the role of communication in legal contexts.

The study by Saleem and Muzamill (2020) highlights two critical factors underscoring the importance of forensic communication in community justice. Firstly, they identified a significant association between participants' race/ethnicity and their time off-campus, confirming a hypothetical pattern. Secondly, their research, drawing on the findings of Liska and Baccaglini, revealed that readers felt safer when the crime was reported in cities where they did not reside. However, they experienced increased fear when crime was reported locally. Korai et al. (2021) delve into the interplay between media and crime in the context of forensic communication of sexual violence, outlining four key aspects. First, their study examines the content, outcomes, and motivations behind crime reporting in mass media. Second, they highlight the psychological function of justice portrayed in mass media, suggesting that individuals care about justice and strive to act following these representations. Third, the impact of mass media on public attitudes towards the police and the fear of crime is explored. Fourth, the study emphasizes the role of mass media in shaping societal perceptions of crime and justice.

To further support our argument, we refer to experts in the media and crime studies. Xie's (2022) study concluded that the narrative "Virginia is becoming more dangerous" is constructed by politicians through the media to exert power. The study demonstrates that the portrayal of rising crime rates in Virginia is a political construct significantly influenced by social media. Additionally, Kleck's (2022) research found that a greater prevalence of guns does not necessarily lead to higher homicide rates, suggesting that targeted gun control measures can be effective (Xie, 2022).

Public and commercial broadcasting operate under different legal frameworks. Public broadcasting, financed by licensing fees to ensure independence from state budgets, is mandated to serve the greater public good by providing

information, sports, entertainment, and cultural content to audiences. This model integrates minority interests and promotes interaction among various interest areas, reflecting a pluralistic concept where each program should mirror society's true diversity (Hesse, 1999). In contrast, commercial broadcasters do not receive funding from licensing fees and rely on advertising revenue and face fewer constitutional constraints (Macnamara, 2019). The proliferation of radio and TV stations, along with the rise of digital platforms, has led to an increase in journalistic activities and, consequently, public relations activities (Verčič & Tkalac Verčič, 2021). This expansion has made it easier to target specific audiences due to the large number of specialized media channels and platforms (Voorveld, 2019). However, the increased fragmentation of the audience has made it more challenging to reach the entire population through traditional media relations activities, necessitating more diverse and integrated communication strategies.

METHOD

This research adopts an interpretive paradigm, which allows for the expression of opinions about current and future events (Blumer, 1969). A paradigm comprises various conceptual frameworks and serves as a response to the assumptions underlying any research question. Ontologically, the interpretive paradigm perceives reality as existent yet debatable, with its meaning varying for each individual. To analyze media texts and examination minutes, we employ Paul Ricoeur's Hermeneutics of Suspicion approach, which involves six stages: *First*, reading images, texts, videos, and diaries. *Second*, seeking empirical meaning. *Third*, uncovering hidden meanings. *Fourth*, identifying the relationship and context of the text. Fifth, detecting messages of injustice. Sixth, analyzing the dissemination of messages (Kohak, 1966). This approach is integral to qualitative research methods, emphasizing textual sharpness as an analytical tool to derive the desired answers. The research design is built on three categorized aspects: media authenticity, the construction of perpetrators' motives, and the analysis of forensic communication in the evidentiary process. These aspects facilitate the exploration of the role of Forensic Communication trails, which are then developed into new communication models.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION
A. Online Media Authenticity

Freedom of access to information is widely recognized under the umbrella of freedom of expression, a fundamental human right enshrined in various global and regional human rights documents. However, national sovereignty necessitates certain restrictions on these freedoms to maintain public order and morality (Amatu & Augustina, n.d.). This concept relates to media authenticity, purity, psychological constructs, and existentialism. In an era of rapid digitalization, the media's primary functions should include providing critical perspectives, maintaining credibility, and ensuring honesty. Yet, many media outlets today compromise the quality of news to serve particular power structures and journalistic ambitions. Despite its questionable credibility, social media, the closest medium to the public, increasingly serves as a primary information source (Astuti et al., 2023; Salim et al., 2023). Unlike conventional media, which undergoes an editorial process to ensure journalistic standards, social media operates without such oversight, leading to potential issues in news quality (Mayangsari & Salim, 2021). Our research expresses concern about the declining primary function of the media we are studying. Using the concept from Epp Lauk and Berglez (2024), the editorial function of the media involves producing information for societal development and democracy. The Mediadelcom project, funded by the EU, explores the interconnection between news media transformation and the risks and opportunities for deliberative communication (Lauk & Berglez, 2024). Comparing social media with conventional media provides insights into their respective roles and functions. In Indonesia, the editorial function appears weakened, and the news formation process is unable to be controlled. This decline can be attributed to two main factors: the influence of capitalism on Indonesian media and the fast-paced news culture among Indonesian journalists.

Some media outlets disregard the criterion of authenticity, failing to understand their primary role as the foundation of the state and a mechanism for social control. However, communication is always at the heart of social phenomena, acting as a social methodology (Dugmore et al., 2024). This trend highlights the inseparable role of communication in all societal forums. Forensic Communication, as an innovative approach within the field, aims to introduce new methodologies that will lead to the reforestation and revitalization of Communication Science. Given that media provides a platform for individuals to freely express themselves and engage in global dialogue, it is inevitable that it can also be misused. This underscores the importance of conventional media maintaining its integrity and authority, rather than succumbing to sensationalism and misinformation (Carson & Muller, 2024). Media should serve as a societal watchdog, offering comprehensive education on the mass production of truthful information (Flew & Stepnik, 2024).

The authenticity of the media is crucial for representing truthful information. It ensures not only the integrity of logical coherence but also fosters the development of public opinion, enabling the public to monitor and influence their legislatures, governments, executive institutions, and legal authorities. For the media to provide a sense of fairness to the public, it must deliver accurate information. The truthfulness of media information is determined not only by the integrity of the message conveyed but also by the credibility of the journalists themselves (Edwards et al., 2023).

Previous studies highlight that the regulatory element in the media lies in the integrity of journalists. Media neutrality is essential, and it is the integrity of journalists that determines this neutrality (Fahim & Islam, 2024). The media is currently experiencing a decline influenced by journalists' evolving knowledge (Chen & Ding, 2024). This trend suggests that the moral decay of society is partly influenced by the media, which in turn is shaped by journalists' understanding and the new knowledge they acquire from their environment. The diversity of media today often serves only as an introductory menu, with non-preferential treatment being deliberately provided to the public through incomplete information. This situation has significant consequences, as it perpetuates a cycle of uncertainty and conflict between the media and society. In this context, the roles of law and forensics become blurred. While this assertion can be challenged through research, it highlights the critical need for the media to provide complete and accurate information.

Citizen journalism theory posits that journalism aims to improve citizens' quality of life by encouraging participation and debate. It is essentially normative, as practitioners and theorists of citizen journalism argue that journalists should report news based on what they deem important, while citizens should also participate in the gatekeeping process. This approach represents a reshaping of social responsibility theory, while simultaneously rejecting the normative "professionalism" that prioritizes objectivity above other values in news gathering (Littlejohn, 2016). However, we argue that this theoretical framework does not align with the context of contemporary civilization and the culture of the digital society. Communication experts, particularly those in the media, must reconsider and adjust these perspectives to fit the current digital landscape. While we do not claim that the theory is entirely flawed, many of its principles require re-evaluation and correction to better suit modern media dynamics and societal needs.

The personification of media communication can take various models and forms, as illustrated in the example above. This is evident in how news angles are selected and how the media's authenticity is showcased. All media aim to address societal interests and existentialism. Mass media is instructive, providing readers with intuitive commands through news content. This trend creates opportunities for perceptions to fill the information gap, allowing information to resonate with common patriarchal prejudices, such as the notion that women in the media deserve sexual harassment. Tappin et al. (2003) identified three female subject positions in mass media related to sexual harassment. First, female sexual harassment is constructed through the male gaze, where men's experiences of sexual desire align with that of the victim. Second, sexual harassment occurs among women who use self-help methods to boost their libido and conform to socially accepted male standards. Third, there are postfeminist subject positions of women who are sexually knowledgeable and confident but still prioritize male pleasure.

Civilization, which has yet to find its boundaries, increasingly makes media authenticity a crucial factor in shaping society's character. However, it is essential to recognize that this relationship is reciprocal: media developments also profoundly influence gender roles. The personal, traditionally a feminine realm, is undergoing fundamental changes with the media playing a central role in these technological shifts, especially regarding personality. Brief introductions to media can blur the lines between public and private spaces, converting private or household life into social space. The media significantly intensifies this phenomenon, making domestic or private matters more frequently subjects of public consumption. The media discusses the evolution of cyberspace and its actualization, which has notably accelerated in recent years. The imaginary world has expanded its capacity to facilitate information absorption, transforming environments, human relationships, and the formation of communities.

Meanwhile, incidents of sexual harassment have caused unprecedented real-world harm, reducing humanistic concepts to commodity relations (Aji & Tohir, 2020). This disruption has overturned traditional power relations, redistributed population and economic wealth, and created a new communication paradigm (Lin et al., 2021). As with any innovation and dramatic change, this shift has received a mixed reception. Each celebration of the new world order and the era of technological innovation has come at the cost of familiar traditions, values, and communication methods. Research indicates that humans are more prone to developing problematic media use. One advantage of online media is its ability to alter the phenomenon where users are bombarded with numerous information and communication requests, potentially requiring more energy and cognitive processing than they can handle. This issue is currently under investigation by several media communication experts (Whelan et al., 2020).

This is not to say that media interaction and the portrayal of these issues are unnecessary. Rather, it highlights the enduring interaction between the real world and the imaginary, a relationship as old as humanity itself, accompanied by debates and suspicions about the actions of evildoers in reality. The media provides a platform to refine the ability to represent negative ideas in symbolic form, such as sexual harassment and power dynamics. This capacity for symbolic representation is one of the traits that distinguish Homo sapiens from other creatures.

From the earliest records of human reflection and philosophy, the drive to share ideas and experiences with the public has been accompanied by a mix of wonder and discomfort. It is anticipated that the media will continue to lend a quasi-magical credibility to their portrayals of new episodes of sexual harassment cases.

B. Construction of the Motive of the Perpetrator of Sexual Violence

In criminal law, three core problems are recognized: criminal acts *(strafbaarfeit/criminal actus/actus reus)*, guilt *(schuld/guilt/mens rea)*, and punishment *(straf/punishment poena and opvoedende maatregel/treatment)*. These elements form the three pillars of criminal law reform in Indonesia. This triad in criminal law—unlawful acts *(Utrecht)*, guilt *(schuld)*, and punishment *(strap)*—are what Herbert L. Packer referred to as the three basic problems, consisting of offense, guilt, and punishment (Henok, 2023).

In the initial formulation, motives were primarily used to understand the reasons behind a person's activities. However, today, motives can be constructed not only within the legal framework but also in the realm of communication and media. This approach helps identify behavioral anomalies that should be prosecuted by law but can also be detected through communication science. Therefore, the construction of motives encompasses the psychological relationships between subjects capable of responsibility for their actions (Henok, 2023). The construction of motives should fall into the realm of communication psychology rather than being inferred solely from the law. In the case of the wrestling athlete's sexual harassment, the construction of the motive can be observed in media reports. To determine this, we must examine the pattern of media authenticity. The results showed that out of five media sources, only three were deemed authentic: Harianjogja, krjogja.com, and kompas.com. These authentic sources allow us to understand how the media constructs the motives of sexual harassers. The construction of new motives in the media helps build the collective memory of sexual harassment events, involving experts with diverse views and interpretations. In a hybrid media environment, key views and logic prevail. In this sexual harassment case, the depiction of sexual crimes becomes the dominant narrative, framing public understanding and responses to the incident. Concurrently, other narratives, such as past experiences and perceptions of sexual harassment, continue to circulate and shape ongoing discourse (Nikunen, 2023).

To measure a person's involvement in a criminal act, it is essential to understand how they construct their motive, which can be discerned from media reports. There are two stages in constructing motives. The first stage is *Dolus, or intentionality*, which refers to the deliberate intention to commit an act while being aware of its unlawful consequences. Intentionality is divided into three types:

1. Intentionality with intent (*opzet als oogmerk*): This occurs when the effect of an action is the realization of the perpetrator's intention or purpose, with the knowledge and desire of the perpetrator guiding the action.
2. Intentionality with definite awareness (*opzet bijzekerheids of noodzakelijkheids bewustzijn*): Here, the effect of the action is the realization of the perpetrator's definite knowledge or consciousness, which is known and desired by the perpetrator.
3. Awareness with possibilities (*dolus end*): In this case, the consequences of an action are the realization of possibilities known and desired by the perpetrator.

The second stage in understanding a person's involvement in a criminal act is *negligence (Culpa),* which contrasts with *intentionality (Dolus)*. Negligence occurs due to carelessness, lack of thought, or lack of wisdom, often stemming from insufficient knowledge. Based on the perpetrator's level of intelligence or memory strength, negligence can be classified into two types:

1. Gross negligence (*cascade culpa):* This involves a significant lack of vigilance and extreme carelessness.
2. Minor negligence (*culpa levis*): This involves a lesser degree of carelessness and is assessed based on a comparison of the offender's actions with those of others in the same group *(de gemiddelde mens van de groep, waartoe de dader behoort)* or with the actions of the most capable and wise individuals in the offender's group *(de meest bekwame, verstandingste mens van de groep van de dader)* (Henok, 2023).

In analyzing the stages of this case, we first examine the dimension known as Dolus opzet als oogmerk, or intentionality with intent. This was initially evident when the suspect commented on the victim's WhatsApp story and then invited the victim for additional training under the pretext of gaining experience. This constitutes the first stage, fulfilling the elements of *Dolus* and *opzet als oogmerk*. All three conditions for establishing a motive are present in the offender. Understanding the construction of motives is crucial to fully comprehending the actions of sex offenders. By analyzing the construction of motives both temporally and eschatologically, we can better predict the appropriate type of punishment. Often, there is a gap between the motive and the punishment, leading to a lack of distributive justice. This discrepancy highlights the need to focus on aspects of human behavior in such cases. This case illustrates the philosophical apotheosis of the female body, directly addressing the construction of sexual abuse motives and the social attributes inherent in verbal and nonverbal communication. To effectively adopt the meaning in this context, communication and media should be utilized as forensic evidence in the courtroom.

A motive can be constructed by anyone and in various ways, but the analysis of this construction must be clear to be used as forensic evidence in the courtroom. According to the trial verdict, judges should consider Article 183 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, which emphasizes conviction based on thorough examination of the motive's construction and other evidence. This conviction process is fundamentally based on understanding the perpetrator's motive. From

this perspective, we can tentatively conclude that the perpetrator committed the crime using power relations as the main tool. The meaning developed through social media interactions progressed to physical encounters driven by self-interest. The most appropriate way to define the construction of motives is to characterize them psychologically, viewing them as extensions of basic human behaviors and needs.

Table 1. Media and Authenticity in Reporting Wrestling Athlete Sexual Assault Cases

Motive construction elements	*Information*
tribunjogja.com Intentionality with intent (opzet als oogmerk)	Fulfilled
idn news Intentionality with definite awareness (Opzet Bijzekerheids Of Noodzakelijkheids Bewustzijn)	Fulfilled
solopos.com Intentionality with definite possibilities (Dolus Evantualis)	Fulfilled
*harianjogja.com Severe negligence (culpa kompas.com cascade) that requires lack of vigilance (*Onvoorzichtigheid*)*	Not Fulfilled
*krjogja.com Light negligence (*Culpa Levis*)*	Not Fulfilled

Table 1 briefly illustrates the construction of motives in wrestling athletes' sexual harassment cases, starting with intentional actions and tracking media status based on news content. It then explores how new computer-developed technologies immerse society in electronically mediated and interactive environments (Tomaselli, 2021). The media constructs narratives in various ways to set specific directions and goals, often described as "agenda setting." We agree that the media has a unique motive for constructing these narratives, distinct from other communication forms. Philosophically, this can be seen as reflecting the diversity and collective interests of media owners. This perspective is, of course, open to refutation, which is the essence of scientific inquiry. Debates and discussions are integral to the evolution of scientific understanding, allowing for continual refinement and development of theories and perspectives.

While not all issues are equally conducive to media agenda-setting, the media consistently play an important role in shaping public perception to some extent (Walgrave, 2018). Boundaries within the media often serve as significant points of reference in literature and self-perception, such as networks or social groups connected to global media. The media's controversial nature is evident, with many people claiming to be ignored by mainstream outlets (Holt et al., 2019). Mainstream news media are understood as a social system formed by specific legacy news media organizations characterized by particular organizational structures, often hierarchical, and adhering to established routines. These organizations fulfill a societal function by enabling public discourse, providing topics of public interest that are fact-oriented, vetted by professional actors, and published according to professional standards (Chan, 2009).
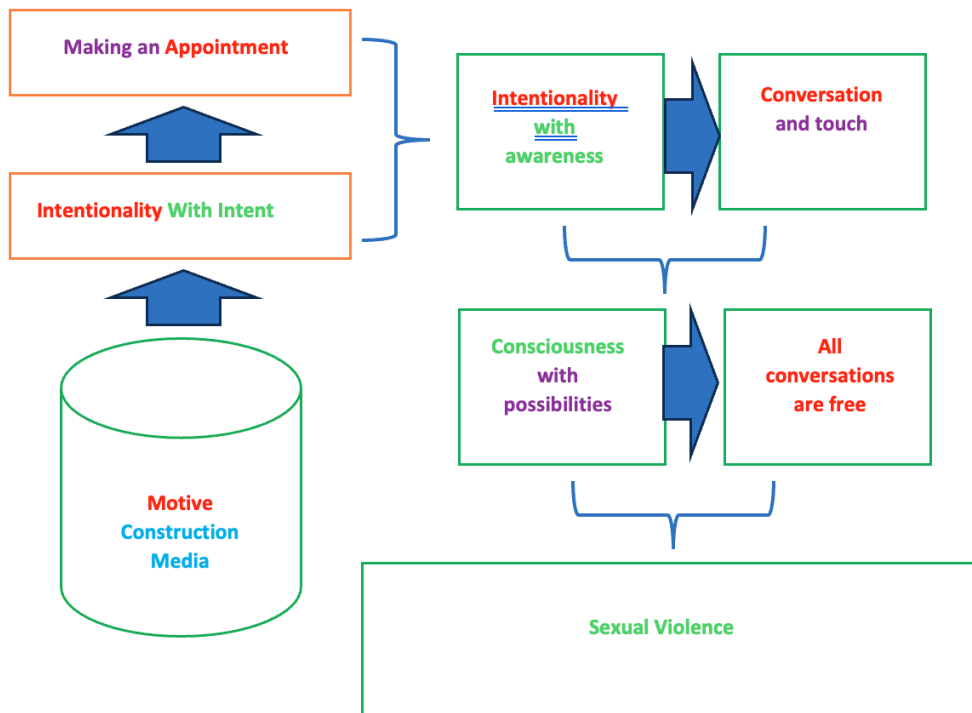

Fig. 2. Motive Construction Table

C. Analysis of the Use of Forensic Communication

First, forensic communication plays a crucial role in the media as a forensic tool for tracing cases of sexual harassment. This involves examining how the media constructs the motives of perpetrators, which can later be used in the evidentiary process. The media helps reveal the perpetrator's intentions and actions, contributing to the legal investigation. **Second,** elements of law such as intentionality with intent, are identified and assembled. This means that the perpetrator's intent, as evidenced in mass media, is recognized. Once the intention is identified, it is reconstructed through promises made to the victim and conversations between the perpetrator and the victim. The media, serving as the spearhead of information, provides another crucial function. This function must be repeatedly explored to find sources of information that can be used as forensic evidence. When the two legal elements—intentionality with intent and the subsequent intentionality with awareness—are identified in the media, it indicates that the perpetrator was aware of committing sexual violence. This awareness is typically characterized by communication and physical interaction with the victim. If all these elements are present in the media, then mass media can be presented as forensic evidence. As a form of knowledge, forensic evidence refers to information used to support the evidentiary process of a criminal case.

The strategy and approach in forensic communication differ from other branches of communication sciences. Typically, the media is used as the object of analysis. However, in this study, the media serves as a tool to uncover material truth, which in turn helps to find formal truth, ultimately supporting the evidentiary process. This methodological reasoning provides an interpretive resource on how the framework of forensic communication operates. Forensic communication, as its name suggests, functions as analytical equipment to scrutinize the combination of crimes reported in media coverage. It involves analyzing patterns in news texts and observing the behavior of crimes as a means to detect motives.

The construction of motives involves a psychological analysis to identify which aspects can be used as reason and evidence to prove the perpetrator's guilt. In cases of high public interest, such as sexual harassment, numerous eyes and cameras are awaiting responses that bring clarity to the situation. Forensic Communication differs by focusing on analyzing conversations based on the police examination minutes. While the media may not provide detailed accounts, it offers a general overview that helps contextualize events. The media's role as forensic evidence is particularly significant. Digital footprints, which serve as a modern chronicle, are unlikely to be lost and can illustrate the timeline and context of events. This study confirms that the construction of motives significantly impacts the evidentiary process in sexual harassment cases. Media, initially a source of information, now functions as forensic evidence, underscoring its evolving role in legal investigations.

About 8-10% of men and 20-25% of women worldwide have been victims of sexual abuse before they reach the age of 18. Furthermore, at the community level, childhood sexual abuse (CSA) significantly increases the likelihood of subsequent victimization and, particularly for male victims, the commission of sexual offenses, including against children, during adolescence and adulthood (Miele et al., 2023). Women's justice is a social text phenomenon that must be preserved and protected. The high prevalence of CSA highlights the need for increased vigilance against sex predators. Forensic communication in the context of sexual violence connects deeply with our emotions and sense of justice, emphasizing the importance of thorough analysis. Gunarathne et al. (2023) classify the determinants of sexual violence, identifying factors such as marriage at a young age, poor wealth index, rural housing areas, and acceptance of gender norms as contributors to the prevalence of intimate partner violence (IPV) in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Addressing these factors through effective prevention policies and programs is critical to reducing the incidence of sexual violence.

In response to the destructive power of sexual violence, it is crucial to leverage media construction effectively. Simply acknowledging and describing the violent ways of reading and interpreting social texts that trigger destructive social forces is insufficient. The presence of numerous risk factors often leads to ambiguity and uncertainty, which highlights the need for a more precise and truthful media approach. We urge the media to return to its fundamental role of truth-telling, where journalism functions are developed based on factual reporting. To determine the construction of motives in mass media, we must critically and constructively analyze the messages that the media conveys. This involves examining how media narratives are formed, understanding the underlying intentions, and ensuring that these narratives align with the principles of accuracy, integrity, and social responsibility. By doing so, the media can play a pivotal role in mitigating the effects of sexual violence and promoting justice.

CONCLUSION

The process of research analysis often requires detailed contextual information that may extend beyond human predictive capabilities. Subtle and closed questions in studies can lead to individuals accepting misleading cues. Forensic Communication offers several key conclusions in this context. Firstly, mass media can serve as forensic evidence by examining how motive constructions are formed and assessing the veracity of the information. This process is complex and involves identifying the construction of media motives and integrating them with the value of justice from the perspectives of legal science and evidence. Secondly, the evidentiary process in the courtroom opens up opportunities for Forensic Communication to delve deeper into crime cases. Traditionally, evidentiary processes focus on trial facts, evidence, or witnesses, while the role of media and communication is secondary. However, this study demonstrates that

mass media plays a crucial role in revealing the truth and can be a tool in proving cases of sexual violence Thirdly, in cases of sexual abuse, Forensic Communication can approach through linguistics or media. Forensic Communication tends to focus on analyzing the evidentiary process rather than just the information. The media holds significant power in Forensic Communication studies, with its authenticity influencing the direction of information and trial proceedings. This study found that media authenticity could also act as a witness to aid the evidentiary process.

Before proceeding to further analysis, it is essential to understand the construction of motives in media messages. This involves examining social networks mentioned in mass media news, which provide a basis for assumptions and advanced analysis derived from mass media theory and forensics. The measure of connectedness in Forensic Media and Communication Theory indicates whether a defendant is hiding information. An analysis is considered connected if each node is reachable from every other node, creating an information path between all pairs of nodes. If any node is unreachable, the message is considered disconnected. Forensic Communication views the issue of sexual violence as a social draft to be addressed scientifically. Messages and media paradigms must be arranged, directed, or strongly connected to the research direction. In forensic communication research, completeness should not neglect the basic direction of social justice and positive law. The diameter of a media message represents the greatest distance between the message conveyed by the media, the perpetrator, and justice. This value can be achieved by analyzing the motive construction in the media, enabling forensic communication to serve as evidence for uncovering the truth.

Further research is suggested in the area of motive construction in the media. This includes investigating the involvement of larger groups in criminal cases, particularly sexual violence, and examining how societal structures, such as social class and culture, influence individual and group motives. By doing so, the collective motives and the broader social dynamics can be better understood, enhancing the effectiveness of forensic communication in legal contexts.

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