

Codebook

Dataset: Religious Minorities in Pakistan's News Media (2023–2024)

About this dataset

This codebook documents the variables used to code all 93 news stories analysed in the research report *Counted, But Not Covered: Religious Minorities in Pakistan's News Media*. Each row in the accompanying dataset represents one online news story mentioning a religious minority (Christian, Hindu, Ahmadi, Sikh, or other), collected from the archives of Dawn (English) and Nawai Waqt (Urdu) between 1 May 2023 and 30 April 2024.

Stories were identified through keyword searches (Christian, Hindu, Ahmadi, Sikh) on both outlets' websites, manually reviewed for relevance, and logged into a coding sheet using the categorical variables defined below. Dawn English contributed 57 stories; Nawai Waqt Urdu contributed 36 stories, for a combined total of 93.

Dataset fields

Field	Description
ID	Sequential row identifier across the combined dataset (1–93).
Outlet	News outlet the story was published in: Dawn or Nawai Waqt.
Language	Language of publication: English (Dawn) or Urdu (Nawai Waqt).
Sr. (within outlet)	Original serial number of the story within its outlet's coding sheet (Table 1.1 / 1.2).
Date	Publication date of the story as recorded in the outlet's online archive.
City	City named in the story's dateline or as the primary location of the reported event.
By-line	Whether the story carried a named reporter byline. See coded values below.
Class	The minority community the story concerns. See coded values below.
Format	Whether the story was a new report or a follow-up to an earlier one.
Subject	Whether the affected party was a male individual, female individual, or the whole community.
Length	Approximate read/segment length of the story, grouped into three bands.
Angle	The dominant story angle — human development, general violence, religious violence, or other.

Coded variable values

By-line

Code	Meaning
1	Yes — story carried a named reporter's byline

Code	Meaning
2	No — general / unattributed web report

Class (affected minority community)

Code	Meaning
1	Christian
2	Hindu
3	Ahmadi
4	Others
5	Minority Rights (general or cross-community)

Format

Code	Meaning
1	New story
2	Follow-up story

Subject

Code	Meaning
1	Male individual
2	Female individual
3	Whole community

Length

Code	Meaning
1	0–3 minutes
2	3.1–6 minutes
3	6.1+ minutes

Angle

Code	Meaning
1	Human development (health, education, jobs, living standards)
2	General violence (attack on an individual, not a place of worship)
3	Religious violence (attack on a place of worship / religious sentiment)
4	Others (follow-up, political, or social story not fitting the above)

Operational definitions

Minority — religious groups recognised as minorities under Pakistan’s constitution: Christians, Hindus, Ahmadis, the Sikh community, and others.

Human Developmental Story — coverage of health, education, job conditions, living standards, or any other human-development factor affecting minorities.

General Violence Story — any attack on a minority individual, whether verbal or physical, not tied specifically to a place of worship.

Religious Factor Story — attacks on temples, churches, or religious sites by a mob or group; any direct or indirect assault on minorities’ religious sentiments.

Other-Side Story — anything minority-related that doesn’t fit the categories above — a follow-up, a political development, a press conference, or general social activity.

Citation: Qureshii, S. B. (2026). Dataset: Religious Minorities in Pakistan’s News Media (2023–2024). LEDE Times.

Source study: Qureshii, S. B. Counted, But Not Covered: Religious Minorities in Pakistan’s News Media. LEDE Times, Research & Data Journalism.