

Media Reporting on Sexual Violence and Harassment in Nightlife Entertainment Spots in Slovenian Urban and Rural Areas

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The article aims to present research findings of Slovenian media reports about sexual violence and harassment in nightlife entertainment spots in Slovenia. The analysis included articles between 1 January 2014 and 30 June 2020 in Slovenian media publications *Delo*, *Dnevnik*, *Večer*, *24ur*, and *MMC RTV SLO*. The collection of relevant articles, which followed the keywords sexual violence, harassment, and rape, returned 90 results. We conducted the analysis using the program MaxQDA 2020, XLSTAT Statistical Software for Excel, and SPSS. The most frequent terms used in the researched articles were rape drug GHB, police, court/law, Ljubljana, and acts referring to inappropriate, prohibited, or criminal acts. Results revealed that the analysed sexual violence and sexual harassment topics are underrepresented in studied media. Besides, the reporting was focused on the most severe cases of sexual violence and rape drugs, and sexual harassment was rarely mentioned. The analysed articles most often reported the sexual violence and harassment related to nightlife venues in urban areas. Rural areas were mentioned only in 4.4% of the analysed articles. Besides the frequency and the number of articles, other differences in reporting between urban, suburban, and rural areas occurred (e.g. reporting style and coverage of news). In 57.8% of articles we observed professional and objective reporting. Sensationalistic reporting was noticed in 38.9% of articles, shown as one-sided reporting, non-verification of facts, e.g. reference to rumours, missing sources of information, and use of different linguistic means and stylistic procedures (e.g. conversational language, jargon, irony, and exaggeration). Most of the headlines (65.5%) were naming-informative, showing the reader an insight into article's topic.

Keywords: sexual violence, sexual harassment, nightlife areas, media reporting, rural and urban areas, Slovenia

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1 Introduction

Nightlife venues are places where mainly young people socialise and have fun. Even though engaging in nightlife is a frequent leisure activity, it is a potentially harmful activity due to the several factors – a wide range of health and social problems, excessive alcohol and drug abuse, antisocial behaviour, various forms of crime, and violence, including sexual violence (Calafat, Juan, Becoña, & Mantecón, 2008; Košir, 2013; Stuart & Hughes, n. d.).

Nightlife-related sexual violence can be defined as “any behaviour that a person experiences as an intrusion into his or her physical integrity, which restricts the right to decide about someone's body and transcends personal boundaries”

(Društvo za nenasilno komunikacijo, n. d.). Sexual violence related to nightlife engagement involves a wide range of acts that, besides rape or forced sexual intercourse, include sexual harassment in verbal, nonverbal, and physical forms (World Health Organization [WHO], 2012). In such settings, sexual violence of various intensities occurs – from inappropriate comments related to sexuality, unwanted touching, and kissing to forced sexual intercourse (Graham, Bernards, Abbey, Dumas, & Wells, 2017; Graham, Wells, Bernards, & Dennison, 2010; Hughes, Anderson, Morleo, & Bellis, 2008; Kavanaugh, 2013; Tinkler, Becker, & Clayton, 2018). Consequently, such areas are critical areas for preventing victimisation. The boundary between victimisation and acceptable or “normal” sexual behaviour is blurred and difficult to determine in nightlife areas (Kavanaugh, 2013).

Aroustamian (2020: 2) points out that media representation or framing of social problems, such as sexual violence and harassment, affects public perception and understanding of them. Besides, the media can influence “attitudes, beliefs, and attributions of blame and responsibility”. Dominant societal norms can promote sexual violence and prevent people

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from recognising it (Tinkler et al., 2018). Due to the validity of certain “sexual norms” in nightlife areas, the social participation of young women, in particular, is conditioned in a way that makes it easier for a woman to enter popular bars if she is flirtatious and dressed in an “attractive” way (Grazian, 2008). The media representations of sexual violence cases can affect how people view perpetrators and victims. Besides, sensationalised news can create and promote stereotypes and contribute to rape culture, leading to the re-victimisation of victims (Aroustamian, 2020).

Media reporting on social problems depends on where they occur, whether in urban or rural areas. Slovenia is small and therefore specific when distinguishing between urban, suburban, and rural areas. Kokole (1976) were among the early Slovenian geographers who discussed the existence of a rural-urban continuum, a spatial reality where the differences between urban and rural areas are slight and with few physiognomic differences. Thus, the Slovenian countryside is gradually transformed into a landscape with an urban region’s modern and flexible economic and social structure (Kladnik & Ravbar, 2003: 17). Despite the abovementioned, leading Slovenian media are centralised in urban areas and, consequently, the coverage of news in local rural environments is poorer. This was also noticed by Kekezi and Mellander (2018), who pointed out that urbanisation caused centralisation and impacted, among others, as well the media sector.

The article is based on a quantitative and qualitative analysis of Slovenian media reporting on sexual violence and harassment in nightlife entertainment spots. This article presents the nature, frequency, and manner of media coverage of sexual violence and harassment in Slovenia, focusing on the differences in the reporting style of sensationalistic and professionally written articles, besides the media reporting on analysed topics in urban, suburban, and rural areas. Firstly, in the theoretical background, fundamental terms such as sexual violence, media reporting, and rural and urban areas are defined, and a literature review of previous similar studies is provided. Then the research of selected Slovenian media – frequency, manner, style, and differences in media reporting about sexual violence and harassment in nightlife venues – is presented. The distinction between media reporting on sexual violence and harassment incidents in urban, suburban, and rural areas is the primary problem that the paper addresses. In the concluding discussion, authors propose prepositions for further research based on their findings.

2 Theoretical Background

2.1 Definitions of Sexual Violence and Harassment

Sexual violence is any committed or attempted sexual act without obtaining “freely given consent of the victim or against someone who is unable to consent or refuse”. Acts of sexual violence include “forced or alcohol/drug facilitated penetration of a victim” and “incidents in which the victim was made to penetrate a perpetrator or someone else”; “non-physically pressured unwanted penetration; intentional sexual touching; or non-contact acts of a sexual nature”. “Sexual violence can also occur when a perpetrator forces or coerces a victim to engage in sexual acts with a third party” (Basile, Smith, Breiding, Black, & Mahendra, 2014: 11). In the above definition of sexual violence, the last two categories can be described as sexual harassment, which is “any unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature, including sexual advances, request for sexual favours, or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual or gender-based nature” (Georgetown University, 2014). The definition of a certain sexual behaviour as a form of sexual violence is based on individual perception of the undesirability of such behaviour (Robnik, 2009).

Sexual violence can go undetected and unpunished in bars and clubs that are permissive to sexual behaviour under the guise of “normal behaviour” (Graham et al., 2010). Quigg et al. (2021) point out that nightlife-related sexual violence can extend beyond the nightlife setting. It can be perpetrated after leaving the nightlife establishment on the way home, during transport or at the victim’s home. Sexual violence in the form of sexual harassment is often tolerated in areas of nightlife where alcohol (and/or drug) consumption is present (Tinkler et al., 2018). In practice, the extensive and diverse issue of sexual violence could be defined as misdemeanours or as crimes depending on the severity of the act and the victim’s feelings. Due to the variety of behaviours and acts of sexual violence that occur in practice, the placement of a particular incident in one or another category is sometimes problematic (Bulovec & Eman, 2021a).

2.2 Media Representation of Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment

Media reporting differs from each other in the way of reporting or delivering the news to the audience. Poler Kovačič (2003) states that sensationalist reporting is reflected in insufficiently verified information, the absence of journalistic questions, and insufficiently substantiated reporting, which lacks sources of information and evidence. Besides, sensationalist reporting is based on bias, stereotypes, pre-

conceived notions, and expectations. Kalin Golob (2003: 233) finds that writing styles or ways of transmitting news in sensationalistic reporting can be misleading, promising more than explanation or justification in the text. The words used are “conversational phrases and vocabulary that show a desire to approach the addressee and arouse an emotional response”. Kalin Golob and Poler Kovačič (2005) define sensationalism within stylistics due to the specificity of the linguistic means. This means the deliberate use of addressing, narrating, and structuring to achieve a substantial effect, i.e. better newspaper sales. Korošec (1998) pointed out, as a distinct feature of sensationalist reporting, a choice of words that refers to exciting parts of reality or allows for such a connotation (e.g. scandal, horror, mysterious disappearance, words related to sexuality, figurative sense of words, use of instances, and superlatives).

On the contrary, credible investigative journalism differs from the abovementioned merely because it is based on reality. The investigation and verification of information are consciously planned and impartial, evidence and sources of information are essential, allegations must be substantiated, and the presumption of innocence must be strictly applied. The journalist must refer to several appropriate and relevant sources in the articles, and the reporting must be balanced (Poler Kovačič, 2003).

The media influences the formation of public opinion, which should not be neglected and underestimated, as the media can place and increase the number of topics and information on the reporting agenda. Media reporting can contain myths and stereotypes about sexual violence victims and rapists (O’Hara, 2012). Besides, as mentioned above, they have a crucial impact on public opinion and attitudes towards different social issues, including sexual violence. Media affect public perception of sexual violence, its victims and perpetrators, and might indirectly affect behaviour by shaping cultural norms (Baxter & Wilmot, 1985). Serisier (2017: 1) additionally criticises media coverage of sexual violence due to “focusing on the actions and responsibility of victims, suggesting that victim behaviour, such as drinking, flirting, or being in the ‘wrong place at the wrong time’ precipitates sexual violence”. Besides, the understanding of media framing of social issues, including sexual violence, has changed over the past. As noticed by Schuldt and Roh (2014: 529), the aforementioned occurs because framing studies “vary in how an issue is portrayed (often, by altering the text of written communication) and compare subsequent beliefs, attitudes, or preferences”. On the other hand, the media can have a positive impact as they can inform the public about sexual violence. As pointed out by Aroustamian (2020: 4) mentioned is achieved when media give “all sides a chance

to speak their voices, to examine attitudes, and help people see and understand”. On the other hand, media’s impact on social norms might contribute to sexual violence prevention “through accurate descriptions of the prevalence and impact of sexual violence, establishment of sexual violence as a public health issue, and, when possible, inclusion of messages and resources for prevention”. In this way, “awareness of the problem and prevention messaging might reach broader audiences” (Egen et al., 2020).

Representation of crimes can affect and distort the actual image of sexual violence crimes and their perpetrators. The media tends to report on violent crimes perpetrated by “dangerous strangers”, poor people, or people of other races or minorities (Serisier, 2017: 1). Aroustamian (2020: 2) adds criticism of media coverage, which is mainly focused on “the victim’s behaviour, such as drinking, flirting, or being simply unlucky”. Furthermore, media re-victimisation occurs when they “use words and frames to create an impression that a rape victim brought the incident of rape upon herself through indecent dressing or being in the wrong place at wrong time” (Nwabueze & Oduah, 2015). Classen, Palesh and Aggarwal (2005: 103) noted that media re-victimisation could cause “difficulty in interpersonal relationships, coping, self-representations, and affect regulation and exhibit greater self-blame and shame”. Besides, Sacks, Ackerman, and Shlosberg (2018) noticed that many articles doubted the victim’s credibility. In media reporting, the conflation of rape, which represents forced intercourse, with sex was noticed. When studying rape myths and news coverage of media, O’Hara (2012) found that news media frequently portrays rapists as “monsters” and victims as “virgins” attacked by these monsters. This can significantly influence public opinion and harm rape victims when used in courtrooms.

2.3 The Distinction between Slovenian Rural and Urban Areas

The concepts of urban and rural are closely related to their original spatial entities. However, Rukus, Warner, and Zhang (2018) point out that with the changes in the economy, the development of technology, and the increase of demographic diversity in rural areas, the characteristics of rural environments mentioned above are also changing. Various social, technological, and demographic processes in the landscape have blurred the boundary between urban and rural areas, which has never been less explicit than nowadays (Turk Niskač, Klaus, & Starec, 2010). The process of spreading and adopting urban patterns, ways of behaving, and thinking represent one explanation for urbanisation (Geografski terminološki slovar, 2005). Urbanisation is accompanied by a reduction in the rural population, rural modernisation, and

relatively new mobility and migration flows in rural areas, significantly reducing the physiognomic, demographic, and economic disparities between them and urban zones. People in their perception of space still feel the difference between urban and rural, with the dividing line increasingly being a matter of individual mental representation and less of external physical indicators (Turk Niskač et al., 2010). In general, when we talk about the rural environment, we mean smaller, rural settlements with low population density (Donnermeyer, 2015). The rural and urban environment differs in that the former includes, among other things, more frequent interpersonal contacts and good mutual knowledge. Individuals like to make contacts, communicate, and develop a sense of belonging and mutual trust, which affects their safety (Hacin & Eman, 2019). Rural environments reflect solidarity, stronger social ties, population involvement, conservatism, and informal social control (Crank, 1990; Pirnat & Meško, 2020). In rural environments, unique cultural values, norms, and social structures exist. Besides, community control needs to be considered when working with sexual assault victims.

Slovenia is a small country and, therefore, a specific place in which to distinguish between urban and rural areas. Slovenia is predominantly a rural region, as more than half of its inhabitants live in such areas. The remaining territory can primarily be defined as an intermediate region; typical urban environments (in a global sense) are practically lacking in Slovenia (Eurostat, JRC and European Commission, Directorate-General Regional and Urban Policy and Directorate-General Agriculture and Regional Development, 2018; Statistični urad RS, n. d.).

In general, there are differences in the incidence of crime between urban and rural areas. Official police statistics (Ministrstvo za notranje zadeve, Policija, 2020) show that only 10% of crimes occur in rural areas (approximately 90,000 crimes are committed in Slovenia annually). Sexual violence is less commonly reported there due to the prevalence of women's subordination (gender hierarchy) and the existence of norms related to tradition in rural communities that can be linked to the acceptability of violence and its function as a means of control (Scott & Hogg, 2015). DeKeseredy, Hall-Sanchez, Dragiewicz, and Rennison (2016) and Hacin and Eman (2019) point out that violence in the rural environment is hidden, and women are less likely to seek or receive appropriate help. There is also a greater likelihood that the perpetrator and the victim know each other, which affects the reporting or failure to report actions.

3 Methods of Media Reporting Analysis and Data Collection

This paper aims to analyse reporting on sexual violence and harassment in nightlife areas in Slovenia, emphasising the distinction between the inclusion of urban and rural areas in those publications. Before reviewing the relevant media publications, we analysed the opinion polls (Braz, 2015), which concerned general trust in Slovenian media reporting. On this basis, we selected three newspapers and two online media, which the public considers the most reliable, their reporting the most professionally and objectively. We included: Delo, Dnevnik, Večer, 24ur, MMC RTV SLO, and a few topic-related articles in other online media, which were found by the snowball method.

The review took place in the online archives of the mentioned media, to which we had previously secured access. The study covers a review and qualitative and quantitative analysis of newspaper articles on sexual violence and harassment in nightlife areas. In the context of quantitative content analysis, we analysed the scope and frequency of reporting on sexual violence and harassment, where we were interested in the number of news, the period in which selected media reported on this topic, and when reporting about the topic reached its highpoint. Besides, we analysed if reporting a specific offence was prolonged reporting or just one-time news. In the analysis, the tone of the reporting was included – if the media reported subjectively or objectively. We analysed the headlines and visual representations as well.

Qualitative content analyses included a descriptive part as the research findings can be supported with the researchers' interpretation and put into categories (Dey, 1993; Elo & Kyngäs, 2008). In the qualitative analysis, we used the text data analysis program MaxQDA 2020, XLSTAT Statistical Software for Excel, and SPSS. In the analysis, we included the period between first January 2014 and 30 June 2020. The review of the media followed the combination of keywords, which are sexual violence (Slo. spolno nasilje), harassment (Slo. nadlegovanje), and rape (Slo. posilstvo), and further considering the results related to Slovenia.

4 Results

We conducted a qualitative analysis of 90 articles. In Delo, Dnevnik, and Večer, 21 articles were published by each, 17 by 24ur, and 3 by MMC RTV SLO. According to the snowball principle, 7 articles published in other online media were added to the analysis. The reporting was most frequent in Dnevnik in 2014, in which 10 articles were published. The high points

Furthermore, Table 2 presents the most frequent 30 words, frequency and percentage, presence in the documents, and the documents' share containing this word.

Based on the word frequency list, we conducted a further content analysis of the selected articles. In the beginning, we had 30 thematic clusters that covered the textual array rel-

Table 2: Most frequent words in the 90 articles included in Slovenian media analysis of publications on sexual harassment in nightlife entertainment spots (nightclubs and bars)

Word – EN	The root of the word – SLO	Frequency	%	Documents	%
GHB	GHB	295	5.63	30	33.33
Police	polici*	276	5.27	68	75.56
Court/law	sod*	234	4.47	44	48.89
Ljubljana	Ljubljan*	227	4.33	59	65.56
Act	dejanj*	210	4.01	57	63.33
Punishment	kaz*	160	3.05	41	45.56
Imprisonment	zapor	158	3.02	38	42.22
Sexual	spolnega	147	2.81	46	51.11
Rape	posil*	140	2.67	46	51.11
Violence	nasil*	118	2.25	30	33.33
Women	žensk*	116	2.21	31	34.44
Prohibition	prepoved*	113	2.16	29	32.22
Pub/bar	lokal*	106	2.02	41	45.56
To sue	tožil*	102	1.95	33	36.67
Drug	droga*	89	1.70	25	27.78
Harassment	nadlegovanja	94	1.79	27	30.00
Drink	pijač*	89	1.70	31	34.44
Slovenia	Slo*	89	1.70	40	44.44
Girl	dekle*	73	1.39	26	28.89
Investigation	preisk*	71	1.36	28	31.11
Abuse	zlorab*	71	1.36	36	40.00
Alcohol	alkohola	64	1.22	31	34.44
Victim	žrtv*	61	1.16	29	32.22
GBL	GBL	64	1.22	13	14.44
Crime	kaznivega	55	1.05	29	32.22
Commit	storil*	50	0.95	28	31.11
Metelkova street	Metelkov*	49	0.94	21	23.33
Public	javn*	48	0.92	21	23.33
Convicted	obso*	47	0.90	25	27.78
Party	zabav*	47	0.90	17	18.89

evant to the researched topic. The cluster analysis was conducted using the XLSTAT Statistical Software for Excel and SPSS 25 for Windows. We performed the Agglomerative hierarchical clustering [AHC] using the Wards method and Euclidian distance. After analysing, we identified five clusters. After analysing, we identified five clusters in which the central objects were: 1) GHB, 2) Ljubljana, 3) sexual, 4) to sue, 5) victim. The words were included in the groups in the following order:

1. GHB and Police
2. Court/law, Ljubljana, Act
3. Punishment, Imprisonment, Sexual, Rape
4. Violence, Women, Prohibition, Pub/Bar, to sue, Drug, Harassment, Drink, Slovenia
5. Girl, Investigation, Abuse, Alcohol, Victim, GBL, Crime, Commit, Metelkova Street, Public, Convicted, and Party

The final two groups were 1) GHB, Police, Court/law, Ljubljana and Act (combined groups 1 and 2); and 2) second group is conducted from classes 3, 4, and 5 (see world groups above). The words were included in the clusters.

The reporting about sexual violence and sexual harassment in nightlife areas was further analysed. The topics found in analysed articles are presented in figure 2. The topic analysis showed that the most reported topic connected to sexual violence and harassment in nightlife areas (32.2%) is the prevalence of drugs and rape drugs, followed by sexual violence (28.9%). The least frequent were articles about the LGBT.

We divided articles based on the style of their reporting. Based on the prevalent reporting style, we classified articles as sensationalistic if the language was conversational or reported about unverified facts or one-sided reporting. Furthermore, as sensationalistic, we classified articles if the sources of information were missing, or if rumours, stereotypes, assumptions, excessive expressiveness, emotionality, conversational language, jargon, irony, cynicism, and exaggeration were found in the article as a prevalent method of transferring information to the readers. As professional reporting, we classified impartial articles based on reality, with a prevalent objective reporting style and visible and reliable sources of information.

The main style of reporting found in the articles was professional (57.8%), followed by sensationalistic reporting, which was noticeable in 38.9%. Some articles (3.3%) were written so that we cannot conclude the reporting style. The tone of reporting was objective in 61.1% of analyzed articles. Similarly, we could not determine the reporting tone in 3.3%. More than half of the articles (64.4%) included some general or symbolic photography. In 11.1% of the articles included the perpetrator's photo. Visual representation was missing in 24.4% of articles.

We separately analyzed the articles' headlines. The criteria for sensationalistic and professionally written headlines were the same as mentioned in the previous paragraph. Analysis shows that 55.6% of headiness were written in a sensationalistic manner. We further analysed and classified headlines according to Korošec (1998: 48–49), distinguish-

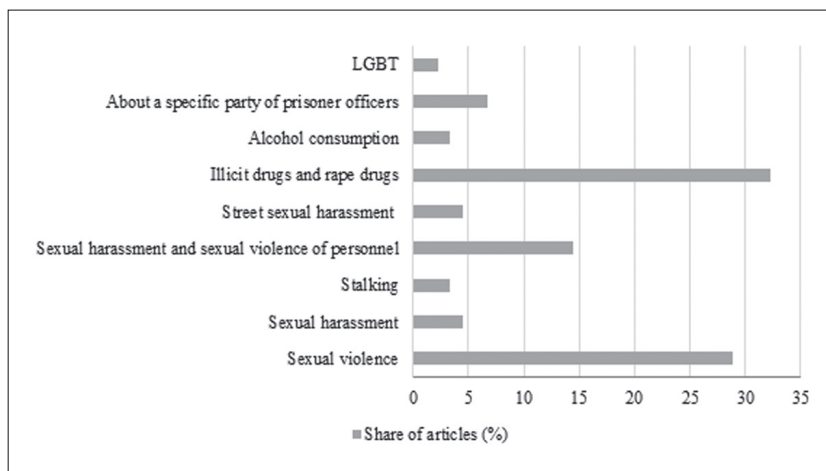


Figure 2: Represented topics in analysed articles

ing three functions of titles: naming-informative, information-positional, and call-acquisition. Headlines with a naming-informative function were found in 65.6% of articles. Their function is to “mark the text, name the topic or content of the text”, e.g. “*The appearance of rape drugs is recorded in Ljubljana*”, “*Sexually assaulted an elderly woman*”, and “*Fine and complaint for groping women*”. Headlines with an informative-positional function “inform the reader about the content of the texts and also name it, but the evaluation of the content, the author’s point of view, stands out”. They amounted to 27.8% of analysed articles. An example of those headlines would be “*A frantic bully 19 years*” and “*Unjustifiably low fine for a rapist from Portorož beach*”. The third call-acquisition function of headline, which is often the opposite of informative, was found in 6.7% of the article. It denies the informative part by saying nothing about the content, thus getting the reader to read the rest of the text, e.g., “*Clown*”, “*Honey, give me a bear and a kiss*”, and “*What may I serve you? I’d rather have you grilled.*”

Depending on the topic of reporting, we were able to combine the articles into thematic sections. The first group contains articles about sexual violence and harassment in the areas of nightlife in general:

– The articles talked about the sexual harassment of personnel in nightlife spots and their experiences. Lešničar (2017) pointed that approximately 95% of women and about half of the hospitality sector’s men were targets of verbal attacks, harassment, and violence from guests. There are various interactions and conflicts between employees and guests, including behaviours, e.g. “innocent” views, compliments, and observances, to more clear allusions, insults, physical bullying, hand dragging, touching, pushing, kicking, and even choking.

– There was some reporting about specific events and parties, for example, traditional Mardi Gras (carnival) parties. Carnival parties allow anonymity as people are masked. Anonymity is convenient for all forms of annoying and inappropriate sexual advances (sexual harassment) (Kutin Lednik, 2019).

– Mlinarič (2017) and Krajčinović (2018) reported about sexual harassment of the LGBTIQ+ community. Mlinarič (2017) pointed out that among four hundred ninety-five people aged between 16 and 30 years that participated in the survey of LGBT in Slovenia, 32% of the respondents pointed out that they feel at risk due to their identity or gender orientation in bars and restaurants. The percentage of feeling at risk is slightly lower at public events (25%). Krajčinović (2018) states that almost half of the respondents are sometimes or often afraid for their safety on the street. A third of the respondents feel the same fear for their safety in bars, restaurants, or shops.

Every fourth LGBTIQ+ felt afraid at public events, and every seventh at other events.

– A few articles mentioned #MeToo Slovenia – Inštitut 8. marec, which collected and analysed 150 different anonymous testimonies on sexual harassment and violence. A review of them shows that most statements described inappropriate touching, followed by several exhibition cases, and in a quarter of instances, it was committed rape (Eržen, 2019). They also mention the testimony of a waitress who quit due to her boss’s sexual harassment (Lovšin, 2019).

– Analysed media to a small extent talked about proving rape and sexual harassment – the fear that no one will believe the victims.

– In the media, cases of sexual violence were often published. Firstly, they reported sexual assaults on and around Metelkova Street in Ljubljana, where two victims were sexually assaulted. Secondly, reporting was about the case where the offender committed robberies and sexually harassed six women employed as waitresses in different pubs and one shop. He was operating in Ljubljana, Postojna, and Vrhnika.

The second group contains articles about rape drugs and their connection with sexual violence and harassment in nightlife entertainment spots:

– Mostly, people choose to use GHB at their own will, while rapes because of GHB do not happen so often (Simončič, 2017). Stojiljković (2017) pointed out that 129 people were treated at University Medical Centre Ljubljana between 2000 and 2016 due to GHB poisoning. In 2016, in 18 cases, the drug was consumed unwittingly. In three cases, the drug was framed in a beverage with the purpose of sexual abuse.

– Furthermore, they reported the instance of rape drugs in nightlife entertainment spots in Ljubljana, especially at the bar Gala Hala in Ljubljana (Metelkova street). Krajčinović (2014) added that the drugs at Gala Hala are not present more often than elsewhere in the nightlife entertainment areas. As an example of positive awareness-raising practices on the risks in the areas of nightlife, mainly as regards drugs, Lovšin (2015) pointed out Gala Hala. The deliberate poisoning of the visitor with rape drugs was the main reason for the beginning of the public awareness-raising campaign about rape drugs. The club’s spaces are clearly and prominently labelled with posters to have the drinks all the time under surveillance (i.e. do not leave it unattended).

– A few articles about police’s awareness-raising and the perception and distribution of rape drugs in nightlife areas were found. The police did not consider any rape related to GHB by the year 2014. They discussed several cases in which people were drugged, and the use of these drugs is challeng-

ing to prove. Consequently, the suspicion was not confirmed. In 2014, the police suspected rape drugs (liquid ecstasy) in 16 cases of sexual abuse. Still, the presence, as mentioned, is usually difficult to confirm with certainty. It does not mean that, according to the standard of proof, this drug is undetectable. It was established by a known criminal case of a couple who drugged a victim with GHB and sexually abused her (Lovšin, 2015).

— The media highly reported that about a couple who drugged a woman with GHB in a bar, sexually harassed, and later abused her in their home.

Sexual harassment in public places outside nightlife entertainment spots is presented in the third group. We noticed reporting about supposed sexual harassment at a New Year's party of correctional facility officers in Maribor, street sexual harassment in Ravne na Koroškem, rapes at a party on the Slovenian coastline and at Metaldays in Tolmin. Furthermore, the media reported cases of street sexual harassment (or stranger harassment) in a public park in Murska Sobota and Ljubljana.

A few news in analysed media were about drinking in public places and its connection with sexual violence. Grošelj (2014), based on an interview with a medical professional, pointed out that after a single night of drunkenness, adolescents can experience anything that can mark them for life; injury, rape, a feeling of deprecation and shame. Adults should not underestimate this problem, even less if they are parents.

We conducted further research on specific offences of prolonged media reporting, not just one-time news. About prolonged reporting, we can talk in case of rape at the party on the Slovenian coastline. The first news appeared on 26 June 2015 in 24ur, followed by reporting of Dnevnik on 27 June 2015. Updates about the judicial procedure were published on 27 February 2020 in Dnevnik, 24ur and MMC RTV SLO. Second prolonged reporting in analysed articles was about rape drugs in popular nightlife venues in Ljubljana, Gala Hala at Metelkova Street. The articles were published between 21 September and 26 September 2014 in Večer, Dnevnik, Delo, 24ur and in other online media. In the mentioned period, 16 articles were published. Moreover, Večer and Dnevnik reported alleged sexual harassment at the New Year party of prisoner officers in Maribor, representing the third identified prolonged reporting. Večer reported about it on 8 December and 31 December 2015 and 15 June 2017. The fourth prolonged reporting was in Večer, Dnevnik, and Delo reported the series of sexual harassment, rape and robberies of personnel in nightlife areas. Articles in Večer were published on 4 October and 29 December 2014. Dnevnik reported about this

topic on 30 September, 4 October, and 27 December 2014 and 30 September 2015. Delo reported about the abovementioned case on 3 October and 26 December 2014, 29 November 2015 and 14 February 2016. Finally, news about the rape of two students in Ljubljana in the context of nightlife engagement were published in 24ur and Dnevnik on 19 November 2019, followed by reporting in Dnevnik on 16 April 2020 and Večer on 17 April 2020.

The analysed articles most often reported the sexual violence and harassment related to nightlife venues in urban areas (61.1%), followed by undefined areas (20%), meaning that the analysed articles did not define the area they were considering. Reporting about suburban areas was present in 14.4% of articles and rural areas in 4.4%. Besides the frequency and the number of articles, there were also other differences in reporting between urban, suburban, and rural areas. In rural areas, all of the analysed articles reporting and tone were classified as objective. The articles analysed cases of street sexual harassment and a case of rape at a party Metaldays in Tolmin.

In suburban areas, the prevalent reporting style was professional (69.2%), with the same share of inconclusive and sensationalistic written articles (15.4% by each). In suburban areas, the prevalent topic of reporting was sexual violence (69.2%) and reporting on the case of rape on the Slovenian coastline (38.5%). The remaining reporting covered news about illicit and rape drugs, their distribution, and their use as an asset for rape commitment.

The media's reporting style concerning nightlife-related sexual violence and harassment in urban areas was professional in 60% of the analysed articles. Most of the articles included reporting about the occurrence of illicit drugs, especially rape drugs (41.8%), followed by news about severe cases of sexual violence (21.8%) and the sexual violence of personnel in nightlife areas (20%). Articles that analysed the New Year party of correctional facility officers amounted to 10.9%. One article was published about alcohol consumption, LGBT groups, and street sexual harassment. Reporting about Ljubljana was noticed in 87.3% of articles. The remaining articles about urban areas included Maribor. The distribution of reporting on various topics related to sexual violence and harassment in nightlife areas is shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Number of articles on specific topics in urban, suburban, and rural areas

Topic	Urban	Suburban	Rural	Undefined	Total
Sexual violence	12	9	1	4	26
Sexual harassment	/	/	/	4	4
Stalking	/	/	/	3	3
SV and SH of personnel	11	/	/	2	13
Street sexual harassment	1	/	3	/	4
Illicit drugs and rape drugs	23	4	/	2	29
Alcohol consumption	1	/	/	2	3
About a specific party of correctional officers	6	/	/	/	6
LGBT	1	/	/	1	2
Total	55	13	4	18	90

* SV and SH stand for sexual violence and sexual harassment.

5 Concluding Discussion

Sexual violence is a significant worldwide problem affecting individuals and communities (Lippy & DeGue, 2016). Acts against sexual integrity are ones with a vast dark field of unreported crime. Victims, for a variety of reasons, from attributing little value to an act, self-blame, shame, fear, or the fact that they were under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time of the event, to the fact that the act was perceived as tolerated or acceptable, most often do not even talk about it with family and friends. Even fewer would formally report the incident to law enforcement (Bulovec & Eman, 2021b). Consequently, it is logical that a dark field is also perceived in the media, or the scope or absence of reporting on such issues is reduced. Nonetheless, Petrovec (2009) points out that sexual violence attracts special media attention. Besides, Meško et al. (2000) find the media overrepresenting specific crimes such as homicides and sexual offences. Because media influences the understanding and perception of security issues and its assurance, exaggerated reporting can mislead people’s interpretation about the actual state of crime and consequently cause anxiety among the public. Meško and Eman (2009: 41) added that even a few crimes encourage the media to report “a wave of sexual violence”.

One problem of media reporting is represented in attitudes towards victims and society blaming them for sexual violence. Mentioned attitudes are widespread in media and are shown in false or harmful assumptions about rape so-called rape myths (Ujevic, 2015). To tackle and change false public perceptions about circumstances of sexual violence

occurrence, besides encouraging public health approaches to prevention, the media, public health practitioners, and communities should collaborate (Egen et al., 2020).

In the analysed articles, the most frequently used words in the articles were GHB, known as the date rape drug, police, court/law, Ljubljana, and acts. The use of words shows that the media reporting mainly was about severe cases of sexual violence related to nightlife engagement, dealt with by law enforcement. Later represents a sign of sensationalistic reporting aimed to attract a more significant number of readers. Less severe forms of sexual violence, e.g. sexual harassment, was rarely mentioned in analysed media reports.

Petrovec (2009) pointed out that, based on the manner of writing, readers can find out the newspapers’ authors and editorial standpoint and policy. We noticed sensationalistic reporting in 38.9% of articles shown as one-sided reporting, non-verification of facts, e.g. rumours, missing sources of information, using marked language, e.g. excessive expressiveness, stereotypes, emotionality, conversational language, jargon, irony, cynicism, and exaggerating. Headlines are an essential part of an article due to their exposure, i.e. their layout and graphic visibility above the article’s other text (Korošec, 1998). Using different linguistic means and stylistic procedures achieves a more significant and resounding effect of publications and shows the author’s purpose of reporting. Mentioned is especially noticeable in the headlines, which are aimed to attract the reader to buy and read the newspaper (Kalin Golob & Poler Kovačič, 2005; Korošec, 1998). We noticed headlines written in a sensationalistic manner in

55.6%. However, most of the headlines (65.5%) were naming-informative, meaning that the text's topic or content was explicitly stated or defined in the headline.

The analysed articles most often reported sexual violence and harassment related to nightlife venues in urban areas. Rural areas were mentioned only in 4.4% of analysed articles. Besides the frequency and the number of articles, other differences in reporting between urban, suburban, and rural areas occurred. In rural areas, our research shows more objective reporting than the suburban and urban areas, but we should point out that the amount of the analysed articles in rural areas was small and, consequently, the findings can be misleading.

Egen et al. (2020) analysed media reporting about sexual violence and found differences by year and region in certain types of sexual violence coverage. Besides, they noticed differences in used language and outcomes of media reporting. Our research on the reporting of selected media found differences in the coverage of specific topics related to sexual violence and harassment concerning nightlife venues. Firstly, sexual violence and harassment, particularly in nightlife entertainment spots, is underrepresented in Slovenian media. This is noticeable in the small number of articles found in this study. Secondly, articles mainly focused on reporting about the occurrence of rape drugs (e.g. GHB), which was most frequently reported by the media in 2014. It is noticeable that the most severe cases of sexual violence dealt with by law enforcement, e.g. rape, found their way into the focus of media reports, while „less severe“ forms of harassment were hardly mentioned. Lastly, the reporting was focused on offences and offenders concerning criminal procedures, which were also present in the visual representation in articles.

Nightlife venues are specific due to the permissiveness of behaviours of a sexual nature (Graham et al., 2010, 2014). Accepting those behaviours in combination with alcohol or drug consumption makes up part of a generally accepted culture (Mellgren, Andersson, & Ivert, 2017). Brooks (2011) highlighted the need for safety initiatives to focus on the behaviour of abusive men and cultural beliefs that sanction sexual violence as a normative aspect of male sexuality rather than on the ‚risky‘ behaviour of women. However, Gunby, Carline and Taylor (2017) agree that campaigns against sexual violence were focused on men to educate them about the importance of consent. We noticed some awareness-raising and prevention related to rape drugs in the analysed articles, but, otherwise, concerning sexual violence and harassment, it was missing in the analysed media reports. Media as a primary source of information can influence the published topic's perceived importance. Besides, the media have the potential to contribute to sexual violence prevention. Instead of sensa-

tionalistic reporting, the media should report as accurately as possible. This would have an awareness-raising or preventive effect, as they would provide the public with verified and accurate information on the prevalence, incidence, and impact of sexual violence (Egen et al., 2020). Recently, there have been very high-profile cases of sexual violence in the academic environment in Slovenian media, which triggered a public response that showed disapproval and rejection of such acts. Besides, the impact of the #MeToo campaign was also considered on a global scale. The cases of sexual harassment in the entertainment industry sparked a kind of shift towards zero tolerance for all forms of sexual violence. In our opinion, media attention to sexual violence, especially sexual harassment, is needed to change the beliefs and traditional norms of such behaviour's acceptance in nightlife spots.

We can point out that it is essential to talk about unacceptable behaviours of sexual violence with different target groups. Some successful projects against violence were already introduced and well accepted in Slovenia. Among the work of non-governmental organisations, we should point out the SOS Association's (Slo. Društvo SOS) awareness-raising project – “A Drop Carves the Stone”. The campaign was about the unacceptability of violence on a date or dating violence, which includes, among other things, sexual violence, and is in Slovenia still marked as a taboo topic (Društvo SOS, 2019). Egen et al. (2020) pointed out that media can play an essential “role by partnering with public health organisations” to ensure accurate, nonbiased representations of sexual violence and news, which would include victim-blaming. Besides, the partnering would be beneficial to include “prevention messages in stories about sexual violence”. Other awareness-raising campaigns and research are needed to tackle the roots of traditionally accepted behaviours of sexual violence in nightlife entertainment spots.

The present study resulted in insights into the Slovenian media's representation of sexual violence and harassment in nightlife entertainment spots, yet it has some limitations and possibilities to improve it in further research. The analysis included only five media reports between January 2014 and 30 June 2020. To obtain better insight into media reporting about sexual violence and harassment would be beneficial to include other newspapers, and online and social media, and to extend the study period to predict media reporting trends in Slovenia. In addition, the inclusion of only five selected media may mean that we did not include all cases of sexual violence and harassment in nightlife areas reported by the media. It follows from the above that it would be necessary to conduct a longitudinal study on a broader scale than that described in the present article, which would enable the generalisation of findings on media reporting in Slovenia.

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Medijsko poročanje o spolnem nasilju in nadlegovanju na območjih nočnega življenja v slovenskih urbanih in ruralnih okoljih

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Namen prispevka je predstaviti pilotsko raziskavo poročanja slovenskih medijev o spolnem nasilju in nadlegovanju na območjih nočnega življenja v Sloveniji. Analiza je vključevala članke med prvim januarjem 2014 in tridesetim junijem 2020 v slovenskih medijih Delo, Dnevnik, Večer, 24ur, MMC RTV SLO. Zbiranje ustreznih člankov, ki je sledilo kombinaciji ključnih besed spolno nasilje, nadlegovanje in posilstvo, je vrnilo 90 rezultatov. Analizo smo izvedli z uporabo programa MaxQDA 2020, statistične programske opreme XLSTAT za Excel in SPSS. Najpogosteje uporabljeni izrazi v proučevanih člankih so bili: GHB, policija, sodišče, Ljubljana in dejanja, ki se nanašajo na neprimerna, prepovedana ali kazniva dejanja. Rezultati so pokazali, da je analizirana tematika spolnega nasilja in spolnega nadlegovanja v proučevanih medijih premalo zastopana. Poleg tega je bilo poročanje osredotočeno na najhujše primere spolnega nasilja in posilstva, spolno nadlegovanje pa je bilo redko omenjeno. Analizirani članki so najpogosteje poročali o spolnem nasilju in nadlegovanju, povezanim z nočnim življenjem na urbanih območjih. Podeželska območja so bila omenjena le v 4,4 % analiziranih člankov. Poleg pogostosti in števila člankov so se pojavljale tudi druge razlike v poročanju med urbanimi, suburbanimi in ruralnimi območji (npr. slog poročanja in pokrivanje novic). V 57,8 % člankov smo zaznali strokovno in objektivno poročanje. V 38,9 % člankov smo opazili senzacionalistično poročanje, ki se je kazalo kot enostransko poročanje, nepreverjanje dejstev, npr. sklicevanje na govornice, manjkajoči viri informacij in različna raba jezika (npr. pogovorni jezik, žargon, ironija, pretiravanje). Večina naslovov (65,5 %) je bila poimenovalno-informativnih, ki bralcu omogočajo vpogled v tematiko članka.

Ključne besede: spolno nasilje, spolno nadlegovanje, območja nočnega življenja, medijsko poročanje, urbana in ruralna območja, Slovenija

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