

WHO CONTROLS THE PAST,
CONTROLS THE FUTURE
THE CALIFORNIA HISTORY AND SOCIAL
SCIENCE FRAMEWORKS BEFORE AND AFTER
HINDU ADVOCACY

Raman Khanna, MD, MAS

The Hinduism we show our children

- Rama, Sita, Lakshman, Hanuman, Krishna, Radha
- Puja
- Tolerance and mutual respect
- Chanting
- Yoga
- Women Sages, Saints, and Goddesses
- कर्मण्येवाधिकारस्ते मा फलेषु कदाचन।

The Hinduism our children see

*“Because the caste system was mentioned so many times in our textbook, our teacher created a simulation... in which we were put into the four major caste groups. Each student was given a worksheet ... but a higher caste could take advantage of a lower caste... By the end of the period, a majority of the class was complaining about ... how cruel the Hindu system was. **In fact, I’d never even known what my caste was until my textbook brought it up...***

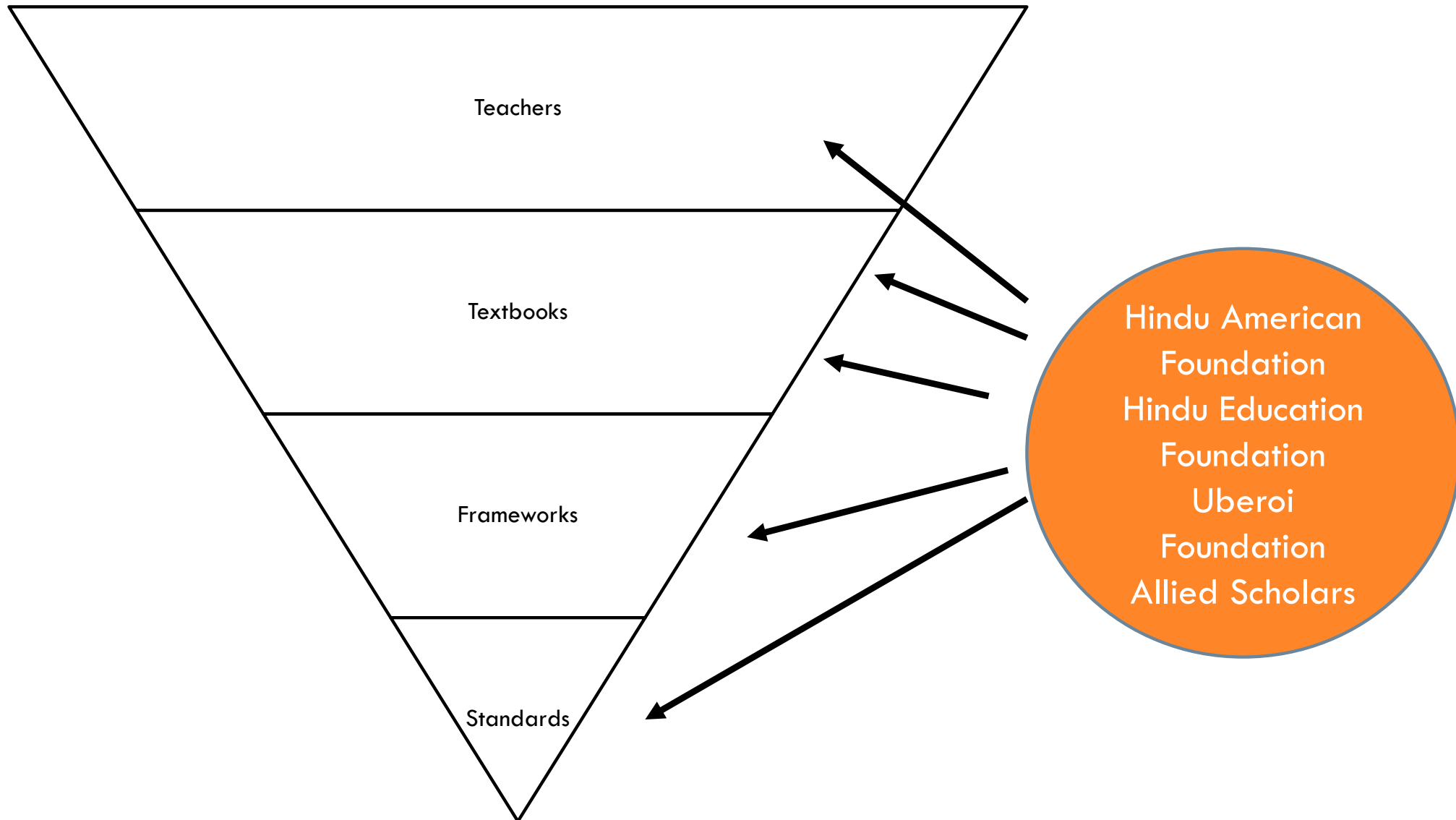
--Hindu 6th Grader

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Y7zt4LtBh8>

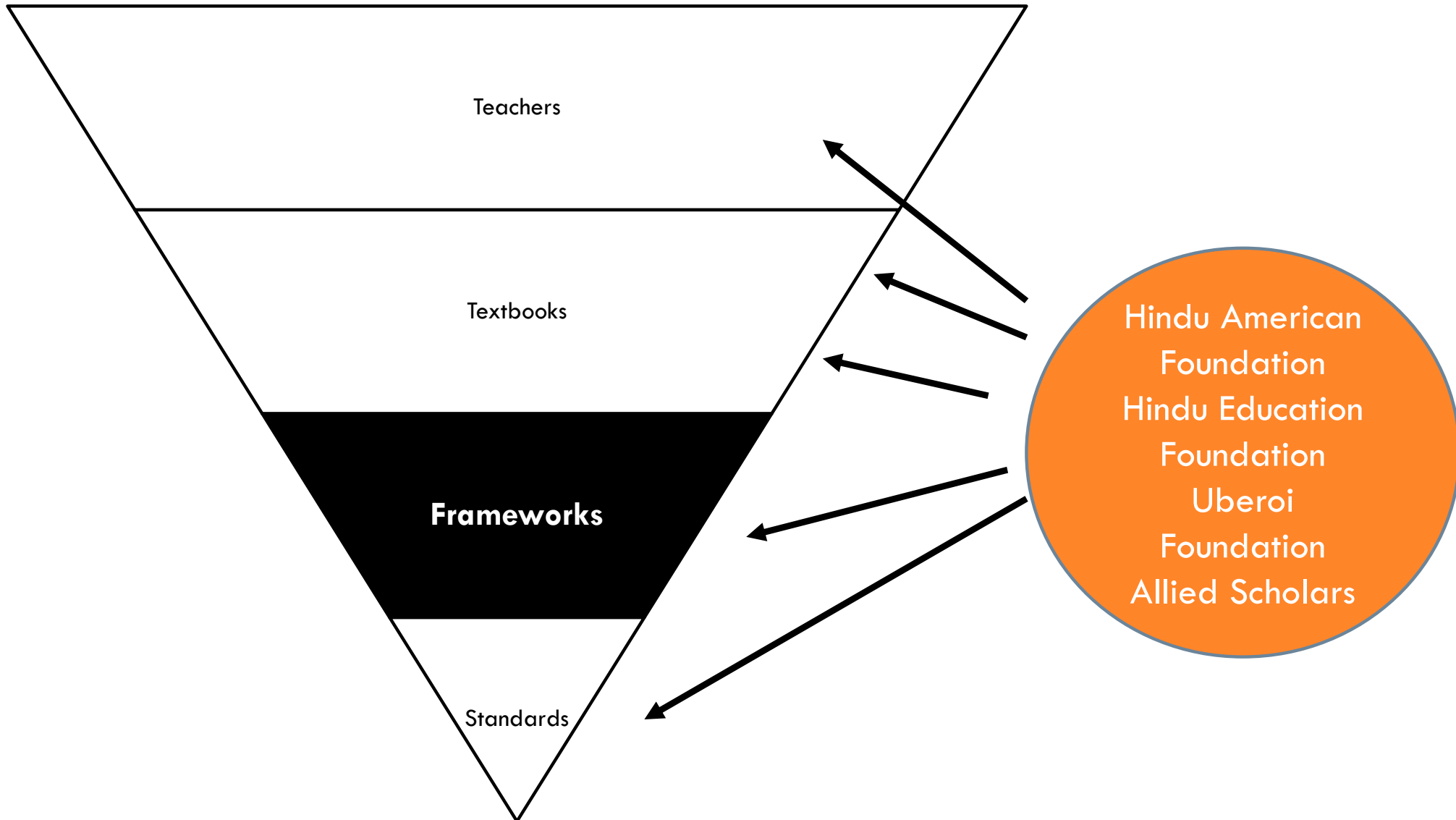
The Hinduism our children see

- Of children who responded to an HAF survey...
 - ▣ 34% reported being bullied *for their Hindu beliefs*
 - ▣ 3.7x ↑ in bullying if Hinduism was presented negatively

Textbook advocacy: California



Textbook advocacy: California



The Frameworks Past and Present

- History and Social Science Frameworks (HSSFW)
 - ▣ Hundreds of pages of material
 - ▣ Written with input from many groups
 - ▣ Reviewed by the Instructional Quality Commission (IQC)
 - ▣ Rigorous process for accepting edits to the HSSFW
- Last set was 2005, with minimal changes
- Renewed Cycle began in 2014, concluded 2016
- HAF, HEF, and Uberoi (and others) participated
- **Did our involvement make the frameworks better?**

Evaluating the HSSFW

- HSSFW
 - ▣ Grades 6 and 7: 2005 vs. 2016
 - ▣ Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism
- Individual sentences
 - ▣ Reviewed by hand
 - ▣ Relevant to one (or more) of these 3 religions?
 - ▣ **Tone:** was sentence positive, neutral, or negative?
- **Overall:**
 - ▣ **In the new frameworks for 2016...**
 - ▣ **...did positive/neutral coverage of Hinduism absolutely increase, and**
 - ▣ **...did % of coverage that was positive/neutral coverage increase...**
 - ▣ **...as compared to Buddhism and Jainism...**
 - ▣ **... from the frameworks adopted in 2005?**

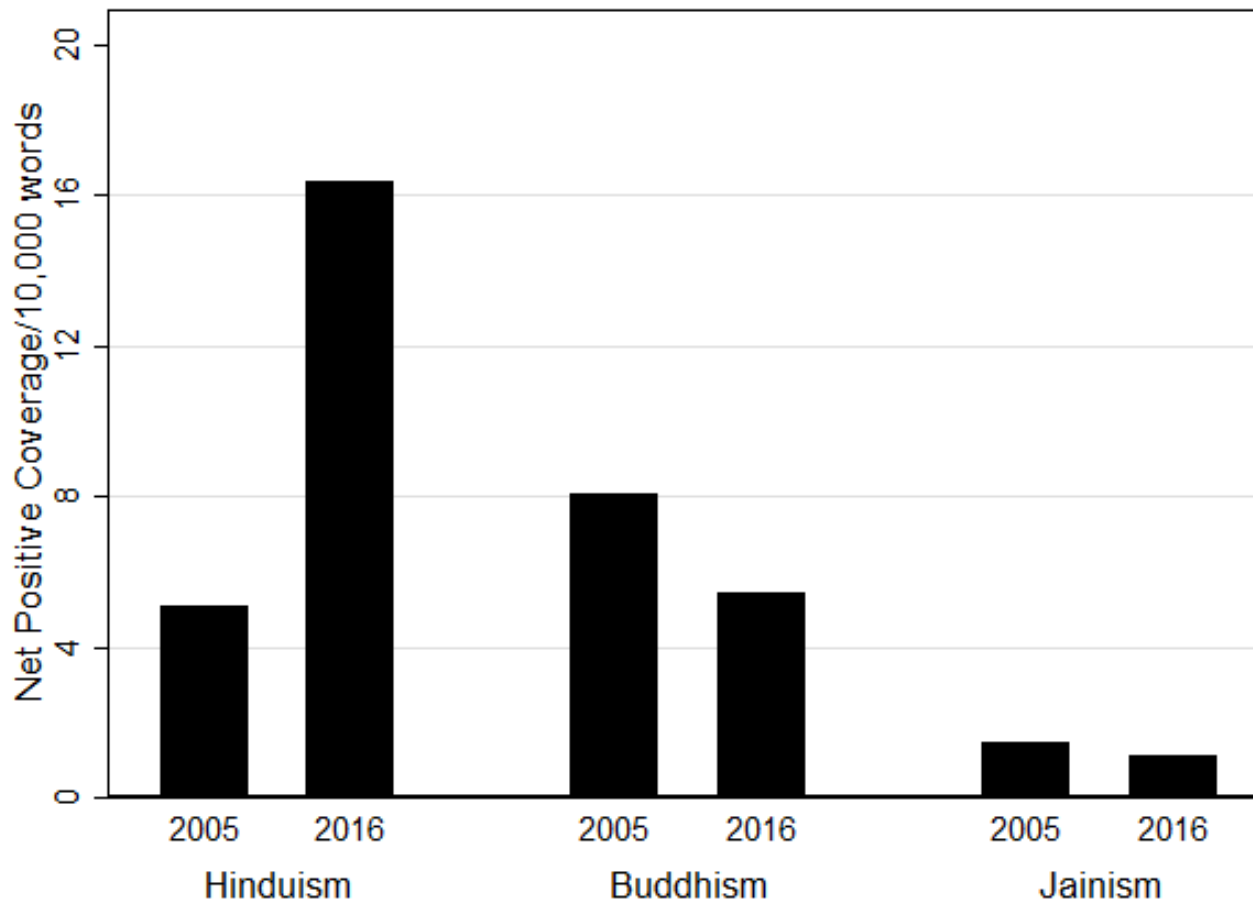
Results

- Analyzed 178 total sentences in the HSSFW
 - ▣ 2005: 40 total sentences
 - ▣ 2016: 138 total sentences
 - HSSFW Chapter 10 (Ancient India): 91
 - HSSFW Chapter 11 (Medieval Period): 47
 - ▣ Relevant to at least one of Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism

HSSFW-2005 and 2016

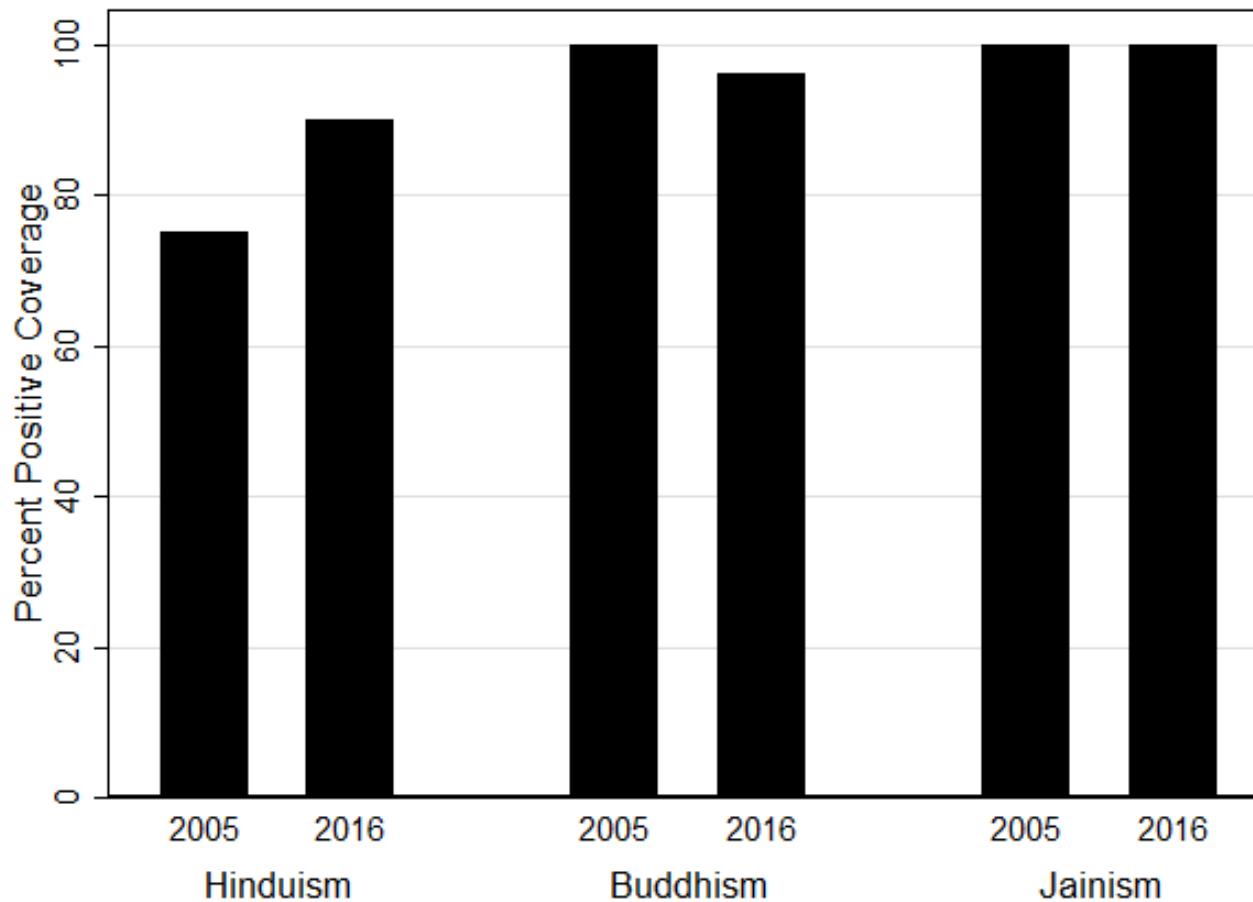
	Hinduism		Buddhism		Jainism	
	2005	2016	2005	2016	2005	2016
# of Sentences	16	104	6	27	1	4
# of Words	433	2473	186	617	33	78
# of Words/% of World population	29	165	26	86	528	1248
# of Words/% of US population	619	3532	265	881	*	*
# of Words/10,000 total words	630	690	270	170	50	20

HSSFW Net Positive Coverage



Net positive = (Positive sentences about religion + 0.5*neutral – negative sentences)*10000/ total words

HSSFW % Neutral/Positive Coverage



% Neutral/Positive Coverage = $1 - (\text{negative sentences about religion} / \text{total sentences about religion})$

Summary

- In 2005 the HSSFW were:
 - ▣ Short
 - ▣ More negative about Hinduism than Buddhism/Jainism
- In 2016 the HSSFW were:
 - ▣ Longer (and MUCH longer about Hinduism)
 - ▣ Much more positive (220 % increase) about Hinduism
 - ▣ Much less negative (15 % decrease) about Hinduism
- This was a Hinduism advocacy success story!*
- Did not yet translate into all textbooks

Lessons Learned, and Ongoing

- Who controls the present, controls the past
- The present will take decades to change
- Sustain energy, but pace ourselves
- Apply pressure without burning bridges
- Need to build alliances at every level
 - ▣ Within/between Hindu advocacy groups
 - ▣ With other advocacy groups (e.g. LGBT community)
 - ▣ With state boards of education
 - ▣ With textbook publishers
 - ▣ With teacher associations
- Support advocacy organizations with time, energy...
- ...and \$\$!