
A BIRD VIEW ON THE POSITION OF JOURNALISM IN INDIA

Dr. Ashwini P, BA, LL.B, LL.M, UGC-NET, K-SET, Ph.D, Assistant Professor of Law,
SDM Law College, Mangaluru

ABSTRACT

"*Knowledge makes the man, they say*". The concept behind this age-old saying is that without intelligence, human beings will be no better than unintelligent animals. Journalists, historians and scholars, individuals who are credited with giving knowledge to humanity. They involve journalists who provide us with our full knowledge of current affairs and events around the world. With the boom in information and communications technology over the last two decades, the world of media has changed drastically. Today, Mass media provides 24-hour news and updates us daily with news and information from even the most distant areas of the world. In a country like India, Indian media, a powerful entity, has been defined as the "Fourth Pillar of Democracy". Being one of the pillars of India's democratic nation, Indian media has a huge responsibility to make the nation because it affects the political leanings of people and therefore enables them to make the right decision when choosing a government. Media plays a crucial role in the democratic life of the country's citizens as it keeps people informed about the socio-economic and political state of affairs¹. At this juncture this paper examines the present position of Indian Journalism.

Keywords: Media, Journalists, Democracy, Government, Affairs of State.



¹ Vidisha Verma, *An analysis of journalism in modern India*, retrieved from <https://blog.ipleaders.in/ananalysis-of-journalism-in-modern-india>, visited on 13th April 2022

Introduction

It is said that media is the fourth pillar of the democracy, because it keeps the people aware about the political turmoil on one hand, and it pressurize the political leaders to show accountability to the people on the other. Today, in India the face of media has changed a lot and in-fact many times it has proved its efficiency. The media is actively involved in the national level affairs relating to the social justice, law and order, constitution and many other things².

Many times the media has played an extremely positive role by creating a public opinion towards a thing. Recently in the campaign of social activist Anna Hazaray, media played a big part in making the campaign a success. There are many other examples when the media played a great role in providing justice to the people as like in the case of Jessica Lal murder, if the media had not given the case so much of hype there were hardly any chances that the culprits would have got the sentence of life. Moreover many times certain scams were uncovered by media through sting channel operations, although the legality of these operations might be altogether different debate but still they did some social good by it.

But only on these facts we can't conclude that the media of our nation has touched the height of high journalism. Media of nation can only be said to be of high standard when it is aware of its societal responsibilities and it is actively involved in it. But in this regard I would rather say with great sorrow that media of our nation has failed in its duty towards the country. It is correct that the media has been successful in giving itself a professional touch according to the changing conditions of globalization, but on the other hands it could not maintain a fair functioning of its duties towards nation at large.

The truth is that even when the hype of media results in positive yields, those incidents are not a product of the consciousness of media for the society at large but instead a part of their strategy to create reputation and money. As like the case of the death of Jessica Lal was given so much hype by the government, but in rural areas everyday thousands of people are killed, many types entire families are killed but our media hardly take those incidents with that seriousness with which it takes the case of Jessica³ and alike. In several states many people are dying because of hunger and malnutrition, but such things never get enough attention from the

² Retrieved from <https://www.civildserviceindia.com/subject/Essay/media-trp.html> , visited on 13th April 2022

³ *Manu Sharma Vs State NCT, Delhi (2010)6 SCC 1, (2010)2,sc (Cri)1385*

fourth pillar of our democracy. On the one hand at regional level many agitations are taking place, which are even continued from years but they got never justice from the side of media as like Sharmila⁴ is agitating from years to improve the plight of the people of North-East⁵, but the media never give it enough attention.

Although in today's time media needs to be professional, because fund raising is very necessary for it to function properly but with the professional touch it has to focus on social issues even if they are not so profitable. In rural India many NGOs are working for the welfare for poor, removal of literacy and many other social causes, and if they would be help through media in their campaign then it can bring drastic change in the plight of the people. When the big projects are created and people are replaced without adequate compensation, media should be actively involved in showing the plight of those people to the public, but it hardly happens. Because ultimately the true goal of the journalism to make good to people, and media should always keep this point in mind.

In this regard there is also a responsibility on the government that it should not unnecessarily interfere in the working of the media. The independence of media⁶ is a very necessary aspect of its fair functioning and moreover it is guaranteed under Article 19 of the Constitution of India, which ensures freedom to speech and expression. In the past many time the political leader had pressurized the media to achieve their own political ends and hindered the emergence of high level journalism. Political leader are required to understand the importance of reporting by media and they must give the journalists and editors sufficient safeguards against the criminal and unsocial elements. To achieve the high level of journalism the media is required to be oriented towards the problems of the people. It is required to be impartial and independent in the reporting of political incidents. At this Juncture the present paper comes out with an overview on the current position of Journalists in India emphasising on their role and responsibilities and challenges faced by them in the present scenario.

⁴ Known as 'Iron Lady of Manipur' was born on 14th March 1972, is an Indian Civil rights activist, Political activist and poet.

⁵ On 5th November 2000, Chanu Sharmils began hunger strike in favour of abolishing the Armed forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958.

⁶ Article 19 (1)(a) of the Indian Constitution



History of Journalism

India has a long history of the freedom struggle that included various challenges. The freedom of the Press in India has also endured a saga of fights against draconian authorities which attempted to suppress information⁷.

Pre-independence

The first newspaper in India is credited to James Augustus Hickey⁸, who launched The Bengal Gazette, also the Calcutta General Advertiser, in 1780. The paper lasted just two years before being seized by the British administration in 1782 for its outspoken criticism of the Raj. Several other newspapers followed such as The Bengal Journal, Calcutta Chronicle, Madras Courier, and Bombay Herald. All of them, however, were curtailed by censorship measures imposed by the British East India Company.

Throughout 1799, 1818 and 1823, the colonial administration enacted several Acts to regulate the press in the country. The legislative outlier during this period was the Press Act of 1835, better known as the Metcalfe Act⁹, which introduced a more liberal press policy. This lasted till the revolt of 1857, after which, a perturbed foreign administration, shaken by the mutiny, introduced the Licensing Act in 1857. It gave the colonial administration the powers to stop publication and circulation of any printed material. In 1867, the administration enacted the Registration Act, which required every book or newspaper to bear the name of the printer, the publisher and the place of publication. Additionally, all books were to be submitted to the local government within a month of their publication¹⁰.

One of the most stringent regulations on the freedom of the press in India was the Vernacular Press Act of 1878. Introduced by then Viceroy, Lord Lytton, this act provided the government with extensive rights to censor reports and editorials in the vernacular press. It was an attempt to prevent the vernacular press from criticising British policies. The measure was an answer to

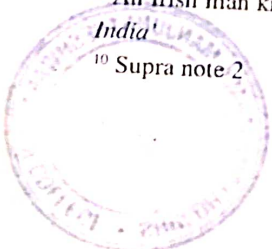
⁷ Retrieved from <https://editorsguild.in/history-of-journalism/>, visited on 13th April 2022

⁸ Father of Indian Journalism

⁹ An Irish man known as who launched the first printed News Paper in India-Known as 'Liberator of Press in

India'

¹⁰ Supra note 2



the shortcomings of the 'Gagging Act', which the press was impervious to. With reference to the Vernacular Press Act, a special mention of Bengal's Amrita Bazar

Patrika gives a glimpse into the spirit of the Indian press at the time. After the Vernacular Press Act was imposed, Amrita Bazar Patrika began publishing in English too, as the Act was not imposed on English newspapers¹¹.

Four new measures were enacted between 1908 and 1912, the Newspapers (Incitement to Offences) Act and the Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1908, the Press Act of 1910 and the Prevention of Seditious Meetings Act of 1911. The Press Act of 1910 particularly hit Indian papers hard. It empowered the local government to demand a security fee for any 'offensive content' against the government. Nearly 1,000 papers were prosecuted under the Act. Mahatma Gandhi's Salt Satyagraha widely used the Press to rally the masses against the British. This further heightened the tension between the Press and the government.

With Gandhi's arrest in 1930, the government enacted The Press (Emergency Powers) Act of 1931. It gave the provincial governments censorship powers. The outbreak of the Second World War in September 1939 brought further restrictions. The government demanded stiffer censorship, in spite of the Press Emergency Act of 1931. It controlled and filtered international news that was coming in. Amidst such acts of censorship, the All-India Newspapers Editors' Conference was conceived. It was aimed to be a protector of press rights in the country. It fought with the British government to lift the restrictions and advocated for better relations with the government¹².

Post-Independence

The Press Enquiry Committee was set up in 1947 with the aim of examining press laws in the light of fundamental rights formulated by the Constituent Assembly. In 1951, the Press (Objectionable Matters) Act was passed along with an amendment to Article 19 (2), which empowered the government to demand and forfeit security for publication of "Objectionable Matter"¹³. It remained in force till 1956¹⁴.

¹¹ Ibid

¹² Supra Note 2

¹³ Section 24 of the Press Objectionable Matters Act, 1951

¹⁴ Ibid



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A Press Commission was set up under Justice Rajadhyaksha in 1954. A major recommendation of the committee was the establishment of the All India Press Council. It was formally established on 4 July, 1966, as an autonomous, statutory, quasi-judicial body, with Justice J.R. Mudholkar, then a judge of the Supreme Court, as chairman. Other Acts passed include Delivering of Books and Newspapers (Public Libraries) Act, 1954; Working Journalists (Conditions of Services) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1955; Newspaper (Price and Page) Act, 1956; and Parliamentary Proceedings (Protection of Publications) Act, 1960¹⁵.

Today, there is no formal body that exclusively deals with the freedom of Press in the country. All matters concerning the freedom of the Press falls under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution, which states that "All citizens shall have the right to freedom of speech and expression..."¹⁶. These freedoms are restricted under Article 19(2) that prevents absolute power under 19(1)¹⁶.

Other self-regulatory organisations such as News Broadcasters Association (NBA) and Broadcast Editors Association (BEA) were established that self-regulates the news content aired on television. The electronic media complies with the guidelines of Central News Media Accreditation Guidelines, 1999, which falls under the Central Press Accreditation Committee that grants accreditation to the representatives of media organisations¹⁷.

Role of Journalism in India

- The role of journalism is primarily, the communication of news, information, updation and education. Take the situation with COVID-19, for instance, Journalists have provided periodic reports on the number of infected, deaths and rehabilitation to the audience
- In the contemporary world, Indian media has become a critical tool in the name of power and politics to give "voice to the voiceless" and to expose the face of the truth; amidst growing corruption, hatred, and violence in the name of power and politics.

¹⁵ Supra Note 1

¹⁶ Supra Note 2

¹⁷ Supra Note 1



- The media has a huge role in shaping and broadening the horizon of the perspective of the public as well as making them aware of the incidents happening in society on a daily basis.
- Journalism also plays an important role in catalysing India's development measures, national integration and the fight for justice.
- It also acts as an interpreter for the general public by breaking down the information in the layman's language for consumers to understand. Taking an example of the government presenting a budget. The benefits or threats posed by the new budget cannot be comprehended by a layman. It is the responsibility of the journalists and media to speak to the experts and present the benefits and disadvantages of the budget before the public¹⁸.

For the most part, it serves to inform the public and create awareness. It is an open medium, meaning that the intended audience includes the entire community or the public. Journalism is therefore an essential component of a democratic society¹⁹.

Responsibilities of Journalists

The media, along with any other field, should not harm the ethical and socio-cultural aspects of the economy, but should encourage them. By highlighting social evils such as corruption and discouraging other poor behaviour, this helps to maintain social harmony. Therefore, through developing and finding solutions, the aim of the media is to inform, document, analyse, interpret, mediate and mobilize. A journalist writes whatever he observes the society. He publishes whatever is consumed in society by citizens who might be made up of different races, sects, categories and characteristics. Therefore, a journalist should be very cautious and aware of his duties in advertising it to the present sensible society when writing a report on any case. It must deliver such news as it serves a common function and fulfils the needs of major people as well. Any presentation or writing by a journalist should never have an effect on the beliefs, ideals, faith and practices of any part of any group of our society.

¹⁸ Ibid

¹⁹ Ibid



Journalist writing should promote not only the maintenance of 'social order' but also, simultaneously, the achievement of social change²⁰.

There are three fundamental duties that are to be understood by every journalist. They are social, legal and professional.

Social Responsibilities – The press reflects our culture's social representations or images. A journalist's presentation can initiate an environment of understanding within society and should continue to do the same in a sustained way to retain it. Therefore, the expectations of common news audiences should be equal, balanced, truthful, motivating and satisfying every representation of every journalist. It is also intended to ensure that society is well-informed about events²¹.

Legal Responsibilities – While working as a journalist, in order to avoid the development of problems and keep the company 'disruptive' in any way, one should be well acquainted with all legal issues. For this purpose, a journalist should not intervene or interfere with the privacy or confidentiality of an individual until such time when he or she is expected to be informed to the public. Defamation²² – Any libellous or defamatory presentation with someone, company or party is not appropriate and should be strictly stopped by the journalist.

Libellous and defamatory writings or images can receive immediate reply with greater acceptance from the public, but it is not pertinent as well as not complying with the standard of professionalism²³.

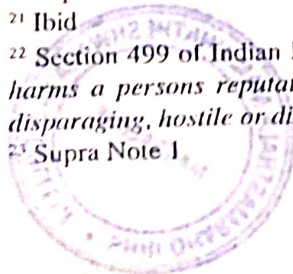
Professional Responsibilities – The reporter must have honesty, dedication and integrity to his profession. It should be very transparent and faithful to detail the news of any case that is to be released to the public. In order to present the same to the audience in a confident and satisfactory manner, very good homework in this regard is mandatory for any event and should be done by the journalist. Above all, the presentation must be honest and impartial and will never add any embarrassment or complexity to the company in the future. To be sure, a

²⁰ Supra Note 1

²¹ Ibid

²² Section 499 of Indian Penal Code, 1860- Any intentional false communication either written or spoken, that harms a persons reputation, decreases respect, regard or confidence in which a person is held or induces disparaging, hostile or disagreeable opinions or feelings against a person.

²³ Supra Note 1



journalist will need a high degree of integrity in delivering every output. A news article should be produced with greater care and accountability in order to sustain its quality level at a higher level by avoiding some kind of inclusion of an undesirable and offensive element or part of it²⁴.

Safety of Journalists and Challenges before the Media

In the recent years, working as a media professional has become very challenging. Extreme work pressure, time constraints, the competition to survive, culture of paid news and advertorials adopted by media houses for their survival have caused huge damage to the integrity of newspapers. The corporatisation of media²⁵ which tends to control the minds and thought processes of the public is indeed very dangerous to any democracy and may compromise the freedom of media and is one of the challenges that media faces in today's competitive world. Corporate interference in news content may lead to interference with factual presentation of news which not only denounces journalistic ethics and values, but also violates peoples' right to be informed²⁶. However, the most disheartening and worrisome threat to the freedom of media is threat to the life and liberty of journalists, photo-journalists and media workers. As per a report released by the Committee for Protection of Journalists²⁷, 1124 journalists were killed between January 1992 to April 2015 around the world and in India fifty six journalists and three media workers were killed during that period²⁸.

Simultaneously, this period has also witnessed a marked rise in the global awareness in improving the safety and protection for journalists. The press needs to work together with the government and a good sense of understanding of each other's agenda is one of the essential factors for making sure that the correct news reaches public at the correct time. Additionally, in order to prevent any act of violence against journalists and to create a safe environment for the effective functioning of media, the governments, both at the centre and state level, need to improvise and employ new legal remedies and strategies to strengthen the security and safety accorded to journalists in India²⁹. Today, everyone is a communicator or news provider, as such

²⁴ Ibid

²⁵ Defined to be influenced by or fake on the features of a large commercial business, especially in being bureaucratic and uncaring

²⁶ Article 19 (1) (a) of the Indian Constitution

²⁷ It is an American independent non-profit organization based in New York city with correspondence around the world promoting press freedoms and defends the rights of journalists

²⁸ Justice C.K. Prasad, *Safety of Journalists and Challenges Before the Media*, retrieved from <https://www.presscouncil.nic.in/WriteReadData/Pdf/soj.pdf> visited on 18th April 2022

²⁹ Supra Note 1



they can act as their own protector if they tackle an adverse situation tactfully and minimise the danger. The safety and security of journalists/media professionals are crucial elements for safeguarding the right of the people to be informed. Any acts of violence against journalists or media professionals, in relation to their work are a direct violation of peoples' right to be informed. However, one should also keep in mind that all rights, legal or moral come with responsibilities. A right can be qualified only if it is exercised responsibly and the right to freedom of expression is not an exception. The primary responsibility of free media should be to empower the society and strengthen democracy. It should play an active role in enhancing social and religious harmony and uphold human rights and to fight corruption and reduce social injustice without challenging the harmony and peace of the nation³⁰.

General Challenges Faced by the Media Industry across All formats

The content that is distributed through these formats can be either for educational purposes, for entertainment or to endorse an idea. These formats are broadly categorized into two heads: (1) Traditional media (those which we herein above named and (2) New media (like blogs, vlogs, websites, podcasts, etc). Some common challenges faced by both these formats are³¹:

- **Lack of Transparency**

This has been an issue for as long as the industry can be recognized. Issues in complex nature of contracts, advertising, handling (and settlement) of funds, acquisition and detainment of personnel and content, ambiguity in having on board the clients and producers have always been of concern to the media houses. Further, advertising has been a simple model but there are various pieces that are needed to be put together what type of media is being used for advertising, is it direct or indirect advertising. This leads then to a whole separate need of accounting, from sales, to financial planning, its analysis, to finance management. This poses a risk of slip-ups due to which an overall analysis gets affected³².

- **Compliance with Laws / Regulations**

It is very difficult for the media industry to comply with all the rules and regulations within the

³⁰ Ibid

³¹ Devagni Vatsaraj, *Challenges faced by the media industry*, Retrieved from <https://blog.iplleaders.in/challenges-faced-media-industry>, visited on 18th April 2022

³² Ibid



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time limit and to act in accordance with all the laws that apply to them. From managing the finances to filing of return, reporting expectations with SEBI³³ and such other Authorities, complying with labour laws, environmental laws, local laws that regulate the lease of the premises, electricity and other requirements, from employment laws to IP laws³⁴, etc. Legal compliance is very important as it prevents the organisations from law suits and damages, while detecting violations. But it is not easy to identify them since the laws are evolving and an organisation needs a sound team to put off this challenge³⁵.

- **Challenges with respect to Taxation**

Each business has to pay taxes, to the local government, to the state and the centre. The Income Tax department comes very heavily on the defaulters, from huge amounts of fines to even imprisonment. Taxation is a very slippery path and it is very important to be cautious as to how the media industry grows and grows safely (without having being a target to the tax structure). Hence it is very important that this industry has a very sound section to manage taxes³⁶.

- **Threat to Media Channels**

With people shifting to digitisation, it is not only the transmission of news, facts and information that has become faster and easier but so has the attacks such as hacking of social media accounts, phishing, frauds, etc. Social media accounts are one of the most important assets of the media industry in the current scenarios and the hackers can easily hack into them and spread false information which may result in hurting the sentiments of lots of people and attract bad names to the media house. Further, the attackers may use these handles to post a link that may redirect the users to malicious websites and the users may be duped. There are various instances wherein these attackers pose themselves as employees of these media houses and loot them³⁷.

- **Hurt and Life Threats to People Working in the Industry**

We see this happening to reporters that cover sensitive issues and to those who really put in

³³ Security Exchange Board of India

³⁴ Intellectual Property Laws

³⁵ Supra Note 1

³⁶ VII Schedule of Indian Constitution read with Article 246

³⁷ Ibid



genuine efforts in revealing the truth behind a story. News anchors, journalists, activists on social media are mainly targeted. People who are whistle-blowers³⁸ or who spend their career covering issues such as rape, dowry, honour killing, murder, revealing the identity of a famous celebrity or a VIP³⁹ or even cases related to them, most likely get threatened of harm to their life or injury to their loved ones. This holds true for people working in journalism, anchor/hosts of radio station, news channel, writers of print media and influencers online⁴⁰.

• Concern relating to Data Privacy

Regulations have been implemented for businesses to handle personal data and for organisations that transmit user data to such companies, yet data leak has been the headlines quite very often. Big data challenges can pose trouble when it comes to accumulating adequate user data, without which exact scrutiny cannot be carried on. Viewers are being more sensitive than ever, towards their data and are troubled on how their personal data is being used.

• Licensing Requirements

With each step of success that the organization takes, registration is required for business licenses, from employment registration, taxation, expanding the business, enlarging its scope by having new clients on board, etc. for all steps, the ownership document is a primary requirement. Investors are also very vigilant on the license issues ahead of entering into this type of business⁴¹.

• Copyright and Piracy Issues

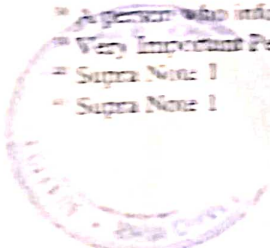
These challenges have been in the industry for a very long time now and it is very difficult to bring justice even if the laws are all stringent and in place. With the rise of digitisation, more big data problems have emerged such as sharing of account information through which multiple users can view content from the same account, using the password. It then becomes difficult for the production houses to categorise what genre of content is favourable to an adult and to a child. Pinpointing on the demographic details of an account user also becomes extremely difficult. Many people have started using the content available on online platforms for their

³⁸ A person who informs on a person or organisation regarded as engaging in an unlawful or immoral activity.

³⁹ Very Important Person

⁴⁰ Supra Note 1

⁴¹ Supra Note 1



own use; pirate and spoof this data to make it look like their own new creation and upload it to generate revenue. This is another major issue faced by, in particular, the entertainment industry⁴².

- **Adaptation Challenges**

Only a few percentages of players in the media industry are welcoming new technologies to their area of work, while the majority are hesitant and are concerned about the backfire or the trouble these new “uncommon” solutions will cause. This results in dependency on outdated methodologies making it difficult for the players to communicate business between themselves. Use of terms like “big data”, “artificial intelligence”, “automation” etc have increased now more than ever, particularly as reporting tools and yet we are resilient in adapting these technologies for our benefit.

- **Lack of Financial Support**

Finance is not so-much-of-a-big-issue for well-established or even new media houses that are backed by some influential person; but it matters a lot to small organisations, someone like you and me who wants to establish a start-up to give out some *real* content. Starting a new company may or may not be difficult on an individual basis but one thing is common in each case, that is, building investment and scaling up with the growing business has always been tough for all types of media houses. These costs vary a lot, from human resources costs, to data collection and processing costs, to data storage and protection costs, etc. SaaS and Cloud storage do make it easier to an extent but not everyone is ready to accept it with open minds or do not have enough resources to implement it.

- **Media Reputation**

Reputation is fast-reaching; it is like the fire in the forest. The character of lifetimes crushed down to “*reputation*” in one action; whether that action was justified or not is something to be looked into but nowadays, media houses are not considered to be a very favourable place to work at. It has gained a bad reputation; a medium that was earlier supposed to bring out true facts and be a source of inspiration has now merely become a money-making institution and

⁴² Ibid



the "voice of the voiceless" gets silenced in no time. Ever wondered why not many people are choosing this profession? Ever wondered why there aren't enough professionals to fill the void?⁴³

• **Discrimination and lack of efforts**

Both these words are a reality in the media industry. Discrimination happens; discrimination of both types-positive wherein females are not put out on field for particular tasks where muscle and high tolerance to pain and pressure is needed and, negative wherein a stereotype is formed that a particular gender is only *fit to assist* and to do *desk-job*. But this discrimination is gradually fading away when we as a society are developing a sense of togetherness, that no work is *made* for a particular class and that anyone who has the require qualification and skills can perform it.⁴⁴

• **Bullying and Harassment at Workplace**

The media industry has been collaboratively working to promote a more inclusive workplace but what comes out is that we still need to work on creating a safe, respectful environment. Bullying in the form of intimidation and/or insulting behaviour, abuse or misuse of power, mobbing or intentional/unintentional targeting is very prevalent. Other than bullying, harassment- physical, mental and visual, is always very frequent in the media biz. The film "*Unpaused*"⁴⁵ showed how the boss of that news channel is making advances and is offering his female juniors an opportunity to handle big projects in return for sexual favours. This has been a challenge that needs to be tackled for so long but the victims were not ready to open up for understandable reasons. The society is now supportive and the abusers are now being questioned but we still need to fight this evil.

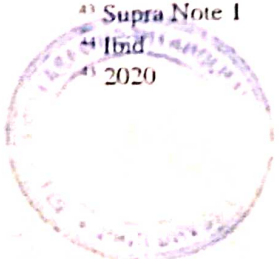
Changes required to have an effective journalism in India

- Senior print and television journalists must speak write and expose very clearly the issues plaguing the press in India.

⁴³ Supra Note 1

⁴⁴ Ibid

⁴⁵ 2020.



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- Implementing the recommendations of TRAI⁴⁶ with regard to media ownership and investment disclosure norms would help in maintaining transparency required for the news media sector.
 - Ownership restrictions on holdings of media companies have to be legislated.
 - Robust surveillance and compliance mechanism need to be implemented effectively so that source of news is verified before.
 - Journalists must resist the urge to sensationalise matters. They must keep a global perspective, and pay attention to the words they use, the examples they cite, and the images they display.
 - They must avoid speculation and finger-pointing in the immediate confusion following an attack when nothing is known, yet the demand for information is perhaps the strongest of all.
 - They must consider carefully the fact that there is something inherent in terrorism as a violent act that provokes a fear in many that is far disproportionate to the actual level of risk.
 - And most of all, they must avoid fostering division and hatred and radicalisation at both margins of society.
 - Although India has the Press Council of India and specific regulations, the country needs more detailed law regarding the media to protect not only the freedom of expression and speech but also journalists' safety.
- There is a need to establish independent press councils, media watch groups, Ombudsmen and other media self-regulatory bodies autonomous from the government.

Conclusion

Journalists are to keep their personal feeling out of their reporting, they should write, what they know not what they think and give all sides a chance to be heard. Five Ws. Who, What, When,

⁴⁶ Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, 2009



Where and Why should guide them. The Press is held as the fourth state but its potentiality as the fourth pillar of democracy was realised only after independence. The Press is a mass communicator, representative of the people and voice of the voiceless which has achieved the position of a natural ally of the society for its existence, projection and wellbeing. In pursuit of its role, however, the journalists have to follow a code of conduct and the requirement of the hour is to revise the regulations in such a way that all lost grounds and failures can be effectively reinstated. A number of outstanding bills, as well as the recommendation, must be passed as soon as possible. There must be a clear understanding of what issues will be addressed in the Press Council of India (PCI Act) laws and how they will be implemented efficiently. Furthermore, there must be a balance between freedom of expression⁴⁷ and speech restrictions⁴⁸. Management and officials must ensure reporters' and journalists' freedom and protection so that they can cover the news without being influenced by political, governmental, or wealthy influential people and groups. The Press Council should develop ideas in collaboration with well-known journalism training institutes to ensure that journalists are well-versed in ethical practice. What remains now is for the government to put the Council's recommendations and guidance into action, which has the potential to make a significant difference in the system's correction.

⁴⁷ Article 19(1) (a)

⁴⁸ Article 19(2)