

Role and Challenges of Freedom of the Press in Indian Democracy

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Abstract

The first condition for any political system to be democratic is the freedom of the press. If a nation is considered a democratic nation, then it must necessarily have freedom of the press. Anyway, media is considered as the fourth pillar of a democratic nation after legislature, executive and judiciary and thus it is an integral part of democracy. In a democracy, the security and freedom of the public is ensured only through mass media. That is why the media is also considered as the 'security guard' of the public. The importance of freedom of the press in a vast developing nation like India, full of diversities, increases even more when most of the people here are unaware of the role of the media. On the other hand, when we look at the role of the media, it appears that the watchdog of democracy, the media has not yet become democratic. At present, due to the development of technology and communication technology, there has been a huge positive change in the role of media. Despite this, due to the conservative thinking of the people, illiteracy, ignorance and increasing side effects of social media, the role of media also seems suspicious and sometimes we see many of its side effects. This research article of mine is based on a critical study regarding the impact and new challenges of the increasing role of media in the Indian democratic system at present.

Keywords: Media, Social Media, Democracy, Security Guard, Executive, Executive, Technical and Communication Technology.

Introduction of media

The word media is derived from the English word media, which is a corruption of the word medium. Which means, the medium of communication and receiving information. That is, we call the system of exchange of ideas and information between each other as communication medium or media. There are two types of media, 1. Print media 2. Electronic media. In electronic media, we include radio, television, television, cinema, computer, fax etc., while in print media we include newspapers and magazines etc. Transmitting your thoughts, feelings, information and messages from one place to another at a fast pace is called communication. For effective communication, it is necessary that the message sent by the messenger should reach the person receiving the message in the same form, as well as it is necessary that the message should be communicated to the recipient of the information at the right time according to its importance and appropriateness.

Ever since the development of democratic governance system, since then the matter of freedom of the press has started to be raised vociferously. Or just say that, it is only through freedom of expression that democratic governance has come into existence. Raja Rammohun Roy, in response to the British government's restriction on the freedom of the press, supported the freedom of the press, saying that, "No revolution of any kind, in any field, in any field has ever been possible through the freedom of the press in this world." Rather the freedom of the press has every time prevented the germination of revolution in the regimes." When the British Governor General Lord Lytton banned the freedom of the press through the Vernacular Press Act-1878, voices started rising against it in the whole country. As a result, Lord Ripon, the liberal Governor General of India, withdrew this law in 1882. A dynamic healthy democracy should develop and encourage journalism in such a way that it can demand answers to the public's questions from the power and ask difficult questions. That is, as it is commonly believed, "calling truth to power" is the most difficult task and this is where the role of media increases.

Article 19 1(A) of the Indian Constitution includes freedom of the press within freedom of thought and expression. Although the freedom of the press is considered against the state, but it supports the vocal expression of the public, hence it is considered to be the main part of the democratic governance system. Media is the engine of the vehicle, which always takes forward the democracy based on truth, justice, equality and freedom. In today's era of communication, information technology and technological development, the scenario of media world is changing rapidly. Present day media is facing many challenges along with progress. In this rapidly changing scenario, journalists need to maintain the standards of accuracy, objectivity, transparency and accountability in their reporting to successfully deal with these challenges posed to the media world.

At present, in the Indian democratic nation, the media is discharging its responsibility very well and faithfully. Even today, crores of citizens in India start their day by reading newspapers. Even today the media is sowing the seeds of self-respect, healthy citizenship and patriotism in the minds and hearts of the people. Media is the only medium which works to take the voice of the common man from the leaders sitting in power to the international platform. Even today, the credit goes to the media for rapidly spreading the various incidents happening in the country and abroad to the common people.

Role of media in democratic success

The demand for democratic governance begins with the freedom of thought, because democratic governance can be established only after the expression of thoughts. That's why the basis of democratic governance rests on the freedom of press and media. We can estimate the role of media in democratic governance on the basis of the following points.

1. Providing information

Common people get information about political issues, government policies, internal events of the country, world political and economic scenario etc. through media. It is the media that communicates political consciousness among the people, through this it is able to understand the working method and attitude of its leaders. It is through media that a strong public voice is raised against many evils spread in the society, domestic violence, problem of child labour, exploitation of women, honour killing and decisions made by Khap Panchayats etc.

2. Role in public awareness

Apart from dissemination of information through the media, important work of public consciousness is also done. Whether it is the harm caused by smoking and drinking, whether it is to work for public awareness to prevent deadly diseases like AIDS and swine flu, while the media where consumers are being exploited, then 'war for pure' and 'wake up, wake up customers'. 'Works for public awareness through issues like.

3. Fixing accountability

Media always acts as a strong watchman in a democracy. It is the media that monitors the work of the political and administrative executive and ensures their accountability for their work. It is the media, because of which a fair, transparent and accountable political and administrative system exists.

4. Security guard of public money

Media is the only mechanism through which leakage of public money is stopped. We know that from time-to-time big scams and corruption scandals are exposed through the media. Be it the Commonwealth Games scam held in Delhi, the 2G spectrum scam by A Raja, the Coalgate scam, the Adarsh Society scam or the Wikileaks scam, the media has played an important role in exposing all these.

5. Encouraging debate on public issues

The media provide a platform to the general public for debate on public issues and for comparative analysis of the working of political institutions. Which is also necessary for a healthy democracy. It is only through the media that we get information about the process of implementation of government schemes, their benefits and their usefulness and usefulness.

6. Voice against exploitation

It is only through the media that the voice is raised for the exploitative works being done against the

women, poor, backward and helpless etc. of the society and help is given to provide necessary justice to them. Through the Nirbhaya incident in Delhi in 2012, the media not only helped in enacting important laws for the safety of women, but also worked to create awareness among women. Similarly, the media also presented the Jessica Lal murder case and the injustice done to Priyadarshini Mattoo before the nation as a whole. Not only did he get justice, but also exposed the shortcomings of the judicial system.

7. Representing Diverse Viewpoints

India is a happy state full of diversities, in which people of many casts, sects, languages and ideologies reside. Due to this, it becomes the main role of the media to bring the beauty of these diversities of India in front of the public and to represent them positively in the public interest. It is only through the media that citizens have easy access to different types of opinions and ideas.

8. Educating the citizens

Media not only helps in making a responsible and responsible citizen, but it also motivates everyone for election related information and compulsory voting for a strong democracy. Media is the only medium which educates the citizens about the glorious social, cultural, economic and political concept and democratic process of the nation. Through this, people are helped to understand how the government works, what are the flaws in its works, how those works can be implemented effectively and what can be the role of the public in it.

Challenges with the role of media in democracy

There is no doubt that, even today media has an important role in democratic governance. But for the last few years, it has been seen that the media has not been able to fulfil its democratic duty. At present, media is not living up to the standards of journalistic religion due to its political bias, commercial interest, blind competition for sensational news, TRP race and excessive financial gain. We can understand the lack of democratic standards of media under the following points.

1. TRP competition

At present the competition in news channels and newspapers has increased so much that sometimes newspapers and news channels even forget that what is our dignity? What kind of news are we serving to the common man? Every ordinary news is also shown again and again by calling it breaking news to attract people. On the other hand, repeatedly highlighting minor issues in front of the public and ignoring important issues has become a trend in the media world.

2. Prominence of advertisements

Presently it seems that the media has also entered into commercial competition. In the blind competition of earning financial benefits, the media world even forgets which things should be advertised and which should not be done. Today, not only advertisements are done through the media but also the desires, interests and needs of the people are influenced. Today, it has become common to show advertisements of smoking, advertisements of private fake companies, vulgar advertisements, advertisements of inferior goods through media and that too through big celebrities.

3. Gender Diversity

Even today it is seen that there is no expected participation of women journalists in the media world. This is an important point to consider considering the lack of gender diversity in the media. Both the ownership and the workforce of media organizations are structured in such a way that women are under-represented. Which limits the diversity of equal viewpoints and voices in the media. This discrimination also reflects gender stereotypes somewhere and reinforces patriarchal norms.

4. Media trial

Today media trial has become like a plague in the media world. Under which the culprit is repeatedly blamed through the media even before his guilt is proved. There are many such examples in front of us that the media has done the work of making even an ordinary incident guilty in the eyes of the public by

making it sensational news. Media trial for example, the 2008 Aarushi Talwar-Hemraj double murder case in India. The case received widespread media coverage and the media played a significant role in shaping public opinion and influencing the subsequent court proceedings of the investigation. This has a long-lasting impact on the lives of the affected persons as well as on the due process of justice. According to the Madrid Principles on the Relationship between the Media and Judicial Independence, "the media have an obligation to inform the public and to comment on the administration of justice, including on matters before, during and after trial". presumption of innocence can be made without violating the laws.

Suggestions regarding the role of media in democracy

Freedom of expression is an essential quality of a democratic system, but we should also keep in mind that, along with all kinds of rights, a sense of duty should also be inherent. Whenever there is a situation of imbalance in rights and duties, then there comes instability in the democratic governance system. Where the media has the responsibility of guarding and protecting democracy, it should not turn its back on this responsibility. What should be the role of media in Indian democratic governance? We can understand it through the following suggestions.

1. Media should not interfere in other organs of the government

At present, we see that, by crossing the boundaries of its responsibility, the media sometimes starts interfering in the works of the legislature and the executive, or say so, even the judiciary. Therefore, the media should refrain from influencing the national law-making process, its operation and judicial process. He has to avoid proving himself 'judge' in every work.

2. Cooperation in public awareness

The media will have to play a major role in instilling faith in the democratic values among the common people. He will have to come forward for education, medicine, technical development, development of social and cultural consciousness, personal self-respect and transmission of nationalism consciousness among the people.

3. Promotion of independent journalism

Currently there is a need to support and promote independent journalism in India apart from the big mainstream media outlets. This could include funding for investigative reporting, support for community-based media, and protections for independent journalists and stringers. It is also well known that these media journalists often face more risks than regular journalists. Therefore, it is now the responsibility of the government to provide necessary facilities and security to media of this level.

4. Increasing legal protection for journalists

We often see or hear journalists and media outlets receiving threats, attacks and attempts to intimidate them through various sources. While Article 19 of the Indian Constitution gives freedom of thought, expression and speech to everyone, but there is no specific provision in it for the protection of journalists. Therefore, the government should make such a strong law through which exploitation, especially of journalists and media outlets, should be stopped. Harassment and violence against them can be prevented.

5. Adherence to media ethics

For what should be the role of media in Indian democracy, it is important for all subjects that media should play its role with independence, fairness, transparency, truthfulness, accuracy and full responsibility.

6. Other Role

The role of media in a democratic nation is not limited to the communication of news only, but it should work for the security, unity-integrity of the nation and to keep the nation's side firmly in international forums in every situation. Media should play its important role in environmental consciousness, moral and character upliftment of people.

Conclusion

Thus, it can be said that, in the current era of globalization and marketing, the media should increase the scope of its concerns. There is no exaggeration in accepting that, in a developing country like India, the responsibility of the media cannot only be to deliver news to the people but also to enrich their consciousness through analytical, critical and abstract information. It is also true that, at present, the control of capitalism on the media world is huge and the scope of democracy raising the voice of the poor is shrinking rapidly, but we should not ignore the fact that the rapidly shrinking democratic scope needs to be expanded. Only the media can fulfil the responsibility of doing this. Therefore, we need to make the media more empowered, safe and strong.

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