



SPECIALIZED JOURNALISM

MID EXAM ASSIGNMENT



APRIL 24, 2020

MEDIA STUDIES AND MASS COMMUNICATION
IQRA NATIONAL UNIVERSITY PESHAWAR

Specialized Journalism

Instructor: Muhammad Faheem

Date: 20th of April 2020

Submitted by Asfandyar Ali

ID No: 13152

Mid Term Exam 8th Semester

Submission Date: 24th of April 2020



“Department Of Media Studies & Mass Communication”

IQRA NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

PESHAWAR

Question no. 1: Define conflict, also explain conflict journalism in the context of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa KP at 2009.

Answer:

Conflict: Conflict is basically a serious disagreement, a contradiction between two different statements from two different backgrounds or people. An issue arise between two groups, institutions and non-state actors with government or any entity. Such as a conflict between “Manzoor Pashteen” and government in previous days.

Although there are many definitions of conflict but to sum up this term, it may be defined as; **“Conflict is a situation where two people or groups try to pursue goals of same interest where they believe they cannot share”**.

As we know journalism is a profession of collecting and disseminating news information with public so the role of journalist in conflict area is very kinetic as it progressively decrease the conflict by concrete and factual reporting.

Conflict Journalism: Conflict journalism is a type of journalism focused on investigating underlying drivers of contention so as to make open doors for society everywhere to consider and esteem peaceful reactions to conflict.

Unbalance and biased journalism escalate or fuel conflict but balance reporting can decrease the tension to some extent.

Conflict never arise without context behind it there must be solid context behind any conflict a journalist should be trained enough to understand that context while reporting from war zone. Without understanding the situation and context news may lose its worth nobody would take it serious.

Conflict journalism in the context of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa KP at 2009:

Being a resident of Peshawar the capital of KP and basically belonging to swat, I know what our province has gone through what kind of dark ages we have witnessed back in 2009-10 and even before the year 2009. Being an ordinary citizen it was normal seeing dozens of dead bodies and bomb blasts on daily basis same as journalists working at that time because they have witnessed and cover those events from very near the profession of journalism was not so different than from those journalists working in conflict zones now such as India-Kashmir dispute, Palestine and Israel conflict.

We know that KP has been drowned in a conflict since long which largely effected the local residents and civilians at different times. Many cases has been reported while some may be unrevealed. The role of journalist in conflict zone is to disseminate information in a way that it assist people to reach an educated opinion. Journalism in war zones becomes more challenging and journalist has to be responsibly report while keeping the sensitivity of the situation in mind.

The journalists find themselves caught between security agencies and militant groups while reporting from war zones which has likewise brought about journalists themselves turning

into an objective violence. In order to play an unbiased role media personnel need proper training and resources to manage in such circumstances.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was than at the bleeding edge of the war on terror and have seen violence at phenomenal scale. People in 2009 and 2010 have witnessed around major incidents of suicide attacks. In such serious conditions journalists of KP have stood firm in their line of duty just to disseminate the information to the general public.

There is a huge list of immense threat faced by journalists operating in war zones of KP but let's take some from those cases;

- ✚ A journalist from Peshawar, Behroz Khan from Geo TV living in his house located in Buner, a group of fully armed men came to his home in between night and early morning in July 2009. His home was ransacked a month before the attack and they annihilate his house with explosives after the tenants were brought outside.
- ✚ In July 09, 2009 home of another conspicuous Buner Journalist Rehman Buneri, from Voice of America Deewa Radio journalist and Karachi bureau chief of AVT Khyber Television, was destroyed by unknown group.
- ✚ The correspondent of Geo Tv and The News has been targeted by anonymous people while he was busy in covering peace march led by Sufi Muhammad in February 2009. He endured many gunshot wounds to the middle and back of the head. He had been even kidnapped at gunpoint from the peace march and founded a body with his feet and hands bound.

According to Mr. Parvez Khan, journalist and analyst, "I reported a story of a small girl who was unintentionally shoot in leg by a convoy in Hayatabad Peshawar, later she has been facilitated by the responsible but I was emotionally attached to it and as a journalist I had to fulfil my duty with balance reporting still I had to face pressure and the story has been delayed by the higher officials for several weeks but due to unbiasedness my story was than published" in 2009.

He further expressed, "Reporting in conflict zone is not easy you have to take safety precautions first because safety is the first thing".

Journalist has a lot of pressures because there are many factors involved in building pressure such as;

- Environment
- Culture
- Channel
- Organizations
- Institutions

A journalist should be aware of importance of statistics also because it plays an important role while explaining facts and figures as it is essential aspect in journalism and you should be able to explain it when you report such thing you need to simplify it for general public, use such words and language that is understandable for everyone in the society.

Conflict journalism has its psychological effects also because when you frequently report on conflicts and wars you have to face the side effects that it leave on the mind. And journalist in KP must have psychological effect after they have gone through dark ages back in 2009-10 and so on so forth before and after.



Question no. 2: What are the ethics to follow during the conflict as a journalist?

Answer

Ethics: Ethics can be defined as a standard of right and wrong based on analysis and thoughts. Ethics in journalism is the essential element and there is a huge list of those ethics which a person should follow while reporting in conflict zones. Ethics are always in an ideal form it's difficult to adopt or follow but it's not impossible and it can lead you towards betterment.

It's all a journalist has to balance his journalism, journalist should share valid facts and figures even under pressure. Journalists in conflict reject official propaganda, and instead seek facts from all sources.

There are many factors to be considered in the boundary of ethics;

- We should avoid speedy journalism
- We should follow the guidance of law enforcement agencies while in conflict areas if they direct you not to go forward you should not, do as they instruct you.
- Safety shall be the first priority because if you live you will be able to report.
- Try to be in contact with the person or local journalist of the conflicted area you are reporting in, because he may guide you in a better way because he knows better about the localities and danger zones.
- Report from the war zone but stay in safe place to report about conflict.
- You should be neutral from all sides, try to cover the conflict from both sides do not support one.
- Try not to contribute to proliferation or escalation of the conflict.
- You should have the knowledge of presenting facts and figures with simplified statistical graph, statistics is important to understand.
- Give context to what you report.
- Use simple and understandable words.
- Share verified information.
- Stick to proficient principles of news coverage and don't organize or act on the side of any ideological or national positions.
- Do not become part of conflict discourse.
- Abstain from prompting strife, hatred or enmity.
- Be adequate as opposed to inciting to all sides in the conflict.
- Act as a bridge building.
- Balance between the want to keep reporting grounded in direct observation and importance of analysis.
- To investigate the formation of contention, who are the people involved; what their objectives are; what is the socio-political and social setting of the conflict; what is the noticeable and undetectable indications of the conflict.

Journalism is about seeking for truth and public information is the responsibility of a journalist. A journalist should;

- ✓ Seek truth and report it
- ✓ Reduce harm

- ✓ Act independently
- ✓ Be accountable

What you report has an impact over people, so journalist should;

- Think
- Not to be arrogant
- Be benevolent
- Think about the risks to those you are writing about
- Think about it's implications
- Not plagiarized
- Avoid conflicts of interests
- Fair and neutral
- Admit mistakes



Question no. 3: Explain data analysis and impartiality as a journalist during the conflict.

Answer:

Data analysis as a journalist during conflict:

Data analysis: Data analysis is the way toward assessing information utilizing expository or factual instruments to find valuable data.

Journalist during conflict:

As a journalist data analysis is one of the important aspect especially in conflict journalism. Journalism is a process of seeking truth and so the data analysis is essential when you gather news information because your news might be consider as incomplete because of not having facts and figures.

Adding a proper and well explained data into the news you share with the public in a contextual way add more value to your profession and that is how people recognize you and your work in conflict journalism will be appreciated.

Balance and accuracy is the other most essential part of the conflict journalism while reporting because good war reporting can put developments into a historical and political context and explore root causes of the conflict and report the ground realities.

Conflict journalists do not entertain propaganda instead they try to dig out the real facts and figures through valid sources to support their reporting. They give profundity and context to the report, rather than just superficial and sensational “blow by blow” accounts of viciousness and strife.

Journalists in the combat area cautiously pick and examine the words they use, understanding that thoughtlessly chosen words are frequently fiery.

As earlier mentioned that adding context to the news information is vital part of data analysis in journalism. It is must to put absolute facts and figures of the localities, the actual population, historical background and give previous reference with what you report presently where required but in proper and understandable pattern.

When a journalist is fully equipped with data and sophisticated tools in war zone then he must be able to tell apart what is right and what is wrong.

Impartiality in conflict journalism:

Ethics in journalism are the common values that guide a journalist about right and wrong. Journalists layout both the desires and obligations that journalists, editors, and others working in the field ought to follow to execute their work mindfully.

If a professional journalist violate the ethical boundary he/she may lose the credibility.

- Truth and accuracy
- Not to be influenced by anyone (independent journalism)

- Fairness
- Accountability

“True impartiality is about honestly considering lots of different viewpoints on an issue and letting the weight of evidence drive the story”. (Kellie Riordan)

As a journalist we have been taught how to be objective while reporting in conflict and being impartial and to keep our emotions out of what we report although it’s quite difficult but not impossible.

You have to act as neutral when you work in combat areas because you might face violence because when you report you might get stuck in between law enforcement agencies and militants. So as to assume an impartial reporting journalist need legitimate preparing and assets to oversee in such conditions.

To keep up objectivity in reporting conflict, journalists should introduce the realities whether they like or concur with those realities. Impartial reporting is intended to depict issues and events in a nonpartisan and impartial way, paying little heed to the reporter's feelings or individual convictions.

- Utilize third-person point of view.
- Use suitable words when making comparisons.
- Try to be specific when writing about someone.

“End of the paper”

