Mid Term Exam

Subject Specialized Media Studies

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**Q1 Conflict:**

Conflicts are generally defined as relational disputes between two or more parties. A conflict is a clash of interest. The basis of conflict may vary but, it is always a part of society.

**Journalism** during 2009 in KP was very difficult to do. 2009 is one of the worst year in KP. 182 bomb blasts were reported this year in Peshawar. The conflict between militant groups and state were on the peak.

Beyond any doubt, the media has also contributed positively in society as per its basic function of information, awareness, and education of the people; however, the race of rating and unhealthy competition to break the news first made journalism worsened, Pervaiz Khan, a KP based journalist shared his experience.

In Khyber Pukhtoon Khwa as I early mentioned that 2009 is one of the darkest years in the history. Many people lost their lives in terror attacks in different spots of KP. The responsibilities of a journalist were numerous at that period of time.

Journalists were responsible to give the most authentic news and information of the terrorist attacks. KP based journalists including Pervaiz Khan kept their lives in risk to report the conflict with authenticity. “It was a dangerous experience I ever had in my career,” said Pervaiz Khan.

As journalism with ethics are very important during a conflict, but unfortunately the speedy media and the breaking news media spoil all the journalistic ethics and laws, Pervaiz Khan said.

**Q2 Ethics of Journalism during conflict reporting**

Freedom of press is very essential if the press has to play a significant and constructive role. But like all other freedoms, freedom of the press should also not be used as a license.

Reporting about conflict and working in a conflict zone is complex. Often the facts are not revealed in a way that offers the level of understanding the situation demands. The journalist needs to be sensitive, have an understanding of history, be aware of cultural issues, and put people before the story.

Unfortunately, we have no written code of ethics in journalism, but some unwritten ethics and written laws may be followed. Some of the ethics are as under which may be followed by a journalist while covering a conflict.

1. Don’t write in clichés
2. Don’t believe everything someone tells you
3. Don’t hunt for the definitive truth
4. Don’t get things out of context
5. Don’t accept information without question
6. Don’t forget the human face of suffering
7. Don’t be sloppy with words
8. Don’t follow the others agenda
9. Don’t ignore the local pressures
10. Don’t ignore the history
11. Independence
12. Sincerity, truthfulness, accuracy
13. Impartiality
14. Fair Play
15. Decency

**Q3 Impartiality**

Sound practice makes clear distinction between news report and expression of opinion. News reports should be free from opinion or bias of any kind.

Being impartial means not being prejudiced towards or against any particular side and to be fair and balanced. This is a tough one. All journalists have their own views, and yet, to deliver comprehensive and authoritative coverage of news and current affairs they must rise above their own personal perspective. Only by reflecting the diversity of opinion fairly and accurately can we hope to offer a true picture of what is really happening.

This is particularly true with controversial issues. Here, particularly, journalists need to be accurate and impartial and keep their own opinions firmly under wraps. Impartiality means:

-providing a balance of issues and views

-reflecting a wide range of opinion

-exploring conflicting views

-ensuring no significant strand of thought is under represented.

In terms of editorial freedom, journalists should be free to:

-cover any subject if there are good editorial reasons for doing so

-report on a specific aspect of an issue

-provide an opportunity for a single view to be expressed

-avoid bias or an imbalance of views

-cover stories that might offend part of the audience

-be fair with contributors and let them respond to our questions.

However, in doing so we need to be prepared to offer a right of reply. In seeking impartiality, we must never assume that academics, journalists and other contributors brought in to provide balance and comment are themselves impartial.

**Data Analysis**

Data analysis is a method in which the data is collected and organized so that one can derive helpful information.

During conflict reporting the facts and figures means a lot. Information without facts and figures is useless and baseless. Therefore, conflict covering journalist first collect the data from the field and then organized it in news story shape.

Quantitative data with qualitative definitions is essential during conflict reporting. Statistical data gives support to the news story of a journalist covering a conflict.