

Role of Media in Protection of Human Rights

Vikas Yadav^{[a],*}

^[a] (Sociology), Allahabad State University, Prayagraj, India.

*Corresponding author.

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Abstract

Human beings are intelligent and due to this quality, they get some such basic and inalienable rights which are generally called human rights. Rights, being immunities, specify that nothing can or should be done against the will of the individual. According to this concept, humans should be protected from unjust and abusive behavior. Media, currently considered as the fourth pillar of democracy, can play an important role in human rights protection. What exactly is media? The word media is derived from the word media, which means a means of interaction between two people. Mass is a simple and efficient means of communication. The main function of the media is to disseminate information to the whole society as soon as possible. It can be said on this basis that the more active the media, the faster will be the protection of human rights. On the other hand, it can also be said that due to the maximum activism of the media, anomalies prevailing in society and violation of human rights can be stopped at a rapid pace. The media's job is to keep an eye on the superiors present in power and society, try to curb their arbitrariness, bring their wrong actions to the public. The question is, is the media playing its role?

Key words: Human rights; Media; Protection; Oppression; Positive; Negative; Democracy

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INTRODUCTION

The freedom of media is the mother of all freedoms, it is necessary for the mental and intellectual development of the individual and the all-round development of society. Exploration of truth is possible only through media. Today it is well established that media is the fourth pillar of democracy, but on the other hand it is also true that media freedom is not absolute. He too has some duties and responsibilities of his own, if the media is distracted by these duties then he may be eligible for prosecution. The Supreme Court has said that - "It is right that the media's job is to highlight political, social, economic and cultural events related to daily life but its responsibility is also to ensure that the published news is based on true events. Whether the news is publishable or not, it is necessary that the news only generates public opinion." (Agarwal, 2002)

The media cannot be given unrestrained freedom, by doing so will create chaos and chaos in the society. Media's freedom is tied to its various obligations, it has certain duties towards society. Public order, to preserve decency and to keep it intact, is an integral responsibility of the press. If we examine the role of the media in depth, we have many examples of instances when the media has done its duty well despite the complex situation and has made a successful contribution in the restoration of human rights and many times the media has given its freedom. Has crossed the altitude.

POSITIVE ROLE OF MEDIA

The media has a huge contribution in the construction and progress of any country, there have been countless examples in history when recognizing the power of media, people used it for public change. "During the British rule, the media had a major contribution in filling patriotism and enthusiasm among the Indians who were shying away

from slavery.” (Chaturvedi, 2003) Media personnel are extremely sensitive to human rights. When injustice is done to someone in a state, the news of this harassment is published in all the newspapers. After its publication, the state has long debates on the issue in the Houses of Assembly and Parliament. A phase of agitation, dharna demonstration begins in the country. As a result, the government tries its best to punish the culprits. In this context, the Nirbhaya incident in Delhi and many such incidents can be seen. Atrocities, rapes, government indifference, delay in judgments of the courts, etc., are constantly exposing the media against which the society has started speaking in unison.

In the Indian perspective, the communication mediums got their strength from the freedom movement, when the mass workers demanded the right to freedom from the British through news papers and public awareness. In fact, the role of media in India has been positive, philosophical and exemplary since the beginning. Those who disparage the media that the media is not doing its duty properly, they should understand that there is no media today. “The information related to all the developmental work that is being done today, the issues of human rights abuses, the controversial incidents are spreading rapidly, would they have reached us so fast? It is clear that today the media is playing its effective role.” (Sharma, 2017) On this basis, it can be said that in the future, continuous awareness of human rights can remain as long as the media continues to play its role in a meaningful way. Today media has made everyone aware of its importance. In the present context media has tried to develop a new culture which we can call a culture of empowerment.

After the formation of the National Human Rights Commission, there has been a deep bond between the media and the media. Due to this relationship, the press release issued by the Commission and all sensitive matters related to human rights violations are published in newspapers. Politicians, actors, industrialists etc. bow their heads before the power of media. In today’s era, the media has an important role in every field, be it social, political or science. But when we talk about the protection of human rights by the media, what role is the media playing towards human sensibilities? It is important, for this, first of all we need to know the human sensations. There are things that we should focus on within the realm of human sensibilities.

Human sensation, that is, the sensations related to good and bad events in human life from the beginning to the end, that is, for a human, the happiness and sorrowful events in his life are decreasing which affect his life. He wants to share those sensations among the people around him in the society; wants to be with him, for this the media can be a good medium. In this it is necessary that the media should put the human emotions in front of the society with great caution, which is a matter of fact.

In which no person or society is harmed. If there is no distortion in the society, both print media and electronic media should always be taken care of. With these two, we cannot deny his role as the dominating leader in the current media. Although the political media cannot be said to be credible, but today its roots are deep in the society. “Today, we share our joy and moments of sadness and revelations with the Fates on the social media and are satisfied with the responses received that so many people are connected with our feelings.” (Mishra, 2008) In many cases its role is also positive, I would like to tell you that media existed before India became independent, the role of media has also changed due to the changes over time. Despite this, its role is becoming more important. If people get emotional by reading or watching any news, then suppose the media is playing its role honestly towards human sensibilities.

I would like to share an incident in this regard, a road accident occurred in Surat city in August 2018, in which the parents and their two daughters died in that accident. An eight-month-old innocent son and his 70-year-old grandmother survived the accident. The whole family was finished. Only 8-month-old grandson and grandmother of 70 years, not back and forth, there is reverence meetings in the city, sorrow is expressed in the meantime, news is published in a newspaper. In this news, it is told to the society that instead of reverence of this grandmother-pete, there is a need for economy. That is, they need money for their upbringing. This message of just one line made the people so nervous that people collected Rs 20 lakh and gave the samples to the old grandmother. With this money, grandmother is rearing her grandson and will be able to study him further. It can be rightly said that the media played its effective role in the protection of human sympathy and human rights. Because the right to live, the right to upbringing, the right to education are all our human rights. If grandmother did not receive this money, how would she feed herself and her husband? If we look carefully, we will see many such examples around when media has played an effective role.

NEGATIVE ROLE OF MEDIA:

Media is not only a boon but also a curse, there are some negative aspects about media. Today, the media is forgetting its responsibility due to marketism and selfishness. In the newspapers, in the name of human rights abuses, most of the news of police detention and jail activities and deaths are published. But incidents of human rights abuses do not find the place that should be found. “The electronic media, rather than the newspapers, is more and more authoritative about the incidents related to human rights abuses. Media today needs to pay more attention to the issues of protecting the rights of the deprived.” (Mellalli, 2013) In many cases, it is seen that

the media ignores its role and only takes up their ratings, which is unfair. There should be freedom of media or press, which is also being found, but many times media persons do their own free will in the name of freedom. To increase the live coverage and TRPs cross all the limits. Jae is unfair, to spread sensation, he does not miss putting the security of the country on the claim. The 26/11 terror attack in Mumbai was broadcast live by the media. Due to which the terrorists were getting full details of the action being taken against them by the security forces and it was their help. The lives of hostages, hotel workers, and security personnel trapped in the Taj Taj hotel were threatened. In this sequence, the media also published many misinformation.

The media is interested in covering people belonging to such a class, to which he himself feels connected. "Since a large share of the media belongs to the large and upper class people, the coverage of events that took place in the life of the same class is given more attention."¹ The police has also started recognizing this attitude of the media. This is the reason why criminal cases on the lower class are not easily registered even in police stations. Even if recorded, a major incident is transformed into a shadow. For example, rape is converted into a minor molestation case. At the same time, the matter is shown to be resolved in a hurry. The judicial process is also often influenced by media reports.

"Today's media is controlled by business houses unlike the era of independence. Especially for television channels, big capital is needed."² Media funded by large capital and advertising revenue will not ignore the interests of its owners and corporate advertisers. So if it wants the news of the right to employment and the right to information and to the people fighting for the rights of the people, Aruna Rai or the fight against the rights of tribal displaced people Medha Patekar or suppression of paramilitary forces in North East Shilpa Shetty and Mallika Sherawat are shown walking up the ramp to the models, and their concerns are revealed automatically, not showing the performing erasharmila. "It is a reflection of this trend that under the pressure of business and capital, the media is increasingly eating its society and human rights oriented advocates."³ His social sensation is getting blunt.

ELECTIONS BEFORE THE MEDIA:

Media is very important to protect human rights. "The media is expected to boldly and faithfully but the media has to face a number of elections to play its important role

in the protection of human rights."⁴ On the one hand, they resort to terrorists or anti-social elements, and on the other hand they face the displeasure of the security forces for publishing reports of issues like human rights violations. It seems that the police officers and army personnel have accepted their path as journalists. Many times the general information is refused to give information citing government secrecy or national security. People believe that human rights are mostly violated by the police. "If journalists expose the incident with appropriate facts, they are harassed only by saying that they are supporters of militant factions."⁵

It is a bitter fact that the press relationship with the police has been tense in all parts of the country. When journalists write about police stagnation, inaction, rape, genocide and poor law and order etc., they start getting caught in the eyes of big police officers. Therefore, the media is unable to play its strong role due to the unsavory attitude of the police. While the main responsibility for the protection of human rights rests with the police, the irony is that incidents of human rights abuses by them are exposed day by day. It remains a matter of concern for the Human Rights Commission and the general workers and media that despite all the efforts, the arbitrariness of the police is not controlled. The highest number of human rights abuses in India are in police custody. Incidents of prisoners in police custody, incidents of sexual harassment of female prisoners and children continue to come to light from time to time. It is also a difficult task to register an FIR in the police stations of most states. The reason for this is that the in-charge of the police station does not want to bring forth the crimes that are coming up in their area. Due to this, tensions between media and police are open. Before the formation of the National Human Rights Commission, information about the pathetic condition of most of the jails was also not available. Even today, there is a lack of communication between the media and the prison system. As a result, incidents of human rights abuses do not come to light.

CONCLUSION

The scope of human rights is very wide. If we examine the role of media intensively, then we see many such examples. When in spite of complex circumstances, the media has done its duty well and given its successful commitment in the restoration of human rights. The role of media, its physical size and type of globalization has grown rapidly, but today it cannot be called fair and unbiased and neutral in any way, because media, business and politics have close relationship with each other. The role of media in democracy can only be meaningful if its

¹ Saraswat A. *Social Justice, human rights and police*. Agra: SRS Publications.

² Media and Human Rights - www.jagranguctiopn.com

³ Human Rights and Media - www.dharmapath.com

⁴ Human rights violation and Journalism- www.Newswriters.com

⁵ Hindi Media and Human Rights - www.Rachanakar.org.blog

ownership and management is democratic and transparent and conveys human rights. But the people associated with the media do not have detailed information about human rights. However, it is also true that human rights are necessary for the media itself. Today the media is also facing difficulty in functioning independently due to poor human rights situation. The media can provide a direction to society if they forget their vested interests and fulfill their responsibility. Media should show news of crime but do not avoid positive news. In addition to the evils spread in society, we should also show development. So that the common man is not immersed in despair that our country can never progress.

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