



Reporting Balochistan Conflict: An analysis of Professional Constraints on Journalists



Syed Atif Abbas Shirazi*

***Abstract:** This research was conducted to investigate the main causes, pressures that affect the media reporting on Baluchistan conflict. The researcher conducted interview and survey of different reporters, journalists and media managers who work on Balochistan Conflict for fair assessment. The target population in this study was working journalists, press club leaders. The researcher conducted face to face and telephonic interview for this project. This study addressed the important professional, political, religious, financial and military related issues that effect on reporting. In this study it is examined how Pakistani media report the Balochistan Conflict and how audience and readers react to this. The aim of this research was to get in depth understanding of the factors that put journalists at risk who cover Balochistan conflict. These problems have been examined in the light of the Model of "Hierarchal Influence Model introduced by Pamela Shoemaker & Stephen D. Reese. The methodology used for the study was semi-structured qualitative interviews.*

Key Words: Baluchistan Conflict, Reporting, Journalists, challenges.

Introduction

We usually think that media is an objective informer which is free from any constraints, influences and control. This is why there is often talk about media as the “Fourth Estate” that is supposed to balance state power and have an impact on public discourse. However, the image of newspapers or journalists being completely neutral is not entirely true (Kathrina, 2015).

The journalists have to face several hurdles that effect journalism and news writing. The first constraint is routines, meaning that the daily routine of a journalist, such as deadlines, resources etc. have an impact on the way an article is written. Journalists are also constrained by advertisers. Companies pay money for advertising space in newspapers or other media and therefore also have an interest in influencing the content of the articles in their favor. They might not want to be connected with a certain topic or they can threaten the newspapers with withdrawing their ads if the articles do not present their company in a positive light. This probably happens more often that we would think. The next constraint is about public relations.

* Reporter, Department of Jang Group of Publication, International Islamic University, Islamabad, Pakistan. Email: atifshirazi@yahoo.com

Another constraint on journalism is social environment. Journalists obviously are individuals that are not free from influences in their environment. They are part of an editorial department and they often let colleagues proofread their articles and do not really want to stick out of the Group, which is why they will be careful with the opinions they voice in articles. Also, their beliefs and opinions are formed and shaped by their social environment, i.e. family, friends, upbringing etc. which undeniably has an impact on their writing. Along with this goes the constraint audience. Journalists are writing for a specific audience that reads their paper. Depending on the newspaper, the structure of the audience can vary significantly. Their interests, educational and social background definitely play a role in the selection and presentation of news.

Another constraint on journalism is proprietors. Journalists do not have complete freedom in what they write, as they are also employees. Every newspaper has a certain editorial policy and political stands which shines through in the published articles and which journalists working for the newspaper have to adhere to. The influence of the proprietors can be more or less obvious depending on the newspaper and also depending on the country in which it is published, but it is definitely something journalists have to consider when writing an article.

Balochistan is the largest province of Pakistan. Total area of Balochistan is 347,190 square kilometers. It is the largest among all provinces but with very less population. The people living in Balochistan included of 27 major tribes and three ethnic groups. These are Paktoons, Brauhvi and Balochi (Hashmi, 2015). There are different ethnic groups living in Balochistan that are Punjabi, Baloch, Hazera's, Pashtuns, Urdu speakers, Sindhi and others (Zafar, 2015). Many countries are concerned in Balochistan because of its geographical importance (2012). Balochistan has become a prominent area for International competitors because of its land, which is favorable for quick access to markets as it is a gateway for International players to reach Central Asia and its resources and also it connects the Middle East and South Asia. Balochistan land has the capability to open the door for the commerce at crossroads. The interest of global players in this province is because of the presence of vast natural resources. Gwadar port is also valuable as it provides the nations to access them easily and also to reach the global market (R. Murtha, 2011).

Balochistan has exposed objections with the government since 1979 onwards. Their political leaders and lords are rigid towards central government. Few Baloch politicians have openly spoken about their bitterness and irritation towards the policies of central government, they have clearly stated that it is not possible for them to made adjustments with the central government and they desire for an independent Balochistan. The former Chief Minister of Balochistan Ata Ullah Mengal in an interview calls out at central government that we have challenged with internal war under Bhutto and Ayub. We thought that we are the people of Pakistan and at that

time we were devoted and loyal, but right now we have announced that there is no space for Baloch in Pakistan and now we are fighting for independence (Rabbani, 2006)

Since 2000 media has expanded in Balochistan. Quetta has become the provincial central of media activities. National networks like. Geo, The News, Express, Samaa, The Nation, ARY One World, Dawn News, Daily Times, Nawa-i-waqt and Dawn maintained their Bureau offices in Quetta city. In Quetta and major districts of Balochistan, National and International news networks are reachable to viewers via cable Tv distributors. In early 2010 PEMRA'S list of cable Tv distributors show 68 companies that are giving access to Tv channels in Baloch populated areas of Mastung, Khuzdar, Lasbela, Jafarabad, Magsi, Naseerabad, Sibi, Kharan and Bolan. While there are none in the districts of Pashtun like Pishin, Zhob, Loralai and Qilla Abdullah (2010, pp. 7-9)

According to a report presented by (International Federation of Journalists, 2013) there are more than 80 dailies and weeklies are printed. Most of them are published in Balochi language, three in Pashto and one in Brauhvi. All national TV channels, newspapers, national and international radios have bureaus in Quetta and other major cities of Balochistan. Approximately 500 to 600 are working in Balochistan, but mostly are part time journalists, only 140 of them are full-time journalists. 95 of these journalists are members with Balochistan Union of Journalists and Press Club Quetta. 425 journalists are registered voters with Baluchistan press club.

Objective of Study

The core objectives of the study are

- a. To identify the influence of political ideologies on conflict journalism.
- b. To understand the stimulus of socio economic and professional needs.
- c. To identify the threats from certain quarters that effect on conflict reporting.

Research Question

RQ1 How the security and Balouch Nationalist influence the reporting on Balouchistan conflict?

- a. How the security agencies influence/impact on conflict reporting on Balouchistan?
- b. How the Balouch Nationalist influence/impact on conflict reporting on Balouchistan?

RQ2 what are the important professional constraints on journalists when they report Balouchistan conflict.

RQ3 How the media organization's policies influence the reporting on Baluchistan conflict.

Limitations and Delimitations

The main purpose of this research was to find out the reasons of the concept, for these purposes those working journalists had been selected who were covering Balochistan

conflict and what kind of journalism is practiced in Balochistan and how journalists are working in a conflict affected province.

Significance

The research carry major position in field of journalism as it revealed some unanswered questions regarding the issues of journalists working in Balochistan. This study also points out the pressures, constraints and threats faced by journalists from several pressure groups. This study also indicates the sources of information that journalists use to verify their news. It also shows some important issues of journalists regarding their media organizations. This study also identifies the most dangerous areas for journalists in Balochistan and the kind of hazards over there. The findings of the study enhance journalist's decision making in reporting conflict areas. While if we look from academic perspective, this research explores some critical points regarding journalism in Balochistan that few other previous reports or researches were unable to highlight.

Literature Review

Since the 1990s, the conflict in Balochistan was almost buried and Baloch nationalists became part of national politics. The conflict was revived in 2006, when Nawab Akbar Bugti, a Baloch chieftain, was killed by the military forces of Pakistan for his alleged anti-Pakistan stance. The root cause of unrest in Balochistan lies in the realization among the people that their resources are being exploited without giving any benefit to them. The nationalists often cite the example of the Sui gas facility. The reservoirs of Sui natural gas were discovered in 1952, and the facility was extended throughout the country, but the only district in Balochistan to receive a gas facility was Quetta in 1986, and that, too, was limited to the cantonment areas.

Likewise, with other minerals that are being extracted, the center gets a major share of the profits and the province languishes in poverty and economic deprivation. Nonetheless, the political and economic grievances are eminently resolvable, for example by giving greater devolution; permitting Balochistan to control its natural resources, including fixing the price at which these commodities sell; investing in human resource development and expanding access to electricity and gas. (Shabir Hussain 2017) Increasing insurgencies and reporting conflict has been posing a variety of threats and challenges to the journalists in Balochistan. Many journalists have been killed, threatened, kidnapped or injured while reporting on deteriorating situation of Balochistan. Journalists who are engaged in Balochistan are threatened by various state and non-state actors.

(Ricchiardi 2012) views that journalists engaged in reporting Balochistan conflict are threatened by various groups. There are many groups to stop journalist's *exempli gratia* anti-nationalist groups, tribal lords, separatist groups, the frontier corps, intelligence agencies, religious armed groups and many others. Akbar (2011) viewed that Balochistan is a

conflict zone and functioning as a journalist in Balochistan is very challenging task. He added that Baloch people frequently grumbled that I am not showing their gloomy pictures to the world. On the other hand government officials claimed that I am continuously contributing in view of Baloch people. So there is an atmosphere of lack of trust because there are many parties in a conflict zone, so it is difficult for people to recognize who is in their favor and who is against them. Journalists engaged in conflict reporting have to face many problems. Especially when they have to face many barriers like lack of information about the victims in a conflict, no access to the area of conflict and when both parties engaged in a conflict are not ready to trust them. They have to suffer from various challenges. And the major challenge for them is to survive from trauma (Aslam, 2014).

As they witness the conflict so they are affected in numerous ways. The local journalists are much concerned about the consequences of their reporting that what will happen to them. They are also worried about their families, and insecurity of job after the story is being published. Same is the case with the journalists working in Balochistan. In reviewing the literature, the researcher will discuss the cases of violence against journalists while performing their duties specifically the journalists of Balochistan, a conflict affected province.

All the reporters covering Balochistan conflict agreed that they have security issues. They cannot properly report on foreign influences, separatist groups, sectarian groups, militants and army. They have to be wary of the consequences of their reporting as it could not harm them only but it can also cause harm to their families. As there are many groups in

Balochistan, so they have to be watchful of their reports because if they report about insurgents, the agencies say we work with them and if we reflect the opinion of agencies, then the separatists label us as state agents (Hussain, 2015)

A special report (2011) compiled by the Intermedia Pakistan states that Journalists need to be wary of consequences of their reports. They have to sort out how to save their lives. This report states that 14 journalists are killed in Balochistan in 4 years since 2008. The report also reveals that the journalists gather 'in Kabir building Quetta's fleet to discuss whether to report about Lashkar-e-Jhangvi² claimed about the responsibility for sectarian violence in Quetta. It is also narrated that reporting such issues are very substantial decision for journalists. The whole conversation among journalists in these situations revolves around what stories should be carried and what should be wasted. Because journalists in Balochistan are threatened by various groups and they are very careful about the consequences of publishing a news story. Report presented an example of a photo- journalist to demonstrate how journalists in Balochistan are under pressure from state and non-state actors. A photo journalist took the picture of a Baloch leader Shah Zain Bugti in 2010 while he was arrested by authorities. That picture was

about dragging Shah Zain by a police man. After releasing that picture the photo journalist was told by the police man that his life is in danger because of that picture and the photo journalist was also questioned by the Frontier corps³ for releasing this picture. Report further added that the TV reporter says that we are in a situation where we have no way to escape, as we don't know which report can make us antagonist.

A report by Amnesty International (2014) has shared same concerns regarding the security challenges faced by journalists in the line of their job. It has focused on 73 incidents of abuses that journalists face in response of their duty. This report is based on field work in Pakistan between 2011 and 2014. It includes interviews of over 100 journalists, media workers and their relatives by using their assumed names for security. This report reveals that Pakistan's media is under the influence of powerful people and how they use their power to stop the voices of suppressed. Report states that there is a climate of impunity in Pakistan that is utterly destructive for journalist to perform their duties freely. The climate of impunity is the reason of harassment and attacks on journalists (Dietz, 2013).

Baloch armed groups have made the environment terrible for journalists. Reporters without Borders⁶ litigated that Baloch armed groups are responsible for threatening and killing of journalists. The organization listed Baloch armed group as Press freedom predators⁷. Also these armed groups are responsible for violating freedom of information. Where there is a conflict, no matter whether there is an International media or local media to cover that conflict, it is a very difficult task for journalists to cover that conflict. As this is the era of globalization so there is a trend of breaking the news first, so in this competition there is a constant pressure on journalists to focus immediately on most aggressive, sensational and substantial incidents. The most critical issue for the journalists in conflict zones is that they became a victim in cross fire. According to the report presented by CPJ over the last ten years, 337 journalists who were covering conflict were killed. Report states that 244 journalists were killed because of their reporting while 67 became the victim of crossfire. It shows that Journalists were killed with the high level of impunity. While local journalists who are covering conflict are extremely exposed to threats (Puddephat, 2006). All incidents show that there is a rise in crimes against journalists and the criminals are given impunity. To end this culture, there is a need to take serious action. It is necessary to ensure journalists safety. Stolte (2015) says that journalist's physical protection must be ensured in a conflict zone. They are at risk because of their job. Also technological advancements have brought many challenges for journalists covering war zones. As in modern era, journalists are required to get closer to the battle in order to capture it and collect information for masses. Denying access to journalists in a conflict zone is not a solution of this problem. Denying journalistic access in a conflict zone means depriving masses from information. People don't have access to information of battle field unless journalists provide them that information. It states that Geneva conventions and its additional protocols are giving protections to

journalists and journalists should be given protection as stated in Article 79 of Protocol I of the Geneva Conventions but these conventions are too old. Researcher argues that in spite of these legal frameworks, attacks on journalists are continued. These frameworks should be practiced in order to bring change. It is also noted that the failure of protecting journalists in a conflict zone is because of old legal work but there is a high level of impunity for crimes against journalists. The three main mass media are radio, newspaper and television.

⁶ It is a non-profit International body located in Paris, which focuses on journalists safety 'and freedom of media, especially those who are working in conflict areas Retrieved on March 20, 2016, from en.rsfor.org/

There is a direct and indirect influence of government on mass media that affects the working of mass media. So the control of government on mass media in terms of finance, granting licenses and other rewards make it difficult for mass media to project the view that is not in favor of pay masters. If they reflect paymasters view they are criticized by the audiences and if they don't reflect the opinion of pay masters, they would face the consequences. So the mass media is operating in a very distressing environment (Nawaz, 1983).

In conflict coverage, journalists have to manage the news report. They cannot disregard criticisms on their side or quality news from their foes. Journalists cannot neglect such news. As a consequence of conflict journalist like other people became a victim (Reimarm, 2002). During 2001, 100 journalists and media persons were killed according to (IFJ) International Federation of journalists. Their deaths do not only take place in conflict zones but they were also targeted.

So reporting on war and conflicts is very frightening as it put journalists at risk. Some journalists might stay aside from dangerous situation but those who are properly engaged in their reporting, they are affected in numerous ways. Many journalists have been killed in the line of duty. Many of them got injured and some got injured badly. It was also noticed that not only the journalists were targeted but those who were supporters like drivers, cameraman and others were also targeted. During the decade 1995-2004, 341 journalists were killed during their work, reported by CPJ. Their research also shows that since 1995 the majority journalists killed were not those who came in cross fire, majority were murdered. 247 were murdered and 68 journalists lost their lives in a cross fire (Webster, 2006, pp. 117,118). When there is a conflict, it intensifies the role of journalists to inform the masses. As media have a power of making public opinion, so journalists are refrained from many sides so that the public can't get the clear picture of the happenings.

Theoretical Framework

This study has adopted the Hierarchical Influence Model in mass communication, the Hierarchical Influences Model, is an organized theoretical framework introduced by Pamela Shoemaker &

Stephen D. Reese. By considering the need, nature and objective of this research project, Influence Model will be used. It comprises five levels of influence on media content from the macro to micro levels: social systems, social institutions, media organizations, routine practices, and individuals.

Social System of Influence

Content is influenced by the social systems or ideologies of societies. The macro social systems level is the outer-most ring of the model that represents the influences from social systems as a whole. This level focus on how ideological forces shape and influence media content. For this reason, it is often employed in cross-national comparative media studies.

Social Institutional Level of Influence

Where content is influenced by such factors as a markets, audiences, advertisers, and interest groups. Social institutional level describes influences coming from larger trans-organizational media field. How media organizations combine into larger institutions that become part of larger structured relationships that compete or depend on each other as powerful social institutions.

The Routine Level of Influence

The routines level has three sources of routines, which constrain and enable communicators in their work process: audiences, organizations, and suppliers of content. Journalists have developed routines from endless pattern of norms in response to common situations. This level is where Mr. Gates or gatekeeping (communication) theory is also applied in journalists' jobs.

Methodology

This research has adapted the qualitative method to investigate that what are the challenges for journalists working in Balochistan. What are the factors that affect their reporting and also risking their lives? The purpose of qualitative method is to have an in-depth understanding of the issue under study. For this purpose semi-structured interviews were conducted, follow up questions were added according to the responses of the interviewees. By using Semi-structured interviews with open ended questions there are a number of questions that are to be asked and a divergence space (Wicker, 2008, p. 195).

So interviewee's information enables the researcher to understand the ideological motives of the pressure groups. How they use media as a tool for propaganda and to promote their interests. Interviewees also clarify that how they are pressurized from different groups for their own purposes. They have pressures from their organizations, their family, Baloch separatist groups and even from their district administration. They have no choice in such circumstances,

either they have to promote the interests of different groups, or may self-censor themselves, leave Balochistan or lose their lives. As a result interviewees were very helpful and encouraging for a researcher to understand the unique hazards in Balochistan and the challenges posed to journalists working there.

The aim of the study was to achieve in-depth understanding of the concept that is being achieved by semi-structured interviews.

Research Method

The research study presents an in-depth understanding of the issue the study that has been carried out via thematic analysis of semi-structured interviews.

Researcher conducted comprehensive interviews of 25 journalists covering Balochistan conflict. These journalists were from district Khuzdar, Nushki, Quetta, Gawadar, Panjgur, Awaran, Kharan, Turbat, Pishin, Kech. 2 Journalist was from Islamabad and USA. These journalists were from both print and electronic media.

Their organizations are Daily Mashriq, INP(International News Press), Dunya Tv, Daily Intikhab, Vash Tv, Neo Tv, BBC(Urdu Service), Daily Quadrat, ARY news, APP, Daily Bakhbar, Voice of America, Daily Jang, Dawn, News agency online, 92 HD, Aaj Tv, NNI (News Network International), Capital news, Express Tribune and Roznama Bakhbar.

Interview Sampling

Sampling is a subset of the population that is representative of the entire population (Roger D.Wimmer).³² Journalists were contacted for interview by using purposive and snowball sampling. Journalists of Balochistan and those who are covering Balochistan conflict were chosen to gain information for research study.

To approach the journalists working in Balochistan was difficult task, researcher tries to get information from the Islamabad based journalist who are covering Balochistan beats and press club from the internet. But no contact information was available on internet regarding the Press clubs of Balochistan, not even the Press Club Quetta. By calling Balochistan point, researcher told them about details and the purpose of calling.

So the researcher took the contact number of Press Club Quetta from Balochistan point. By calling Press Club Quetta, researcher took the contact number of President Press club and he was requested to provide few more numbers. Few numbers were taken from the journalists of Vash TV. At the end of the interview, each interviewee was requested to refer some of his fellow journalist.

Though it was a large number to interview in a very short time as this is an academic research and there was a short span of time to complete this research. But it was expected that maybe some

would back out to participate or might be unavailable. 1 decline to participate due to security reasons, 3 of them were not reachable due to network issue and 4 journalists were not picking call and even they don't reply to the text messages. So the researcher was left with 25 journalists who agree to do interview. So these 25 journalists provide depth of information regarding this issue.

It was intended to take interviews on phone or via skype, as it was not possible for the researcher to go to Balochistan in a very short span of time. So 21 interviews from Balochistan were held via telephone, one interview from USA was also telephonic, as on skype the voice quality was not good so the researcher requested the journalist to do the interview via phone. 3 journalists residing in Islamabad were asked about the locations where they feel comfortable. 2 of them (a husband and his wife) opted for home or where a researcher feels convenient. So due to a very short span of time researcher opted for telephonic interview. One interview was conducted in two sessions that last for two hours. This interview was conducted in Geo news office and second session was conducted in Press Club Rawalpindi. All interviews were conducted in Urdu, only one interview was in English.

Mobile was used for recording interviews, as it was comfortable for the researcher. All transcriptions were done by the researcher using verbatim transcript and edits the sound, pauses and non-verbal responses.

Interviews analysis

Interviews were analyzed by using thematic analysis, as based on the Braun and Clarke (2006). Thematic analysis was flexible to use. According to (Virginia Braun, 2006) it is easy and quick method. It is understandable to the researcher with little or no experience of qualitative research. Questionnaire was made on the basis of (Pamela Shoemaker, 1996) Hierarchy of Influence Model. Researcher did the first level of coding for own ease to identify main themes. Based on five factors of Pamela Shoe Maker model, few themes were identified from the

Data analysis

During the interviews, participants described how they are pressurized from different groups. They discussed the challenges they have to face every day while reporting on Balochistan.

Competition among media groups to break the news first

Talking about the structural issues of media, a journalist stated that the competition among media groups is putting journalists in harm as I have an example of such event when 2 or 3 years back our channel forced their correspondents to go for coverage of bomb blast in Quetta. When they rushed there, a second blast occurred and three journalists lost their lives in this

incident. In this way competition is putting journalists in harm. Also they are losing credibility due to breaking news. He added that journalists are not even paid by media channels.

"In our country journalism is not a mission; it's just a machine for making money". In competition every channel is lying. Now media groups are in competition for their personal interests, they don't bother public. "We talk about the freedom of press but it does not exist even in our own organizations". Another journalist while talking about the competition among media groups clearly stated that it is very important question, it is not just an issue in Balochistan, it is everywhere in Pakistan. For example If there is a bomb blast anywhere in Pakistan or any terrorist activity, it is the priority of media workers, reporters, cameraman or a non-journalist staff like DSN operators and technicians to reach that spot as soon as possible. Because there is a pressure from news room to reach that spot before the others reached there. And they demand breaking news and a video footage of that event. We reached that place even before police, ambulances and other law enforcement agencies. But the dangerous thing is that when we reach at such places immediately, according to the strategy of terrorists they drop second bomb after 15 or 20 minutes. It has happened many times. So this is harmful for journalists.

Misleading headline by untrained editors' causes harm for journalists

Few journalists claimed that sometimes a headline given by a news editor or an anchor read is a cause for journalists killing in some cases. Few cases are demonstrated here:

A journalist stated that there is a case of Dr Chishti Mujahid, he lost his life in target killing. He wrote articles for Akhbar e Jahan. He did not write anything wrong in an article but the sub-editor sitting in Karachi made such headline that became a cause of his killing. The reader is not aware that who is the publisher and who is making headline. They just know who the writer is. So due to the mistake of that editor, Chishti Mujahid lost his life. So the editors should be trained also. This is also putting journalist's life at risk.

Another journalist who is a victim, stated that he was targeted due to the ticker, which was an anchor read. In my story I mentioned firing between the Frontier Corps (FC) and unknown persons. While the anchor uttered my story in her own words and said "Firing took place between terrorists and FC". Due to this anchor read I was targeted. So care should be taken by the editorial staff that their mistake can harm the journalists working in conflict areas.

Organizational Policy regarding Balochistan issue

Another journalist stated that my news organization expects me to present the reality. But we watch our national interest also. They also told us to include the perspective of the opposing party also. We can't take the perspective of banned organizations. But we include the perspective of

government or civilian. My organization told me that don't give such news that can harm others.

No training of conflict reporting by channels

Most of the journalists claimed that they have not given the training of conflict reporting by their channels. But most of them have attended workshops and conflict reporting seminars organized by Inter-news, Inter-media, Pakistan Press Foundation (PPF), Individual land, PFUJ, National Press Club Islamabad, and other media related NGO's. Few journalists working with International media like British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and Voice of America (VOA) told that they are trained by their media organizations.

No security measures provided by channels before going to a conflict site

Majority of the journalists while talking about the security measures claimed that they are not provided with any security measure while going for a conflict reporting. Only three journalists engaged with International media claimed that they are given security measures before going to a conflict site.

A journalist stated that I was affiliated with British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). They have a proper procedure. No matter it's significant to report on a conflict you have to take permission before going for a conflict reporting. You have to fill a security form of 30 to 32 pages. It consists of every detail, where are you going, contact numbers of that area's hospital, police and administration. Contact number of the person who is receiving

It is mentioned in the security form that you are availing a bullet proof jacket, a car, fuel, water, food each and everything. Even it is asked whether you have a mobile phone or a satellite phone or a mobile charger. It is also inquired that whether there is a network issue at that place where you are going for reporting. If there is a network problem, they wouldn't let you go. They are concerned about your security. On the other hand, local media is not concerned about journalist's security, or maybe they don't want to spend money.

Camera is insured but a journalist is not insured

Few journalists claimed that their cameras are insured but they are not insured. When there is a bomb blast, a journalist put his life in danger while putting him in front line, when everyone is running from that place, a journalist is going towards that place to cover it. They are forced by their organizations to do it. It means for their media owners' journalists have no value but a camera is more valuable.

Another journalist stated that we are told by our media organization (BBC) that your life is more important than any news. Whenever you feel you are in danger because of a specific report, leave that news. While our national media don't bother us, they say keep the camera safe. Camera is insured while a journalist is not insured.

No salary from media organizations

Journalists of Balochistan who were interviewed claimed that they are not paid by their media channels. Those who are engaged with International media are paid. But majority is not paid. They are doing honorary journalism. When a researcher asked a journalist that when you are not paid by media channels, why don't you quit this profession? A journalist replied no doubt we are not paid but due to journalism we have a respect in our area. Tribal elders, politicians and other groups value us and sometimes our matters are solved on this basis, as journalist have some sort of influence. So some journalists have chosen this profession for this reason. But still there are many journalists in Balochistan who are journalists because they love the profession, and they want to serve the public.

Journalist's perspective

According to a journalist, "in every workshop and seminar I raised the question about journalist's safety. And every time I got a same answer that we are doing it. But there are not as such safety measures taken by the Government for journalist's safety in Balochistan".

"No steps for journalist's safety has been taken till now". (R10) stated that if I talk about my district, no steps for journalist's life and job security has been taken till now. These statements are just limited to talk shows and newspapers but they are not implemented".

Executive perspective

When asked for any initiatives taken for journalists safety till now, they stated that "The big media houses like Jang, Express and Dawn. They have appointed four security personnel's to secure their buildings in Quetta only. But in interior Balochistan there are no such measures. In Quetta, big media houses have walk through gates, scanners and metal detectors for security purpose. On the other hand media organizations have requested the government to provide us policemen for security. But we can't afford them, as we can't give provide them food and shelter. Being a President I support this thing that government and law enforcement agencies have allowed four security personnel's to big media houses and one for the small media houses. Government has allotted five policemen to Press Club Quetta."

He added "We are trying to buy walkthrough gates, scanners, because government can't do that. But we are justified as there is only one Press club in provincial capital, so they can allot us these safety measures". While if we demand metal detectors and walk through gates for 36 or 40

organizations, it is not possible for the government to allocate such things. Government has arranged meetings with us regarding media safety. They have devised a system that will help in case of emergency. Federal government have also wrote a letter to the home department that we need to talk to media houses and Press clubs and will introduce a software for journalist's safety.

Hub managers in Press Club Quetta: an initiative

Freedom Network (IFJ) has made hub managers in Lahore, Krachi, Dera Ismail Khan, Peshawar and Quetta Press Club. This is one development work done so far. They made agreement with Press Clubs that the hub manager will sit in Press club and he will report the threats in interior and will make their cases. He will check the level of threat and relocate that journalist for 2 or 4 months or sometime to other area until the situation gets better. Secondly they have provided modern type equipment to press clubs where our data will remain save and no one could break that code.

Life insurance for Press club members

According to the President Press Club Quetta, we don't have funds. We have arranged life insurance for Press club members. They have to pay 9000 Rs per year to Press clubs, half amount would be paid by Press club and half would be paid by the member. This will cover life insurance. Those journalists who were killed, their families are granted 20 lac rupees by Press Club Quetta. Even big media houses pay 10 lac for compensation and newspaper did not pay even a single penny.

Press Club Criteria for Compensation

Press club can't make every journalist a member. Those who don't have appointment letters and press cards, we can't make them members. So we just compensate the amount of 2 million rupees for regular members. Press Club and BUJ have also raised the issue and we requested government to raise the amount from 10 to 20 lacs, as we don't have enough funds. We have compensated 12 victims till now and there are still 24 to go.

Funds from the Government

Government has given us a fund of 3 crore. We made a journalists welfare fund from this amount. President Press club, President BUJ, Government official and Director Public Relation will grant this fund to the journalist if he became ill or died. We provide 50,000 immediately to their family for funeral purpose or for health issues. If a journalist's wife or a children became ill. We will give them 20 to 30,000 or 50,000 Rs. It varies according to the circumstances. 3crore is not an enough amount. We are trying to expand it to 10 or 15 crore. The purpose is that in this scheme we will exclude those reporters who are getting 50,000 salaries or a Bureau chief who is getting

1 lac. In this scheme we will consider those who are working with newspapers in just 3000 Rs and those who are DSNG's driver in just 6000 Rs.

Three most dangerous districts of Balochistan for reporting

When it was asked from the journalists to nominate three most dangerous districts for reporting in Balochistan, they nominated Khuzdar, Panjgur, Turbat, Quetta, Kech, Kalat, Kharan, Dera Bugti. A journalist said "Khuzdar is on the top list because eight journalists have been killed there. And according to the "International and local media khuzdar is considered as the graveyard for journalists".

Kinds of hazards in these districts

According to the majority of journalists the hazards in these areas are based on nationalism. Few were of the view that there are political hazards also. Some said there are religious hazards in Quetta. Few were of the view that there are tribal issues.

Background knowledge of the conflict

Most of the journalists were aware from the background of a conflict, as they were from that area. But few journalists claimed that they don't have background knowledge of the conflict.

Journalist's tribe and language

Journalists who were interviewed belongs to Sheikh (speaks Balochi), Rind (speaks Balochi), Mohammad hasni (speaks Balochi), Zehri (speaks Balochi), Mengal (speaks Brauhvi) Tareen (speaks Pashto) one journalist was Punjabi, Kubdani(speaks Brauhvi, Balochi), Math (speaks Balochi language) Mengal (speaks Brauhvi), Shawani (speaks Brauhvi), Buledi (speaks Balochi), Jamal dini (speaks Balochi, Brauhvi) tribes. Two journalists said that we are Balochi but we don't belong to any tribe.

Political affiliations

According to a journalist political associations of journalists have damaged this profession. Those who are affiliated with any political party or tilt, I think they don't write. They don't raise public issues. (R8) is of view that political affiliations of journalists affect their reporting to larger extent, because if a journalist is affiliated with political party than his reporting would be biased. (R5) states "If a journalist is affiliated with some political party than I don't consider him a journalist, he is a spokesperson of that party".

Another journalist stated that when a journalist is affiliated with any political party whether he sides with his party or not, no one trusts him. So a journalist should be free from all influences and biases. He stated that a journalist should be impartial. If a journalist have political affiliations at local level than he will lose his credibility, because when there is a matter of their party's interest than he would be biased.

Lobbies

According to the majority of journalists, in Balochistan there are so many groups in threatening journalists to influence their reporting. According to (R19), there are almost ten groups in Balochistan that might be targeting a journalist.

Groups involved in threatening journalists in Balochistan

Most of the journalists were of the view that separatists, religious extremist and all banned organizations are actively involved in threatening journalists. Threats come from various groups according to the situation. They are threatened by warlords and political groups also. According to a journalist, I have never faced any problem or threats from security forces. I received threats from three groups. First time I was threatened by LeJ, second time I received threats from the separatist group. After that I receive threats from the Government of Balochistan in Aslam Rissani's government, during Dr. Malik rule and present Sana ullah Zehri's government.

Ideological motives of pressure groups in threatening journalists

According to most of the journalists there are different motives of pressure groups. They desire to create terror among people and to promote their view. While most of the journalists agree that in Balochistan the ideological motives of pressure groups is to promote nationalism.

Audiences

Most of the journalists stated that they try to give the priority to audience issues but due to the policies of their media organizations, they can't report on public issues. So in case of Balochistan issues of public are mostly ignored by media organizations. Public is under pressure from every side.

Discussion and Conclusion

In this study it is revealed that there are so many groups that intervene the reporting of journalists. They face a lot of pressures from all sides. The study supports the five factors of Hierarchal Influence "presented by Pamela Shoe Maker and Raeeses. It is derived from the

interviews that there are many challenges to the journalists working in Balochistan. But the present study selected the journalists working in Balochistan to reveal the different issues of journalists working in Balochistan. Some other contributing factors identified in this study were that in Balochistan there are freedom movements, there are religious outfits. All the state and non-state actors are involved in influencing journalists and their work. Another important factor

Identified from this study is that the journalists of Balochistan are not paid by their organizations. There are part time journalists also, who claim that they are not paid by their organizations so they do part time jobs for raising their child's. Even they have no life security. Here journalist's families are also targeted in revenge. There is a rise of target killings of journalists in Balochistan. It proves that journalists have to face the problems due to the competition among media groups, and the selection of stories by editors, sometimes they face threats due to the headline made by the editor. Most of the times the background of a news story is not given as the space are given to advertisements (Blasi, 2004, p. 3). In Balochistan journalists don't have facilities to move to other districts due to the vast distance. So in those areas where journalists can't go, they rely on their sources and if the source information is not accurate it loses their credibility (Blasi, 2004). Journalists face pressure from political groups and lobbies involved in a conflict. Somehow journalist's personal bias also affects his news report. But many journalists stated that if you are a journalist than you have no religion, no ethnicity, no language and no political affiliations.

A journalist doesn't sides with anyone. There are very few cases who are engaged in such activities. Many journalists were of the view that the issue of non-payment is also considerable, due to non-payment sometimes they have no option rather to accept the offers of warlords. This also affects their reporting. So the findings support the Pamela model. Basic research question was that the journalists working in Balochistan conflict are under pressure from different groups. The findings of the research reveal that the journalists working in Balochistan are pressurized from different groups to promote their view. The motive was confirmed that militant groups are targeting journalists just because of that they wanted them to publish their dictations as it is.

A very important finding derived from interview is that most journalists agree that the situation come to much better from Army operations, still there are threats but they are lessen in numbers. Due to this operation they are engaged in their own matters. They are worried about their lives. So in this way they don't keep eye on journalists and journalists are save now. There was a time when they gathered in front of Press clubs and raise slogans and abuse journalists. Now they speak in a very modest way due to this army operation.

One of the main finding obtained from the interviews is that the journalists stated that lobbies are influencing their work. This includes land mafia, insurgents, religious groups, political groups, Baloch nationalists and the local administration.

As it was explained that media in Balochistan is under massive pressure. Balochistan is a conflict zone and law and order situation in Balochistan is not very good. Many groups and terrorist organizations are active in Balochistan. There are the freedom movements, there are separatists, religious extremists, warlords, there are nationalists and also the drug dealers and International actors are also active in this region. So in such circumstances the role of journalists is vital to inform the public. But in such situation it become very dangerous for a journalist to perform their duty fairly, as every group wanted them to project their view and they don't want to be highlighted for their malpractices. So they stop journalists from doing this and they use every mean to stop them. In Balochistan, journalists have been targeted, even their families were targeted. Two journalists were listed in forth schedule list. There are many cases where journalists relocated for their safety.

Recommendations

On the basis of interviews, few recommendations have been suggested for journalists working in Balochistan. According to (RE4) now journalists have to struggle. They should report by keeping self-constraints in their minds. Self-censorship is totally black out. I recommend them not to impose self-censorship. They should publish news by keeping self-constraints. Don't quote the references of people and organizations in your news report. Convey your message to the public without mentioning the name of people and organizations involved in malpractices. A journalist should be sensible. He should know the red line, as is invisible. So journalist must feel it and do his job by keeping himself in in a circle and not crossing that red line.

The journalists should be careful about their safety. I advise them if they go for conflict reporting, inform the management and your near dear, don't share your plan with anyone. Journalist should wear the dress of that area, where he is going for reporting. If you are going to Khuzdar, you must carry contact number of that area's administration, politicians and security forces. So if you are in trouble, you can contact them for rescue. Journalists should carry the map of that area, so that if you have to leave the area, you are aware of exit points.

- There is a dire need of training journalists that are engaged in reporting Balochistan.
- Insurance of Journalists should be necessary by their organization
- Appointment letters should be given to journalists.
- Journalists should be given security measures before going to a conflict area.
- Journalists should be paid by their organizations.
- Media organizations should highlight the issues of impunity of crimes against journalists.

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