



HAWASSA UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

**ANALYSING THE PRACTICES AND CHALLENGES OF
INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM ON GOVERNMENT MEDIA IN
ETHIOPIA: *NEQASH* PROGRAM OF SRTA IN FOCUS**

**MASTERS THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
JOURNALISM AND COMMUNICATION**

**IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR
THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN JOURNALISM AND
MASS COMMUNICATION**

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

SRTA- South Radio and Television Agency

ETV- Ethiopian Television

EBC- Ethiopian Broadcast Corporation

AMMTA- Amara Mass Media Television Agency

OBN- Oromia Broadcasting Network

TBC- Tigray Broadcasting Corporation

DWT- Dimtse Weyane Television

TPLF- Tigray People Liberation Front

UDHR -Universal Declaration of Human Rights

ICCPR -International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

IRE -Investigative reporters and Editors

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Abstract

The mass media, most significantly through its news, reporting, and analysis, affects what and how we learn about reality, hidden facts, and political views. Investigative journalism has been contributing to the realization of democracy, good governance, and human rights. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to analyse the practice and challenges of investigative journalism in the South Radio and Television Agency's Neqash Program. The target population of the study was managers, editor-in-chiefs, editors, senior reporters, media experts, and producers. The researcher employed a descriptive research method. The research approach of the study was qualitative. To get relevant information, qualitative content analysis of sample news stories, and key informant interviews were applied as specific methods in the study. Regarding the Neqash programme, the result of the study showed that it is attempting to practice investigative journalism, although it is in an early stage. Neqash program primarily focuses on government institutions like land issues, corruption, and irregularities to promote good governance and democracy. It also relies on society, government bodies, and secondary sources like documents. The study also identified that lack of qualified journalists who were committed to this assignment, lack of logistics, lack of adequate training, organizational pressure, external interference such as political and financial, absence of incentives for investigative journalists, absence of protection for the journalist, and poor public participation as a source of information are the major challenges while practicing investigative journalism in the station, in particular the Neqash program.

Key words *investigative, journalism, south radio and television agency, Neqash program*

CHAPTER ONE

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

The media are the bridge between the government and the governed, as well as the mouthpiece of society. A basic duty of media professionals in every society is to be a civic watchdog whose mission is to uncover secrets and issues and keep the government accountable to society. As observed by Muckraking (2006), achieving this often demands investigation and in-depth work, which requires researching, digging deeply, interviewing, and writing. Mass media, therefore, refer to channels of communication that involve transmitting information in some way to large numbers of people. This definition, however, lacks a specification of the exact minimum number to be called a “large number” which would qualify as a “mass”.

The primary purpose of journalism is to provide citizens with the information they need to be free and self-governing. By reporting on government, business, and powerful institutions, journalists, one way or another, give citizens the information they need to make informed decisions (*Pearson, 2004*). To play the watchdog role of society, investigative journalism has its own important contribution. Investigative journalism deals with following in the footsteps of the government and private individuals to know whether they are on the right track or not and inform the public immediately. “Investigative journalism involves exposing to the public matters that are concealed either deliberately by someone in a position of power or accidentally, behind a chaotic mass of facts and circumstances that obscure understanding” (*Hunter, 2011*).

According to *Feldstein (2006)*, investigative journalism has been contributing to the realisation of democracy, good governance, and human rights. It is considered a vital bulwark of democracy as a way of checking for wrongdoing in politics and public policies. It is clearly stated that people should know where their rulers are through the media. In this regard, *O'Neill (1992)* says “In a democratic system, the primary

function of the media is to act as a watchdog over government”. After the emergence of investigative journalism in the US and Britain, global and regional networks of investigative journalists, backed by donors and fuelled by globalisation and an explosion in data and communications technology, are growing increasingly effective and sophisticated. Journalists are linking up as never before to collaborate on stories involving international crime, unaccountable businesses, environmental degradation, safety and health problems, and other hard-to-report issues. Strategic investments in investigative journalism programmes can have a significant positive impact in a wide range of countries, including those in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. Such funding will be most effective if it is long-term and integrated into broader initiatives that include legal reform and freedom of information (Kaplan, 2013).

In most sub-Saharan African countries, the beginning of investigative journalism was linked with the second wave of democratisation in the 1990s, which led to the introduction of free elections and multi-party democracy. It also brought new private media and attempts to transform state broadcasters into public service broadcasters (Lublinsk, 2015). However, media freedom in most African countries is still limited. The economic and professional situation in African newsrooms is generally difficult. These media houses have limited means and capacity to support reporters. Overall, the preconditions are not conducive to investigative journalism (Lublinsk and Spurk, 2015). According to Nigussie (2008), in the Ethiopian context, the practice of investigative journalism has been directly related to the political systems that have existed in different governments. In the feudal period, there was no possible condition that enabled professionals to participate in such business. In the Derg regime, there were some activities involving disclosing hidden facts that had an impact on the lives of the people. For instance, a programme entitled “*Keminayew Keminisemaw*,” i.e., from what we see and hear, which dealt with exposing irregularities, corruption, and other related issues, was transmitted by the Ethiopian radio.

Since 1991, different media outlets have been investigating various issues occasionally and/or permanently. In this regard, programmes like ‘*Aynachin and ke tezegaw dosie*,

which were transmitted by ETV, can be taken as example. Concerning the practice of investigative journalism in Ethiopian media, there is now somehow a conducive environment, but a little attempt when compared to the past (Bereket, 2012). All the above-mentioned countries applied investigative journalism to expose corruption, crime, and governments' deviant activities on the public, maladministration, and digging out the hidden stories for the large public. And this needs the journalists' commitment, knowledge, time, and money. Investigation may not be the work that could be finished overnight. During the 1970s, the high-profile Watergate investigation in America is the best example to show how the implementation of investigative journalism was so difficult for journalists.

South Radio and Television Agency was established in 2006 E.C. and re-named South Radio and Television Organization. South Radio and Television Agency is a large media organisation serving more than fifty societies. It has a complex administrative arrangement. South Radio and Television Agency is a large media station with a huge capital of operation. The agency gathers, produces, and presents news and programmes to society on broadcast (radio and television) and new media.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

According to Kaplan (2013), the job of the journalist is to expose corruption and deceit in public office and to act as a key mechanism of public accountability in a democracy. For journalists to operate like this, they must be able to extract information from people who do not want it revealed. For this, journalists need resources, and they need to be free of direct commercial and/or political pressure. Investigative journalism is one of the basic responsibilities of public service journalism. It helps make the powerful accountable for their actions. Investigative journalism requires the in-depth, systematic use of original research and reporting; it often uses large amounts of data and documents. It uses public records to find out what is going on. It also involves the baring of secrets; it makes information that had previously been hidden in the public

domain available. Finally, it places a strong emphasis on social justice and accountability (Kaplan, 2013).

Investigative journalists need to look beyond individuals; the best investigative work exposes not just individuals but also systematic failures. Investigative reports show how individual wrongs are part of a large pattern of negligence or abuse and the system that makes them possible. They examine what went wrong and show who suffered from the mistakes. They probe not just what is criminal or illegal but also what may be legal and overboard but nonetheless harmful (Cornel, 2010). The scope of investigative journalism is not only about corruption and crime but also encompasses stories that demystify how systems work, fail, or construct a complex event (Fleeson, 1998).

According to Muckraking A. (2006), investigative reporting is an essential arm of journalism. It seeks to expose wrongdoing and spark change. As such, it remains a critical tool for the media to hold power accountable. He also noted that investigative journalism is an important component in fighting corruption and organised crime, and most importantly, it gives power to the people and holds those who wield power accountable. Investigative journalism is arguably the most important genre of journalism and yet the most endangered of them all. He reviewed that in an ideal democratic society, investigative journalism should be a useful agenda-setter, a catalyst for change, operate in a media-friendly environment without pressures of ownership, and more importantly, fulfil its social responsibility of holding power to account.

As Bereket (2012) described, there is little attempt to practice investigative journalism in Ethiopia. The practice is sometimes fleeting (momentary) and sometimes disappears. Even this little practice of investigative journalism is not constantly implemented. As there is a share of the government, the media should do its part by exposing corruption, human rights violations, wrongdoing, rumouring of the public, and deviant activities committed by public authorities, individuals, and groups to the wider society. However, it is difficult to do and see these in Ethiopian media, particularly in South radio and television agency. That is, investigative journalism does not appear to be well implemented.

However, in other countries, especially in the developed world, investigative journalism can do its part by bringing about change and democratisation in the public by studying issues. Recently, not much has been done and studied on the challenges of investigating journalism in Ethiopia, particularly in South radio and television agency. Chala, (2019) study has been done on the journalist's challenges during the preparation of investigative reporting in Oromia Broadcast Network; (Bereket, 2012) focused on the practice of investigative journalism in the Ethiopian radio and television agency; and (Hassen, 2020) analysed the practice of investigative journalism in the case of Amhara television agency. All the above studies mainly focused on the description and assessing of the existing situation in relation to practicing investigative journalism or journalists' challenges while conducting investigative reporting only.

The first gap that inspires the researcher to do this study is the contextual gap. Previous research has been conducted on the journalist challenge while conducting investigative reports only. Chala, (2019) study has been done on the journalist's challenges during the preparation of investigative reporting in Oromia Broadcast Network; (Bereket, 2012) focused on the practice of investigative journalism in the Ethiopian radio and television agency; and (Hassen, 2020) analysed the practice of investigative journalism in the case of Amhara television agency. No published research has been conducted on SRTA, specifically on the Neqash programme, which focuses on the journalist's challenge while and after conducting an investigative report. This study was specifically conducted to analyse the practice and challenges of investigative journalism while and after reporting investigative news on SRTA from September 2015 up to August 2015 EC.

Second, there is a geographical area gap regarding analysing the practice and challenges of investigative journalism in South radio and television agency on the *Neqash Program*. All the previous research was examined on ETV, OBN, and the Amhara mass media agency (now named Amhara Media Corporation), respectively. No published research has been done specifically to analyse the practice and challenges of investigative journalism in South radio and television agency. This study would fill a

research gap concerning the challenges and practices of investigative journalism from September 2015 up to August 2015.

The third gap is a methodology gap. There are some differences in methods of data gathering, research design, and research approach between the previous investigations and the current study. The previous research applied interviews, and questionnaires, in Nexus as techniques for data gathering and analysis. However, the current study used qualitative content analysis of sampled news stories and in-depth interviews as a data gathering tool. In addition, there are differences in research design and research approach; for example, Eden (2020) and Ahmed (2020) used a mixed approach (both qualitative and quantitative). However, the current study used a qualitative research approach with a descriptive research design.

The fourth gap is in their objectives. There were differences between the current and previous research on their general and specific objectives. The previous research objectives, especially those of Bereket (2012), focused on explaining areas of issue coverage and the types of sources used in the programme, while Chala (2019), identified the major challenges to the practice of investigative journalism in the station. However, the current research focuses on analysing the practice and challenges of investigative journalism in the South Radio and Television Agency's Neqash Programme with four specific objectives. These are: to analyse the practices of investigative journalism in the study area; to describe the area of issue coverage; to describe the sources of information for investigative journalism in the study area and to identify the major challenges faced by journalists in the practice of investigative journalism in the study area.

1.3. Objectives

This paper contains both general and specific objectives.

1.3.1 General Objective

The general objective of the study is to analyse the practices and challenges of investigative journalism in the South Radio and Television Agency's Neqash Program.

1.3.2 Specific Objectives

1. To analyse the current practices of investigative journalism in the study area.
2. To assess the area of issue coverage for investigative journalism in SRTA.
3. To examining the source of information for investigative journalism in SRTA.
4. To identify the major challenges faced by journalists in the practices of investigative journalism in the study area.

1.4. Research Questions

1. What is the current practice of investigative journalism in SRTA?
2. What are the area of issues coverage for investigative journalism in the SRTA?
3. What are the sources of information for investigative journalism in the SRTA?
4. What are the major challenges for journalists in the practice of investigative journalism in SRTA?

1.5. Significance of the Study

This study will help journalists identify the challenges of investigative journalism and ways to improve it. In addition, the study could also help the agency by providing directions for improving the practice of investigative journalism. Moreover, the study can play a vital role in evaluating the current state of the practice of investigative journalism in the study area. Furthermore, this study can help the agency to see its performance regarding the practice of investigative journalism. Finally, the study can assist academicians and policymakers in undertaking a further investigation of the study to play their expected role in the country's development.

1.6. Scope of the Study

This study was limited to the South radio and television agency. Among the genres of media, investigative journalism is one of the most important aspects. Therefore, this study focuses on analysing the practice and challenges of investigative journalism in the South Radio and Television Agency's *Neqash Program*. The target populations of

the study are managers, editor-in-chief, editors, senior reporters, media experts, and producers. The researcher employed a descriptive research method. The research approach of the study is qualitative. To get relevant information, qualitative content analysis of news stories, and key informant interviews were applied as tools in the study.

1.7 Limitations of the Study

Due to time constraints, the study was conducted to analyse the practice and challenges of investigative journalism in government media in Ethiopia, in the case of SRTA in 2015E.C. The researcher doesn't miss the fact that it would have been more advantageous had the study involved other state media.

1.8 Organization of the Study

The study is composed of five chapters. Chapter one, as already indicated, gives the overall picture of the study, embracing the statement of the problem, objectives, significance, limitations, and organisation of the study. Chapter two of the study deals with a review of related literature incorporating the concepts of investigative journalism, its definition, the significance of investigative journalism, the types and steps of investigative journalism, the principles of investigative journalism, and other related issues. Chapter three of the study deals with methodology. Chapter four discusses the analysis and presentation of data, while the last chapter deals with the, conclusion, and recommendations.

CHAPTER TWO

2. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter deals with the definition of investigative journalism; the Global Perspective of Investigative Journalism, the purpose and functions of investigative journalism the historical trends and developments of investigative journalism in America, Africa, and Ethiopia; an assessment of investigative journalism and media law in Ethiopia challenges and theoretical framework of investigative journalism.

2.1 Global Perspective of Investigative Journalism

Investigative journalism thrives in the open atmosphere of press freedom, accessible government records, and respect for the media. The United States has led in the development of the practice. Following relative neglect of the practice after the demise of muckraking at the start of World War I, a renewed interest in modern investigative reporting among U.S. journalists began in the 1930s, grew slowly, and intensified during the 1960s.

From 1930 until the mid-1960s, newspapers throughout the United States intermittently published investigative articles, which usually concerned exposure to local corruption. Moreover, small-circulation, ideologically committed political journals and newsletters, such as the *New Republic*, *Stone's Weekly*, and *Nation*, regularly provided readers a diet of exposés on national issues, and the nationally syndicated column “Washington Merry-Go-Round” reported investigative stories by Drew Pearson and Robert S. Allen. Book publishers, too, provided a medium for investigative reporting on government corruption and abuse by private industry by Pearson and Allen, as well as Carey McWilliams, and others (Andrew, 2001).

During the late 1940s and early 1950s, newspapers increased their investigative reporting. Lawyer-turned-investigative reporter Clark Mollenhoff at the *Des Moines Register* and others inspired local investigative reporting at newspapers across the nation.

During the 1960s and 1970s, social and cultural unrest, new technologies (including the growing influence of television news), the rise of anti-authoritarian underground newspapers, and new laws and legal opinions that freed journalists of previous restraints on the practice combined to provide a fertile climate for investigative journalism in the United States (Aucoin, 2005).

Newspapers created special investigative teams, led by Long Island, New York's Newsday, and the Boston Globe. Television stations followed suit by establishing and promoting I-Teams, and the national network CBS created what became the most popular television show in history, the investigative newsmagazine 60 Minutes (Aucoin, 2005).

By 1975, investigative journalism had evolved into a mature, viable practice in the United States that was part of, but distinct from, conventional journalism, and in the 1980s it became an institutionalized standard of excellence for U.S. journalism. In the mid-1980s, a survey of newspaper editors and television news producers found that most viewed investigative reporting as a responsibility of the news media, and IRE, the national service organization for investigative journalists, enrolled more than 4000 reporters and editors as members. Following this trend, commercial networks ABC and NBC, as well as public television, introduced popular programs that specialized in investigative reports (Cornel, 2010).

In Canada, Great Britain, Australia, and the Scandinavian countries, investigative journalism has been practiced sporadically by the news media since the end of World War II, with increased sophistication and acceptance of the practice since the 1960s. In Great Britain, the country's Official Secrets Act restricts investigative reporting on national security matters, though internal political exposés are frequent investigative fare in both print and broadcast media.

Danish journalists have led their Scandinavian and European colleagues in developing the practice. The Danish Organization for Investigative Journalism and the Danish Institute for Computer-Assisted Reporting, formed in 1999, have provided training for journalists in Denmark and neighbouring countries.

Investigative journalism in Europe's democracies, while widely practiced since the 1960s, remains restricted by law and custom. European countries limit access to

government records, requiring investigative reporters to rely primarily on leaked documents and anonymous sources. After the fall of the Soviet Union and the democratization of Eastern Europe in the 1990s, interest in investigative journalism increased but was stilted by limited freedom of the press. Moreover, in some countries, notably Russia and its former republics, criminal elements used violence to suppress reporting about government corruption and organized crime (Abraham, 2010).

In the less developed countries of Latin America, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East, press controls often restrict the practice of investigative journalism. In many countries, even when press restrictions allowed aggressive news media, assassinations of reporters and editors by government or criminal elements and arrests remained a threat in the early 21st century.

Latin America's experience with investigative journalism goes back to the 1970s, though the practice has been slower to develop in other regions. The Inter-American Press Association and the Periodistas de Investigación in Mexico encourage investigative journalism in Latin America, and similar investigative reporting institutes have been founded to encourage the practice in other developing countries (Dennis, E and Merrill, 1996).

2.2. Historical Development of Investigative Journalism

The historical trend of investigative journalism is expressed in various works of literature as it began at different times in different countries of the world. These countries of the world, for example, America, Australia, England, and China have used investigative journalism to expose grand corruption, child abuse and exploitation, and malpractice and deviant activities in society. Various studies have shown in recent times different countries in Africa have started to implement the sector and have not been able to implement it due to different challenges.

2.2.1 The Emergence of Investigative Journalism in the United States of America

Cycles of Muckrakers in the United States of America, scholars agree that investigative journalism, or muckraking as it was known in the early years, is as old as the newspapers. The earliest known investigative journalism in the United States of

America can be traced to the first colonial newspaper published in 1690 (Feldstein, 2006). More than simply reporting, early investigative journalists founded a genre of journalism that aimed at pushing overlooked or intentionally ignored issues onto the public agenda, thus contributing to what is called the ‘crafting of the moral order.’

After the world wars and the timely birth of media propaganda and mass media investigative journalism made a comeback in the 1960s Proress (1991). “There was a climate in the 1960s) conducive to skepticism and irreverence,” writes de Burgh, “that made investigative journalism attractive. These factors may account for its eruption” Burgh (2000). Some of the most eminent stories emerging in these eruptive times were Seymour Hersh's exposure in 1969 of the My Lai Massacre of 500 unarmed Vietnamese civilians by US Army soldiers. Later, in 1972, Phillip Knightly exposed the Thalidomide Scandal, while Washington Post's Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein published All the President's Men in 1974, which brought to light 10 corruption in the presidency and which culminated in Richard Nixon's resignation a couple of months later (Aucoin, 2005).

2.2.2.1 The emergence of investigative journalism in Europe

The 2022/23 edition of the IJ4EU fund will provide €1.23 million in direct grants to support investigative journalism on transnational subjects. Approximately €900,000 will be distributed through the Investigation Support Scheme and €330,000 through the Freelancer Support Scheme.

Managed by the European Journalism Centre, the International Press Institute and the European Centre for Press and Media Freedom, the fund aims to foster cross-border collaboration and the resilience of investigative journalists, thus safeguarding media freedom and pluralism.

The Freelancer Support Scheme will provide grants of up to €20,000 to cross-border investigative teams, whose members operate predominantly outside of newsroom structures. It will also provide an extra layer of support through training, mentoring and networking opportunities.

This is the second edition of the Freelancer Support Scheme, which was implemented within IJ4EU for the first time in 2021/22 and supported 15 cross-border collaborative investigations. In 2022/23 the scheme will provide altogether around €330,000 in grants. It is managed by the European Journalism Centre (EJC).

The deadline for applications for both Investigation Support Scheme and the Freelancer Support Scheme is 13 October, 23:59 CEST. Both schemes will have a second call in January 2023.

2.2.2 The Emergence of Investigative Journalism in African

Newspapers in Africa only emerged in the early 19th century with the arrival of missionaries in the continent. The early newspapers in Africa can be traced back to the beginning of the 19th century. The Cape Town Gazette the first English newspaper appeared in 1800 in South Africa and Royal Gazette in 1801 in Sierra Leone. The first genuinely indigenous newspaper – Liberia Herald was founded in 1826 (Schiffrin A en 2017). Various scholars well articulate the involvement of the Christian missionaries in the setting up of newspapers. The argument is that because protestant missionaries needed to print Bibles and educational material to spread their religious beliefs, they imported the printing press technology and allowed indigenous communities to use it (Woodberry, 2012).

Missionary-owned newspapers later led to the emergence of more radical indigenous and African-owned newspapers. It was these newspapers that would later play a key role in speaking against colonialism and calling for independence. According to Omu, the press in Western Africa assumed the role of the opposition and sought to rival the government, encouraging political awareness and involvement by providing a means of criticism of the authorities and spreading dissatisfaction with official plans and policies.

There is a general agreement that well-organized investigative journalism occurred in the 1960s and the 1990s following transitions from the colonial era and authoritarian regimes. The opening up meant that more journalists were free to do investigative reporting. According to Berger, the real opening up [of media spaces] coincided with

the post-Cold War liberalization that legitimized private newspapers across the continent. The end of Apartheid in South Africa, and the end of authoritarian regimes in Ghana, Mozambique, and Nigeria also opened up the media in those countries. Media outlets tend to multiply and blossom as soon as the shade of authoritarianism is removed (Ibid).

In Africa, investigative journalism played a critical role in the fight against colonialism, racial discrimination, military dictatorships, authoritarianism, and corruption. The conclusion is that despite a litany of challenges (such as lack of resources, media-friendly laws, intimidation, and violence) African media continues to play a critical role in holding power to account (Ntibinyane, 2018).

2.2.3 The Practice of Investigative Journalism and Media Law in Ethiopia

Laws whether directly or indirectly can have their own positive or negative impact on the media. Studies show that the laws and media laws of the past in Ethiopia do not follow the principles of media and do not benefit the public.

Ethiopian context, investigative journalism is very much related to successive political systems/regimes. In the feudal period, there were no possibilities for journalists to participate in an investigation. At the time of the Derg regime, the situation was similar to that of the previous regime unless some program had been transmitted by the Ethiopian radio which mainly deals with irregularities and corruption. Where are the same activities in disclosing hidden facts which had impacts on the life of the people? There was a program entitled in Amharic '*keminayew keminsemaw*' which means (from what we see and hear), which deals with irregularities and corruption, and related issues transmitted by Ethiopian radio (Nigussie, 2008).

Many countries sign international conventions that safeguard the rights of journalists. Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) Article 19 states, the right to opinion. According to this declaration, everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression. This right includes the freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and import information and ideas through any media.

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) also strengthens the above convention. Everyone shall have the right to hold opinions without interference. and everyone have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive, and import information and idea of all kind regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing, or in print in the form of art or through any other media.

According to the Annual Report Published by Freedom House the share of the world population that enjoys a free press today 14 percent. Meaning only one in seven people live in countries where coverage of political news is robust, the safety of journalists is guaranteed, state instruction in media affairs is minimal and the press is not subject to onerous legal or economic pressure. The report states the reason why press freedom declined, because of the promulgation of restrictive laws against the press. Laws like privacy law, libel laws, and official secrecy have their contribution whether to enhance or hinder the practice of investigative journalism (Niguse, 2008).

2.3 Investigative Journalism and function

The definition of investigative journalism is multifaceted (Houston, 2010). It is always difficult to offer a precise definition of investigative journalism because, for many journalists, all journalism work one way or the other involves investigation. Veteran journalist David Kaplan agrees that there is some truth with this assertion, “There is some truth to these investigative techniques is used widely by the beat journalists on deadline as well as by the ‘I team’ members with weeks to work on stories.” However, Kaplan’s point of departure is that “investigative journalism is a set of methodologies that are a craft, and it can take years to master.” (Kaplan, 2013).

Some journalism scholars state that investigative journalism has no single definition or consistent meaning. The reason is every journalist can use investigative techniques. However, investigative journalism is a distinguished field of journalism that examines things in a way that by using many techniques.

Scholars called investigative journalism as expose journalism, adversarial journalism, in-depth journalism, advocacy journalism, public service journalism, watchdog

journalism, and journalism of outrage. Investigative reporters and Editors (IRE), the world's largest non-profit investigative journalism association, defined investigative journalism as “systematic, in-depth, and original research and reporting, often involving the unearthing of secrets, heavy use of public recordings and computer-assisted reporting with a focus on social justice and accountability investigative reporters and editors.

(Protest, 1991) also defined investigative journalism as a form of storytelling that probes the civic conscience of a country. Investigative journalists are reformers not revolutionaries. They seek to improve one's country system by pointing out its shortcomings rather than advocating its overthrow. He also explained that by spotlighting specific abuses of particular policies or programs, investigative reporters provides policymakers with the opportunity to take corrective actions without changing the distribution of power.

The primary purpose of journalism of investigation that is not simply to inform society that something happens somewhere but it is deeper than that; it tries to uncover the most painful, sometimes bleeding sores, glaring contradictions, that have high societal value. Such investigation may result in critical decisions taken by authorities or revision of existing laws, etc (Burgh, 2000).

2.4 Forms of investigative journalism

Investigative journalism can be applied in a variety of ways. According (Kovach, Bill, and Rosenstiel, 2001), currently, three forms are identified as follows:

2.4.1 Original investigation report

It involves reporters themselves uncovering and documenting activities that have been previously unknown to the public. It may involve tactics like police work such as basic shoe-leather reporting, public records searches, use of informants, and even in special circumstance, undercover work or surreptitious.

2.4.2 Interpretative investigative report

This often involves the same original enterprise skill but takes the interpretation to a different level. It develops as the result of careful thought and analysis of an idea as well as the dogged pursuit of facts to bring together information in a new more complete context that provides deeper public understanding. It reveals a new way of looking at something as well as new information about it.

2.5. Skills of Investigative Journalists

The skill of practitioners is the most important part of the job. Therefore, investigative journalists need to have special skills to make investigative reporting. (Forbes, 2005) states the following points as basic skills of investigative journalists such as:

Patience; depth investigation takes time, especially when following dead ends; be prepared to follow all leads, regardless of how insignificant they appear.

Flexibility; keep an open mind you should be able to shift your focus and, if necessary, change the direction of an investigation.

The art of persuasion- investigative reporting requires a certain approach to ensure that sources reveal information. The ability to probe deeply without upsetting or distressing the source is paramount.

Courage threats of physical violence; litigation, sanction, and even death are used to deter further investigations.

Invitation and background knowledge; investigative journalists need the ability to think on her/his feet, ask the right questions and assess and analyses complex problems.

Having a good memory and strong problem-solving abilities, as well as a sort of subconscious database are important advantages.

Legal savvy-protect you from the criminal and civil action and know the legal routes that can be used to access public information.

Integrity-working on highly sensitive matters requires the reporters to be discreet, adopting a discipline of secrecy with sources and colleagues the ability to work independently as well as in a team.

(Forbes, 2005), conclude that an investigative journalist must be familiar with the following skills:

Recording: shorthand, audio recording Storing and recording relevant details and keeping such records in a safe place.

Accuracy; The ability to identify key points in a story

Critical thinking, Multi-sourcing, having an enquiring mind, being able to ask questions.

Research – being able to conduct research via the internet; getting information on companies, individuals. Legal – knowing the law, especially the law of defamation; knowing your legal defenses’.

Meticulous editing – sensitive investigations resulting in an 800-word story may require much cutting, re-writing, and word checking.

2.6. Source of Investigative Reporting Stories

To get study-based information, a reliable source of information is needed. The journalists can get information from different sources. Story would not be story without a source according to (Pape and Featherstone, 2005). There is classification among sources based on their proximity to the story. These are Primary source and secondary source. A primary source could be an interview with a person who has direct experience about the topic or an original document related to the topic. A secondary source might be a written report based on the original document (Potter, 2006). Ideas for potential investigative stories can spring from several sources. This includes tip from people, public rumors; journalist’s curiosity; trends; change and other media (Forbes, 2005).

Public documents can include judicial or court records, minutes of parliamentary, committee meeting, government budget and expenditure, reports, public tender, bids or property files. None public records, include, among others individuals, credit histories, income tax returns, bank records, and medical files are basic source of investigative reporting. In providing information, especially, sources may fear the long arms which can twist their life and the chain of withholding information by public officials in the name of national security, bureaucracy, etc. are the closed and blocked fences not allowed to be entered by journalists. Ideas for potential investigative stories can spring from several sources. These include tips from people; public rumor; journalist's curiosity; trends and change; and other news media (Forbes, 2005).

Tip-offs

These sources are contacts or members of the audience or they may be your friend, who may phone in with what they consider to be news items. According to (Boyd, 2001), "The information is not from a trained journalist, the source may be unreliable, the facts confused or even libelous. Also, every station has its time wasters and hangers-on who phone in or call round out of sheer self-importance." It is, therefore, important to cross-check the information through different mechanisms. However, some scholars do not consider that investigating based on someone else's information as practice investigative reporting since the journalist has not conducted original work (Waisbord, 2000).

Public Rumor

A lot of information can also be found on the grapevine even in places where many formal, established means of communication exist. However, most of the information are likely to be based on rumor, idle gossip, and unproven allegations. However, it is not advisable to instantly ignore everything from this source and considering it as minor, and untrue. Pay it attention; try to identify the root of the rumor, and check to see if it is designed for personal benefit. Otherwise, taking it as it is could create confusion in the public.

Journalist's Curiosity

A journalist has a sixth sense organ that can help him/her to sniff news for the audience. Social, political, economic, and cultural issues may have positive or negative impacts on the life of the people. Information always may not come from other sources rather the journalist him/herself should observe their environment whether new things are occurring or not. The main responsibility of a journalist is after all to keep the public as up-to-date as possible when it comes to news and events that may affect their life.

Journalists must have a discerning eye and unflagging curiosity to spot investigative stories. The best investigative stories are often the ones originated by the journalists themselves when they have experienced corruption, injustice, or a problem first hand. “The job of the investigative journalist is to find something wrong and expose it. He or she is a positive force for change, a professional with the ability to penetrate the closed ranks of vested interests and free imprisoned information from behind enemy line.

Trends and Change

The other thing that must be paid attention is observing what is changing in your environment, and not takes it for granted. In our daily life, things could be changed quickly and new scenes can be occurred than before. The journalist should be alert and standby for such conditions. For instance, let us look at what a Belgian reporter did, “the great Belgian reporter Chris de Stoop began a landmark investigation of the traffic in women after noticing that the Belgian prostitutes in a neighborhood he crossed on his way to work had given way to foreigners, and wondering why” (Hunter, 2003).

The salaries of civil servants and politicians are obviously known by the people. But these persons can be observed while leading better life than they must be. If you suspect people in receipt of bribe, check to realize whether they are living away from their means. Human being has a natural tendency that is urging to spend their wealth in such luxury goods such as large houses and other items. These things are often prioritized for taxation and/or police detectives – the investigative journalist's

technique should be similar in this regard to extract the secret behind the curtain (Forbes, 2005).

Other news media

Sometimes our organization may be unable to cover some important issues due to busyness in other works. So, other news media such as newspapers, magazines, radio and television can be sources of news and ideas for further investigation and possible new angles (Rudin and Ibbotson, 2002).

It is important not to overlook local, ethnic, international, specialist and even the journalist's own publication in seeking out stories that can be developed into different angles. That means we have to deal on the business of looking the issue with different angle that had not been touched on by other media stations that are around us. When we take some bodies' written article it is better to understand that taking it directly may cause two things. First, it is considered as plagiarism and the published article may have errors which are not yet identified. These things may lead our station to lose its credibility that the people had for it (Kantumoya, 2004).

Records and Files

Files and documents in a library may yield an investigative idea. Physical sources can also be the sources for the investigative story we are going to produce. Sometimes even totally we may not get a piece of information from human sources due to different reasons such as people may fail to be willing to talk about the issue by fearing the consequence or they may have a share on the idea. So, in such a situation the journalist can get vital information from files and recorded items. These items may lead the journalist to further investigation to identify the roots of the issue going to be investigated (Kennedy, 1993).

However, as an investigative reporter all documents what he/she found have not to take as reliable data rather making cross-check will be necessary. The reason behind is that people could anticipate that once upon a time these files or record items could be open

for public inspection and they may be recalled for investigation. Modifying even changing these documents could be taken as a solution for the time being. Therefore, being curious and wise in digging out the document concerning their significance to the public is expected from the reporter; otherwise, if its substance is not that much to the public, it is better to look for other issues.

2.8. Media Theories

2.8.1 Social Responsibility Theory of the Press

From a theoretical perspective investigative journalism is rooted in a long tradition of Enlightenment ideals that gave rise to concepts of press freedom and Liberty. In 16th, 17th and 18th centuries social changes had primarily been seen in Europe in relation the political system which had been practiced. The main idea of the period was social and political progress should not rest in absolute power of the authorities but on the absolutes of reason, rational debate, and freedom of speech (Rosner, 2008).

The functions under social responsibility are the same as those under libertarian theory. Six tasks came to be credited to the press as traditional theory evolved. According to (Dennis, and Merrill, 1996) the theory performs the following tasks:

1. Servicing the political system by providing information, discussion, and debate on public affairs;
2. Enlightening the public to make it capable of self-government;
3. Safeguarding the rights of the individual by serving as a watchdog against government
4. Servicing the economic system, primarily by bringing together the buyers and sellers of goods and services through the medium of advertising;
5. Providing entertainment;
6. Maintaining its own financial self-sufficiency so to be free from the pressure of special interests.

Thus, investigative journalism is accompanied by this sense to realize democracy, good governance, and justice for the well-being of the society. It is one function of the media

in social responsibility theory. "...Safeguarding the rights of the individual by serving as a watchdog against government" say (Siebert F,1963).

2.8.2 Watchdog Journalism

When we talk about the present role of the Fourth Estate, it is important to remember and consider the previous time that makes different demands and raise different expectations about the function of the news media. In the late of twentieth century, being the people pessimistic and suspicious about the commitment and integrity of those who were in the position, the news media has gained remarkable momentum as watchdog and its power grows (Schultz, 1998).

The role of the press as watchdog has become central to the current understanding of the Fourth Estate by media professionals. The media, especially, those who engaged in public issues particularly investigative journalists are expected to play a watchdog role and keep the government as well as the private sector under regular scrutiny. The main purpose of the press in a democratic system is informing the public about daily activities of the government (Dennis, and Merrill, 1996).

The idea of watchdog role is mainly based on supervising powerful states; individuals as well as institutions not to run out of their limit. It should go beyond simply making the management and implementation of power transparent to the public but also recognize government and institutions while working effectively and efficiently as well as failing to do so (Kovach, Bill, and Rosenstiel, 2001).

Where the press plays the watchdog role, it is Important to understand that it has to distinct its role from oppositionist press that entertains partisan ambition. Though the presence of such press is imperative, the Fourth state should work neutrally. In such scenario the press should take care not to oversight the conduct of the government and attack government secrecy and alleged corruption otherwise it could create an adversarial relationship between the government and the press that can hinder the access to information (Schultz, 1998).

Truly speaking, the watchdog role requires the news media to provide a check on powerful sectors of society with the inclusion of leaders within the private and public domains. Journalists are expected to discharge their responsibility of guarding and protecting the public interest from incompetence, corruption, and misinformation. The available empirical evidence suggests that as much as the free press does indeed promote transparency in many countries, journalists often face serious constraints and obstacles in this regard, especially in autocracies (Kaplan, 2013).

Therefore, a cardinal justification for press freedom is that free media will act as a watchdog over the government. In fact, one of the main justifications for freedom of the news media is that a lack of censorship will enable the news media to act as a watchdog over the government and thereby render the government more responsible and responsive (Kovach, Bill, Rosenstiel, 2001), cited in (Woodberry, 2012).

Moreover, the news media exercise an indispensable investigative function on behalf of citizens as the “watchdogs” of the government and no government will earn the trust of its citizenry without the assurance certified by a watchdog press. Apparently, every media organization does not fulfill this role, and in every country, there are media who are more “lapdogs” than watchdogs (Democracy and the Media: The Ineluctable Connection between Democracy and the Quality of Journalism).

The watchdog press is guardian of the public interest, warning citizens against those who are doing them harm. Besides, a fearless and effective watchdog is in its part critical in fledgling democracies, where institutions are weak and publicly attacked by political pressures. When legislatures, judiciaries and other oversight bodies are powerless against the mighty or are themselves corruptible, the media are often left as the only check against the abuse of power. This calls for them to play a heroic role in exposing the excesses of presidents, prime ministers, legislators, and magistrates despite the risks (Cornel, 2010).

According to (Cornel, 2010), watchdog journalism embraces a wide range of journalistic genres. Day in and day out, the watchdog press monitors the day-to-day

workings of government, thereby helping citizens to appraise its performance. Reporting beyond the words of government officials or their spokespersons, to access government's performance, is in a way a form of watchdogging.

Moreover, Watchdog journalism essentially deals with "moral disorder news" Gans, quoted in (Waisbord, 2000), that is, news about behavior that contradicts moral expectations. It attests to the role of the media as an agent for the communication of moral values, a channel through which citizens learn about moral problems and form ideas about acceptable and non-acceptable behavior (Waisbord, 2000).

Furthermore, watchdog journalism has the capacity to open and to stimulate debates about wrongdoing but it can hardly appropriate the truth as its trophy. Its responsibility needs to be to sustain the openness of public discourse by mobilizing information that can be a springboard for debates about wrongdoing in different social realms.

At its best, watchdog reporting offers a tool, a window for raising the level of discourse, for engaging the public, and reconstructing a public sphere dwindled by the market and the restraints of the state. In addition, it keeps the cherished journalistic myths that put the press as the guardian of public interest (Cornel, 2010).

CHAPTER THREE

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This part deals with the methodology and procedures of the study, under which the methods of research design, study setting, study units, sampling technique and sampling size, data gathering tools, data analysis methods, and ethical considerations are discussed. The researcher was using a qualitative research method. Qualitative methods are used in the analysis of the practice and challenges of investigative journalism in south radio and television agencies on the Neqash program.

To accomplish this paper Purposive sampling method is selected because the researcher believes that it helps to extract rich and comprehensive information that can answer the basic questions of the research. From the study units, the researcher selects, using purposive (judgmental) sampling techniques, all investigative reporters to analyse the practice of investigative journalism.

3.1 Research Approach

The research approach that was employed for this thesis is qualitative research content analysis with an interpretative approach. A qualitative research approach was utilised because this method is the most appropriate and ideal for the study of the practice and challenges of investigative journalism. Since the study is descriptive in nature, the objectives and research questions of the study are congruent with the qualitative research approach. Since the objective of the research is to analyse the practice and challenges of investigative journalism in government media in Ethiopia, as in the case of the SRTA on Neqash programme, there is no need for numerical data gathering or interpretation. (Andrew, 2001) Explained: “Qualitative methods are valuable when we wish not to count or measure phenomena but to understand the character of experience, particularly how people perceive and make sense of their communication experience. This involves interpreting meanings and other unobservable dimensions of communication”.

Qualitative research is a holistic approach that involves discovery. Qualitative research is also described as an unfolding model that occurs in a natural setting and enables the researcher to develop a level of detail from high involvement in the actual experiences (Creswell, 1994). One identifier of qualitative research is the social phenomenon being investigated from the participant's viewpoint. What constitutes qualitative research involves purposeful use for describing, explaining, and interpreting the collected data. (Leedy and Ormrod, 2001) alleged that qualitative research is less structured in description because it formulates and builds new theories. Qualitative research can also be described as an effective model that occurs in a natural setting and enables the researcher to develop a level of detail from being highly involved in the actual experiences (Creswell, 2003).

Qualitative research builds its premises on inductive rather than deductive reasoning. It is the observational elements that pose questions that the researcher explains. The strong correlation between the observer and the data is a marked difference from quantitative research, where the researcher is strictly outside of the phenomena being investigated. There is no beginning point of truth or any established assumptions from which the researcher can begin (Leedy and Ormrod, 2001). This empirical research is data collected from the senses and is used to explain phenomena relevant to social behaviours in new and emerging theories. In addition to the distinct differences between quantitative and qualitative research designs, notable differences have also been identified in each respective research methodology. In qualitative research, it is important to use data collection instruments that can help the researcher dig out and extract the desired output based on the questions and objectives of the study. To do so, the researcher classified the sources of data as primary and secondary based on the source of the information.

3.2 The Research Design

The researcher used a descriptive research design to describe the practice and challenges of investigative journalism in SRTA on the Neqash program. A major purpose of descriptive research design is to describe situations and events. The

researcher analyses and then describes what was observed from the data collected. Descriptive studies answer questions of what, where, when, and how (Babbie, 2014).

In support of this idea, Abraham (2010) articulated, “In descriptive research, large amounts of unstructured information are normally collected in order to describe phenomena or to be responsive to new concerns by breaking new ground through delving into new problem areas to work on topics about which very little information is available and to gain a broad understanding of a situation, community, or person. Descriptive design is also an appropriate and common mechanism for describing issues using the qualitative method and relying on primary and secondary data, which this study is focused on. (Ellul, 1973) say that for a descriptive design, the researcher can even attempt to determine whether or not a phenomenon exists or to endeavour to gain a beginning familiarity with the topic, and it can be used in qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods research. Accordingly, the practice and challenges of investigative journalism in government media in Ethiopia the case of SRTA on the Neqash programme is studied qualitatively based on primary and secondary data sources.

3.3 Study Setting

The study setting of this researcher is south radio and television agency. South Radio and Television Agency was established as the south regional culture and advertising bureau (office) that was carrying out communication and media activities in 1985 E.C. In 1989, South Negarit Gazeta was established and renamed. After this, on February 23, 1997, E.C. South radio station FM-100.9 was established as a new organization. In 2006, E.C. television station was established and re-named South Radio and Television Organization. South Radio and Television Agency is a large media organisation serving more than fifty ethnic groups. It has a complex administrative arrangement. South Radio and Television Agency is a large media station with a huge capital of operation. According to the organisation's data, which is available on their website, there are 10 FM radio stations in different zones throughout the southern region. These stations are found in Arba Minch, Hosaina, Wolkite, Bonga, Dilla, Fiseha Genet, Bansa (up to this time), Mizan, Sawla, Jinka, and Addis Ababa. The number of media employees in the

South Radio and Television Station is more than 400, and the number of employees in the 10 branches of the radio station is more than 800. Total, it has more than 1200 employees. Academic research on the organisation was done more than three times.

The agency gathers, produces, and presents news and programmes to society on broadcast (radio and television) and new media. The basic issue for SRTA is to follow editorial policies and strategies, and the station is known as a government-owned station. South Radio and Television Agency, as a regional media agency, is financed by the government and is accountable to the South Regional State Council.

3.4 The Study Units

The units of study are the major entities that are being analysed in a study. For instance, any of the following could be a unit of study: people, books, photos, newspapers, magazines, etc. (Waisbord, 2000). Units of analysis are the people or things whose characteristics social researchers observe, describe, and explain. Typically, the unit of analysis in social research is the individual person, but it may also be a social group, a formal organisation, a social interaction, a social artefact, or some other phenomenon such as a lifestyle (Babbie, 2014). Therefore, the study units of this paper consist of all media experts, journalists, directors, managers, editors-in-chief, editors, cameramen, and producers. In addition to this investigative news, of SRTA are study units of this paper.

3.5 Sampling Technique

To accomplish this paper, Purposive sampling method and simple random sampling method are selected because the researcher believes that it helps to extract rich and comprehensive information that can answer the basic questions of the research. Purposive (judgemental) sampling is a type of nonprobability sampling in which the units to be observed are selected based on the researcher's judgement about which ones will be the most useful or representative (Babbie, 2014).

According to Abiy (2009), "Qualitative research methods are typically used when focusing on a limited number of informants, whom you select strategically so that their in-depth information will give optimal insight into an issue about which little is known. This is called purposive sampling." Therefore, from nonprobability sampling, purposive (judgmental) sampling is preferred for an appropriate individual interview. Means that, the researcher used purposive (judgmentally) four (4) producers, four (4) journalists, four (4) media experts, and one (1) deputy general director of the media organization. Totally 13 key informant are participated on this research. The researcher selected those informants for two bold reasons. First, the researcher believes that all informants of this research have good work experience since they have worked for a long period of time on the area of investigative journalism in SRTA. Second, the researcher believes informants have better understanding and knowledge about investigative journalism and so that they are able to explain about it.

In addition, to this a simple random sampling for qualitative content analysis of sampled news stories was applied on this study. A simple random sample is a randomly selected subset of a population. In this sampling method, each member of the population has an exactly equal chance of being selected. This method is the most straightforward of all the probability sampling methods since it only involves a single random selection and requires little advance knowledge about the population. Because it uses randomization, any research performed on this sample should have high internal and external validity and be at a lower risk for research biases like sampling bias and selection bias. Therefore, the sample news stories for the investigation report were selected randomly. The total news stories of investigation report which are broadcasted in 2015 are, ten (10) news stories. From these news stories, the researcher used six (6) of them. So that to reduce the redundancy the researcher used those sample news story of investigative report.

3.6 Sampling Size

There are 8 journalists in SRTA who work at documentary and investigative journalism team. Therefore, the researcher selects all investigative reporters to analyze the practice of investigative journalism. Means that, four (4) producers and four (4) journalists, are selected as interviewee of this study. In addition to this four (4) media experts, and one (1) deputy general director of the media organization are selected as key informants of this study. Totally 13 key informant were chosen for in-depth individual interviewees to get adequate information about the study. Based on this, the interview was done avragcaly for 15 minutes.

In addition to these, the researcher also used qualitative content analysis of sample broadcasted investigative news stories. These sample broadcasted of investigative news stories are broadcasted in 2015E.C. The total news stories of investigation report which are broadcasted in 2015 are, ten (10) news stories. From these news stories, the researcher used six (6) of them by randomly selection. The researcher could have taken all investigative news reports of 2015 E.C, but six news out of ten were taken to avoid repetition.

Another reason the researcher picked six news reports is to take more than 50% of the total news reports of the year which makes the sample size 60%. Considering all this the researcher believes to have taken adequate simple size in this study. Therefore, the sample size of this study is 8 media worker who are specifically involve in investigative journalism, 4 media experts, and one deputy general director of the SRTA, totally 13 interviewee. In addition, 6 sample broadcast news stories of investigation report are selected.

3.7 Data Gathering Tools

In qualitative research, it is important to use data collection instruments which can help the researcher to dig out and extract the desired output based on the questions and objectives of the study. To do so, the researcher classified the source of data as primary and secondary based on the source of the information.

3.7.1 Primary Source of Data

Primary sources of data are believed as a very vital instrument to answer the research questions. These, in-depth individual interview, is selected among the others to gather a rich and reliable data for the study.

3.7.1.1 In-depth Individual Interview

The manager, director, media experts, producers of the program, journalists who are working in SRTA under investigative programs were selected as informants to express their own view from their experience on the current practice of investigative journalism and its challenges. Individual in-depth interview is taken as one method to explore if the issue is considered by the individual too sensitive to talk about in the presence of others Mack (2005). During the in-depth individual interview the researcher has taken note with hand writing and audio recording. The interview is carried out in Amharic language at the participants' offices.

3.7.2 Secondary sources of data

The researcher also planned to use qualitative Content Analysis of Sample of Broadcasts news stories of investigation report from archive which are broadcasted in 2015 E.C. The qualitative content analysis of sample programs is crucial to confirm with the interviewees' response on the program raised questions. To do so, the researcher selected 6 news stories of sample broadcast investigation report from SRTA that are discussed different issues against the parameters set by, and were analyzed qualitatively in line with in-depth individual interview.

3.8 Data Analysis Technique

As the researcher stated earlier, the purpose of the research is to analyze the practice and challenges of investigative journalism regarding the existing situation. The analysis

of the data is followed by thematic coding based on the objectives and questions of the study. To do so, the interview was recorded (via hand writing and audio recording) and then translated from Amharic into English and the sample programs are analyzed. The presentation of the data was structured in a narrative form with significant quotations to serve as evidence for the research findings. Since some of the respondents were not voluntary to be cited the researcher coded them to keep their anonymity.

3.9. Ethical Considerations

According to the ethical guidelines of the Social Research Association (SRA), researchers have obligations towards the subjects of study and therefore, must “strive to protect subjects from undue harm arising as a consequence of their participation in research”. Therefore, the researcher will use this data for research purpose only and informants should know that the researcher have kept its confidential. In addition, the result of this study will not have negative impact in SRTA. It rather will help the media to follow the science of investigative journalism and media philosophy to do their job properly.

CHAPTER FOUR

4. DATA PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION

This chapter deals with presentation and interpretation of the data gathered from the respondents of the study area. This study, as discussed in the chapters, is qualitative involving explanation and interpretation of results. Thus, important issues pointed out in the literature review are also incorporated in the discussion of the research findings.

4.1 Investigative Journalism in the South Radio and Television Agency

4.1.1 Sample Broadcast News of Investigative Reports from SRTA

In this study, the first investigation report (N1) was taken as investigative journalism on 157 police officers who did not discharge their responsibilities properly and the punishment they were given, which ranged from suspension to imprisonment. The strong position of this investigative report is that it took time to prosecute those who were suspected of corruption, especially at the leadership level. This showed how strong the report was. The report states that these corrupt police leaders are obstructing justice and abusing the people by creating a tight relationship with illegal smugglers. The investigation report shows that creating a region that is free from corruption and suitable for everyone is the responsibility of all the residents of the region, but mainly the government bodies should work hard. Finally, those who commented on the matter expressed their opinion that the media should work harder than this because the investigation report is appropriate and instructive.



Image 1.1 from investigative news one (N1)

From the above investigative report, it can be understood that the reporter takes a side on behalf of the government, and the reporter considers himself a judge. As a journalist, especially as an investigative reporter, the journalist should not take sides. Because he did not take into consideration both sides of the story. News value should be applied properly. Therefore, the finding shows that investigative journalism is partially implemented because the report did not fulfil the standards of news values.

In this study, the second 2nd piece of news (N2) is the seizure of an illegal firearm. According to the report, one bomb, 27 guns, 161 rounds of ammunition, and five criminals were arrested in an illegal arms smuggling operation that originated in Sudan and extended to the Gulf. According to the investigation report, these criminals bring weapons from Sudan, import through Metema, and sell to individuals in the city of Wolqete. This has become the main reason for the breach of peace. On the other hand, it was also stated that the vehicle in which the crimes were carried out was arrested. After explaining the identity of the individuals who committed the crime, the investigative report will discuss the meaning, nature, and importance of peace and the impact of a lack of peace on social, economic, and political participation.



Image 1.2 from investigative news two (N2)

From the above investigative report, it can be stated that the investigation report lacks detailed explanations about the issue. The report shows that it is simply reported as a simple issue. However, it should be carefully interpreted, well discussed, and finally presented. Therefore, this finding shows it was a good effort to take it as an attempt of investigative report, but not properly applied the science of investigative journalism.

The third 3RD investigative report (N3) of this study states that the Southern Region Anti-Corruption Commission is taking action against those involved in various types of corruption. According to the report, there are 587 defendants in 361 cases, and 87 of them have received court decisions. These 87 cases contain 157 accused, and the accused have received punishment. 15 residences and 4478 square metres of land were blocked during the investigation process. More than 3.6 million birr have been an income to the government treasury directly. The investigative report, which stated that corruption is spreading from time to time, states that all stakeholders should work hard in an effort to prevent corruption. The investigative report further states that the delay in court has caused justice to be denied and other suspects to be quickly arrested and brought to justice. Finally, the investigation report sums up the news by saying that every citizen who loves the country and supports the change should be deported to eradicate corruption.

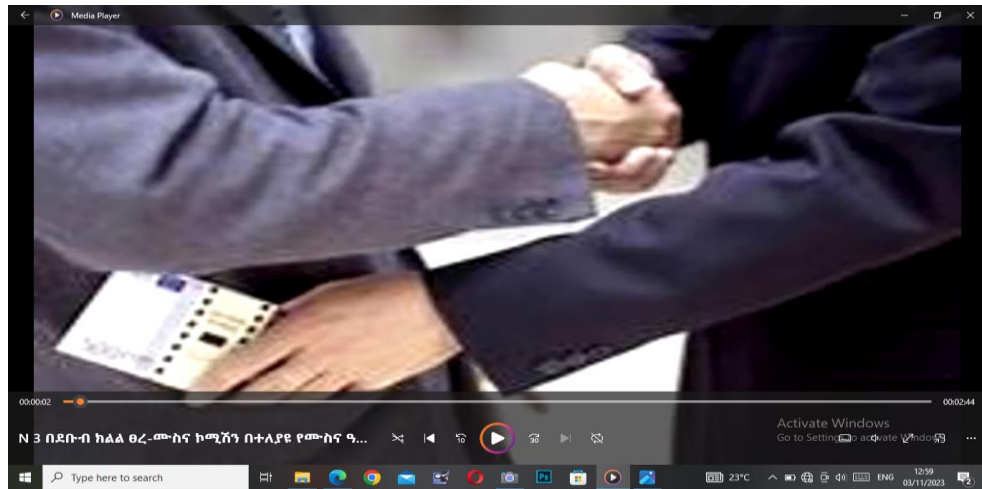


Image 1.3 from investigative news three (N3)

According to the above investigative report it can be stated that, the investigative journalism is practiced partially because the report of the investigation journalism shown that it is unfinished work. Still there are documents that have not made a decision. Therefore, this shows that investigative journalism is practicing partial in SRTA.

The 4th investigative report (N4) of this study describes the arrest of 32 government officials and security officials involved in illegal gold production and trafficking. Investigative journalists, members of the federal police, people from the Intelligence and Security Agency, and the state police, who participated in this report, did their part to catch crimes. People involved in illegal gold production and trafficking in south-west Ethiopia and the Benshangul Gumuz region have been arrested while neglecting the responsibilities given to them by the government and pursuing their personal interests. Accordingly, 21 guns with 421 bullets, 14 pistols with 62 bullets, 2 bombs, 250 rounds of ammunition, 8 gold scales, 5 gold testing machines, 2 gold melting machines, and various gold samples were found. In addition, the investigation report states that money and bank accounts from various countries have been seized. Finally, the investigation report says that this illegal activity has reduced the country's income from the sale of gold and has made the residents of the area bystanders.



Image 1.4 from investigative news four (N4)

From the above investigative report, it can be stated that the investigative report is well done when compared with the other investigative stories made by the media station. Because the work is done by cooperation people from different departments. The nature of investigative journalism needs people's participation. Since the report involves federal police, regional police, and a security force with investigative journalists, the result is effective. Therefore, the findings of this study show that the investigative journalism in this report is well done when compared with other investigative reports made by the media station.

In this study, the 5th item of investigation report (N5) is about the seized drug called cannabis. The investigation report states that the cannabis planted on 40 square metres in the Ari district of the South Omo zone was arrested. The report explains that this drug was produced in Ari district and was intended to be sold across the border to Kenya. However, due to the in-depth investigative journalism, the criminals were arrested, and it turned out not to be what they thought. The investigation report pointed out that since this drug called cannabis is new and unusual to society, it should be given extensive awareness training so that residents do not think it is something useful.

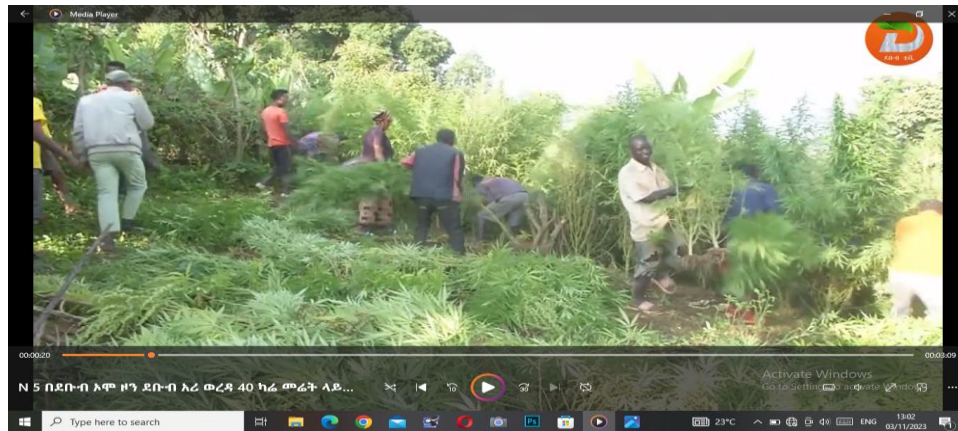


Image 1.5 from investigative news five (N5)

The above investigative report shows a lack of detailed information. As the researcher stated earlier, an investigative report needs detail and complete information about the issue. However, this investigative report is simply presented as a simple story in a simple way. Therefore, it can be stated that there is an attempt at an investigative report in SRTA on the Neqash programme.

The sixth item of investigative news (N6) in this study is an investigation report stating that illegal land grabbing is occurring in the Daramale district and that the Gamo zone administration of the Daramale district has declared that conflict and violence are caused by the improper usage of land. Consequently, the inquiry report clarifies that there is insufficient information to support the district high court's primary responsibility of resolving the land grabbing problem. According to the investigative report, landowners are at odds with their neighbours, and the land management officials from Kebele up to the District are acting in a backward manner without consulting current knowledge. The investigation report finally explains that land is the most valuable asset in its conclusion.

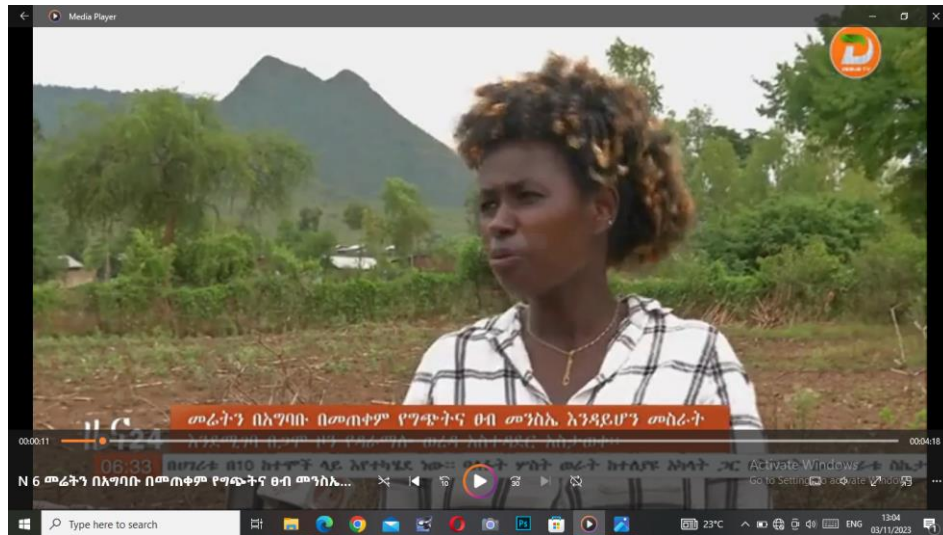


Image 1.6 from investigative news six (N6)

The above report shows that the investigative report was done on the improper use of land issue, and people who are working in land management are exercising it in a backward manner without consulting current knowledge. From this report, it can be stated that the reporter judges the land management officials from Kebele up to the district without any evidence. As a reporter, the journalist should not take sides, and he must be left out of the story. Moreover, the news story should fulfil the qualities of investigative stories like balance, objectivity, impartiality, and neutrality.

4.1.2 Informants Perception about Investigative Journalism in the SRTA

This part deals with the explanations of respondents on the practice of investigative journalism in the SRTA Neqash programme, apart from the concept they have.

The practice of investigative journalism is directly related to the aim of the station, which has earlier been defined under the topic of the participants' knowledge of investigative journalism. The researcher understood from the discussions made with producers, editors, and officials of the station that its main target is investigating government institutions that have experienced a lack of good governance and irregularities when delivering service to the public. With this assumption, the researcher asked journalists who are assigned to the educational programmes department to state their observations on whether the station is practicing investigative journalism or not. One of the interviewees (J2) interviewed on April 11/2023 first preferred to state the existing situation in SRTA and then its practice as follows:

I am unable to determine if investigative journalism exists. It is being promoted through established initiatives and attempts. To what degree they are performing is debatable. While it brought about improvements and accomplished some excellent things, its performance fell short of what was expected of such a large institution. In terms of the Neqash programme, it might not be flawless. It particularly struggles with seeing the issue through to completion (after the investigation's findings). The science may not be exactly practised in this sense.

According to the above respondent, the attempt by itself is one thing, despite its problem with interpreting the science of investigative journalism. Similarly, the other journalist (J1) interviewed on 30 March 2023, shared the stated idea and clarified: "It is not only difficult in our institution, but I do not believe that the concept is well understood by the public. As an institution, it is organised at a departmental level, but it is not well equipped, and the journalist's capacity is not crafted as well. Since it is a very difficult task, it needs both personal skills and resources. It is also questionable whether we journalists really understand the concept. But nowadays there is progress in

extracting some important issues, and even politically assigned people begin to be interviewed.”

Based on the above ideas, it is possible to say that though the station is in need of practicing investigative journalism, it lacks the commitment to do so. The station is not well equipped to exercise it as expected.

As regards building up the capacity of investigative journalists through training, the researcher posed a question to the respondents, and most of them admitted that they are not well equipped with trainings regarding investigative journalism. The station provides excessive training in documentary production but only makes promises for investigative journalists. One of the producers (p. 1) interviewed on 18 May 2023, also said, “No. Never, maybe the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission invites you to attend a half-day workshop on the report of corruption scandals and discuss how to combat corruption.”

Therefore, based on the above statements, it can be said that the station is not building the capacity of the journalists to practice investigative journalism well, and a lack of passionate journalists also hinders the practice of investigative reporting in the station. It has not been given due emphasis.

The other question raised by the researcher was concerning the programme’s inconsistency and lack of follow-up stories. Though the producers admitted that there is a lack of human resources, there is also a problem of logistics when we need to produce a follow-up story. One of them (p. 1) interviewed on 18 May 2023 also added that once they exposed the wrongdoing of the institution, they were afraid to get back and do the follow-up story. If investigative stories are not accompanied by changes following the investigation, it is considered half-work.

According to these respondents, the main reason for the programme's inconsistency is a lack of human sources. There are only four journalists in the investigative team with

two programmes, “Yemereja Mead” and “and *Neqash*,” and it is too difficult to run the programme weekly as before. That is why the programme becomes occasional.

Here it can be understood that the practice of investigative journalism is in an early stage in SRTA due to a lack of qualified human power and adequate physical resources allocated by the station, and the public awareness makes it not be practiced as it is expected. In relation to these ideas, Reang, P., and Nariddh, M. (2007) state that investigative reporting requires a lot of investment and a longer time than routine reporting, and after all, it should report the result of whether the investigation brings a change or not because investigative stories intend to change or correct wrongdoing.

4.2 Areas of Issue Coverage for investigative journalism in SRTA

Investigative journalism has a crucial role in promoting democracy and development by looking at different affairs that are in the public interest. Various documents indicate investigative reporting might cover any type of issue. The investigation workout is a genuine process. It is a way of ensuring whether an allegation is true or not based on the gathered facts and evidence (Knuut, 2015). Thus, public-matter issues that affect the mass will be entertained as an investigative report, whatever the area is. From the political investigation of the Watergate scandal up to the deforestation of Kakura Forest in Kenya and recently exposed wrongdoing in football in Ghana, these are some examples related to the varied area coverage. To support this, Ashenafi (2017) said, "There is no limitation for subject areas. Politics and politicians; government and governance; corruption; health and health care; agriculture; land alienation; the economy; privatisation; business and consumer affairs; nongovernmental organisations; the environment; gender issues; religion; human rights; child abuse; public procurement and tender procedures, etc. Respondents clearly discussed this issue in relation to what they have been practicing so far.

Regarding the area of issue coverage, one producer (p. 1) interviewed on 18 May 2023 expressed his idea as below:

There are so many types of investigation reports. Some may be crime-based, some may be a problem of good governance, and others may be political. As I told you, there are many types. We select, frame, and do an investigation report on various issues based on the impact they have on society. There are many types of sources that we use in our work or in our investigative reporting. But the first thing that is said to be important is its impact on society, and the reason why it is called important is because the society is the victim of the problem. Next, the main source of the problem is the executive body of the government. We use these two as sources during investigative journalism. In addition to that, depending on the agenda, we use experts. These are the three that we use as the most important sources of investigative journalism on our media station. Regarding the private sector, we have never worked on it often. However, infrequently, when something wrong happens to them, we do an investigation report. Most of the investigative reporting we have done has focused on government sectors.

According to the above respondent, it is possible to state that the media station used as a source of information for investigative journalism is society. Because the large public is considered the primary victim of the problem,

Next to society, the media station also uses government bodies as a source of information for investigative journalism. Because mostly those corrupted government bodies are believed to be the source of the problems in society. Bad governance by different governments is explained as one basic challenge in Africa. And it is broadly manifested by its long last of dictatorial leaders, non-free media, and undemocratic elections (Owoye and Bissessar, 2014). Media is a weapon for development, to create good governance and a democratic society. In this regard, Sullivan (2013) said that the role of investigative reporting is high. Investigative reporting has long been an instrument that media development implementers have used in their efforts to improve the media landscape in emerging democracies. Since there is no generally accepted definition of the concept, it is compensated by the identification of principles that strengthen good governance in any society. It indicates the service offered to society by the structure of government. Ashenafi (2017) describes good governance as the

standard and quality of institutions and their effectiveness in interpreting policies into successful implementation on the ground. The ratification of rules, regulations, and legal documents plays a role in the process of good governance. However, only the enactment is not a guarantee, but its implementation. Thus, it needs strong cross-checking and follow-up mechanisms (Bereket, 2012). Analyse the implementation, and the results of rules, regulations, policies, and others should be proven. The significance and necessity of whether that rule or policy is essential or not also have a place for investigation. The misuse of power by trespass against the designed structures also requires investigation.

Therefore, by following in the footsteps of those corrupted government bodies, the investigative journalist reached reality. Moreover, the media station has used different experts as sources of information for the investigation report. These experts give expert information on revealing reality.

Regarding issues and targets that have been entertained in investigative journalism, respondents shared their opinion. One of the interviewees from the media experts (m1) interviewed on 29 March 2023, said, “It is infinite, but traditionally it is considered that it deals with crime against public interest.” Similarly, another media expert (m2) interviewed on 29 March 2023, also strengthens the stated idea as follows:

I do not think that it is possible to put a cut line on what investigative journalism should rely on. The national issue is basic. There is also no demarcation not to cover private individual issues if they touch on the basic interests of the people. In many countries, because of private individual's attacks, issues took global form and brought international mobilization.

One can understand from this text that investigative journalism does not have a limit and focuses both on the private and the government based on its importance to the public. National interest issues can be given priority. “There are no issues considered off-limits to investigative reporters” (William Gaines, 1994).

It is difficult to find a place that is free from corruption. Experts in the area, economists, and international agencies explain the unlimited coverage of corruption throughout the globe. Corruption is a worldwide problem, but with more devastating effects felt in emerging and developing countries, such as those found in Africa (Owoye and Bissessar, 2014). For them, the African continent is characterised by low growth rates, declining agricultural production, stagnating manufacturing, rising imports, and rapidly expanding external debts. Corruption may manifest in various ways: rent-seeking, seeking illegal benefits, misuse of public power for self-benefits, and so on.

Regarding issue coverage, one of the producers (p. 2) interviewed on 18 May 2023, of the '*Neqash programme*' explained that the main thing is not the target (government or private), but rather the consequence and importance of the issue after it results. He also added a point on the current practice in SRTA. As he explained, at this time the focus is on issues related to land, which are connected to corruption, a lack of good governance, and irregularities. Most of the time, tips that come to their station are related to land. Most of the producers also agreed on the mentioned issue.

Moreover, the deputy director and head of educational programmes explained that his media stand is focusing on issues of lack of good governance and corruption in government institutions.

According to these respondents, issues entertained by the programme are measured by government policy and strategy. These issues have to play a role in promoting democracy and good governance, which the government has been doing so far.

To the question of why the programme does not entertain other issues such as religious and political issues that are of public interest, one of the producers (p. 2) interviewed on 18 May, related it to the FDRE constitution, which states about religion and state. It underlined that government and religion are separate and cannot interfere with each other. If corruption is made behind religion, they could investigate, but they have never

encountered it yet. Similarly, regarding politics, he said that issues are not yet forwarded to them. Therefore, they do not attempt to produce such a programme.

But the other producer (p. 1) interviewed on 18 May, replied in a different way: “Firstly, it is preferred to produce a programme on religious tolerance rather than to extract something different. Secondly, the editorial policy does not encourage this. It is also the same with politics, and investigating politics is too difficult. On one side, you personally may have the fear, and on the other side, the station’s stand to entertain such an issue is also other business.” The editor of the investigative programme also strengthens the reason mentioned by the producer. He stated that politics, religion, and nationality issues are sensitive.

The deputy director and head of educational programmes, however, related it to the existing situation in the country. He said, “Politics and religious issues are not investigated because there is a problem of attitude and perception. Since democracy is emerging in this country, you may not correct and solve problems by extracting problems in relation to these issues.” The other producer (p. 4) interviewed on 18 May, forwarded his idea on entertaining issues by saying, “Indeed, the editorial policy blocks us from producing religious issues. Even with permitted once, we journalists prefer to produce simple issues that are in our interest.”

From the respondents’ explanation, it can be stated that, in relation to the issue coverage, investigative journalism is targeting both private and government institutions. However, SRTA is currently focusing on government institutions (mostly land issues) in order to promote good governance and democracy in the country, but it is not lack of getting other issues; rather, journalists are not finding issues, but issues related to land are finding them. And other significant issues that lost the recognition of the journalists are neglected and in need of people who can take them to the station.

Regarding not covering politics and religious issues in the editorial policy, the existing attitude, perception, and interest of journalists are raised as justifications.

However, the FDRE constitution in Article 11 states that government and religion are separable, but that does not mean the media should not cover religious issues. It is a lame reason because it does not state even a single word that blocks investigative journalism from covering religious issues. Regarding the editorial policy, the 2005 editorial policy for the television section does not state anything unique for politics and religious issues coverage unless these could bring about a civil crisis. And this is the main function of any responsible media station.

Therefore, the respondent's justification is based on a lack of self-confidence and their personal interest not to cover some complex issues. The station also does not encourage investigative journalists to investigate such issues, and this makes journalists consider these affairs as untouchable areas of their practice without any written justification rather than depending on the informal preaching of a spiral of silence to cover these issues. For this reason, the *Neqash programme* cannot somehow meet among the tents of investigative journalism, i.e., "investigative reporting should cover serious issues that affect the public interest" (Forbes, 2005).

4.3 Sources of Investigative Stories in SRTA

Sources, especially for investigative journalism, play a decisive role since organising crucial and relevant information helps produce a successful program. To do so, different sources can be used to cover investigative stories. Respondents forwarded their views here below.

Like other areas of journalism, there are also different origins for investigative stories. The researcher asked the producers about what could be the main sources for their investigative stories. One of the producers (p. 3) interviewed on 18 May, explained, "You can get ideas in many ways. Tips come from complaints and devoted people. You can also get rumors anywhere, from newspapers, institutions that are working in the area, like the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission, and personal observation. Ideas also come from the area we investigate and others through phone calls." Similarly, another producer (p. 1) interviewed on 18 May 2023 also shared the idea as follows:

Ideas can be found in two ways. First, as a journalist, you should look at and interpret things in different ways. An investigative journalist should be alert and curious. Therefore, you should run the business by collecting information. Secondly, tips come from people. We mostly use tips and then extract evidence for the investigation.

Ideas for investigative stories can emanate from a number of sources, including tips-off, public rumour, journalistic curiosity, trends and change, and other news media Forbes, (2005).

As explained by the respondents whose statements were written above and others, it seems that the origins of the investigative stories emanate from tip-offs, journalists observation, and institutions that are running such businesses. But practically most of the time, they investigate issues based on tips that come either from complaints or from other whistle-blowers who do not have a relationship with the issue but are devoted to their country. Investigating issues based on personal observation (as a journalist) is not habitual in the program. And this creates a conducive environment for producers to focus on specific issues that repeatedly come to their office, especially land issues. However, some scholars do not consider investigating based on someone else's information a practice of investigative reporting since the journalist has not conducted original work Waisbord, (2000).

According to Forbes (2005), "Investigative reporting needs a long-term process of planning, information gathering, and corroboration using a diverse range of sources." This means investigative stories should be accompanied by a variety of sources.

Having said this about the origin of the investigative stories, it is better to discuss how they select tips for investigation and extract evidence. With regard to this, respondents were asked to forward their idea of whether criteria were set or not. The editor of the programme states his idea relating it to assigning journalists as, "In the investigative journalism team, there are five journalists who produce programmes and assign any journalist who is not assigned to study the area and come up with evidence for the use."

Similarly, one of the producers (p. 1 interviewed on 18 May 2023) of the programme strengthens the idea in such a way:

After tips come to our department, the assigned journalist brings research-based evidence to the editorial board of the investigative journalism team to decide whether the issue should be investigated or not. In the defence, we digest it in regards to law and other factors, and after it is well organised, it is forwarded to the socio-economic department head. He or she also sends it to the educational programmes directorate, and if the head endorses it, then the programme is going to be produced.

One can grasp from the above statement of the respondents that there are no criteria to assign journalists to investigate a given issue. Their background or experience is not considered when giving assignments to the journalists, and this can have its own impact on the investigation, especially in digging out detailed information by looking at different dimensions using their experience. The research is being conducted by a single journalist, and this may have its own impact on getting detailed and well-organised evidence because investigative journalism is teamwork not only in the office but also in the field (Gaines, 1994).

In the sample broadcasts, it was also observed that all of them were researched by a single journalist who produced and presented the program. That is why some programmes lacked detailed information, and some people who had to be interviewed were not included in some of the programmes, even though the reason was not stated. This had its own impact on presenting relevant and diverse ideas that had to be presented.

According to the respondents (producers), however, even if the team agrees on the production, a programme can be cancelled if the head of educational programmes and other officials do not approve for some reason from their point of view. This could also happen on a programme that is ready for transmission. Some programmes were entertained in this way. This indicates that programmes that are proposed for production are exposed to more personal decisions than professional judgments. Thus,

these producers are not working their task with professional freedom as they should, and the resources are not properly utilised due to organisational pressure.

According to the producers, following the approval, they inform the institution that is going to be investigated and other concerned bodies that they meet for information. This has both negative and positive impacts on the investigation. It helps to prepare the concerned bodies to both prepare relevant information and, at the same time, hide sources (both human and physical), which are thought to be very important for the investigation. Since the programme is going to extract their wrongdoing,

Meanwhile, the researcher also asked respondents to identify whether criteria were set to select issues for investigation. The deputy director and head of educational programmes explained, “We select issues based on their width and weight, how much the issue affects society and its influence in promoting good governance and democracy, and whether they educate the concerned bodies; these are the criteria. All issues are not going to be produced.” According to the respondents, personal, family, and issues under trial are not entertained by the program. This indicates that it has to be of public interest and informative to stakeholders, especially those who are public officials.

Similarly, Reang and Narrdih (2007) state, “The story must tell something in which the audience is interested, which affects them and their daily lives.”

Here, it is possible to conclude that, though there are some criteria to select issues for investigation, these criteria are more subjective. And this creates a conducive environment to conduct investigations based on personal judgement, as the researcher stated earlier.

Unlike event reporting, investigative reporting needs intensive and careful research because it involves extracting the hidden from the light (Hunter, nd). As a result, evidence can be deliberately hidden. The researcher questioned the respondents about

how long they had conducted research to investigate a given issue. One of the producers (p. 3 interviewed on 18 May 2023) of the programme elaborates here below:

Research depends on the issue. First, when you investigate, it should have width and depth. It has to be research-based. It is not like anything you go and assess. You have to have facts and evidence, not just a tip. Especially, it could not be smooth while collecting evidence from the area; concerned bodies could hide necessary documents to tackle the investigation. In such cases, you should find people who can give you such evidence. It is open; sometimes people may come with all necessary documents, and you may be expected to look at the issue in relation to proclamations, regulations, and directives.

According to this respondent, the research duration that it takes to produce a programme is indefinite. Since it is a sensitive assignment, it needs careful collection of facts and evidence. But if people come with adequate evidence, it shortens the time. This implies that journalists also need extracted evidence to simplify their work, rather than striving to extract information themselves. They simply need to minimise their effort in the investigation. And this somehow contradicts the nature of investigative journalism.

While investigating issues, different tools can be used. According to the respondents, the main tool for their investigation is a document rather than a human source. It means secondary sources are the backbone of the programme in addition to other sources. The reason behind this is that most of the time, people are reluctant to take part in the investigation as a source. The researcher had also observed this in the sample broadcasts while documents were intensively used.

As the work is too difficult and sensitive, it is unthinkable to get evidence easily and on time. Even sometimes evidence can be intentionally hidden if the organisation that is going to be investigated recognises it ahead of the data collection process. So the researcher asked the respondents if it was allowed to hide their identity or use surveillance for the sake of getting essential evidence. One of the producers (p. 3) said,

“You have the right to obtain information legally, not by force. There is a law to extract the hidden; this is the line you should follow. If you go beyond this, you are unlawful, and it is personal, departmental, and SRTA's stance. If you think like this, you cannot do it.

Another producer (p.1 interviewed on 18 May 2023) of the programme said, “You observe while the media are doing a miracle in investigative journalism. But it is difficult in our case. You yourself are afraid because you do not have any protection. It is also questioned how much a programme can run that you brought by such means. The editorial policy also does not permit it.”

From the above extract, it is possible to say that using surveillance or hiding one's identity to gather information is strictly forbidden in SRTA's editorial policy. In addition to this, since there is no protection for the journalist, they are not encouraged to practice it in their investigation. The 2008 editorial policy (television section), FDRE Constitution Article 26 (right to privacy), and penal code also do not allow such activities, and if someone breaches this, they can be fined.

However, another interviewee from the producers (p. 2) stated that there is a situation that allows you to use it. He says, “Though it is unethical to dig out information without the consent of the concerned bodies, if it is in the public interest and the journalist is blocked from getting it, I think the profession may permit it.” The editor of the programme also said that they sometimes use surveillance to find documents, and they produce some programs. Similarly, the deputy director and head of educational programmes strengthened it as follows:

Our editorial policy doesn't allow such methods to collect information; for instance, you cannot take visuals without the consent of the person concerned and hide one's identity. But there might be situations that force you to use it. The journalist can use hidden cameras to hide his or her identity when the way to find the information is very narrow and the degree of public interest is high. Then we justify the editorial policy.

To conclude, using surveillance is somehow allowed to produce investigative stories when other legal means of obtaining information are exhausted. Most media do not allow reporters to use such mechanisms while reporting because it is considered deception. Reporters actually take it as the last option when other formal means are exhausted, and the consequence following the story is laid on the reporter (Kantumoya, 2004).

However, it seems investigative journalists do not try to apply surveillance due to a liking to follow the legal ways and which the editorial policy permits and personal fear in regards to protection. Regarding the editorial policy, it is possible to conclude that some producers of the programme are not familiar with justifying the editorial policy to apply surveillance, and because of this, significant evidence that is in the public interest might be ignored. And this may affect the investigation in getting evidence that could not be found in the formal way of searching because investigative reporting is not about event reporting but rather scandals. In such a situation, no one is expected to give you a piece of information that can take him or her to jail. Therefore, it is the investigative journalist's responsibility to decide whether to satisfy the public interest or to betray his or her vow.

4.4 Challenges of Practicing Investigative Journalism in SRTA

Since investigative journalism is a difficult task, it faces a lot of challenges that take journalists up to life scarification. In this section, the researcher discussed the major challenges to practicing investigative journalism in SRTA, with the Neqash programme in particular.

4.4.1 Respondents Reflection on the Quality and Commitments of Journalist

To identify the major challenges to practicing investigative journalism in the agency, the researcher posed questions to the respondents and expressed their ideas. One of the media experts (m3 interviewed on 29 March 2023) illuminated it as follows:

First and foremost, it should be understood that what investigative journalism is and the skills it needs; issues it includes, the journalist's mission and responsibility, and the obligation to the law of investigative journalism, both the compliant and those being investigated, should be treated objectively. It is difficult for me to believe that there are investigative journalists who can wisely run such tasks in an appropriate way.

This extract implies that a lack of qualified investigative journalists is the major challenge to practicing investigative journalism. Most of the respondents shared the idea, especially the producers of the programme, who underlined that the absence of adequate training to build up their capacity greatly affects their practice.

The other challenge raised by the respondents is related to the absence of committed journalists who are ready to pay scarification and accept it as a reward for their investigation of public interest. Most of them related it to a lack of incentives, apart from other journalists working at the station. Similarly, one of the producers (P4 interviewed on 18 May) stated that the reason why journalists are not being committed is as follows:

A journalist may sometimes not be committed because his or her friends working with him or her may receive their salaries without doing anything or simply reproducing something that is recorded only by adding captions, introductions, etc. within a month, but when you do investigative assignments, you suffer and face so many challenges. Therefore, in such a situation, the investigative journalist may fail to be committed if his or her work is equally entertaining to the other journalists.

According to the respondent, entertaining investigative journalism with other assignments by the station may discourage journalists, making them less committed to their work. It means that the organisation's attitude towards this job is not as it should expected. And this affects the development of the practice of investigative reporting in the station since the producers are not evaluated for their effort. And this may lead journalists to become involved in brown envelope journalism, which highly affects the validity and reliability of investigative stories (Lodamo and Skjerdal, 2009).

Since investigative reporting is a special type of journalism, it requires a strong commitment from journalists. According to Corner (2009) most of the time, investigative reporters uncover wrongdoing by individuals and institutions. The good that public officials or private companies do is often publicised; a whole army of public relations people makes sure this is so. It is the wrong that powerful groups and individuals do that is kept secret and hidden from the public.

The other thing that is mentioned by the respondents is that the organisation's commitment to strengthen investigative journalism is not much. It can be explained in different ways; for instance, the investigative team is not well equipped both in human resources and logistics.

One of the producers (p.1 interviewed on 18 May 2023) strengthened the idea by saying, "You may use your pocket for transport to collect evidence for the investigation and to copy documents."

Similarly, another producer (p.4 interviewed on 18 May 2023) elaborates on such challenges as follows:

As regards the organisation, there might be things connected with politics. If it is believed that the programme can dissatisfy some politically assigned people, you are requested to extract something or polish something that is thought to be the key theme of the story, unless it can be cancelled after you have already produced the programme that comes with unreserved effort. I know some programmes that entertain in this way.

(Ongowo, 2011) states that investigative journalists "side with the less powerful and the forgotten". Journalism works to protect society from the harm it faces. To earn success regarding the protection of the public interest, journalists are involved in challenging situations. Investigative journalism often places news workers in conflict with the power elites the rich and the corrupt who seek to hide information.

Following clues, facing the powerful once, using documents to expose wrongdoing, and other challenges require special types of commitment. Fearless efforts by journalists

and media organisations were expected while practicing investigative reporting. Investigative reporting is not reporting what we have seen; it is reporting that relies on the journalist's own enterprise and initiative (Cornel, 2009).

In addition, external institutions also interfere in the programme since the station is somehow subsidised and the station does not want to disappoint the sponsor; if not, the sponsorship can be immediately terminated.

Therefore, from the above idea, it is possible to say that there is political and financial pressure that leads to entertaining the interests of the influential rather than the public interest. And SRTA seems to be failing to resist some challenges, and this is undermining the journalist's efforts and public interest. According to Hester (2011), private-owned media are not encouraged to produce investigative stories that are not needed by the owner. The same thing can happen in the government media if the agenda is related to government interests. Investigative reporting is a type of reporting that requires a strong effort from journalists and investigators. To strengthen this, Corner (2009) said that investigative reporting is not reporting the information that has been given out by others, whether government, political parties, companies, or advocacy groups. It is reporting that relies on the journalist's own enterprise and initiative. Investigative reporting requires journalists to go beyond what they have seen and what has been said.

According to the respondents, there is also a great challenge in obtaining relevant information for the investigation. One of the producers (p.3 interviewed on 18 May 2023) states it as follows:

First, the nature of the programme is to explore gaps between institutions and private individuals, and nobody likes this. I do not know; maybe religious people get penance for their benefit. But this is not penance, because you are investigating by saying, "You are preaching and breaking your promise. Therefore, he or she might not be willing to be interviewed. To do so, he or she may postpone the day for the interview and preach to determine your work, as it is a falsehood and not important or informative.

The researcher also observed in the sample broadcasts that concerned bodies were reluctant to give information in such an unethical way that it was not expected of one government official to do so.

To summarise, according to the respondents, the major challenges to the practice of investigative journalism regarding the commitment of journalists are: lack of skilled human power and logistics; inadequate training; absence of committed journalists; absence of incentives for investigative journalists; absence of trust-based work among journalists, institutions, and the public; misunderstandings of the importance of investigative journalism in the community; organisational pressure; external interference such as political and financial; threats; and absence of protection for journalists during pre-production, production, and post-production.

4.4.2 is investigative journalism the sense of ‘public interest’?

According to Nekazet and Kas (2010), investigative journalism requires the reporter to dig deeply into an issue or topic of public interest. Public interest means an action or activity that harms or prevents the public from benefiting. In this regard, Nekazet and Kas (2010) said that ‘public interest’ refers to a quality whereby a community will be harmed by not knowing this information or will benefit (either materially or through informed decision-making) from knowing it. Preventing the public from being misled by some statement or action of an individual or organisation is considered the goal (Forbes, 2005). Regarding this, one of the media experts (m4 interviewed on 29 March 2023) expressed his idea as follows:

Reporting investigative journalism is in the public interest. The media is the bridge between the people and the government. It is through the media that the people's questions lead to the government and the government's answer to the people. That's why it is called the fourth government body. The media has a duty to be present and make clear wherever there is a public complaint: what is the origin of their complaint, why did the government body allow the public's complaint to arise, what is the role of the executive body to resolve the complaint, etc. In this regard, the public wants to

know about the abuses, good governance deficiencies, waste of resources, and corruption that are covered up by the executive body and the decision-making body. It is not possible to convey this to the public through the regular reporting process. So it requires deep investigative journalism. In the process of investigative journalism, there are many things that the public wants answered. There are many experiences with this process. Investigative journalism is one type of media work in which the public looks forward to the country through reports, hard talk shows, interviews, and documentaries. It contains many responses. Therefore, the people want such strong work to be done for them. In particular, this is what the people of our country expect from the media these days. In this regard, the media have the duty to find out, investigate, and deliver the truth to the people. Therefore, the people want investigative journalism done for them.

Investigative journalism serves as the public's mouthpiece, as long as it is through investigative reporting that the public has heard its voice. By using investigative journalism, it is possible to make oppressed people get justice by raising their voices and promoting their culture, values, and beliefs. Therefore, investigative journalism is what society needs and deserves more than any other media work. That's why investigative journalism is a public issue.

According to respondents, the socio-political economy of our country demands the practice of investigative journalism so as to ensure transparency and accountability in governance. This implies that most of the respondents believe that the current political economy of our society demands the practice of investigative reporting as a public-interest priority issue.

A member of management in SRTA explained that “at the time that the public is being made a complaint about misallocation of government resources, corruption, and ill-governance, investigative reporting is expected to be the core of the media reporting, though it is not yet in south nation nationalities people of Ethiopia regional state.” Almost all the interviewees confirmed that they consider investigative reporting to be at the crest of media practice. Therefore, although it is not a regular practice in the

broadcast media institutions in SRTA, investigative reporting is one of the most important public interest issues in SNNPE.

4.4.3 Public Will and Acceptance While Reporting Investigative News in SRTA

The researcher asks questions about investigative journalists' challenges regarding public will and acceptance during the investigative report. One of the respondent journalists (J1 interviewed on 30 March 2023) replied:

One of the challenges facing the people is a lack of trust. There is a big fear that some people say 'we will be arrested if we divulge secrets'. This is because they are afraid of the government and generally refuse to give information. They are saying, "Even if we talk, we won't find a solution, so why do we talk?" We find it difficult to get the necessary information because of the great fear of 'why should I get into another problem and trouble?' Therefore, unless they are directly victims of the problem, people will not give information by saying, "I will not speak." Therefore, some people are hiding information just because they have not directly experienced the problem. On the other hand, the public discredits, demoralises, and undermines the work of journalists rather than encourages them. This is another problem for investigative journalists during investigative reports that come from the public.

So what we can understand from this is that the people say they will not give the necessary information even though they are being abused and oppressed because they are afraid of the government. This shows that there is a lack of trust in media workers and investigative journalists. This is also because of the fear of being accused, arrested, and threatened by the government. Therefore, unless they are directly victims of the problem, people will not give the necessary information. Due to the fear of the government, some people are hiding information unless they have directly experienced the problem.

On the other hand, the public also discredits, demoralises, and undermines the work of journalists rather than encourages them. Therefore, it is possible to discredit,

demoralise, and undermine the journalist's work, which is another problem for investigative journalists during investigative reports that come from the public. According to Kovach, B., and Rosenstiel (2001), disinformation campaigns can be launched to discredit, demoralise, and undermine the reporting of journalists, making it difficult for them to have an impact on the public. To address these challenges, journalists can work to maintain their independence, protect their sources, and have a strong public support system. They can also form coalitions and networks to support each other and use technology to protect themselves from surveillance and cyber-attacks.

Similar to the above respondent regarding the journalist's challenge in relation to public will and acceptance, another journalist (J2 interviewed on 30 March 2023) also expressed his idea. Distrust of the media is the first obstacle, and there is distrust of the journalist because the source of information thinks that problems will arise when they give information to the media. There is a possibility of withholding or refusing to disclose information because the disclosing party requires assurance. The main reason for this is that the citizens do not trust the government bodies or the media due to the existing situation or the civil war. Citizens are afraid to give relevant information freely and in confidence until the death, arrest, and torture of citizens do not stop. Therefore, from the above respondent, it is possible to state that investigative journalists are challenged by the public. Because of the civil war, people cannot feel safe and stop giving information freely to investigative journalists, distrusting the media and journalists.

The challenges of investigative journalism regarding public will and acceptance were also expressed in a similar way by another journalist (j3 interviewed on 30 March 2023). According to this respondent, there is great fear among the people. That fear has made the people distrust the government and the media. As a result, sources of information refrain from speaking openly about their thoughts. The source of information runs away as soon as they see a journalist, saying that if I say something to a journalist, I will be arrested or beaten up. This is a big challenge. You cannot say why

you are afraid. At the beginning and first round of the civil war, people talked freely and openly. Because people stand together on the sides of the government. However, after the peace agreement in Pretoria between the Ethiopian government and the Tigray People Liberation Front (TPLF), things changed.

According to the above respondent, it is possible to state that people, especially those who select the source of information for investigative journalists, are afraid of talking openly and freely. Because they think that if they (the source of information) talk freely, openly, and reveal the truth, the government may punish them. Moreover, people were talking freely and openly at the beginning of the civil war. This is because people stood together on the side of the government and supported it. However, after the peace agreement was made between the Ethiopian government and the TPLF, people stopped talking openly and freely.

The other respondent journalist (j4 interviewed on 30 March 2023) also replied with his idea regarding the investigative journalist challenge in relation to public will and acceptance, in line with the above respondent.

The problem we face in relation to public consent is the problem of distrust and fear of the media. If you have noticed, most of the private and government media in our country have been the executors of the government's agenda. Therefore, when we go down to the people and collect information, they avoid giving the necessary information to media people because they are afraid that they won't believe us, and they say, 'they will be arrested if they tell the information. That is why they fear the media and journalists. Their fear is due to fear of the government''. Most of the time, sources of information for investigative journalism in our media say, "What difference does it make if we say it? Our message is not properly published in the media. So it's better not to talk."

According to this respondent, it is possible to state that the public's fear and distrust of media and journalists are the big challenges facing investigative journalists. This public fear and distrust is the result of fearing the government. Because if they talk freely and

openly, they will be arrested and punished by the government. Besides, they also think, "What difference does it make if we say it?" Our message is not properly published in the media. So it's better not to talk."

Another respondent from the media experts (M1 interviewed on 29 March 2023) justified what the producer says as "first, there is no trust framework between journalists and the public; journalists and institutions (public or private). It is not yet developed in the community, and there are people who do not recognise that journalists are doing this for good."

Therefore, based on the mentioned statements, it can be said that there is a difficult situation in obtaining information for the investigation since it is done to dig out the wrongdoings of the subjects being investigated. The reason behind this is the absence of a trust framework between the investigator and those being investigated due to a misunderstanding of the importance of investigative journalism. Investigative journalists, therefore, should try persuading the subjects by giving them confidence in the consequences. Investigative journalists should be confidential about their sources while investigating, especially for those who do not need to identify their identities (Kantumoya, 2004).

Most respondents also stated that threats can be forwarded from those who are exposed to their irregularities since investigative journalists have no protection; they are exposed to various attacks, and some of them were imprisoned illegally while investigating. Investigative journalism, by its nature, is a difficult job. Some assignments are very dangerous to the journalists' lives (Forbes, 2005). Some people may also try to entertain journalists with financial benefits if it is possible not to produce the programme or to remove some facts that need to be lifted up.

4.4.4 Political Influence in Investigative Journalism

When the researcher was interviewed regarding the pressure of political interference on investigative journalism, the responses of the journalists (J1 interviewed on April 11/2023) were as follows:

The biggest challenge we face as investigative journalists is that the media is usually run by the government, so we can't work without the government's approval or permission. In every investigative report we do, the government is notified before it is aired. What needs to be taken out is removed, and what needs to be added is added and then aired. One thing we should note here is that what is cut or removed is 'truth' but if it affects the government, it will be removed. What is added is 'false information' because it is believed to raise the status of the government. So the media has a direct influence. This means that I, as an individual, do not do my job properly in the profession that I have studied. Just to make one thing clear here, the first thing that they do on me is prohibit my job or stop me from working investigative journalism, and the second is that you will be arrested and threatened as a 'false defamer or terrorist'. These and other things are the problems we face due to political pressure.

Therefore, we understand from the above respondent that political interference is in abundance, directly or indirectly, and it can be said that it is creating a great impact on the media, the profession of investigative journalism, and the journalist's life. Moreover, any media activities that are related to investigation journalism are done with government approval or permission. To increase the government's status, sometimes they added false information and removed the reality to protect the government's safety. Besides, when journalists do their work properly, they may be prohibited from their job, threatened, accused, and arrested. From this, the researcher concluded that any investigation report done on the orders of politicians is done only in a way that benefits the government.

To support this, Kovach, B., and Rosenstiel (2001) state that journalists can face challenges and political intervention while conducting investigative reports. Due to political pressure, the government or powerful individuals may try to influence the

media to tone down or stop the report that exposes their corruption, wrongdoings, or any information that can damage their reputation. Similar to the above (Maina, 2010), journalists may face pressure from the government, which can include surveillance, arrest, and censorship. This can lead to self-censorship on the part of journalists or their reluctance to report on certain topics. In addition to that, Mayeux (1996) also stated that journalists may face legal challenges such as defamation or breach of confidentiality laws, which can be used to silence them or punish them for publishing sensitive information. Journalists may also face legal action from the government, such as lawsuits or criminal charges, which can hinder their ability to conduct investigations and report on important issues. In some cases, journalists' lives may be at risk if they report on sensitive issues, such as organised crime or corruption, leading to attempts to silence them through violence or intimidation. Journalists also face intimidation and harassment from political actors, including violence or threats of violence against them or their families.

Uphill battle against government secrecy Investigative journalists often face resistance from government officials who refuse to reveal sensitive information or maintain strict secrecy protocols. This creates a challenge for journalists, who must navigate complex legal and bureaucratic systems to obtain the necessary information (The Guardian News Agency, 2017).

The government directly or indirectly controls the media in order to protect its interests. To maintain the interests of the government, investigative work is reported falsely. This kind of practice also reduces the credibility of the media. In addition, it did not follow the professional ethics of investigative journalism.

Another investigative reporter (J2 interviewed on April 11/2023) supports this idea by saying, ‘ ‘ in each situation, investigative journalism has something to offer. It requires knowledge, energy, time, and effort. Another thing is that when you start working as an investigative journalist, things are connected from bottom to top or have chains to each other, so it is necessary to solve these complex things with patience. As a result, due to political pressure and

influence, the work started at the initial level may be delayed or stopped. In the meantime, because of political intervention, you may not do your work properly; preventing, threatening, not allocating enough budget, or allocating only a small amount of money are the main obstacles of investigative journalism due to political interference.’’

According to the above respondent, it is possible to state that the political influence on investigative journalism is not easy. Investigative journalists are faced with many things, such as preventing their jobs, accusing, arresting, threatening, not allocating enough budget, or allocating only a small amount of money. To solve such a problem, it takes patience.

The third respondent in investigative journalism (J3 interviewed on April 11/2023) also expressed his idea regarding the challenges of investigative journalism due to political interference, as stated below:

’’ Political interference is one of the major threats to investigative journalism these days. As journalists, we should be independent of any political affiliation or viewpoint. However, the political environment, especially the ruling party, wants us to work only in the direction that the government wants to be investigated. This results in the wrong conclusion and leads us to the wrong understanding. In addition, it makes people have the wrong view about it. This is the biggest crime committed during investigative reporting. Secondly, the government allows investigative journalism since it wants to hit a competitor party or a person who tries to expose the government’s secret by supporting one party and attacking another. The government and private media in our country use investigative journalism as a "government stick" to attack the government’s enemy or competitor and serve as a "government mouthpiece" to change the public’s view and to have a good perception of the government. The third and most important thing is that the government gives a direct order not to make an investigation report targeted at it. That’s why I said, "Investigative journalism has become the stick of the government."

Therefore, the researcher concludes that making investigative journalists reach wrong conclusions by giving wrong information, pointing in the wrong direction, and also misleading the people is the result of political intervention in the work of investigative reporting. In addition, the government allows investigative journalism since it wants to hit a competitor party or a person who tries to expose the government's secret. And the last one is that the government gives a direct order not to make an investigation report targeted at it.

The other respondent journalist (j4 interviewed on April 11/2023) also expressed his idea by saying,

“the first challenge we face in this matter is related to freedom of speech and access to information. One is the problem we face due to a lack of freedom of speech, which can be arrest, threats, or intimidation whenever you criticise the government or a government official. The second is to prevent information sources from providing opposing information to the government. However, everyone, including government officials, has a constitutional obligation to be accountable and take responsibility for everything they do. Therefore, investigative journalists must obtain the necessary information while doing their work. But the government prevents us from doing our work properly by creating these problems that I mentioned above.” Moreover, government officials are trying to pretend to be investigative journalists. Sometimes there are government officials who intentionally give false information and hide the reality in order to protect themselves and their party.

According to the above respondent, it can be understood that the absence of freedom of speech, preventing information sources from providing opposing information against the government, and threatening and arresting the source information are the challenges resulting from political interference. Investigative journalism can be a dangerous profession, putting journalists at risk of physical harm or intimidation from powerful individuals or organizations. This creates a challenge for journalists, who must balance their safety with their investigative work (US Department of State, 2018). In addition to

that, trying to pretend to be an investigative journalist for the sake of self-protection and their political party is another challenge of investigative journalism due to political interference.

4.4.5 Government Intervention in Investigative Journalism in SRTA

The researcher also asks questions about the government's intervention in investigative journalism. One respondent (J1 interviewed on April 11/2023) replied as below.

The problem with government intervention is not an easy one. Government officials do not let us question them, investigate them, or demand justice. Therefore, they don't want you to do any investigative reporting targeting them. You are only allowed to do investigative journalism if it does not implicate the government and if your targets are competitors of the government. If you start to do investigative journalism targeting the government, it will immediately stop you from working on an investigation report. You may be accused of defamation or being a terrorist, arrested, or threatened by the government.

According to the above respondent, it is possible to state that government officials are not allowed to do investigative journalism targeting them. However, they were only allowed to do investigative journalism targeting competitors of the government and those who deviated from the government's goals. If journalists start working on an investigation report without the permission of the government targeting it, they may be accused of defamation, terrorist acts, arrests, or threats by the government.

Regarding the government intervention, another respondent journalist (J2 interviewed on April 11/2023) expressed his idea by saying, 'Many times the government bodies interfered in our work and humiliated us. Moreover, by giving other orders, they make us leave the work we have started and find ourselves in a position where they told us to be there. This is from the point of view of fearing that their case will not go public and that the public will find out the truth about it. In addition, things like extending appointments, hiding information, threatening, arresting, and suspending from work are common.'

According to the above respondent, it is possible that the government interfered by diverting the investigation journalist's idea towards a simple issue rather than strong and serious stories. During this time, investigative journalists were forced to stop their previous work and focus on the recent one, which was outside of investigative journalism. Unless they (investigative journalists) do the government order, they become threatening, arresting, and suspending from work.

Similar to the above respondent regarding government intervention, another respondent journalist (J3 interviewed on April 11/2023) replied as follows:

The journalists in our institution are interested in showing and developing their professional abilities. Investigative journalism is a field where you can demonstrate, develop, and test your professional skills. One of the strongest jobs in media is investigative journalism. Because there is danger and in the way of the investigation report, there are ups and downs. But it is because the journalist does that work and fulfils the needs of the people, and it creates an opportunity to increase his own professional capacity. Nonetheless, in the nature of our media management, the media is controlled by political parties and the government. Even though it is public media, the management is appointed by the state government from a political party, not a media expert, out of a vacancy. In this process, even if the management of the institute is interested in doing investigative journalism, the profession will not be applied as it should be. Because conflict can arise between the appointing body (the government) and the head of the media, the reason for that is that when you do investigative reports on government officials, they will not be aired. You will be threatened and intimidated so that you will not work another time, or you will be fired, or you will be arrested or kidnapped. This is exactly happening in the country.

According to this respondent, journalists are interested in developing their professional capacity by doing investigative journalism. Besides, journalists need to be safe guards for the public. However, the media management is appointed by the government and controlled by government officials. In this process, even if the management is interested in doing investigative journalism, it will not be applied as it should be.

Because conflict can happen between the appointed bodies (the government) and the appointing body (the head of the media), for this reason, even if the journalists do investigative journalism targeting the government, it will not be aired. The journalist was also threatened, arrested, kidnapped, and intimidated.

4.4.6 Government Transparency in Investigative Journalism to SRTA

The researcher asked questions regarding government transparency while investigative journalists were working on investigation reports. One of the respondent producers (p1 interviewed on 18 May 2023) expressed his view as follows:

The problem we face in relation to the government's transparency is the change of leadership, especially after Prime Minister Abiy came to power. They prevent us from getting the necessary information by saying, "The previous leadership is different, and the current one is also different. We will not be asked when we are not there." This is a big problem that we see and notice all the time. It is an attempt to withhold information or evade responsibility. The more leaders in an organisation change, the more likely they are to miss out on the complexities. Therefore, they must provide appropriate answers to all questions asked by the incumbent.

According to the above respondent, frequent changes in leadership are one problem for investigative journalists. Because during changes in leadership documents, files and some important data may vanish intentionally or unintentionally. Such acts lead to wrong conclusions, and the public is also misinformed about the issue.

Similar to the above, another respondent journalist (J2 interviewed on 18 May 2023) stated his idea as follows: ‘the problem we face in relation to government transparency is not providing information and pointing in the wrong direction. The main reason they do this is an effort to free themselves from responsibility by leading investigative journalists in the wrong direction and then reaching the wrong conclusion. The other and most important thing is that they (government bodies) try to convince you that you are tired of leaving the work alone by extending the appointment date.

From the above respondent, it is possible to state that what the government officials do to investigative journalists is hide the real information and point out the wrong direction to reach the wrong direction in order to protect themselves and their political parties. Niblock, (1996) Support this idea, as investigative journalists are frequently challenged by governments that are not transparent in their operations. This can take many forms, such as a government refusing access to public records, denying visas to foreign journalists or media outlets, or simply refusing to provide timely or accurate information. (Nigussie, 2008) Also elaborate on this idea: Investigative journalists can face challenges when it comes to government transparency, as governments may try to limit access to information or provide incomplete or misleading information.

Another respondent investigative journalist (J3 interviewed on April 11/2023) also expressed his own idea regarding the transparency of the government: the government must be transparent to the people at all times.

A government that does not want to be transparent to the people cannot be transparent to journalists. In short, government transparency is important for democracy-building and media workers, especially investigative journalists. Therefore, I think it would be good if the government were to be as transparent as possible and make a big contribution to the work of investigative journalism so that the trend of evading and hiding information and pointing in the wrong direction is abandoned. Because when civilians, advocates, and journalists are protected and feel safe, good governance and transparency will be achieved.

According to the above respondent, it can be stated that the government is not transparent for investigative journalists and for the people. Stop hiding and evading information from the public and journalists. It is important to build democracy and to assure the safety of civilians, advocates, and media workers, including investigative journalists. However, according to the above respondents, investigative journalists do not feel safe while they investigate the government.

Regarding government transparency, another respondent journalist (J4 interviewed on April 11/2023) supports this idea. "The main problem I have faced with government transparency is hiding or evading information, which they do directly or indirectly. As investigative journalists, we begin our work with document interpretation. Some government bodies hide such documents and destroy evidence. In addition to that, they also prevent us from obtaining evidence by asking a third party."

From the above respondent, it is possible to state that some government bodies hide and evade information from investigative journalists. Not only this, but they also destroy evidence and prevent journalists from obtaining necessary information from third parties.

4.4.7 The Journalists' Response on Financial Challenge IJ in SRTA

The researcher asks the respondent a question about the investigative journalist's challenges in relation to budget. One of the respondent journalists (J1 interviewed on April 11/2023) replied with his idea below:

The budget problem is not only the problem of investigative journalism, but it is also a big problem that can be seen in all fields of work. This is due to the fact that we have a low national income. However, the lack of funds for investigative journalism is not just because we are poor. Rather, investigative journalism revealed the secrets of many corrupt officials, government bodies, investors, etc. To be free from accountability or to protect themselves and their wives, they withhold or reduce the budget allocation for investigative journalism. It is clear to everyone that this is due to a lack of sincerity and not to poverty. When you expose one's secret, the other's secret is exposed too, so they have a chain; they can stand together and attack investigative journalists directly or indirectly. The other issue is that there is an attitude that says, "We cannot waste our money because it doesn't make any difference" This trend is widely seen as intentionally discrediting the journalist's work.

According to the above respondent's reflection, it is possible to state that the budget constraints of the investigation journalist are not due to the poor national income we have. Rather, it is because of corrupt government officials and media leaders. The budget constraint for investigative journalism is an action that is taken by corrupt government officials as one mechanism of self-defence. To be free from accountability or to protect themselves and their wives, they withhold or reduce the budget allocation for investigative journalism. Because it's believed that investigative journalism revealed the secrets of many corrupt officials and government bodies. The other issue is that there is intentionally discrediting of the journalist's work, and there is an attitude that says, "We cannot waste our money, because it doesn't make any difference". Therefore, because of these reasons, journalists faced budget problems during their investigation work.

(Maina, 2010) Stated that economic pressure can also be used to silence journalists. This can include advertisers withdrawing support or media owners withholding funding for certain investigations.

Another respondent, a journalist (J2 interviewed on April 11/2023), supports the above idea by saying, 'Budget constraints prevent effective work. Many things are needed. Investigative journalism requires a lot of things. For example, a hidden camera may be required. It takes a lot of makeup to look like the suspect. For example, impersonating a suspect in the place where he entered is not a trivial expense. Whether you eat what he eats, drink what he drinks, or do what he does, you need to get the necessary information. And for this, you will spend a lot of money.'

According to (J2 interviewed on April 11/2023), it is possible to state that the nature of investigative journalism requires many things, such as a hidden camera and makeup tools, to extract the necessary information. It looks like the suspected person may enter the place where he entered, eat what he (the suspect person) eats, and drink what he drinks. To do so, it needs a lot of money.

Regarding the financial challenges of investigative journalism, another journalist (J3 interviewed on April 11/2023) expressed an idea similar to the above two respondents. According to him (J3), the problem they faced in relation to the budget is clear to anyone. Although the media have their own financial system, the budget for investigative journalism is very small. What should be noted here is that the work of investigative journalism is determined by the situation or the case; it is not a matter of starting at this time and finishing at this time by setting a time limit or saying that this much budget is enough. You have to look at the situation; you may have something to add. Therefore, it is important to provide the necessary financial support by not getting tired of the process from start to finish.

Based on the above respondent (J3 interviewed on April 11/2023), it is possible to state that the budget allocation for investigative journalism is a very small amount of money. The budget for certain investigative journalism is not determined by time; rather, it is determined by the situation and the case. It is not a matter of starting at this time and finishing at this time by setting a time limit or saying that this much budget is enough. The budget allocator should understand and take into consideration the time taken and the number of people involved.

Regarding the financial problems of investigative journalism, another respondent (J4 interviewed on April 11/2023) replied with his idea below.

The challenge we face in relation to the budget is well known. As the media is an independent entity, it has its own budgeting system. This budget is intended for operational purposes. Each sub-department has an annual budget. But the budget for investigative journalism is very small. Investigative journalism is not a one-day or two-day job. It may take weeks or months, or it may take years. Therefore, if a media organisation says, "I will do investigative journalism," it is obligated to cover the necessary expenses. Otherwise, effective work cannot be done. The problem that we are seeing more and more often is that media officials do not properly understand the cost of investigative journalism and do not allocate enough budget. They want us to do a

simple job at no cost or at a low cost. This is killing the media and suppressing the voice of the people.

According to the above journalist, each media outlet has its own budgeting system. This budget is intended for operational purposes. Each sub-department has an annual budget. But the budget for investigative journalism is very small. This small budget is affecting their work. If there is any media station that is interested in investigative journalism, it has an obligation to cover the necessary expenses. Otherwise, effective work cannot be done. The reason why this problem is seen frequently is that media officials do not properly understand the cost of investigative journalism and do not allocate enough budget.

CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Conclusions

This study focuses on the practice and challenges of investigative journalism on government media in Ethiopia: the case of south radio and television agency on the Neqash program. To answer the basic research questions and to meet the objectives of the study, qualitative research approach was employed.

Individual in-depth interviews and qualitative content analysis of a few sample programs (broadcasts) were employed by the researcher since the study requires a description and analysis of the current state of affairs in the south radio and television agency with regard to the practice of investigative journalism. Based on the research objectives, the researcher has come up with the following conclusions:

- ❖ Regarding the practice of investigative journalism in SRTA, it is in its early stages due to a lack of qualified human power, adequate resources, government intervention, political influence, and lack of public awareness. The Neqash program, which aims to practice investigative journalism, mainly targets government institutions that fail to promote democracy and good governance. However, the program lacks detailed information and it is subjectively decided on issues to air.
- ❖ Regarding issue coverage of investigative journalism in SRTA, the media station is currently focusing on government institutions such as land issues, corruption, a lack of good governance, and irregularities in order to promote good governance and democracy in the region. The study found that most of the program covers land issues related to good governance and democracy, while covering politics and religion is not often done by producers who are highly dependent on the station's input rather than extracting complex issues themselves.

- ❖ Regarding the sources of the information for investigative journalism in SRTA, the media station used as a source of information for investigative journalism are society, government bodies, and secondary sources like documents. Society is considered the primary victim, while government bodies are believed to be corrupt and as main source of the problem. Secondary sources like documents are used when people are reluctant to provide information. However, the station lacks a mechanism to verify document validity and reliability. And this can somehow mislead the investigation.
- ❖ Concerning challenges of investigative journalism, the study identified that lack of qualified journalists who were committed to this assignment, lack of logistics, lack of adequate training, organizational pressure, external interference such as political influence, government intervention, and financial problem, absence of incentives for investigative journalists, absence of protection for the journalist and poor public participation as being source of information are the major challenges while and after practicing investigative journalism in the station in particular to Neqash program.

5.2 Recommendations

On the basis of the conclusions drawn, the researcher forwards the following recommendations:

- The South Radio and Television Agency, along with other relevant entities such as the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission, should play a collaborative role in enhancing journalistic capacity and bolstering investigative journalism within SRTA, particularly with media institutions.
- The agency in particular should work to foster a favorable environment and increase the investigative journalism department's capacity by providing a sufficient budget, providing adequate training to enhance the potential of journalists in the field, and recognizing journalists' efforts in addition to other programs because their work is distinct and challenging.

- The agency should also resist external influences like political influence, and government intervention when journalists produce relevant and important programs and avoid blocking them from putting their investigation on air.
- Journalists should also strive to do their best with the knowledge and skill they have rather than stating lame reasons.
- Educational institutions which are delivering related courses should also give attention for investigative journalism and work cooperatively with the media organizations, especially in informing the public about its significance in order to give information which are indispensable for the development and democratization process.

5.3 Implications for Future Studies

To ensure that their findings cover every facet of investigative journalism, the researcher suggests that future research consider the panel discussions, hard talk show, news features, official interviews, and news commentary of the Neqash programme. There were other ways the SRTA used investigative journalism besides short stories. Although there are other media outputs that discuss the Neqash programme, the researcher did not think that these were constrained by the study's parameters. All of the show formats are just as important as the news and interviews in this study to gain ideas, opinions, or a better knowledge of how investigative journalism is used on the Neqash programme. Attention must be paid to the audience's perceptions and level of satisfaction with the Neqash programme in SRTA.

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Appendix A, interview Questions for producer, managers, and media experts.

1. Do you think that the investigative reporting is an issue of public interest? How?
2. What kind of sources does your media organization use for investigative reporting?
3. Do you think that investigative journalists are free from any external influence while and after conducting investigative report? How?
4. What do you think about the Freedom of your media organization to report investigative issues?
5. What are the major challenges of journalists that hinder the practice of investigative journalism in your media organization?

Appendix B. Interview Questions For Journalists Of The Program.

1. What political challenges have you faced as journalists of investigative journalism in media organization?
 2. What kind of challenges have you encountered in relation to the willingness of the people while conducting investigative report?
 3. What kind of challenges have you faced in relation to economic interest when you produce investigative reporting?
 4. What kind of challenges have you faced in relation to government openness for information access?
 5. What kind of challenges have you faced in relation to government interference in investigative report?
 6. What kind of challenges have you faced in relation to private sector information access?
- ❖ In addition to the above questions, the researcher also prepared for 6 sample broadcast news for the sake of analyzing the practice of investigative journalism.

Appndex C. የቃለ መጠይቅ ጥያቄዎች ለዳይሬክተር፣ ፕሮዲዩሰር፣ ለአስተዳዳሪዎች ፣ ለአርታኢና የፕሮግራሙ ዋና አቅራቢ.

1. በድርጅትዎ ውስጥ ያለው የምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት ሁኔታ ምን ይመስላል?
2. ለምርመራ ዘገባ በእርስዎ ሚዲያ የሚመርጡት ምን ዓይነት አጀንዳ ነው?
3. የምርመራ ዘገባ የሕዝብ ፍላጎት ጉዳይ ነው ብለው ያስባሉ?
4. የእርስዎ የሚዲያ ድርጅት ለምርመራ ዘገባ ምን ዓይነት ምንጮችን ይጠቀማል?
5. ስለ መርማሪ ጋዜጠኞች ነፃነት ምን ያስባሉ?
6. የሚዲያ ድርጅቶች የምርመራ ጉዳዮች በመዘግብ ወቅት ነፃነቱን አንደት ያዩታል?
7. የምርመራ ተግባርን የሚያደናቅፉ የጋዜጠኞች ዋና ተግዳሮቶች ምንድን ናቸው?
8. ጋዜጠኝነት በእርስዎ የሚዲያ ድርጅት ውስጥ (ፖለቲካዊ ፣ ኢኮኖሚያዊ ፣ ሙያዊ) ፈተናዎች) ምን ይመስላል?

Appndex D. ቃለ መጠይቅ ለፕሮግራሙ ጋዜጠኞች ጥያቄዎች.

1. እንደ የምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት ጋዜጠኞች ምን አይነት ፖለቲካዊ ፈተናዎች ገጥሟችኋል?
2. የምርመራ ዘጋቢ በነበሩበት ወቅት ከህዝብ ፈቃደኝነት ጋር በተያያዘ ምን አይነት ፈተናዎች አጋጥመውዎታል?
3. እርስዎ የምርመራ ዘገባ በሚያዘጋጁበት ጊዜ ከበጀት ጋር በተያያዘ ምን አይነት ፈተናዎች አጋጥመውዎታል?
4. እርስዎ የምርመራ ዘገባ በሚያዘጋጁበት ወቅት ከመንግስት ግልጽነት ጋር በተያያዘ ምን አይነት ፈተናዎች አጋጥመውዎታል?
5. ከመንግስት ጣልቃገብነት ጋር በተያያዘ ምን አይነት ፈተናዎች አጋጥመውዎታል?
6. እርስዎ የምርመራ ዘገባ በሚያዘጋጁበት ወቅት ከግል ሴክተር መረጃ ከማግኘት ጋር በተያያዘ ምን አይነት ፈተናዎች አጋጥመውዎታል?

Appendix E. ቃለ መጠይቅ ከ ጋዜጠኛ 1 (J1)

1. በመጀመሪያ ደረጃ የምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነትን በሀገራችን እንዳለው ልምድ ማየቱ ጥሩ ይመስለኛል። እያንዳንዱን ሚዲያ ያን ልምድ በመተግበር ሂደት ውስጥ ያለው መልክ የምታየው እንደሀገር ባለው ሁኔታ ነው እና በሀገራችን ያለው ተጨባጭ ሁኔታ ሚዲያዎች እምብዛም ነፃ ናቸው ቢባልም ነፃነታቸው ግን በውል መሬት ረግጦ የቆመ አይደለም። በዚህ ሂደት ውስጥ ደግሞ በተለይ አስፈፃሚው አካል በዋናነት በሞያው ሞመገት፣ መጠየቅ ከሚያስችሉ የሚዲያ ስራ አይነቶች መካከል የምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት አንዱ ነው። ይሄ የምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት በርካታ አስፈፃሚ አካላት፣ ባለ ስልጣናትን፣ ፖለቲከኞች በሚመለከት የሚዳስስ ስለ ሆነ ከበጀት፣ ከሪሶርስ፣ እንደዚሁ ከብልሹ አሰራር የሚያያዙ ስለ ሆነ በዋናነት የሚያርፉት አስፈፃሚው አካል ላይ ነውና ይሄን ተግባራዊ በማድረግ ረገድ ሚዲያዎች ነፃነት አልነበራቸውም። ከሞላ ጎደል ለጥቂት ሚዲያዎች ጥቂት ምህዳር ተከፍቶ ነበር። በተለይ ባለፉት አምስት አመታት "በሀገራችን ለውጥ መጣ" ከተባለ ጊዜ ጀምሮ በነበረው ሂደት ሚዲያዎች ነፃ ለማድረግና ሁሉም ሚዲያ በተለይም ደግሞ የመንግስትና ሀላፊነት ተሰምቷቸው በኃላፊነት የሚሰሩ የግል ሚዲያዎች እንዲሁም የምርመራ ዘገባ እንዲሰሩ ይደረጋል ተብሎ ሲነገር እንሰማለን። ይህም ምናልባት እንደ እኛ ያሉ(ላሉ) የክልል ሚዲያዎች የተሸለ ነፃነት በተለይ ደግሞ በምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት የሚገኝበት ነው ተብሎ ታስቦ ነበር።

ነገር ግን የተወሰኑ ጅማሮ ነበሩ። ጠቅላይ ሚኒስቴር አብይ ከመጡ ወዲህ በተወሰነ መልኩ ሚዲያው ለቀቀ ለማድረግ ባሳዩት ፍላጎት ትንሽ ነገር ተሞክሮ ነበር። በኋላ ግን ተመልሶ ሚዲያው እንደዚህ አይነት ዘገባዎች እንዳይሰሩ ተዳርጓል። እንደ እኛ ሚዲያ ተቋም ነባራዊ ሁኔታ የምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት የሚዲያዎች ዋነኛው ተልእኮ ማለት ነው። የአስፈፃሚውን አካል መጠየቅና ለህዝብ ግልፅ የሆነ ነገር እንዲደርስ ማድረግ ወይም ደግሞ ግልፅ መረጃ እንዲያገኝ ማድረግ ትልቅ ተልዕኮ ቢሆንም በምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት አጀንዳ ቀርፅ፣ ፍሬም አድርጎ ህዝቡ ቅሬታ ባለበት ጉዳይ ላይ ገብቶ እውነተኛ መረጃ አውጥቶ በመሰጠቱ ረገድ የለም ማለት ይቻላል። ሚዲያው የሚመራው አካል የመንግስት ሹመኛ ወይም ፖለቲከኛ ስለ ሆነ ያንን ነገር

የማስፈጸም ችግሮች ይስተዋላሉ። እንደኛ የሚድያ ተቋም ሁኔታ የምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት በጣም የወረደ ከመሆኑ የተነሳ የለም ቢባልም የተጋነነ አይደለም።

2/ የምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት/ ዘገባ የህዝብ ፍላጎት ነው። ሚድያ ህዝቡ ከመንግስት የሚገናኝበት ድልድይ ነው። የህዝብ ጥያቄ ወደ መንግስት ያደርሳል፤ የመንግስት መልስ ለህዝቡ የሚያደርስ ነው። ከዚያ ባለፈም አራተኛ የመንግስት አካል ነው። ሚድያ የህዝብ ቅሬታ ባለበት ሁሉ እየተገኘ ፣ ቅሬታቸውን ከምን እንደመነጩ አስፈፃሚው አካል የህዝቡን ቅሬታውን እስኪፈጠር ድረስ ለምን እንደፈቀደ፣ ቅሬታውን ለመፍታት የአስፈፃሚው አካል ድርሻ ምን እንደሆነ፣ የመሳሰሉት ጉዳዮች የመስራት ግዴታ አለበት። በዚህ ረገድ በአስፈፃሚው አካል እና በውሳኔ ሰጪው አካል ተሸፋፍነው የሚቀሩ በደሎች፣ የመልካም አስተዳደር ጉድለቶች፣ የሀብት ብክነቶችን፣ ሙስና፣ በተመለከተ ህዝቡ ማወቅ ይፈልጋል። ይሄንን በመደበኛ አዘጋገብ ወይም በመደበኛ የዘገባ ሂደት በዜናው ሆነ በፕሮግራም ወደ ህዝቡ ማድረስ አይቻልም። ስለዚህ ጥልቅ የሆነ የምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት ይፈልጋል። በምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት ሂደት ውስጥ ህዝቡ የሚፈልገው በርካታ ነገሮች መመለስ ይቻላል። በዚህ ሂደት ብዙ ልምዶች አሉ። "ብዙ ልምዶች አሉ" ሲባል ስራው ብዙ ሆኖ ሳይሆን ባሉት ውሱን ስራዎች እንደ ሀገራችን ባሉ ሚድያዎች ህዝቡ በጉጉት ከሚጠብቃቸው የዘገባ አይነቶች የምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት በዋናነት አንዱ ነው። ምክንያቱም ብዙ ምላሾች ስለያዘ ነው። ስለሆነም ህዝቡ እንደዚህ አይነት ጠንካራ ስራዎች እንዲሰራሉት ይፈልጋል። በተለይም ደግሞ በአሁን ወቅት የሀገራችን ህዝብ ከሚድያው ምን ይጠብቃል ቢባል የምርመራ ዘገባዎች ነው። በዚህ ረገድ ሚድያዎች ፈልፋልው፣ እንሸስትጌት አድርጎ በ ማውጣት ለህዝቡ የማድረስ ግዴታ አለባቸው። ስለሆነም ህዝቡ የምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት እንዲሰራሉት ይፈልጋል። ይሄንን የምንግርህ በግምት ወይም በደመነፍስ ሳይሆን እንደ አንድ የጋዜጠኝነት ባለሙያና ከህዝብ ጋር ባለኝ የጠበቀ ግንኙነት ነው።

3/ የምርመራ ዘገባ አይነቱ የተለየ ነው። አንዳንዱ ክራይምበ ቤዝድ (ወንጀል ነክ) ሊሆን ይችላል፣ ወይም ደግሞ የመልካም አስተዳደር ችግር ሊሆን ይችላል፣ ሌላው ደግሞ ፖለቲካዊ ጉዳዮች ሊሆን ይችላል። እንደ ነገርኩህ አይነቱ ብዙ ነው። በተለያዩ ጉዳዮች ላይ ፍሬም አድርጎ እንሰራለን። እኛ በምንሰራበት ሰአት ወይም በሰራው የምርመራ ዘገባ የምንጠቀማቸው

ምንጮች ብዙ አይነት ናቸው። ግን ዋነኛ ከሚባለው የመጀመሪያው ህብረተሰቡ ሲሆን ዋነኛ የተባለበት ምክንያት ደግሞ የችግሩ ተጠያቂ (ሺክትም) ስለ ሆነ ነው። በመቀጠል ደግሞ ዋነኛው የችግሩ ምንጭ ሆኖ የሚገኘው የመንግስት ስራ አስፈፃሚ አካል ነው። እነዚህ ሁለቱ በምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት ወቅት እንደ ምንጮች እንጠቀምባቸዋለን። ከዚያ በተጨማሪ ግን እንደየ አጀንዳው ሁኔታ ምሁራን (ኤክስፐርቶች) እንጠቀማለን። እክስፐርታዝ የሆነ መረጃ እንጠቀማለንና በብዛት የምንጠቀማቸው እነዚህ ሰነድ ናቸው። እውነት ለመናገር በግል ሴክተሮች ላይ ሰርተን አናውቅም። በብዛት ትኩረት በመስጠት የሰራናቸው የምርመራ ዘገባዎች በመንግስት ሴክተሮች ላይ ያነጣጠረ ነው። በርግጥ የመስራት ፍላጎትና አቅም ጎድሎብን ሳይሆን ስላልተለመደ ነው። ከዚህ ቀደም ፕራክቲሱ የለም። ነገር ግን መሰራት አለበት ብዬ አምናለሁ። ሁሉም የህብረተሰብ አገልጋይ እስከሆኑ ድረስ መሰራት አለበት። ነገር ግን እዚያ ላይ ክፍተት አለ።

4/ እኛ ተቋም ላይ ባለሙያው ፍላጎት አለው። የምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት ማለት አንደኛ የሙያ ብቃትህ የምታሳይበትና የምታሳድግበት እንዲሁም የምትፈትንበት ዘርፍ ነው። በሚድያ ከሚሰሩ ጠንካራ ስራዎች አንዱ የምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት ነው። አደጋም ስላለው። ግን ጋዜጠኛው ያንን ስራ ሰርቶ የህዝቡን ፍላጎት አሟልቶ፣ የራሱንም ሙያዊ አቅም ማሳደግ የሚችልበት እድል ስለሚፈጥር ነው። ነገር ግን በእኛ የሚድያ አያያዝ ባህሪያዊ ሚድያውን የሚመራው አካል ፖለቲከኛ ነው። በክልሉ መንግስት ከፖለቲካ ፓርቲ የሚሾም እንጂ ሻክንሲ ወጥቶ፣ የሚድያ ኤክስፐርት የሆነ አይደለም። በዚህ ሂደት ውስጥ የምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት መስራት ፍላጎት ያለው የተቋሙ አመራር ቢኖርም ዘሮ ዘሮ ሰራው ተጠያቂነት ስለሚኖረው ሙያው በሚፈለገው መልኩ አይሰራም። በሹመት ሰጪው አካል እና በሚድያው ሀላፊ መካከል የሆነ ግንኙነት ስላላቸው በመንግስት ሹመኞች ላይ የምርመራ ዘገባዎች ሰርተህ ስትመጣ አየር ላይ እንዳይወጣ (እንዳይተላለፍ) ይደረጋል። ለሌላ ጊዜም እንዳትሰራ ዛቻና ማስፈራሪያ አለያም ከስራ ማባረር ወይም ደግሞ መታሰር ፣ መታፈን፣ ወግደል የመሳሰሉት ነገሮች ይደርስብሁል። ምክንያቱም ስልጣን ይሞቃል። ምሾት ይሰማቸውና የሌላውን መገፋት ሆነ የማህበረሰቡ ስቃይ ይረሱታል። በትክክል እየሆነ ያለውን ሁኔታ ይሄ ነው።

5/ የመርማሪ ጋዜጠኝነት ነፃነት በእኛ ሀገር ሆነ በተቋማችን የለም። ሚዲያ በባለስልጣናት ፍላጎት አይደለም መመራት የነበረበት። ሚዲያ መመራት ያለበት በሚዲያ ባለሙያዎች ነው። የራሱ አለም አቀፍ መርህ አለው። ኮንሽንሽኖች አሉት። ስለሆነም በዚያ መሰረት ነው መሰራት ያለበት። በአብዛኛው የሶስተኛ አለም ሀገራት ኢትዮጵያን ጨምሮ የመንግስት ባለስልጣን መጠየቅ ያስፈራቸዋል። ለዚህ የሚሆን ብዙ ማሳያዎች ማቅረብ ይቻላል። በእኛ ሀገር ለምሳሌ ብዙ ጋዜጠኞች ታስረዋል። ከስራ ተባረዋል። በንፅፅር ሲታይ የተሻለ የሚዲያ ነፃነት አላቸው ተብለው የሚታሰብ የሳይበር ጋዜጠኞች ናቸው። ነገር ግን እነሱን እንኳን ነፃነታቸው አጥተዋል። ነፃ አይደሉም። ብዙ ነገር ይደርስባቸዋል። አስብ የሳይበር ጋዜጠኞች ነፃነት ከሌላቸው የመንግስት ሚዲያ ላይ የሚሰሩት ጋዜጠኞች እማ በጣም ነው የሚከብደው። ስለዚህ የመርማሪ ጋዜጠኞች ነፃነት ዜሮ እና ከዜሮ በታች ነው። ይሄንን ያልኩበት ምክንያት ደግሞ የምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት መሰራት እየታመነበት፣ ጋዜጠኛውም ዝግጁ ሆኖ ሳለ፣ ነገር ግን በጋዜጠኛው መንገድ አይሰራም። "ታዲያ የሚሰራው በማነው?" ያልከኝ እንደሆነ? ለምሳሌ ይሄ የክልል ሚዲያ፣ የክልሉ ባለስልጣናት የምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት በዚህ ጉዳይ ላይ ይሰራ ብለው ትእዛዝ ሲሰጡ ብቻ ነው የሚሰራው። ይሄ ደግሞ ከጋዜጠኛው ፍላጎት ውጭ እና የምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት መርህ ያልጠበቀና ያልተከተለ ነው። ሪፖሊቲ አይኖረውም፣ ምክንያቱም ለፖለቲካ ግብአት ብቻ የተደረገ ነው። አንደኛው ወገን ለማጥቃት የምትጠቀመው ሴራ ነው። ለዚህም ነው ከዜሮ በታች ነው ያልኩህ። ነፃነቱ ሙሉ በሙሉ የተገደበ ነው። ቅድም እንደነገርኩህ ሚዲያ በአለማቀፍ ኮንሽንሽን መርህ መሰረት ሙሉ በሙሉ ነፃ መሆን አለበት። ሚዲያ ምንም እንኳን በመንግስት በጀት የሚንቀሳቀስ ቢሆንም የሁሉም ሰው ድምጽ ማስተናገድ የሚችል፣ አስፈፃሚው አካል መጠየቅ የሚችል መሆን አለበት። ምክንያቱም የተቋቋመበትን ዓላማ ያንን ለማድረግ ስለሆነ። በህዝቡ ወይም በማህበረሰቡ ውስጥ ችግር ሊኖር ይችላል። እሱንም ችግር እያወጣ ማህበረሰቡ ከተለያዩ ችግሮች እንዲርቅ ማድረግ መቻል አለበት። ይህን ስታስብ መርማሪ ጋዜጠኝነት በሀገራችን ሆነ በክልላችን ባሉ ሚዲያዎች የለም ማለት ይቻላል። ካለም መንግስት የራሱ ጥቅም ለማስከበርና ፖለቲካል፣ሶሻል እና ኢኮኖሚካል ካፒታሉን ከፍ ለማድረግ የሚጠቀምበት ነው። ለምሳሌ ለአንድ ወይም ለሁለት ሚዲያዎች እድል ይሰጥና በዝያ ሚዲያ ያሉ አንድ ወይም ሁለት ሰዎች ተጠቅሞ የምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት ይሰራ የሚል ትእዛዝ በቀጥታ ከጠቅላይ ሚኒስቴሩ ይመጣል። እንዲህ

አይነት ሁኔታ መኖሩን ስታውቅ ስትሰማ የምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት ነፃነት መኖሩን ትረሳዋለህ። የምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት በዶክመንታሪ ብቻ አይደለም የሚቀርበው። በዜና መልክ ሊሆን ይችላል፤ ቶክሾው፣ በፓናል ውይይት ማድረግ ይቻላል። በዚህም ሆነ በዚያ የምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት በሀገራችን ሆነ በክልላችን፣ በመንግስት ሆነ በግል ሚዲያዎች ነፃነት የለውም።

Appendix F, ቃለ መጠይቅ ከ ጋዜጠኛ 2(J2)

1. እንደ የምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት ጋዜጠኞች ምን አይነት ፖለቲካዊ ፈተናዎች ገጥሟቸዋል? በየትኛውም ወቅት የምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት የሚፈልገው ነገር አለ። አውቀት፣ ጉልበት፣ ጊዜና ጥረት የሚጠይቅ ነው። ሌላው ደግሞ በምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት ሥራ መስራት ስትጀምር ነገሮች ከላይ አስከታች የተያያዙ ስለ ሆኑ በትግስት አነዚህ ውስብስብ ነገሮች መፍታት ግድ ይላል። በመሆኑም በፖለቲካዊ ግፊትና ጫና ምክንያት በመጀመርያ ደረጃ የተጀመረው ሥራ አንዲቅዋረት ካልሆነም አንዲራዘም ያደርጋል።

በዚህ መሃል ስራህን በአግባቡ አንዳትሰራ መከልከል፣ ማስፈራራት፣ በቂ በጀት ባለመመደብ፣ ካልሆነም ጥቂት ገንዘብ ብቻ በመመደብ ስራው አንዳያልቅ ማድረግ ዋናዎቹ አንቅፋት ናቸው።

2. ሚዲያው ያለማመን የመጀመርያው አንቅፋት ሲሆን፣ ሚዲያው ራሱ መረጃ በሚሰበስብበት ወቅት መረጃ ሰጭው አካል ችግሮች ይመጡብኛል ብሎ ስለ ሚያስብ የሚዲያ ሰዎች አለማመን አለ። መረጃ ሰጭው አካል ዋስትና ስለሚፈልግ መረጃን የመደበቅ ወይም አልሰጥም የማለት ሁኔታ አለ። ለዚህም ዋና ምክንያታቸው ዜጎች፣ ባለው ነባራዊ ሁኔታ ወይም የ አርስበርስ ጦርነት ምክንያት የመንግስት አካላት ሆነ የ ሚዲያ ሰዎች አለማመናቸውን ነው የምገልፁልን። መሞት፣ መታሰር፣ መንገላታት አስከልክመ ድረስ ዜጎች በነፃነትና በአምነት መረጃ ለመስጠት ይፈራሉ።

3/ የበጀት አጥረት ዉጤታማ የሆነ ሥራ አንዳይሰራ ያደርጋል።ብዙ ነገሮች ያስፈልጋሉ። የምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት ለመስራት አንደየሁኔታው ብዙ ነገር ያስፈልጋል። ለምሳሌ ሕድን ካሜራ ሊያስፈልግ ይችላል። ከሰዎች ጋር ተመሳስለህ ለመቅረብ ብዙ መካጥ ያስፈልጋል። ለምሳሌ ተጠርጣሪው አካል በገባበት አየገባህ አሱን መምሰል ቀላል የሚባል ወጪ አይጠይቅም።

የሚበላውን አየበላህ፣ የሚጠጣውን አየተታህ፣ የሚያደርገውን አያደረክ አስፈላጊውን መረጃ መውሰድ ይጠበቅብሃል። ለዚህም ደግሞ ብዙ ገንዘብ ይጥይቃል።

4/ ከመንግስት ግልፀኝነት ጋር በተያያዘ የሚገጥመን ቺገር፣ መረጃ አለመስጠት፣ የተሳሳተ አቅትጫ በመጠቀም። ይህም የሚያደርጉበት ዋነኛ ምክንያት የተሳሳተ ድምዳሜ በመድረስ ራሳቸውን ከተጠያቂነት ነፃ ለመሆን የሚደረግ ጥረት ነው። ሌላውና ዋናው ነገር ደግሞ የቀጠሮ ቀን በማራዘም ሰልችቶህ ስራውን አንድነትተው በማድረግና በማጉላላት የሚታይ ችግር ነው።

5/ ብዙ ጊዜ የመንግስት አካላት ስራችን ላይ ጣልቃ እየገቡ አእንድናቅዋለንተው አድርገውናል። ከዚህ በዘለለ ሌላ ትእዛዝ በመስጠት የጀመርነውን ሥራ ትተን አናሱ ባሉን ቦታ እንድንገኝ ያደርጋሉ። ይሄም ጉዳቸው አደባባይ ወጥቶ ህዝቡ አእንዳያውከውና ሚዲያ ላይ እንዳይወጣ ከመስጋት አንፃር ነው። በዚህ መሃል ቀጠሮ ከማራዘም ጀምሮ እስከ መረጃ መደበቅ ብሎም ማስፈራራት፣ ማሰር፣ከ ሥራ ገበታ ማገድ የመሳሰሉት ነገሮች የተለመዱ ናቸው።

6/እሱም ከላይ አእንደነገርቁህ ተመሳሳይ ነው። ነገር ግን ትንሽ ለየት የሚያደርገው እኛን የማሰር ስልጣን ስለሌላቸው በገንዘብ ለመደራደር የሞክራሉ። ከላይ አንደነገርኩህ በመንግስት መስራቤት ጋር ስንሰራ በቀጥታ አሸባሪ አልያም ሌላ ነገር ብለው ያስሩሃል።

Appendix G. ቃለ መጠይቅ ከ ጋዜጠኛ 3 (J3)

1.በአሁኑ ጊዜ የምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት እየገዱት ካሉት አንዱና ዋነኛው የፖለቲካ ጣልቃ ገብነት ነው። እኛ እንደ ጋዜጠኞች ከማንም የፖለቲካ አባልነት ሆነ አመለካከት ነፃ ነን። ሆኖም የፖለቲካው ይዘት በተለይ ደግሞ ገዢው ፓርቲ በመጀመርያ የምርመራ ዘገባ መንግስት በፈለገው አቅጣጫ ብቻ እንድንሰራ ይፈልጋል። ይሄም ዉጤቱ የተሳሳተ አንድሆንና አኛንም ሌላው ተመልካችም የተሳሳተ ግንዛቤ ላይ እንድደርስ ያደርጋል። ከዚህ በተጨማሪም ሌላው ማህበረሰብ ስለ ጉዳዩ የተሳሳተ አመለካከት እንዲኖረው ያደርጋሉ። ይሄ በምርመራ ዘገባ ወቅት የሚሰራ ትልቁ ወንጀል ነው። በሁለተኛ ደረጃ ደግሞ መንግስት የሆነ አካል መምታት ሲፈልግ ብቻ የሚሰራ በመሆኑ አንዱን አካል በመደገፍ ሌላው ላይ ለመዝመት የሚጠቀምበት "የመንግስት ዱላ " ሆኖ ሲያገለግል ይታያል። በሀገራችን ያሉ የመንግስት ሆነ የግል ሚዲያዎች

የምርመራን ጋዜጠኝነት የሚጠቀሙት ለ መንግስት ስጋት የሆነ አካል ለመምታት " የመንግስት ዱላ "፣ ወይም የህዝቡን ሃሳብ ለማስቀየር "የመንግስት አፍ" በመሆን ያገለግላሉ። ሶስተኛና የመረሻው ደግሞ የምርመራ ዘገባ እንዳይሰራ ቀጥተኛ የሆነ ትዛዝ ከ መንግስት ይሰጣል። ለዛ ነው "መርማሪ ጋዜጠኝነት የመንግስት ዱላ ሁኗል" ያልኩህ።

2. በአሁኑ ጊዜ የምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት እየጎዱት ካሉት አንዱና ዋነኛው የፖለቲካ ጣልቃ ገብነት ነው። እኛ እንደ ጋዜጠኞች ከማንም የፖለቲካ አባልነት ሆነ አመለካከት ነፃ ነን። ሆኖም የፖለቲካው ይዘት በተለይ ደግሞ ገዢው ፓርቲ በመጀመርያ የምርመራ ዘገባ መንግስት በፈለገው አቅጣጫ ብቻ እንድንሰራ ይፈልጋል። ይሄም ዉጤቱ የተሳሳተ አንድሆንና አኛንም ሌላው ተመልካችም የተሳሳተ ግንዛቤ ላይ እንድደርስ ያደርጋል። ከዚህ በተጨማሪም ሌላው ማህበረሰብ ስለ ጉዳዩ የተሳሳተ አመለካከት እንዲኖረው ያደርጋሉ። ይሄ በምርመራ ዘገባ ወቅት የሚሰራ ትልቁ ወንጀል ነው። በሁለተኛ ደረጃ ደግሞ መንግስት የሆነ አካል መምታት ሲፈልግ ብቻ የሚሰራ በመሆኑ አንዱን አካል በመደገፍ ሌላው ላይ ለመዝመት የሚጠቀምበት "የመንግስት ዱላ " ሆኖ ሲያገለግል ይታያል። በሀገራችን ያሉ የመንግስት ሆነ የግል ሚዲያዎች የምርመራን ጋዜጠኝነት የሚጠቀሙት ለ መንግስት ስጋት የሆነ አካል ለመምታት " የመንግስት ዱላ "፣ ወይም የህዝቡን ሃሳብ ለማስቀየር "የመንግስት አፍ" በመሆን ያገለግላሉ። ሶስተኛና የመረሻው ደግሞ የምርመራ ዘገባ እንዳይሰራ ቀጥተኛ የሆነ ትዛዝ ከ መንግስት ይሰጣል። ለዛ ነው "መርማሪ ጋዜጠኝነት የመንግስት ዱላ ሁኗል" ያልኩህ።

3. ህዝቡ ጋር ትልቅ ፍርሃት አለ። ያ ፍርሃት ህዝቡ መንግስትንና ሚዲያዎችንን እንዳያምኑ አድርጉአቸዋል። ከዚህም በመነሳት የመረጃ ምንጮች በግልፅ ሀሳባቸው ከመናገር ይቆጠባሉ። ገናለገና አንድ ነገር ብናገር እታሰራለሁ ወይም አእንገላታለሁ በማለት ጋዜጠኛን እንዳይ ይሸሻል። ይሄ ትልቅ ፈተና ነው። ለምን ትፈራላቹ ማለት አትችልም። ምክንያቱ እኛ ነገሩን ሕዝብ ዘንድ እንዲደርስ ማድረግ እንጂ የደህንነታቸው ዋስትና ማረጋገጥ አንችልም።

4. ከ በጀት ጋር በተያያዘ የሚገጥመን ችግር ለማንም ግልፅ ነው። ሚዲያዎች የራሳቸው የሆነ የፋይናንስ አሰራር ያላቸው ቢሆንም ለመርማሪ ጋዜጠኝነት የሚውል በጀት ግን እጅግ በጣም ጥቂት ነው። አዚህ ላይ መታወቅ ያለበት ነገር የመርማሪ ጋዜጠኝነት ሥራ በሁኔታው ወይም በጉዳዩ የሚወሰን እንጂ በዚህ ጊዜ ተጀምሮ በዚህ ጊዜ ይለቅ ብለህ የጊዜ ገደብ ልታስቀምጥለት

አልያም ይሄን ያክል በጀት ይበቃዋል የምትለው ጉዳይ አይደለም። አንደዬ ሁኔታው አያየህ የምትጨምረው ነገር ይኖራል። ስለዚህ ሂደቱን ተጀምሮ እስክያልቅ ድረስ ባለመሰላቸት አስፈላጊውን የገንዘብ ድጋፍ ማድረግ ግድ ይላል።

5. ከ መንግስት ግልፅኝነት ጋር በተያያዘ መንግስት ሁሉ ጊዜ ለሕዝቡ ግልፅ መሆን አለበት። ለሕዝቡ ግልፅ መሆን የማይፈልግ መንግስት ለጋዜጠኞች ግልፅ ሊሆን አይችልም። በአጭሩ የመንግስት ግልፅኝነት ለ አንድ ጋዜጠኛ ወሳኝ እንደ። ስለሆነም መንግስት በቻለው አቅሙ ግልፅ ቢሆንና መረጃን የማሸሽ ብሎም የመደበኛ በተጨማሪም ወደተሳሳተ አቅጣጫ የመጠቆም አዝማምያው እንዲተው ለ መርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት ሥራ ትልቅ አስተዋፃኦ ብያደርግ ጥሩ ነው ባይ ነኝ።

Appendix H. ቃለ መጠይቅ ከ ጋዜጠኛ 4 (J4)

1. በዚህ ጉዳይ ላይ የሚገጥመን የመጀመርያው ፈተና ከመናገር ነፃነትና መረጃን ፈልፍሎ ከማግኘት ጋር የተያያዘ ነው። አንደኛው የመናገር ነፃነት በማጣታችን ምክንያት የሚገጥመን ችግር ሲሆን እሱም መንግስት ወይም የመንግስት ባለስልጣን በተቸህ ቁጥር መታሰር ፣ ዛቻ ወይም ማስፈራርያ ሊሆን ይችላል።

ሁለተኛው ደግሞ የመረጃ ምንጮች መረጃ ለመስጠት ፍቃደኛ እንዳይሆኑ ማድረግ ነው። ማንኛውም ሰው የመንግስት ባለስልጣናትም ጨምሮ ለምያደርገው ነገር ሁሉ ተትያቂ መሆንና ኃላፊነት መውሰድ እዳለበት ህገመንግስታዊ ግዴታ አለው። ስለሆነም መርማሪ ጋዜጠኞች ስራቸው በሚሰሩበት ወቅት አስፈላጊውን መረጃ ማግኘት አለባቸው። ሆኖም ግን መንግስት እነዚህ ከላይ የጠቀስኩልህ ችግሮች በማድረግ ስራችን በአግባቡ እንዳንሰራ ያግደናል።

2. ከህዝብ ፍቃደኝነት ጋር በተያያዘ የሚገጥመን ችግር ሚዲያውን ያለማመንና የመፍራት ችግር አለ። አስተውለህ ከሆነ በሀገራችን ያሉ የግልና የመንግስት ሚዲያዎች አብዛሃኛዎቹ ማለት ይቻላል የመንግስት አጀንዳ አስፈፃሚ ከሆኑ ቆይተዋል። ስለሆነም ህዝቡ ላይ ወርደን መረጃ ስንሰበስብ የሚደቀ ሰዎች እንደማያምኑና መረጃውን ቢናገሩ አእንታሰራለን ብለው ስለሚፈሩ አስፈላጊውን መረጃ ከመስጠት ይቆጠባሉ። ለዚህ ነው ሚዲያና ጋዜጠኞችን የሚፈሩ።

ፍርሃታቸውም መንግስት ከመፍራት የተነሳ ነው። ሌላኛው ደገሞ "ብንናገር ምን ለውጥ ያመጣል? መልክታችን በአግባቡ ሚዲያ ላይ አታወጥቱም። ስለዚህ ብንናገር ይሻላል።

3. ከበጀት ጋር በተያያዘ የሚገጥመን ፈተና የታወቀ ነው። ሚዲያ ማለት አንድ ራሱን የቻለ ተቅዋም እንደመሆኑ መጠን የራሱ የሆነ የበጀት አሰራር አለው። ይሄ በጀት ለተከዋሙ ሥራ ማስኬጃ ተብሎ ነው የምበጀተው። እያንዳንዱ ንዑስ የስራ ክፍል አመታዊ በጀት አለው። ነገር ግን ለምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት የሚውል በጀት በጣም ትንሽ ነው። የምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት ሥራ በ አንድ ቀን ወይም በ ሁለት ቀን የሚያልቅ ሥራ አይደለም። ሳምንት ወይም ወር አለያም ዓመት ሊፈጅ ይችላል። ስለሆነም አንድ የሚዲያ ድርጅት "የምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት አሰራላሁ" ካለ አስፈላጊውን ወጪ መሸፈን ግዴታ አለበት። ካልሆነ ግን ዉጤታማ ሥራ ሊሰራ አይችልም። አኛ ጋራ በብዛት እየታየ ያለው ችግር የሚዲያ ኃላፊዎች ስለ ምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት ወጪ በአግባቡ ተረድተው በቂ በጀት አለመበጀት ነው። ወጪ ሳናስወጣ ወይም በትንሽ ወጪ ቀላል ሥራ ሰርተን እንድንመጣ ይፈልጋሉ። ይሄ ደግሞ ሚዲያው መግደልና የህዝብ ድምፅ ማፈን ነው።

4. ከ መንግስት ግልፅኝነት ጋር በተያያዘ የገጠመኝ ችግር መረጃን መደበኛ ወይ ማሸሽ ዋነኛው ሲሆን ይሄም በ ቀጥታ ወይ በተዘዋዋሪ ያደርጉታል። እኛ እንደ መርማሪ ጋዜጠኛ ስራችን የምንጀምረው ሰነድ ከማገለበት ነው። አንዳንድ የመንግስት አካላት ሰነድ ይደብቃሉ፣ ማስረጃ ያጠፋሉ። ከ ሶስተኛ ወገን በመጠየቅ ማስረጃ እንዳናገኝ ያተፋብናል።