

WOMEN PARTICIPATION AND CHALLENGES FOR THEM IN JOURNALISM IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Role of women has got change and there is an increase in the participation of the women in the society. Journalism still a challenging profession for women as they are being less encouraged by the society. It has been seen the participation of the women the field of media and journalism has increased but the ratio of the participation is still not satisfactory. The present structure of journalism is still men centric and in some of the portion where there is matter of hard news so it is being still covered and presented by the male journalist. On the other side it has been seen that the senior and at the top most management position is filled with the men. This shows the structure of gender inequality in the field of journalism. This paper describes the Challenges related to women participation in journalism in India.

KEYWORDS: Hard News, Media And Journalism, Gender Inequality.

INTRODUCTION

In recent years many of research has been done focusing on the problem related to gender issue and journalism. In the present contemporary world issue related to women participation in the field of journalism became serious though the participation has increased, but in a study by the feminist media scholar they have noted that there is an increase in the number of women shifted to the profession of journalism has increased in the last decade of twentieth and the beginning of the twenty-first century. [1-4]The increase in the global percentage of the women in the field of journalism indicates that there is optimistic view toward the field of journalism and they have showed interest towards this challenging field. There is an

increase of 28% in 1995 to 37% in 2005 (GMMP, 2015). [5] But on the other side the structure of journalism is still deeply rooted with the masculinity. The work culture and the values of journalism is still bounded around masculinity, despite the fact that there is an increase in the number of the involvement of women in the field of journalism. [6-8] Several studies related to women involvement in journalism shows that there is no space has been provided on the ground basis, no equal treatment is given to women in the field of journalism. [9-15] women in journalism is still treated as ignored and underrepresented in making decision and in prestigious newsbeat and media sectors.

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In Indian journalism context earlier it was considered as a taboo for Indian women. They can't participate in the field of journalism however in later part they are being recognized and accepted. This was the result of long effort made by the women movements, which provides a ground to women to participate in the field of journalism. But still the female participation in field of journalism in India is still the lowest among the other countries in the world. Earlier Journalism was considerably meant for male but now it is no longer alien field for women. It has been noted that there is an increase of 50% in the working women in India during the past 6years. (Economic Times) [16]

WOMEN, JOURNALISM AND ITS CHALLENGES

Journalism still a challenging profession for female in India. There are many challenges in it mostly related to women security. Due to increase in the crime against women in India there are many challenges coming up in the lime light. Earlier there has been less chance with the women to actively participate in the field journalism because of the less opportunity is being provided to them. But with the women liberation movement in 1980's gave the way to feminist movement which provided the new sphere to women to participate in the main domain of the workforce.

Journalism is a challenging profession as it has many challenges like for covering news journalist have to move accordingly, late night duty hours, covering hard news mainly in order to break cover story, Journalist always has to put themselves in a very challenging situation like conflict, natural disasters, in context of war, report on corruption, human rights abuses and political chicanery, journalists often incur the wrath of the most powerful in society. According to Tumber in his research that journalism was historically recognized as male

profession and women often encountered sexual abuse from colleagues as well as from outsider.[17] According to a report published in India Today a leading magazine in their e-extension, on June 2015 related women in media so it was about 4:1 in India. though the number has increased and has doubled in two decades, they only constitute 28.6% of the media workforce in Asia and the Pacific. this shows that there is clear gap in relation to gender and if we look into the data related to the earning so it is also low as in comparison to men it is about 436 \$per month and 506\$ per month. And in the similar article issue related to the women sexual harassment at work place is the key issue in media work place about 34 percent of journalists in Asia and the Pacific saying they witnessed sexual harassment at work. At least 17 percent of female journalists have personally experienced workplace sexual harassment, and 59 percent of the time it is a superior who is the perpetrator. [18] the problem related to the sexual harassment at workplace in the field of journalism is a serious issue as it not only holds the emotion as it hold back the aspirations of women participation in the field of journalism.

PROBLEM FACED BY WOMEN JOURNALIST IN CONTEMPORARY INDIA

The problem related to women professional working in the field of journalism is different from various aspect. Though the field in more of practical and related to field work in which there is interaction with the mass from every section of the society is involved. Few points have mentioned below related to problem of women in journalism :

1. Discrimination in recruitment and in promotion can be seen in the media organizations. The media organization believed that the efficiency of women in the field of journalism and mass media is lower than men.

2. Women often curb into the trap of jealousy if she professionally attain the higher position in the organization. Resulting it create a sense of professional jealousy and later it transformed in many form of harassment. In this context sometime it happen their male bosses didn't recognize their work and mark them as not competent like another male professional. Here the idea of competency signify that that the male professionals are more active and professional at their work.
3. During the time of maternity women work less and often on leave creates a sense of imbalance among the peer resulting the issue of equality turns into the different mode women have to face different type of obligations. And on the other side it is also being noted that women have to work more in comparison to men to achive the equality of promotion.
4. Now when it come to the work from field so it is also being noted that women journalist assigned less jobs related to field and night shift and if they are being assigned they are required to cover the news from the nearby area and the news which is soft in nature. This idea shows the discrimination. And resulting quite often, women journalists are not delegated for important assignments.
5. In the recent past many problems came into limelight related to women while travelling so transport facilities is a serious problem for them while travelling there is sense of insecurity is there in them.
6. Like in other organization women journalist has to face sexual harassment in the media organizations is a serious concern.

CONCLUSION

Sexual harassment is still a critical and serious issue for working women. It became more debatable when it come to relation with the

patriarchal society because the social stigma which still prevails in the society stops women to come out and allow less to participate. And if they participate the problem related to insecurity is their resulting the crime rate related to women at work has increase.

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