
UNIT 16 CIVIC REPORTING

Structure

- 16.0 Introduction
- 16.1 Learning Outcomes
- 16.2 New trend in Reporting: Civic Journalism
 - 16.2.1 Features of Civic Journalism
- 16.3 Characteristics, Strengths and Limitations
 - 16.3.1 Learning about Civic Journalism
 - 16.3.2 The Truth about Civic Journalism
- 16.4 New Ethics in Civic Reporting
- 16.5 Platform to Speak
- 16.6 Citizen Journalism Vs Professional Journalism: Responsibility, Adventure and Political Power
- 16.7 Top sites of Citizen Journalism
 - 16.7.1 Case Study
- 16.8 Let Us Sum Up
- 16.9 References and Further Readings
- 16.10 Answer to Check Your Progress Exercises

16.0 INTRODUCTION

Civic journalism (also known as public journalism) is the idea of incorporating journalism into the democratic process. The media not only informs the public, but it also works towards involving citizens and creating public debate. The new trend of journalism and democracy not only challenge together the orthodoxy arguments of traditional reporting, they also open up a new frontier for an alternative. It approaches with more optimistic evaluation of the contemporary public sphere and its contribution to the social and political process. Journalism and Democracy combines textual analysis and extensive in-depth journalism. In this chapter this new trend of democratic journalism will be discussed. ‘Civic or Public Journalism’ is a genuinely fresh trend, with an expression of public opinion. So, Civic journalism is the idea of integrating journalism into the democratic process (also known as public journalism). The new media not only informs the public, but it also works towards engaging citizens and creating public information forum or debate. The civic reporting is an attempt to unrestraint the belief that journalists and their audiences are only spectators in political and social processes. The civic journalism treats readers as participants. With a small but committed following, civic journalism has become as much of a philosophy as it is a practice. Civic Journalism is “a fundamental change in the way of modern media business”.

16.1 LEARNING OUTCOMES

After studying this Unit, you should be able to:

- describe civic journalism and its use;
- describe the strengths and limitations of civic journalism as a media tool ;

- analyze the developments of civic journalism;
- discuss the various aspects of civic journalism; and
- study the effect of civic journalism.

16.2 NEW TREND IN REPORTING: CIVIC JOURNALISM

What do we mean by public journalism or Civic Reporting? Its definition has been a point of argument throughout. It's a form of journalism that seeks to listen systematically to the stories and ideas of citizens even while protecting its freedom to choose whatever it wants to cover. It is an alternative way to frame stories on important community issues, and the best chance to inspire citizen deliberation and build public understanding of issues.

The traditional concept of journalism is gathering, assessing, creating news and information and disseminating the information to all. Journalism has diverse characteristics and practices. The new or modern media has brought a profound change in the interpretation of journalism. Civic journalism is an effort to reach out to the public more aggressively in the reporting process, to listen to how citizens frame their problems and what citizens see as solutions to those problems. Then, the other mainstream journalist can use that information to enrich news stories. Civic journalism is practiced by newspapers, radio and television stations in many developed countries around the world.

Decades later Dewey's argument was further explored by Jay Rosen and Davis Merritt, who were looking at the importance of the media in the democratic process. In 1993, Rosen and Merritt formed the concept of public journalism. In their joint "manifesto" on public journalism that was published in 1994, Rosen explained, "public journalism tried to place the journalist within the political community as a responsible member with a full stake in public life." But it does not deny the important difference between journalists and citizens themselves. In a word, public journalists want public life to work. The question remains whether public journalism represents a radical movement or a return to tradition.

16.2.1 Features of Civic Journalism

The most prominent characteristic of the works on public journalism is its contentiousness. It deals with public journalism's goals, performance in implementing its goals, relation to democratic theory, the nature of practice, or the impact on communities. Today understanding the features of civic journalism or civic reporting has helped the people become aware of detailed news of serious and not so serious incidents.

"Citizen Journalism or Civic reporting" is one of those phrases that sound pretty straightforward. But, when a non-reporter gets to report an incident, most people aren't exactly sure what it means. Basically, a citizen journalist is someone from outside the news business who engages in the kind of journalism that is traditionally the purview of the professional journalist.

Today the communication system has digitally upgraded the media. In a digital world there is a complete host of different ways to communicate. Today, the value of amateur eyewitness film shot on a mobile phone and posted on the

internet has added news value to the normal incidents. At times its popularity and usage has no less news value than a broadcast on a traditional television channel or published on a website.

Controlling how news is reported and disseminated is closely linked to power. That's the reason why dictatorships have always iron handedly censored or removed the free press and run state TV stations. While much of the western world has moved ahead from that, media is often controlled by a certain group, making citizen journalism a vital part of opening up of reporting to everyone. But if it truly makes a lasting impact for good, citizen journalists need to understand their own responsibilities. Civic reporters should not to be biased, abide by the ethics and law and act accordingly.

Despite the potential drawbacks, there are plenty of reasons to welcome the rise of citizen journalism. The running term "Every Citizen is a Reporter," has become an influential news resource in new media. Citizen journalism on the internet has also added blogs, chat rooms and message boards. All stripes provide a range of opinion and reporting far beyond what traditional news outlets can offer.

16.3 CHARACTERISTICS, STRENGTHS AND LIMITATIONS

What advantages and disadvantages do citizen journalists have over mainstream media?

The popularisation of new technologies including blog sites, social networks, and the use of smart phones with cameras, allow members of the public without any journalistic training to participate and publish their own point of view about a range of subjects. Articles written by citizen journalists may contain anything within or even outside the news; however there have been debates as to whether this type of journalism is good or bad for mainstream media?

Some advantages of citizen journalism are

- a) The members of public are able to alert the media to news stories that they may not already know about, or that professional journalists have difficulty to cover.
- b) Citizen journalists can be a massive help by providing written reports in addition to photographs and videos in real time. For example many stories regarding the Arab Spring have been covered by citizen journalists when mainstream media were unable to reach areas of conflict or a media blackout was in place.
- c) Smaller newspapers often need to rely on citizen journalists for the latest updates, due to their low staff count.
- d) Such kind of reporting produces evidence from the field and without any biasness, ready to create a direct public opinion.

Disadvantages

- a) Citizen journalists are not professionally trained, so subjectivity or bias may creep in their stories.
- b) Sometimes such stories may be of poor standard, and lack content.

- c) They may also not be aware of journalistic ethics which is a serious concern in any treat reporting.
- d) The use of freedom of speech by a citizen journalist may result in libel. There were a member of cases in the past when people have been charged for statements they have published via social networks or online blogs as they were offensive or untrue.

Yet, citizen journalists complement mainstream media by providing speedier reports and information from a range of sources that allow mainstream media reports to be balanced cover more aspects and be more accurate.

What are the strengths and weaknesses of citizen journalism and user-generated content?

The mass media is an open public space where individuals are able to communicate freely the particular meanings about the world in which they live. Social networking sites, blogs, user-generated content sites and the like have brought tremendous wealth to our cultural industry and, in turn, these spaces have empowered active audiences, further revolutionising the process of communication. It can be said that an audience's utilisation of new media is integral to revolutionising the process of public communication.

Instead of isolating the consumer (readers/ viewers) from the production process, these media networks, as noted by Professor Robert Cover (author of Audience inter/active: Interactive media, narrative control and reconceiving audience history), provide consumers with 'a digital power'. This environment fosters greater capacity and greater interest by allowing audiences to change, alter and manipulate a text or a textual narrative, to seek co-participation in authorship, and to thus redefine the traditional author-text-audience relationship. In this sense, interactivity empowers users to engage in society in innovative ways and it provides individuals with a space where they are able to freely communicate particular meanings and ideas. This empowers them to be individual reporters.

Participatory forms of media, like blogging, have enabled audiences to become empowered and activated by 'identifying with the producer of the text.' They feel involved in the production of the show, and in doing so they can make decisions about its content and direction.

The strength of such media is that information is communicated almost instantly. As the event unfolds facts and photographs are communicated promptly. Often this sort of critical information may be different from what the journalist has captured. Journalists arrive at the scene in the after the incident and in such situations a citizen journalist can provide material to the networks. Civic journalism can fill in the gaps that the reporter cannot fulfill the same.

Their stories often lack critical new values and may not be of high quality. Extreme variations in a particular story can be taken seriously and may result in harsh legal consequences.

A powerful example of citizen journalism is the footage that was captured of a young Iranian woman, Neda Agha-Sultan, who was brutally killed during the post-election protests in Tehran. A dramatic 40 second video of Neda's death was uploaded on YouTube and went viral.

Check Your Progress Exercise 1

- Notes:** 1) Use the space below for your answer.
2) Compare your answers with those given at the end of this Unit.

1) Features of Civic Journalism.

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2) List disadvantages of Civic reporting.

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3) What are the strengths of citizen journalism?

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16.3.1 Learning about Civic Journalism

According to the now dormant Pew Center for Civic Journalism, the practice “is both a philosophy and a set of values supported by some evolving techniques to reflect both of these in journalism. At its heart is a belief that journalism has an obligation to public life – an obligation that goes beyond just telling the news or unloading lots of facts. The way we do our journalism affects the way public life goes.” Leading organisations in the field also include the Kettering Foundation, the Participatory Journalism Interest Group (formerly named the Civic and Citizen Journalism Interest Group) in the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) and the Public Journalism Network. Although they developed the concept of public journalism together, both Rosen and Merritt have differing viewpoints on what exactly public journalism is. Rosen explains five ways to understand public journalism:

- As an argument, a way of thinking about what journalist should be doing, given their own difficulty and general state of public life.
- As an experiment, a way of breaking out of established routines and making a different kind of contribution to public life.

- As a movement involving practicing journalists, former journalists who want to improve their craft, academics and researchers with ideas to lend and studies that might help, foundations and think tanks that gave financial assistance and sanctuary to the movement, and other likeminded folk who wanted to contribute to the rising spirit of reform.
- As a debate with often heated conversation within the press and with others outside it about the proper role of the press.
- As an adventure, an open-ended and experimental quest for another kind of press Merritt, on the other hand, explains that it is the responsibility of the journalist to act as a fair-minded participant in the public arena. His famous analogy of the journalist having the same role as a sports referee best depicts this idea:

The function of a third party – a referee or umpire or judge – in sports competition is to facilitate the deciding of the outcome. Ideally, the official impinges on the game; if things go according to the rules is that the referee is neither seen nor heard. Yet the presence of a fair-minded participant is necessary for an equitable decision to be reached. What he or she brings to the arena is knowledge of the agreed-upon rules, the willingness to contribute that knowledge, and authority – that is, the right to be attended to. The referee’s role is to make sure that the process works as the contestants agreed it should. In order to maintain that authority, that right to be heard, the referee must exhibit no interest in the final score other than it is arrived at under the rules. But, both for referees and contestants, that is the ultimate interest. It is important to remember that the referee doesn’t make the rules. Those are agreed on by the contestants – in this case, the democratic public. The referee, rather, is the fair-minded caretaker. What the journalist should bring to the arena of public life is the knowledge of the rules – how the public has decided a democracy should work and the ability and the willingness to provide relevant information and a lace for that information to be discussed and turned into democratic consent. Like the referee, to maintain our authority – the right to be heard – we must exhibit no partisan interest in the specific outcome other than it is arrived at under the democratic process.

Merritt summed up civic journalism as “a set of values about the craft that recognizes and acts upon the interdependence between journalism and democracy. It values the concerns of citizens over the needs of the media and political actors, and conceives of citizens as stakeholders in the democratic process rather than as merely victims, spectators or inevitable adversaries. As inherent participants in the process, we should do our work in ways that aid in the resolution of public problems by fostering broad citizen engagement.”

16.3.2 The Truth about Civic Journalism

Civic reporting has become an integral part of journalism. Daily newspapers and network television, particularly the evening news shows are competing for circulation and market share challenges with the supply of online news. The civic reporters are in no way lagging behind then the professional news makers in producing news stories. Many of them are convinced that the best solution lies in something called “civic journalism.”

The concept of Civic journalism actually, is a little vague — a little esoteric. According to Pew Center for Civic Journalism. “Civic journalism is an effort by

print and broadcast journalists to reach out to the public more aggressively in the reporting process, to listen to how citizens frame their problems and what citizens see as solutions to those problems. Then, use that information to enrich their newspaper or broadcast report. It is being practiced by newspapers and television stations in many cities, big and small.”

All civic reporting promotes a subtle and narrow ideological viewpoint. It’s hardly what you would call traditional reporting that strives for balance, if not objectivity.

In fact, civic journalism is just a component of a much broader political agenda called the New Citizenship movement — a movement defined by a document called the Civic Declaration, written by Harry C. Boyte. The Civic Declaration claims credit for introducing the idea of “civic journalism.” According to Boyte, it is “aimed at bringing citizens into public discussions of politics and policy in a far more active fashion and to reconnect journalists to the communities they serve.

Check Your Progress Exercise 2

Notes: 1) Use the space below for your answer.

2) Compare your answers with those given at the end of this Unit.

1) What are the five ways of Civic Journalism according to Rosen?

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2) What are the qualities of a civic reporter?

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16.4 NEW ETHICS IN CIVIC REPORTING

Reports written by Citizen Voice are published in a public forum. The Citizen Voices Project has given journalists a new perspective on how to cover urban political issues stepping across the traditional line of journalistic independence. On one side civic reporting is independent and detached reporting, and on the other side it is also about participation, advocacy, and activism.

A recent addition to the multi-sided pressures faced by the news industry (corporate media concentration and convergence, audience fragmentation, citizen journalism {bloggers}, fusing of news and entertainment, shifts in advertising revenue streams) is a growing international demand to restore an ethics of social

responsibility for both the print and electronic press so that the cultural diversity of the world may be fairly represented through stories, images and voices that are more inclusive.

The problem lies in focusing on the news media in urban settings. Researchers assumed that mainstream journalism constructs the poor, immigrants, refugees, indigenous peoples, or other excluded groups through third person sources, and, it is assumed that mainstream journalism rarely includes the voices of marginalized groups or addresses them directly. Can the profession of journalism claim that it fulfills an ethical mandate to inform its audience of the diversity of cultural expressions, which exist on the frontiers of the dominant group?

Civic journalism seeks to reduce the gap between groups being reported on and the journalist's implied audience by developing stories from where the subject (citizen or non-citizen) is situated. There is a need to develop a new set of ethics for civic journalism. The new ethics would hold journalism as a mediator of an ongoing public conversation among diverse groups rather than as a provider of neutral descriptions of agents, events, and issues. This will be deepened through the first innovation in methodology which is the diagnosis and putting into question of genealogies of how subjects are conventionally framed. The second level of innovation contrasts genealogical critique of mainstream news framing with a blending of more inclusive storytelling techniques and pedagogical alternatives that will be tested through field experiments with practitioners, communities, and researchers.

This approach may involve several disciplines to create new principles of dialogue between journalists, the excluded, and news-media audiences. The initial mixture includes journalism, sociology, communications, anthropology, and history.

16.5 PLATFORM TO SPEAK

Citizen journalism has been taken to a whole new level with the creation of websites that are written by citizen journalists with main focus on obtaining information important to their local area. Often these news stories may be silenced by mainstream media or may not be covered as such stories may not 'sell.' The creation of such sites enable the content producers to reach millions of people and also offers coverage of news that many news outlets are not able to cover.

American media critic Jay Rosen, who writes the blog pressthink.org, argues that Civic reporting is a power shift from professional journalism. People can talk back to the news system and make their own media. That's a power shift."

Indian context: Until recently, there was no sight of this 'power shift' in India. The mainstream press continued to outdo alternative forms of news expression like social media in popularity. Newspapers, news channels and news sites continued to relay the news; journalists continued to select and write it; and media owners may or may not tamper with it. And all the while, the public was largely a receptor.

Now ordinary people are increasingly reporting what they're witnessing, accidents, corruption, civic apathy and they're creating a network of micro-reports on social sites like Youtube and Facebook. They're editorialising on blogs and commenting on news sites. Their views are sought by mainstream press, and on

occasions, their first-hand reports and opinion pieces also make it to print. Citizen journalism is visibly on the rise.

“Citizen Journalism or civic reporting acquired the accoutrements of a movement in the early 2000s, particularly in the US,” points out veteran journalist Shishir Joshi. “But the origins of citizen journalism are as old as journalism, when pamphlets and reports were issued by citizens. Some of the most powerful pieces of journalistic writing can be traced back to the initiatives of citizens as reporters, not reporters as professionals.”

The advantage of citizen reporting is that it is not subject to someone’s control as stories are often killed if they are inconvenient to people at the top. Chances of censorship are fewer in citizen journalism. The mainstream media tend to privilege dominant voices that reproduce the status quo. Citizen journalism holds the promise of giving space to marginal voices and allowing for publication of alternate viewpoints.

This does not mean that citizen journalism wants no part of the mainstream press. On the contrary, senior journalists who run sites like citizens report in use their professional networks to circulate singular pieces to dailies like Mumbai Mirror, Hindustan Times and The Telegraph for greater impact.

Whatever the reasons may justify, civic reporting that is the participatory journalism is the future of news. From CBN’s iReport, to AFP’s stake in Citizenside to AP’s equity in Nowpublic.com, the big players have been quick to grasp the bilateral benefits of the exchange. In India news paper websites recently introduced a citizen’s section called NRI, where expats can post news about their outposts.

16.6 CITIZEN JOURNALISM VS PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM: RESPONSIBILITY, ADVENTURE AND POLITICAL POWER

Citizen journalism might not be the product of a well-oiled mechanism and hence not that efficient, but it should have both conscience and compassion.

Civic reporting is a kind of collaborative relationship in which the information goes from the bottom; citizen journalist, up to professional ones. A civic reporter plays an important part in making the news whether it is breaking news or a featured item. But it is also true that it takes years of training and practice to become a journalist and the discipline is subject to code of practice, ethics and is governed by law. Anybody, aspiring to practice is expected to undergo training, but it is, unfortunately it is not the case for civic reporters.

- A civic reporter is a mere eye witness. Taking a picture, a video and giving an account of an event no matter how good the quality, does not make one a journalist but an eyewitness.
- A journalist will respect the rules of the profession even in photograph taking. Privacy will be respected as well as anonymity when a professional journalist reports, which might not be the case when citizen journalists report, resulting therefore in degrading the profession.

- Challenges such as one-sided views in politics and current affairs, publications of defamatory material frequent in citizen journalism practices tarnish journalism and portray professional journalist in bad light.
- New media technology such as social networking eg: Twitter, Facebook and Blogger, have given everyday citizens the ability to transmit information globally; a power which was once only reserved for large media corporations
- In addition, the increasing presence, speed and accessibility of advanced cellular phones and other media sharing devices has allowed citizen journalists to report on breaking news not only to a larger, global, audience, but also more quickly than traditional news reporters. Many believe this form of news coverage is fundamental to Journalism today; citizens' being relatable, unrestricted and available to capture images and footage of worldwide news as it breaks.
- Some argue that citizen journalists threaten to destroy the circulation of factual news, spreading incorrect, misleading information and opinion rather than truth. This is due to a suggested lack of training, ethics and accountability. However, citizen journalists have played a crucial role in news media over the last decade, stepping in for professional journalists in their absence to capture and distribute news material during major global events.
- Traditional journalism is the outside looking in and Citizen Journalism is the inside looking out. In Order to get the complete story, it helps to have both points of view. Is citizen journalism just an adventure treat or a political power of public opinion or a real responsibility? Can Civic reporting be coined as a reliable source of news and replace professional journalism? Or can both co-exist as different forms of reporting? These questions need to be thought over for the profession to do well in any society.

Check Your Progress Exercise 3

Notes: 1) Use the space below for your answer.

2) Compare your answers with those given at the end of this Unit.

1) Why is ethics important in Civic Journalism?

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2) How can civic journalism be identified as a platform to speak?

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- 3) Is it necessary to maintain collaboration between collaborative and traditional journalism work?

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16.7 TOP SITES OF CITIZEN JOURNALISM

The Third Report: The site is a hybrid of news aggregation and original content that allows one to write news and opinion, or refer to stories of interest.

CNN iReport: iReport invites you to share your story with CNN and the world.

Global Voices Online: The world is talking, are you listening?

Global Reporter: Tell the world what is happening in your community

Tingout: Tingout.com is a platform for citizen journalism where you can easily read and submit news from around the world. It hosts news from users and the major newspaper publishers. But if an official version does not convince you, you can launch a challenge and tell your truth.

360News: Citizen Journalism for the mobile internet age

Newzulu: Get paid for making your own video news.

TheDailyScholar.com: This is an excellent venue for posting op-eds, news, poetry, and debating topics.

16.7.1 Case Study

The rumor story of ‘Steve Jobs Heart Problem’ acts as a reminder of the dangers of publishing stories from anonymous, untrained sources. On October 3rd 2008, CNN posted on their citizen journalism site, iReport, ‘Steve Jobs rushed to ER following a severe heart attack’. The news turned out to be false; however, the damage was already done. Apples share price had dropped from \$105.27 to \$95.41 between 9:40am and 9:52am – a 9 per cent decrease within minutes. San Francisco Chronicle journalist, Reyhan Harmanci explained that the incident, “sparked debate about the accuracy of reports from these web sites.....showing how it takes only a few minutes for a scurrilous rumor, placed on a site without sufficient editorial checks, to inflict damage.”

The case at Boston Marathon bombing in 2013 when professional journalists heavily relied on citizens to enrich their narratives. Another example of their collaboration is embedded in the creation of TV and Radio programmes, Websites, blogs, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube accounts by mainstream media to allow people from around the globe to contribute pictures and videos of breaking news stories. With regards to mainstream media adopting alternative platform like, CNN, BBC, The Guardian and France 24 have respectively created i-Report, Your News, Guardian Witness and Reporters to stress the importance of the collaborative relationship between professional and citizen journalism. It receives daily, thousands of images from around the world of both major news events and

local issues. Video received from around the world included that of passenger Kim Dong-soo waiting to be rescued from the sinking South Korea ferry in April 2014. The video showed very calm people holding to anything they could when the ferry was sinking. Kim Dong-soo showed images that could not otherwise be broadcasted if there was no collaboration between the two types of journalism. The footage of Kim Dong-soo, and previous videos shown by professional journalists helped viewers better understand the story. The later example consolidates Dooley (2008)'s argument when he posits: traditional journalism is the outside looking in. Citizen journalism is the inside looking out. In order to get the complete story, it helps to have both points of view.

For the first time in the history of India the power of citizens through social media was seen and the impact was tremendous during the Delhi Gang Rape (Nirbhaya case) - that involved rape and murder of a 23-year-old woman, a physiotherapy intern who was beaten and gang raped in a bus in which she was travelling with her man companion on December 16, 2012 in New Delhi. The young girl died from her injuries thirteen days later while undergoing emergency treatment in Singapore. The media called the young victim 'Nirbhaya' - a brave heart. Nirbhaya's case was able to cut deep into the hearts of people irrespective of their caste, creed, religion or age, the incident made the general public's collective anger to explode and come out on streets. If not for collective efforts of the people, Nirbhaya incident would have been another case of violence in the capital city. The United Nations Human rights chief called rapes in India a "national problem."

The Nirbhaya case caught the attention of the entire main stream media but a new trend was witnessed and the power of Citizens through Citizen Journalism was actively playing a role. There was also a plethora of citizens on the ground reporting the developments as it happened and reported in Social Media and posted their videos and comments on twitter, the main stream added a section in their news bulletin and programs as "Citizen news & Views" and the comments on Twitter, you tube videos and so on. The Delhi gang rape demonstrated how citizen journalism has really come to the fore. Change.org, an online petition "Stop Rape Now" was initiated by former Journalist Namita Bhandare seeking the intervention of President Pranab Mukherjee and Chief Justice of India.

Today there are many channels having exclusive programs featuring reports and stories filed by Citizens called "Citizen Journalists" aiming at encouraging and creating a formal platform for Citizen Journalists like the popular show on TV channels like ibnlive and Headlines today that telecast - CJ Show and Right to be heard (RTH) on weekly basis and has gained popularity over a period of time. In addition to TV channels we have various websites like the Citizen Media Network an open forum, platform to nurture and promote Citizen Journalism from all walks of life to express themselves through new media tools and get trained in digital journalism methods and techniques. Popular websites like merinews.com, w.ww.reportindia.com, www.indiaonline.in.cj, www.mynews.in and many more websites give a platform for Citizen Journalists in India and South Asia.

16.8 LET US SUM UP

Citizen Journalism is journalism with democracy, active participation of citizens, politics, government and civic life. Civic reporting involves active participation

of citizens in newsgathering and reporting. At times play a multiple role of exposing corruption, encouraging accountability, documenting abuses of power, and giving alternative views on local and international current affairs.

Civic Reporting/citizen journalism is known to inform and educate and report from within a crisis so as to enrich traditional journalism for the general public to better understand the story. Civic reporting is also a reflection of personal emotion, opinion and or belief. This can be dangerous for objective news. So, collaborating with mainstream journalism will add value to it. In this unit, you have learnt that

- The primary aim of journalism is to be objective and present an unbiased, factual account of news events.
- A strict code of ethics is adhered to by all professional journalists when doing so to maintain and preserve public trust, confidence and reliability.
- To ensure this the process of ‘gate keeping’ is upheld within mainstream media.
- This relies on all experienced and trained journalists and editors to filter any nonfactual information from news reports before publication or broadcasting.
- Citizen journalists are untrained in such journalistic methods and are therefore at risk of using unreliable sources and publishing incorrect or infactual news.

16.9 REFERENCES AND FURTHER READINGS

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Online Sources

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<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/The-citizen-as-reporter/articleshow/9254359.cms>

Case study : www.journalismthefuture.wordpress.com/citizen-journalism-vs-professional-journalism/ www.elon.edu/docs/eweb/academics/communications/research/vol6no1/04BroganEJSpring15.pdwww.jespnet.com/journals/Vol_1_No_1_June_2014/10pdf

16.10 ANSWER TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS EXERCISE

Check Your Progress Exercise 1

1) Features of Civic Journalism:

- literature on public journalism is its contentiousness
- presenting details news of serious and not so serious incidents

- someone from outside the news business who engages in the kind of journalism
 - Every Citizen is a Reporter
- 2) List advantages of Civic reporting
- The members of public are able to alert the media to news stories that they may not already know about, or that professional journalists have not got the ability to cover.
 - Citizen journalists can be a massive help by providing written reports in addition to photographs and videos in real time. For example many stories regarding the Arab Spring have been covered by citizen journalists when mainstream media were unable to reach areas of conflict or a media blackout was in place.
 - Smaller newspapers often need to rely on citizen journalists for the latest updates, due to their low staff count.
 - Civic reporting is straight evidence from the spot and without any biasness, ready to create a direct public opinion without an unfair outcome
- 3) What are the strengths of citizen journalism
- Information is communicated almost instantly.
 - Civic journalism can fill in the gaps that the reporter could not.
 - Critical information may be variably different to what the journalist has captured.
 - Event unfolds; facts and photographs are communicated promptly.

Check Your Progress Exercise 2

- 1) What are the five ways of Civic Journalism according to Rosen
- As an argument, a way of thinking about what journalist should be doing, given own difficulty and general state of public life.
 - As an experiment, a way of breaking out of established routines and making a different kind of contribution to public life.
 - As a movement involving practicing journalists, former journalists who want to improve their craft, academics and researchers with ideas to lend and studies that might help, foundations and think tanks that gave financial assistance and sanctuary to the movement, and other likeminded folk who wanted to contribute to the rising spirit of reform.
 - As a debate with often heated conversation within the press and with others outside it about the proper role of the press.
 - As an adventure, an open-ended and experimental quest for another kind of press.
- 2) Qualities of Civic reporter
- The civic reporters are no way back then the professional news makers
 - Civic journalism is an effort by print and broadcast journalists to reach out to the public
 - Promoting solutions to problems, real and imagined.

- The real problem with journalism today is that it has become a public-relations tool for big government.

Check Your Progress Exercise 3

- 1) Why is ethics important in Civic Journalism?
 - It creates a polarizing effect and ignores the gray that most often exists between the black and white when you explore journalism ethics
 - A plan to create a network of interdisciplinary researchers and journalists who will develop a new ethics for civic journalism
 - The new ethics defines journalism as a mediator of an ongoing public conversation among diverse groups rather than as a provider of neutral descriptions of agents, events, and issues.
- 2) How can civic journalism be identified as a platform to speak?
 - Citizen journalists main focus is obtaining information important to their local area According to the amendment, the term of offices, salaries and allowances and other terms and conditions shall be as prescribed by the Central Government.
 - They are citizen - producers of the content
 - People can talk back to the news system and make their own media. That's a power shift."
 - Ordinary people are increasingly reporting as eye witness
- 3) Why is it necessary to maintain collaboration between collaborative and traditional journalism work?
 - Civic reporters are just mere eye witness and this cannot make one a journalist.
 - A journalist will respect the rules of the profession even in photograph taking.
 - Challenges such as one-sided views
 - New media technology such as social networking
 - The increasing presence, speed and accessibility have allowed citizen journalists to report on breaking news.
 - Some argue that citizen journalists threaten to destroy the circulation of factual news, spreading incorrect, misleading information and opinion rather than truth.
 - Traditional journalism is the outside looking in and Citizen Journalism is the inside looking out.