



Changing Technologies and Changing Trends in Photojournalism

Nithish P¹ Dr.B.Shailashree²

¹Researcher Scholar Department of Communication Bangalore University

²Associate Professor Department of Communication Bangalore University

Corresponding Author- Nithish P

Email id: nithishpbyndoor@gmail.com

DOI- 10.5281/zenodo.7583219

Abstract

Photojournalism has evolved into a vibrant and persistent discipline of journalism from the dawn of time as an efficient means of communication. Photojournalism's origins may be traced all the way back to the 1850s. The work of Romanian painter as well as photographer Carol Szathmari, who documented the Crimean War through engravings based on his photographs, is one of the earliest examples of photojournalism.

Photographer Mathew Brady, inspired by the engraving approach, used the same technique to illustrate the American Civil War. Even throughout the First and Second World Wars, his contributions were prominent in mainstream journalism. According to Jessica Stewart (2017), despite substantial technical advancements and the growth of the digital realm, photojournalism's professional objective, as well as its history of ethics and authenticity, were consistently maintained until the year 2000. Photojournalism and its equipment are obviously undergoing substantial changes as technology advances. Photojournalism has become much more straightforward and precise as a result of constant change. Photographic technology has advanced tremendously from ancient times. Through this study, the researcher aims to understand the extent of advancements in the field of photojournalism. The researcher also aims to learn about the contemporary trends in photojournalism. To obtain data for the proposed study, the interview method will be adopted where photojournalists and other professionals associated with the area will be interviewed. This study also aims to analyze the recent trends in the field of photojournalism today.

Keywords: Photojournalism, Photojournalist, Trends, Technolog

Technology

Technology has played a significant influence in the history of journalism. The link between technology and journalism is as complex and intricate as it has ever been. Innovations that were in their early stages just two decades ago, if they existed at all, have revolutionized major aspects of modern news creation, delivery, and consumption, as well as challenged core ideas of mass communication, ranging from internalized oppression to information flows. They have resulted in the emergence of new types of journalistic labor that are "technologically particular," or defined and reliant on technology. They have also altered how academics approach the subject of journalism, as demonstrated by Lewis and Westlund's work (2015). Technological trends are simply an improvement in a particular

industry for the growth of quality and quality.

In examining the junction between photography and innovation, it is crucial to highlight that current scholarship in journalism studies, including this article, typically recognizes that technology is affected by the social as well as the material. This viewpoint, based on social constructivism and heavily inspired by development studies, opposes the idea that technology is primarily responsible for the formation of cultural norms and cultural values, a viewpoint known as technological determinism. Scholars have discovered that, while certain technologies have the ability to disrupt and revolutionize the news industry, they are produced and implemented by social actors, and their consequences are frequently mitigated, if not mediated, by the circumstances in which they arise (Fenton,

2010). According to the normalization hypothesis, for example, equipment will be adopted by news employees to meet established routines and values.(Singer, 2005).

The digitalization of news, along with the more dynamic (mutable and transitory) character of internet journalism, has increased the emphasis on responsiveness and resulted in journalists adopting a more monitorial logic. As a result of growing copying, news material has become more homogeneous. It is critical to recognize that electronic people responsible are not objective entities; they are human inventions that possess their own logic and ideals. They also have an influence on current human reasoning and values when humans and machines interact, resulting in mutual molding cycles.

While technology is vital in news delivery, the two can indeed be considered synonymous. News transmission is a sociotechnical business in which economic policy and organizational strategic practices determine technology's influence on news delivery patterns. For example, the emergence of broadcast journalism prompted fears that American newspapers would go out of business. However, the inventiveness of circulation managers enabled the print sector to not only limit many of radio news' strategic benefits but also to reach more users in the period of broadcasting.

Photojournalism

A potent component of print media is photojournalism. A thousand words may be understood from a single photograph. Photojournalism is the most glorious profession to distribute the news in reality to the reader. One of the most well-known photography instructors in the world, Cliff Edom (1976), attributed Frank Mott, head of the Journalism School at the University of Missouri, with coining the word "photojournalism." Later, photography was seen as a fundamental component of journalism." The origins of photojournalism may be traced to the dawn of humans, to that period when seeing clearly might literally make the difference between life and death," stated Newton (2001).

New visual content technologies, platforms, and approaches are imposing a range of challenges and consequences on photojournalists, forcing them to develop and react in unique ways (Adrian Hadland,2015).

When words escape to explain themselves, this is an excellent technique to connect with others. In rare circumstances, reporters fail to present the scenario. A photojournalist is a specialist in the field for photography. A photojournalist must have an artistic vision, be quick to assess the entire event, and be able to rapidly capture an image that could also serve as a summary. He must be enthusiastic about his profession in order to flourish in a competitive setting. Basic necessities include somehow being prepared with almost everything necessary in advanced so that, in the event of an emergency, he can respond quickly. Editors employ images to create public agendas when they know that news with pictures will be popular with readers, who will form views about such concerns and find them relevant (Knobloch S, Hastall M, ZillMann D, Callison C, 2003).

Changing Trends in Photojournalism

Several advances in photojournalism have occurred over time that are nowadays considered trends. The process of adapting to these changes includes both benefits and drawbacks. The idea of immediate, which pertains to the obligation to transmit images and recordings as soon as something major occurs, has revolutionised photojournalism's conception of time (Jenni Maenpaa 2014). Some of the trends that have gained popularity includes:

Mobile Journalism :

Mobile journalism is one of the most popular trends in photojournalism, and it is also accessible to anybody who is interested. For this mobile journalism, social media has provided an instant platform. This assisted journalism in getting news and photographs out to the public as quickly and efficiently as possible. Mobile journalism has played a significant part in photojournalism, assisting photojournalists in emergency situations and genuine moments that cannot be repeated.

Drone Photography:

Drones are among the most important aspects of aerial photography; formerly, journalists used to climb trees, buildings, and towers to capture a long view, but this drone made it so much easier. Drones are significantly less expensive than renting a helicopter, which requires a pilot and a film crew. This is the conventional method of dealing with natural disasters such as floods and landslides, as well as political crowds.

Tele-Lens Photography:

A telephoto lens is a long-focus lens that photographs and magnifies a distant object. During the Covid outbreak, most journalists began to use this lens to avoid areas infected with the virus. Previously, the use of telephoto lenses was widespread, but it has recently grown in comparison to previous years. Normally, this lens is utilised for portraits during VVIP movements, sports photography, and wild animal admission into the city, among other things.

Digital Photography:

Originally, photography was expensive due to film reels, and digital photography is nothing more than capturing images and storing them on SD cards. Each reel is capable of capturing about 30-35 photos. This era comes to an end. The current digital era has simplified the procedure. Photography has always been a magical phenomenon, even before the invention of digital photography. After the darkroom process, the image will be obtained. Getting something out there takes a long time. This curiosity has now vanished; quick results have enabled everyone to see the effects of their efforts.

Social Media photographs:

Photographs on social media may be both a boon and a bane for journalists. It's quite easy to have fast access to images and clips, but it's very hard to check the content's legitimacy. In the case of emergency, photojournalists rely on social media photos which have been authenticated. This is the only platform where information is updated in a fraction of a second. This is the only source of special arrangements within the deadline period. Even if the image is of poor quality, it will be published in the newspaper if it is a significant event.

Agency Photographs :

One of the most dependable sources for photojournalists is a picture agency. This is the best source to go for high-resolution photographs and reliable information. There is no way that the information or photos could be deceptive. Subscription-based photographs will be provided. Special events, such as sporting events and war images, are the most usual areas to rely on them.

Advantages Of Technology In The Field Of Photojournalism

"A journalist tells a tale" wrote photojournalist Mark Hancock. A photographer takes photographs, but a photojournalist combines the best of both and converts it into a compelling medium"

(Newton, 236). For many years, images such as photographs have been utilised to provide context to articles; photos may help the reader relate to and comprehend the subject. Rather of just writing about an event, photographs that accompany a tale engage the viewer in ways that language cannot. Having said that, while photojournalist shots are supposed to be honest and factual, it is becoming increasingly clear that news organisations and independent photojournalists are distorting and photo-shopping images.

"Laws exist for a rationale, they encourage order and justice, and they should be obeyed," according to the rule-based resolution concept presented in the lecture slides. Follow the rule you would like others to follow. One ethical criterion that photojournalists struggle with is determining how much picture alteration is too much modification. It is ethical to correct minor illumination or contrast flaws in a photograph; however, one issue that is becoming increasingly troublesome is when photojournalists modify the tone of a photograph or add things to the photograph. "A few photographers tarnish media image; Photojournalists supposed to document Events, not create them," Brian Coopers, comments on this topic. "A supposed "victim" of a building collapse, advantageously positioned atop the rubble with no mote of dust on his body. Don't buildings produce a significant amount of dirt and particles when they tumble? Here the same "victim" was featured in other images, taken moments earlier, healthy and busily trying to assist in rescue operations"(Cooper, 2006). With the evolution of Photoshop technology, it is becoming increasingly difficult to rely on time when they have the power to produce the ideal image simply by combining numerous photographs into one. Everything may be directly traced to Kidders. Truth vs. Loyalty, a photographer can use Photoshop to make a situation appear more terrible than it genuinely is. Alternatively, they can maintain ethical/loyal to what transpired and release real-time photographs. The rise of photojournalism opened up new doors for photographers. These people could now travel almost everywhere. Any place to document items and evnts since camera technology was now speedier and more portable. The most major advantage of photojournalism has always been its potential to promote social

change by showing societal issues. In other words, via the use of news stories and other media, photojournalism became the first way to convey social concerns to large audiences.

Photojournalism advancements aided advertising and marketing as well. Photojournalism, in reality, invented advertising and promotion. There was no means for a corporation to show buyers what they were offering before this period. This sort of photography was particularly beneficial for showing things in publications in order to attract shoppers. The image *The Veiled Reds* by Richard Avedon is an instance of such an advertising; the shot is a promotion for a new line of cosmetics. The viewer is brought to the snapshot by a creative mix of language and photo, as well as careful word choice. The photographer's ability to successfully use colour underscores the link between the bold colour red and their cosmetics line. The visitor may not identify the image or the lines with the company's cosmetics line if colour is not used. Photojournalism is clearly the most effective approach to communicate a message to the broad population.

Disadvantages Of Technology In The Field Of Photojournalism

A nice camera will not define your photographic talents, but it will certainly improve them. If a company wishes to provide the greatest service to its customers and encourage them to return for more, you must be ready to invest in costly technology. A Nikon entry-level DSLR camera would set you back at least INR 65,000. A decent quality 50mm lens would set you back at least INR 10,000. There is also other equipment to consider, like reflectors, storage devices, and lens filters. This fundamental photographic equipment should be owned by all photographers. To put it bluntly, being a photojournalist has a cost. While a 9-to-5 working environment might be highly draining, it cannot be denied that it encourages you to engage and associate with other people. A profession in photography, on the contrary hand, is suitable for the lonesome. You get to meet more individuals than you would in an alien environment. However, working alone will not allow you to form the same bonds that individuals who work eight or more hours per day together can. Photography, like any other freelance job, can not guarantee a steady income. If your workflow is efficient, you will earn more

than you anticipated. However, there will be occasions when you are unable to work. If you wish to pursue photojournalism as a career, you must be psychologically prepared for both times when you have a large amount of cash and times when you have no or little revenue. Working in a cubicle will guarantee that you have certain responsibilities. You do exactly what is required of you - nothing really, nothing less. However, when you go out on your business, you must look outside your skill. You will be expected to investigate your own finances and taxes, write mail and sales enquiries, create invoices and contracts, edit photos, and even participate in social media. You'll have to complete it yourself if you cannot afford to hire someone to do it for you. Before social media, the only way to get news in the form of photos was to buy a newspaper or watch it on television. Platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and Tumblr have made global events available to everyone, anywhere. The purpose of social media in photography has been to connect everyone to a single event. But, just as photography may assist convey a narrative, it can also be readily manipulated to accomplish the reverse. Whether it's a photo supplied by a viewer or a professional shot by a photographer, journalists and photographer have a moral obligation to evaluate images.

Conclusion

The dynamic nature of change is that it expects people associated with it to evolve without an option. Change is important as it brings about a new outcome that contributes remarkably to the concerned field and area. While adapting to change can be tedious and exhausting, it is vital to understand as a gradual process; a never ending process. This cyclic occurrence requires extensive training before adopting novel techniques.

When it comes to photojournalism; what started as a medium of communication during the civil war in America evolved into a tool used by various aspects of journalism. Because of its importance and utility, photojournalism and diverse forms of journalism have become inseparable. Understanding the nature and scope of photojournalism it becomes vital to cope up with the various trends to rightfully deliver and educate common people. Photographs are not only used to validate the news article, but convey those aspects of a story that words fail to convey. Hence, it is right to

understand that, “A picture is worth a thousand words”.

Reference:

1. Kratochvil, A. (2001). Photojournalism and documentary photography. *Nieman reports*, 55(3), 27.
2. Lester, P. M. (2015). *Photojournalism: An ethical approach*. Routledge
3. NEWTON, JULIANNE H. (2001) *The Burden of Visual Truth: the role of photojournalism in mediating reality*, Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum.
4. Tripsas, M. (2009). Technology, identity, and inertia through the lens of “The Digital Photography Company”. *Organization science*, 20(2), 441-460.
5. Lewis, S. C., & Westlund, O. (2015). Actors, actants, audiences, and activities in cross-media news work. *Digital Journalism*, 3(1), 19–37. doi:10.1080/21670811.2014.927986
6. . Gorin, Valérie. (2015). Innovation(s) in Photojournalism: Assessing visual content and the place of citizen photojournalism in Time 's Lightbox photoblog. *Digital Journalism*. 3. 533-551. 10.1080/21670811.2015.1034524.
7. Md Yusof, Nur & Dolah, Jasni & Binti, Norfarizah & Mohd Bakhir, Norfarizah. (2017). *Digital Era of Photojournalism: Style, Approach And Work Ethics In Malaysia*.
8. Tewari P (2021) *Changing Trends in Photojournalism: Education level and Use of Mobile Camera has Increased in India*. *Global Media Journal*, 1550-7521.
9. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/1464884913479055>