

# Integrity in Journalism

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Journalism is the collecting and editing of news for presentation through different media such as print, television, radio and Internet. Journalism involves writing done by people and its power to influence is beyond our understanding.

In this day and age, it is very convenient for us to get in touch with news. Even though we may not have time to sit down and watch the news on TV, we know what is happening in society just by web browsing on the mobile phone. And due to this convenience, people can be easily affected by the style of news presentation. For instance, if the news-press is owned by a narrow-minded government, news about corruption is less likely to be reported, thus hiding the truth from the citizens. Another example is that, if the broadcaster is anti-government, what the reporters say may be too aggressive. Their standpoint may not be objective enough and often the news is exaggerated. Mature people with the ability of critical thinking may realize that this is not the right way to report a piece of news, but what if the readers or audience are people of a younger age? If they are constantly exposed to these kinds of messages, they will be negatively affected to hold bias against certain people or cases.

From my point of view, therefore, a pertinent element of journalism is sincerity. It is meaningless to report news that is false or sugarcoated. News media should ensure impartiality in news reporting and should supervise each other to ascertain high self-discipline. Integrity in journalism is crucial to society as it enables people to have access to the truth of what is happening around them. As the saying goes, 'The naked truth is always better than a best-dressed lie'. The media should provide nothing but factual accounts of social or global happenings. I hope every journalist will think carefully before he attempts to report anything, 'Am I writing about what the readers ought to know?' 'Am I providing my viewers with news that is true as steel?' This is important since every piece of news reported will influence the viewers. The impact may be negligible initially, but bit by bit it can alter one's opinion a lot.

