

Security issues Affecting Performance of Journalists: A Case Study of Southern Districts-Based Journalists of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

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Abstract

This research identifies the security problems faced by journalists of the Southern districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, besides ascertaining their possible effects on the performance of journalists in the region. While carrying out their professional activities, journalists are exposed to threats from different groups. This study reveals that 81 per cent of the respondents strongly agree and 13 per cent agree that the journalists receive threats from various quarters. The study also shows that journalists do not feel secure in their respective areas and feelings of insecurity affects their professional work. The study also shows that 56 per cent of the respondents strongly agree and 25 per cent agree that they are feeling insecure in their area when they are going out to fulfill their professional activities, which stops them from objective journalism. The study also shows that there are no arrangements on the part of media organizations and the government to impart safety trainings to the journalists and they are completely helpless in the face of all kinds of threats in the field. Keeping in view the security situation of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, it is essential to provide security trainings to the working journalists so that they may manage to cope with the situation of emergency in a better way. Journalists highlight the problems of common people and when they do not feel secure in their area then it would not be possible for them to fulfill their professional responsibilities in an effective way

Keywords. Journalist; Security; Threats; Training; Professional

Introduction

Journalism as a profession involves covering different events and informing the masses about these happenings. Journalists face problems of different nature when they cover events relating to various aspects of life. The profession of journalism needs an environment where the media practitioners could deliver to the best of their potential. But it has been observed that security issues hamper the working of journalists (Riaz, 2015).

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It has been observed that journalists in southern districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, who are affiliated with local and national media organizations, are also confronted with the problem of security, which affects their professionalism one way or the other. Journalists either 'kill' a story or avoid naming individuals in their news dispatches for fear of negative consequences (Eijaz et al., 2014).

Statement of the problem and purpose of the study

Journalists are increasingly facing security problems, which cause journalists to avoid filing of news stories or change its contents. This situation not only compels the journalists to shun a story but also makes them quit the very profession. These issues also force the journalists to compromise objective journalism (Eijaz et al., 2014).

This quantitative study explores perceptions of professional journalists working in southern districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa about the security issues they face and the ensuing problems in the shape of killing of news stories or pondering to leave the field for good.

The data gathered in this study provides information about the exact nature of issues about the security of the journalists. In this study, recommendations and suggestions have been put forward to address or mitigate these issues.

Security threats to journalists are not peculiar to southern districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). Across the country, the security and safety of the journalists is one area where the circumstances have obviously worsened for the media professionals (ifex, 2015). Pakistan is one of the most unsafe amongst the countries of the world for media practitioners and it has become hard for the journalists to work in a safe situation. Pakistan has been a frontline state against terrorism for about four decades, which has polarized the society and ruined the sense of security among the masses. Pakistani media practitioners are not only targeted by militants but also by religious, political, ethnic and other pressure groups and as well as by law enforcement agencies (ifex, 2015). Events of attacks, threats and killing of media personnel in Pakistan clearly reflect the gravity of the situation. Journalists were injured and murdered and forced to silence. Assailants and killers of journalist have impunity, which ultimately undermines the freedom of expression in Pakistan.

In Pakistan, media personnel are murdered, detained without any solid reason, kidnapped, beaten and threatened by law enforcers and intelligence agencies, tribal and feudal lords and militants and by political parties which claim to work for the

promotion of democracy and the rule of law. The perpetrators of violence against media workers enjoy impunity from prosecution in Pakistan. The insecurity of the media professionals has increased with the rise of militancy in the country. The Pakistani Taliban and other militant groups have posed serious threats to media workers and to all citizens as well in the wake of 9/11 and Pakistani government's attempts to counter the rising influence of the militants. Due to the Afghanistan war, the border areas, including KP, Baluchistan and KP's tribal districts have become unsafe areas for media professionals.

Research Questions:

1. How does security situation impact the journalists' decision of avoiding coverage of critical stories?
2. In what manner lack of security impact objective journalism in the region?
3. How pressure groups influence journalists in the region?

Literature Review

It has been observed that journalists have become insecure in Pakistan and the incidents of killing and kidnapping have occurred in certain parts of the country. After the 9/11 attacks in America, the world saw a wave of terrorism and extremism in different parts of the world. Since Pakistan played a leading role in this war, every segment of the society has been affected by the "war on terror" in one way or the other. Journalists are also the most affected population of this war and it has been observed that the journalists have been abducted, tortured and killed during fulfilling their professional responsibilities.

The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ, 2014) annual list of Asia Pacific had the highest death toll in which 35 journalists killed made the region the most insecure for media workers and media practitioners across the globe. The Middle East got the second position with 17 killings and 9 media persons were killed in Europe. The report added further that the continuing war in Ukraine, Syria, Iraq and the brutal disturbance in Pakistan and Afghanistan accounted for assassination of many media practitioners. Pakistan got a place among the most dangerous countries with 14 murders of journalists, Syria got second where 12 journalists were killed. Nine journalists were killed in Afghanistan and likewise, nine media workers were murdered in Palestine while 8 media personnel shot dead in Iraq and Ukraine.

The journalists of Ghana, a country of African continent, face the same kind of situation as faced by the journalists of other developing countries. Obeng-Quaidoo

(1988) claimed that interviews have disclosed that journalism profession in Africa can be highly dangerous. The governments of Africa are not the only ones throwing the media practitioners into prisons. Influential individuals and officials also influence the police to mistreat the journalists for misquoting or when they report incorrectly about an issue of their worry. In a soccer match in Ghana and Kumasi, spectators beat a journalist as they thought that the paper for which the journalist was working had reported something wrong about their favorite team. Besides, meager salaries also increase the chance of dissatisfaction of job; lack of facility for accommodation for the media practitioners of Ghana also influence their performance. Contrary to the journalists of India, who have the right to live in the 'press enclave', but it remained difficult for Ghanian to rent apartments. The journalists of Kenya are also facing the same kind of harassment in their country. The government is also trying to harass the journalists to become the mouthpiece of the regime instead of providing truth to the masses.

The various literature studies regarding journalists facing security issues across the world reveals that media persons are faced with security issues.

The case of journalists rendering professional duties in the Southern districts of KP suggest that they are facing threats faced by journalists working in other parts of the world. They are not feeling secure in their respective areas of duties. Various quarters including, government officials, pressure groups and other sections of society are harassing the journalists through different ways and means to stop them from carrying out their professional obligations.

A special report of Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) published by Valentine and Rhodes (2015) says that the harassment of the journalists does not initiate with the passage of infamous legislation by the government. The media workers say that it was a common thing that they were threatened, frightened and even assaulted. There have been 19 cases of coercion or assault against the media practitioners between January and May 2015. One case almost happening every week time and police or other state agency personnel or members of the assemblies of the country remained involved in all such cases.

Wangethi Mwangi, director of National Media Group editorial, claims that the journalists from quite some time have been vulnerable to threats. There is no system to provide some relief to media practitioners as they required at the time of reporting of different events in the field. A survey conducted by Kenya Media Program that polled 282 journalists in the whole country divulged that self-censorship was imposed on all essential issues like corruption, land and politics. It was informed by a freelance journalist Robert Wanjala, who worked previously in West Kenya for a regional weekly Independent Mirror that in many cases, threats

were sent to journalists through phone. Continuous coercions on phone can truly prevent a journalist from his professional duties as it is difficult to understand when the phone caller may act on his threat. The weekly Mirror publisher and editor John Kituvi was murdered on April 30, 2015. Some unidentified assailants assaulted him when he was returning home from his office in the evening. David Wabwile, his brother, told CPJ that John had been given a lot of threats on phone during his career. He was again threatened on April 28 and had been forced to seriously consider leaving Kenya.

Violation of media freedom has also been observed in Ethiopia. The freedom of media was considered a threat to the interests of ruling junta in this country. As soon as the ruling Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) had won the elections in 2010, the government expedited its action against the liberty of the press (Jimenez 2015). From 2010, nearly 60 media practitioners were compelled to escape from their country and approximately 19 others were thrown behind the bars. The government also closed more than one dozen journals and took over control of most of Radio and Television houses, leaving very little room for the people of Ethiopia to have unbiased news and analysis on political issues. The government carried crackdown against the media as it was considered a challenge for the domination of the government; therefore, it used different tools to damage the private media, unbiased coverage and significant analysis with horrible consequences.

Violence against journalists is also witnessed in developed part of the world, including Mexico. As per González de Bustamante and Relly (2016), Mexico has turned one of the most dangerous places for the journalists in the world. The rise in violence against media persons corresponded with the general increase in violence beginning in the 2000; but more sharply during Ex-Mexican President Felipe Calderon Hinojosa's administration and following his decision to fight organized crime through more active army engagement. It was a shift in strategy from banning of drugs to the arrest of the leaders of the criminal organization. As a result of this strategy, there was increase in the human rights violation, including violence and antagonism against journalists. During 2006 to 2012, 33 journalists were killed in Mexico's northern states. The representative of United Nations on drugs and crimes has noted that increased violence against the journalists of the members of organized crime group was to control the territory and media-driven messages about their organization.

Other researchers have also exposed the threats being faced by the journalist around the globe and have stressed for providing security to the journalists during their course of work. According to Matsuura, Director-General, UNESCO (2007), the figures collected by the International News Safety Institute (INSI) showed that

111 journalists killed in 2015 and 115 in 2016. In recent years, some of the worst death tolls have been recorded. In 2006, 168 journalists killed, most of them killed in Iraq during their work. In 2007, 172 media workers were killed. The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) documented that 2012 journalists were killed since 1992. Many of these deaths remained unnoticed and not reported in the world media. American journalist Mary Colvin and French photographer Remi Ochlick were killed on February 22, 2012 in a bombardment of the Baba Amro district of Homs, Syria. Their dreadful deaths helped, at least for a time, to get the attention of the world on the mortal risks faced by journalists and photojournalists, when working in such unsafe places. Although such high-profile deaths recall us the dreadful price that can be paid by the Western Journalists and Photojournalists when reporting major conflicts and wars, they are not the precise representation of the killing of journalists across the world.

The journalists are facing problems everywhere. According to Elliott, Elbahtimy, and Srinivasan (2012), in the recent past, media practitioners around the globe have become vulnerable at an alarming proportion to physical attacks and killings. The high ratio of deaths and injuries of the journalists is not only shocking but also intolerable. This not only denies the right of the journalists to life and the right to undertake their profession in safe way, but also the right of society at large to be informed. With the killing of each journalist, the right of freedom of opinion and expression is withdrawn. Every death, therefore, restricts our capability to understand and know the issues that are significant to us.

The problems faced by the journalists are dangerous for freedom of expression, which ultimately creates hazards for a democratic society. Playing the decisive role involves special threats. Therefore, the journalists need safety in the form of their physical protection. They are important to enhance society's capability to inquire about the truth in an open and varied ways. Aware people are an indispensable part of a democratic society. The job of journalists is not only to fight against social evils like corruption, maladministration, but also to serve to protect human rights, such as political participation through informed choices. Journalists almost defy accepted beliefs and recognized power structures and as such become targets. Hostility towards journalists endangers accountable and democratic governance and the security of human rights.

It is a common feature of almost every country that media workers face uncongenial situation for objective journalism. According to Carlsson and Pöyhtäri (2017), there are even cases of killing of journalists and their sources. More than 800 journalists, media activists and social media creators have been murdered during the last ten years. During the last two years, 59 percent among these slain journalists have been murdered in war zones and 41 percent were killed outside the

conflict area. Only 5 percent journalists who have been killed were foreign correspondents and the remaining 95 percent were local journalists. There were also non-lethal assaults, which included harassment, intimidation and temporary confinement to misogynistic assaults carried out against women journalists. Most of the sufferers are targeted in the countries where there is peace, but where exposing sensitive information about abuses of human rights, drug trafficking or corruption puts one's life in danger. Poorly paid and poorly trained journalists are unable to defend the professional ethics. Non availability of security is a source of corruption and self-censorship among journalists.

Journalists in Pakistan are also facing problems from different quarters. According to Riaz (2015), the history of last decade in Pakistan witnessed occurrences of abducting and killing of rural journalists. Particularly, the media reporters busy in the tribal areas of the country are working in extremely hazard environment. To file a report in the tribal areas of Pakistan against the militant groups is highly difficult job done at the risk of life. Rural journalists who make coverage of sensitive issues like terrorism and war against terrorism face heavy pressure from various segments of society including intelligence agencies and pressure groups.

As in other parts of the world, the journalists of former Tribal belt of Pakistan also face the same situation of threats. According to Ashraf and Brooten (2017), the KP tribal districts of Pakistan are some of the unsafe places of the world for the journalist due to high technology drone fighting waged in the area, militancy and the impunity of local officials. In the buffer area between Pakistan and Afghanistan, local journalists have become sandwiched between the global war on terror and the inhibiting local consequences. Since 2005, about 38 journalists were killed in the northwestern part of Pakistan, in which 14 belonged to the tribal districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. As a consequence, more than one hundred former tribal belt journalists have left the area to settle in the adjacent city of Peshawar. They have continued their reporting on tribal districts of KP in the situation of displacement.

The record of violence against the media practitioners in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and tribal districts traces back to 2003 and afterward; 24 journalists have been slain on account of fulfilling their responsibilities. Now, kidnapping, threats and killing of journalists have almost become the custom in KP and tribal districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The major causes of oppression of journalists are that the militants want the media to communicate their point of view to the world. When the media does not act according to their wishes, they send threats and abuse the journalists and the members of their family. As a result of such unfavorable situation, journalists either change their places of residence or they continue facing

the odds and try to fulfill their obligations as securely as possible. However, the key option for the journalists is normally to avoid coverage of those issues in which influential players are involved (Hassain, 2014).

Violence against journalists persists in every part of the world in one way or the other. The journalists of southern districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are also facing security issues which the researchers have tried to probe in terms of its exact nature and the manner it affects the working of journalists. This research will be helpful in resolving or mitigating the security issues of the journalists by bringing it fore to the concerned quarters.

Research Methodology

Survey method was used for this research. The design is cross-sectional in nature. Population of the study is the journalists of southern districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. There are 280 journalists working in the seven Southern districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa; in district Karak, the number of working Journalists is 52, in Kohat 45, in Hangu 33, in Bannu 42, in Lakki Marwat 33, in Tank 31 and in Dera Ismail khan 44. The information about the number of the journalists in different press clubs was taken from the press clubs during researchers visit to it. A total of 243 journalists participated in the survey. Convenience sampling of non-probability/ non-random sampling technique was used for data collection that relies on data collection from those members of population who are conveniently available to participate in the study. The sampling technique was convenience sampling because the researcher collected the data from those journalists who were available in the press clubs. The researcher visited the press clubs of the seven districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to fill the questionnaires from them to collect the required data from the working journalists.

Data Collection Techniques

Data was collected through questionnaire. Standardized questioning techniques were used, and same questions were asked from all the respondents. In this research study, the journalists were asked whether they are facing security issues in the field or not. The researcher used Likert Scale for asking the questions. The options were 1. Strongly Disagree 2. Disagree 3. Neutral 4. Agree 5. Strongly Agree. They were also asked whether the government and media organizations to whom they were attached provided security to them. The journalists were questioned about their employers' provision of safety training to them or otherwise to cope with any emergency in the field. Out of 280 journalists, 243 respondents filled the questionnaire and participated in the survey.

Data Analysis Techniques

The collected data from the journalist of Southern districts was analyzed through SPSS.

Theoretical Framework

Since the security concerns have a check over the contents of the media; therefore, the journalists cannot work freely to do objective reporting in the field. The security threats from different quarters work as a gatekeeper on the work of the journalists. Here the researchers have used Gatekeeping theory of Lewin (1943) as a theoretical framework.

Kurt Lewin is credited with coining the word ‘gatekeeping’ (Shoemaker & Vos, 2009). The terms gatekeeping and communication first appeared in the incomplete document of Lewin “Frontiers in Group Dynamics”, which was published posthumously in 1947. He was mainly interested to know how one could change food habits of people. Lewin argued that everyone is important in the selection of the choice of the food from grocery store to the dining table. He believed the theoretical framework could be broadened further than the selection of food. The situation is not only confined to the channels of food but also for the dissemination of news from different of channels of communication (Lewin, 1951). He claimed that individuals act as gatekeepers within a social context. He meant by ‘gatekeeping’, blocking unwanted or futile things through a gate. The person who makes decision is called ‘gatekeeper.’ It was first used very commonly in the field of psychology and later its use began in the field of communication. Now, it is one of the vital theories in communication studies.

Concept of Gatekeeping in Mass Communication

In Mass Communication, the gatekeeper takes the decision about what sort of information should disseminate to group or individual and what information should not be communicated. Here, the gatekeeper is the decision maker who lets information to the social system. Through the process of gatekeeping, the unwanted, controversial and sensible information are stopped by the gatekeeper.

Relation between Gatekeeping and Security Issues:

The security issues work as a gatekeeper over the work of Journalists and stop the information which was unwanted from disseminating. The different pressure groups have a check over media persons to stop them from disseminating the

information which is against their interest. Therefore, the researchers used the gatekeeping theory as a theoretical framework.

The data collected through survey reflects on the security situation faced by journalists in the Southern districts of KP are discussed in the following paras.

Findings

Questionnaires were distributed among 280 journalists working in seven Southern districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 243 journalists responded in the research survey. Journalists of all age groups participated in the survey, but there was no female working journalist working in the Southern districts. All the 280 members of the press clubs of the seven Southern districts of KP were male. There was no female member of the press club at the time of survey. The journalists of both print and electronic media participated in the research survey. The journalists were of varied education levels and majority worked on complimentary basis without any salaries. Around 12 journalists had a qualification of Middle Standard education, 98 journalists were Matriculate, 83 journalists were FA/F.Sc passed, 39 journalists were BA degree holders and 11 journalists were master's degree holders. There were 21 journalists in seven districts who were paid nominal honorarium by their respective media outlets. The researchers asked demographic questions from the journalists related to their age, educational level, gender and their salaries in the survey.

Q: 1- Does the government provide security to journalists during duty?

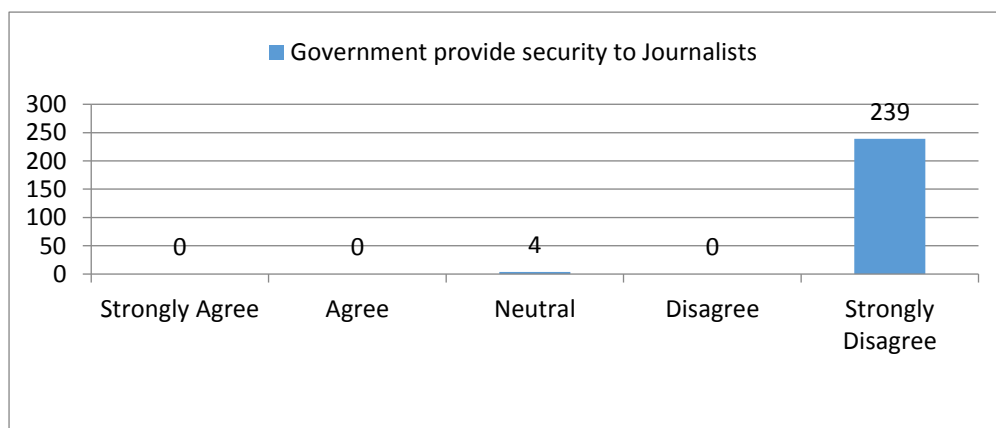


Figure 5.1 Government's provision of security to Journalists (n=243).

The figure 5.1 illustrates that the journalists performed their professional responsibilities without any security as the government failed to provide any sort of security to the media persons, when they are working in the field. The figure further illustrates that 98 percent of the respondents strongly disagree that the government provided them with any kind of security while working in the Southern districts. The journalists must cover different news events taking place in their respective districts on their own risk, as no security was being provided to them from the government's side.

Q: 2- Does your respective media organization provide any type of security during duty?

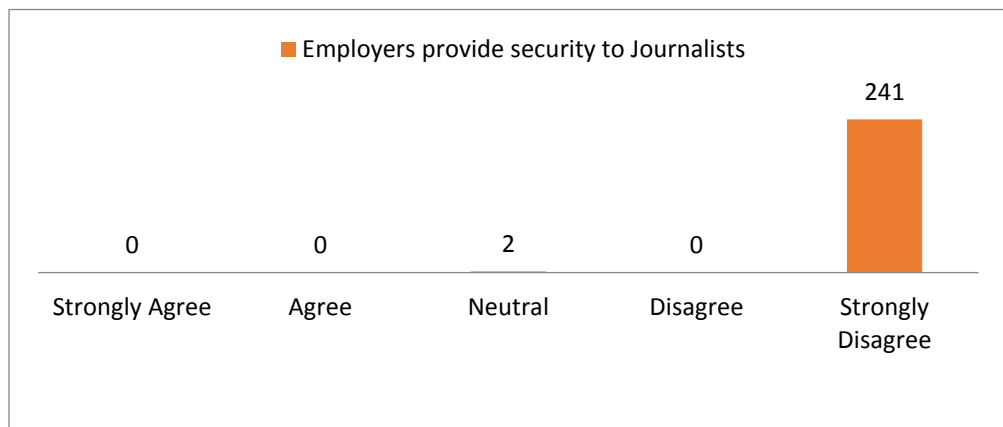
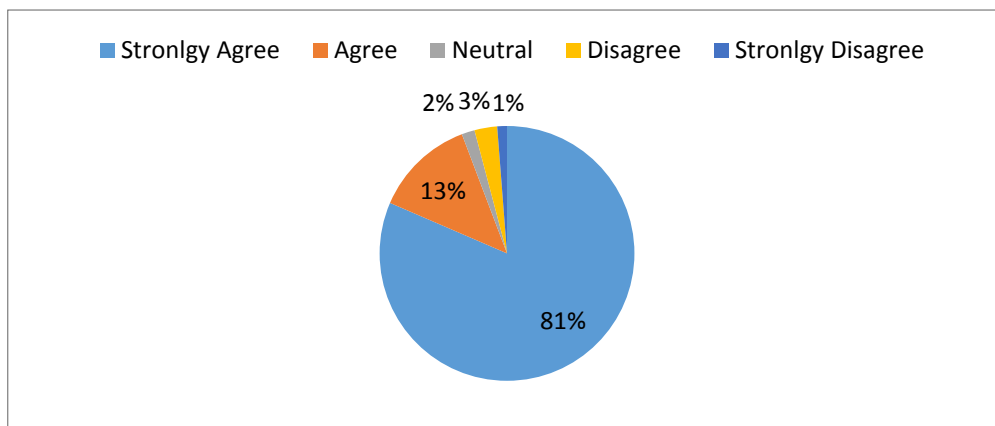


Figure 5.2 Employer's provision of security to Journalists (n=243).

The figure 5.2 shows that the journalists are not provided any kind of security by their respective employers during their professional duties. The figure further illustrates that overwhelming majority of 99 percent of the respondents strongly disagree that they are provided any sort of security by their employers while performing their professional responsibilities in their respective districts. Only 1 percent of the respondents remained neutral on the issue.



Q: 3- Do journalists receive threats while performing duties in their respective areas?

Figure 5.3 Journalists receiving threats (n=243).

The figure 5.3 shows that journalists receive threats from various quarters in the line of their professional duties. The figure revealed that most 81 percent of the respondents strongly agree that they receive threats while carrying out their professional duties. The figure further illustrates that only 1 percent respondents strongly disagree, whereas 3 percent respondents disagree that the journalists receive threats in their field duties.

Q: 4- Do journalists feel themselves insecure in their areas of duty/residency?

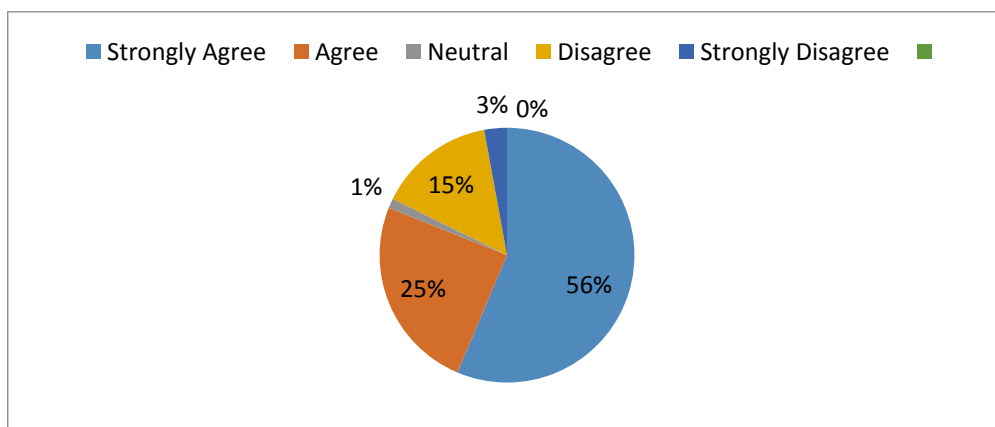


Figure 5.4 Journalists feeling insecure in areas of duty/ residency (n=243)

The figure 5.4 reflects that the media practitioners feel themselves not secure in their respective working areas. The figure reveals that 56 percent of majority of respondents strongly agree that they feel insecure in their areas while carrying out their professional responsibilities and 25 percent of the respondents agree that they feel insecure. The figure further shows that only 15 percent of the respondents disagree with the notion of feeling any kind of insecurity in their respective areas while carrying out their professional responsibilities. Around 3 percent of the respondents strongly disagree that they do not face any problem of insecurity.

Q: 5- Do the media organizations provide safety trainings to journalists?

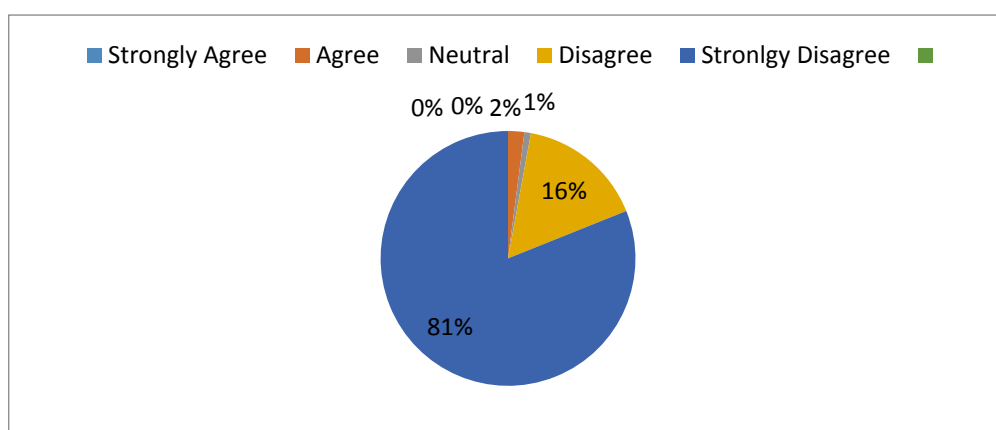


Figure 5.5 Media organizations providing safety training to journalists (n=243).

The figure 5.5 illustrates that the media organizations are not providing any kind of safety training to the journalists to cope with the security situation in the prevailing law and order situation of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The study reveals that 81 percent majority of the respondents strongly disagree that the media organizations provide safety training to the journalists and 16 percent respondents disagree. The study shows that only 2 percent of journalists agree that the media outlets impart safety trainings to its affiliated journalists.

Discussion

This study shows that the media practitioners working in the southern districts of KP lack security while working in the field and are open to threats. The government has failed to provide any kind of security to those who are projecting

the problems of the people and therefore, face security issues. The study reveals that 98 percent of the respondents confirm that they are not provided any security by the government. The media organizations to which they are affiliated also failed to provide security to their workers and therefore the journalists are working in the field totally on their own risk. The study illustrates that 99 percent of the respondents endorse that they have no security arrangements from their employers' side.

The data further shows that the journalists receive threats in their routine life while covering different events in the field, which is considered a great hardship in fulfilling their professional responsibilities with honesty and to maintain highest level of objectivity in reporting. The study reveals that 81 per cent of the journalists agree that they receive threats from different quarters while disposing off their professional responsibilities to obtain the reporting of the events as they desired. The respondents confirmed that quality and objectivity in reporting is therefore compromised.

The study also reveals that the journalists feel insecurity in their respective areas of working and an overwhelming majority of the respondents agree that they are feeling insecurity while discharging their professional duties. The data reveals that the journalists working in southern districts have to work under constant pressure from different quarters, including various pressure groups of religious parties, right wing organizations active at the district level. It also reveals that 78 percent of the respondents concede that they are facing pressure from these pressure groups while performing their professional responsibilities.

The data further illustrates that the district administration is also putting pressure on the journalists to get desirable reporting of various issues. The administration also pressurizes the journalists to keep silent on many issues by using different pressurizing tactics. The study shows that 79 percent of the respondents agree that the media practitioners are being influenced by the district administration by using different tactics. The data further reflects that the political parties are also putting pressure on the journalists to get reporting of their choice. The study further shows that 75 per cent of the respondents agree that the journalists are getting politically influenced from the various political parties active at the district level.

The study reflects that the media organizations failed to provide any sort of safety training to the journalists to allow them to keep themselves secure in case of any emergency and during coverage of an event in the field. Majority of respondents (81 per cent) strongly disagree and 16 percent disagree that the media organizations provide safety training to journalists. Only 2 percent of the

journalists agree that safety training is provided to the journalists by their media organizations.

Security issues, as the results show, works like gatekeepers on the work of journalists, with implications on the writings of the journalists. Different pressure groups active at district level force journalists to act according to their will, which in turn influences the working of journalists. This has a check on the working of the journalists and it ultimately molds their work in the desired direction of the quarters involved. The gatekeeping theory also suggest that there are different layers of gatekeeping in the media which filters some messages to reach the audience and stop the others. The pressure exerted on journalists by government officials, political parties and their activists as well as by pressure groups results in rising security concerns for media persons. Thus, the study shows journalists confronting security issues avoid dissemination of information or toe the line of those quarters exerting pressure on them.

In the wake of security training programs organized by government and media organizations for the safety of journalists, the later should also be provided with corresponding environment to keep themselves on safer side including necessary safety equipment and gadgets to share information safely. Media organizations should provide adequate salaries to their respective journalists to help them avoid any temptation causing hindrance in the way of objective journalism. Also, there should be professionally educated journalists attached with media organizations to help improve quality of journalism in the southern districts of the province.

Limitations

The researcher has used Survey method by distributing close ended questionnaire among the journalists for data collection. The data can be strengthened by collecting data from journalists through in-depth Interviews. Focus Group Discussions (FGD) are another data collection technique that can be effectively utilized to collect data in order to generate findings for ascertaining security issues faced by the journalist community.

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Appendix

Q: 1 Do journalists bear political pressure affecting their professional performance?

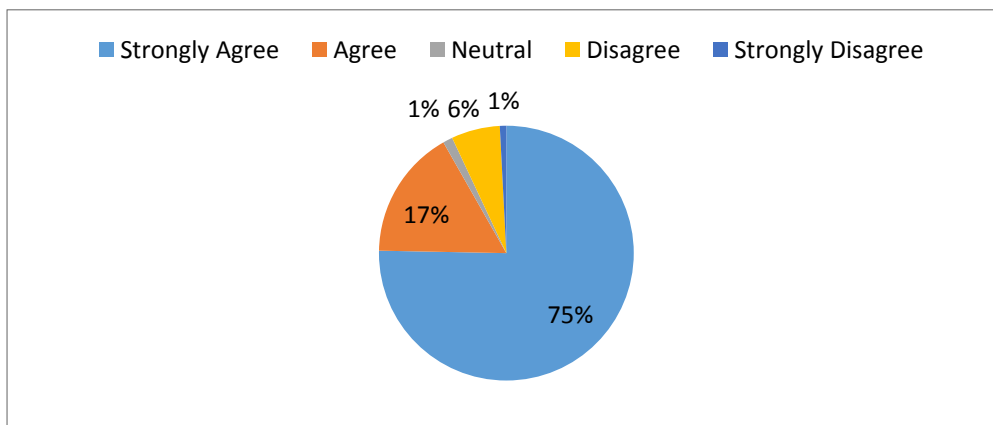


Figure S5.1 Political Pressure on Journalists work (n=243)

The figure supplementary 5.1 illustrates that the journalists working on districts level have political pressure on their professional working. The figure further shows that 75 percent of the respondents strongly agree that the journalists face political pressure while carrying out their professional responsibilities in their respective district and 16 percent journalists agree that they have political pressure on their work. While only 1 percent respondents strongly disagree that they have any political pressure on their work and 6 percent journalists disagree regarding any political pressure on their professional activities.

Q: 2 Do journalists confront district administration interference affecting their professional work?

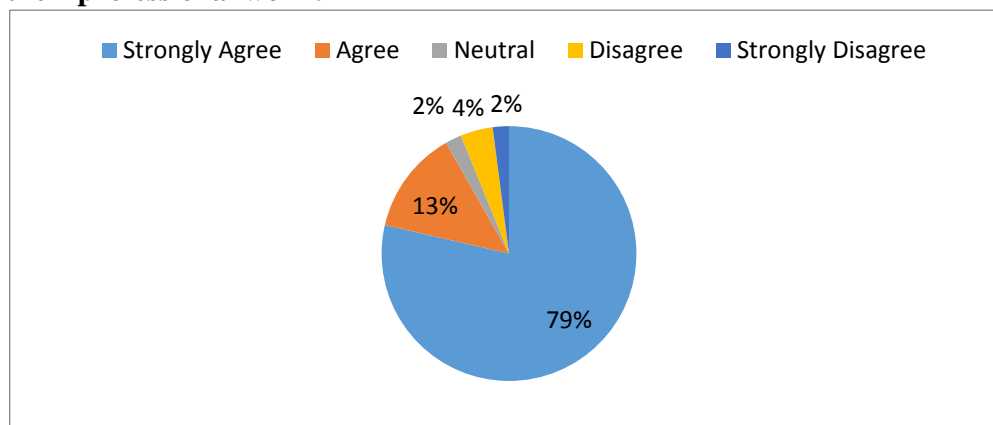
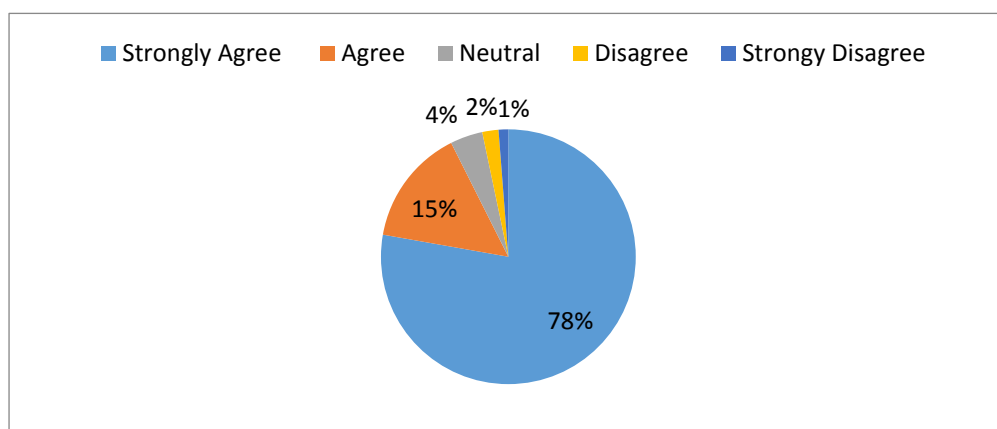


Figure S5.2 Pressure from district administration on Journalists (n= 243)

The figure supplementary 5.2 shows that the district administration has pressure on the working journalists while they were fulfilling their professional activities. The figure further reveals that 79 percent of the respondents strongly agree being influenced their professional work by the district administration and 13 percent of the respondents agree that their works are influenced. The figure further illustrates that only 4 percent of the respondents disagree, and 2 percent of the journalists strongly disagree being influenced by the district administration in their professional activities.

Q: 3 Do pressure groups exert pressure forcing journalists to toe their line of action in carrying out duty in various areas of KPK?**Figure. S5.3 Effects of Pressure groups on Journalists (n= 243).**

The figure supplementary5.3 illustrates the effects of pressure groups on the working conditions of journalists and it revealed that 78 percent of the respondents strongly agree that they are influenced by pressure groups to carry out their professional activities. The figure further shows that15 percent working journalists agree that their professional activities are being influenced by the pressure groups active on districts level. Only 1 percent respondents strongly disagree and 2 percent working journalists disagree that their professional activities are being influenced by the pressure groups.

Q: 4 Do the journalists can perform their professional responsibilities without any pressure in KPK?

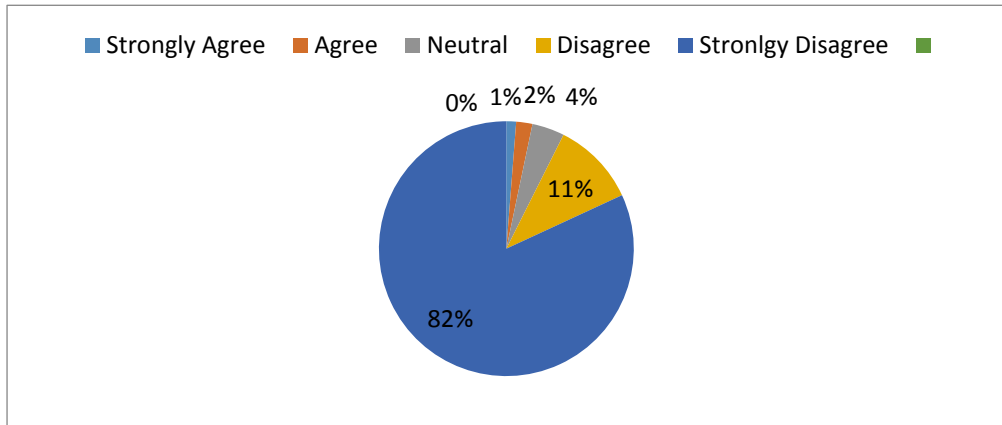


Figure S5.4 Performing duty without pressure (n= 243)

The Figure supplementary 5.4 shows that most of the journalists working on Southern districts level negate that they can perform their professional duties without any kind of pressure. The figure further illustrates that 82 percent of the respondents strongly disagree that they have not pressure while carrying out their professional responsibilities and 11percent of the respondents disagree. Only 2 percent of the respondents agree, and 1 percent respondents strongly agree that they are not facing any kind of pressure while performing their professional responsibilities.