

Role of Photography in Media

Mamta Rani¹, Rajesh Kumar²

¹P.hD Scholar, Department of Fine Arts, Kurukshetra University, University, Haryana

²Assistant Professor, Department of Fine Arts, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra, Haryana

INTRODUCTION

Technology has changed the standard of living in the contemporary era. There is no instance since our day starts and till it ends where we are independent of technology. Even Journalism (media), the fourth pillar of democracy is no exception. It plays a vital role in our entertainment as well as acts as a mirror that introduces us to the reality of our surroundings and the existing world. Photojournalism, a class of journalism, is a socio-artistic work that portrays social incidents both through words and pictures in an appealing manner so that the audience can relate the news to the real-life incidents to completely understand and get an actual feel of the episode at the time of its occurrence. Therefore, photojournalism is a mirror that reflects human sensibility, wherein the episodes, as well as information of society, are paired with that of countries. Human beings have always been curious creatures. Henceforth, his curiosity is the major element for the news and information, because lack of curiosity will end the importance of news. The evolution of journalism is a result of this curiosity, which to date functions upon the same principle. Journalism, in current times, has become more powerful, independent as well as influential. Media (journalism) is considered as the fourth pillar of democracy, that exercises its power to unite the other three pillars i.e. the judiciary, executive, and legislature. With the advent of print technology, Photojournalism has earned its place in newspapers as well. It is often said that one single picture depicts thousands of emotions that millions of words cannot.

*Note: Just like signs, words, and symbols; pictures and images too have their own language that can put life to any incident, place or person. The act of representing events through images has its own history. Few such instances include: several paintings of animals in different caves by the hands of primitive man during the ancient times; these paintings are primary evidence of primitive man's consciousness. These paintings could also be seen as graphical representation of news. Even in journalism, the act of portrayal of these messages or news in a simpler form for the readers is **photojournalism**.*

Journalism: the primary cause for the introduction of journalism is curiosity of human. The trend of consciousness is the root cause here. Human beings not only are curious about the happenings in their surroundings but also are more interested to know everything and anything about the other part of the world as well.

Inquisitiveness is the flair attitude of every human being. These feelings have a specific place in a persons' mind. Badrayan has accepted these emotions and has listed curiosity above all others and has called it, " Atho Brahma Jigyasa" meaning " wish to know absolute truth that is transcendental and is spiritual in nature". Journalism in today's era is used as a medium to inform the masses about events (news) through audio, visual, or audio-visual mediums. Journalism has become a vital part of our lives, whose absence can easily be felt and recognized. Humans and sages have always been spreading and singing their knowledge to masses for ages, Additionally, man to has been conveying his messages from one place to another with the utilization of paper and the trend still exists in the form of a newspaper wherein the important events are highlighted and published for general masses. The act of conveying personal messages was done in the form of "letters".

"Letters" are considered as a medium of communication through which people can share their feelings and emotions with others via expressing them on a sheet of paper even when the other is located in a far-off place. The letter was once considered a vital source for transferring any information.

In Kalidasa's "Abhigyanshakuntalam" Shakuntala was able to express her emotions through letters only. For Shakuntala, the letter was the easiest medium to confess her feelings to king Dushyant otherwise it would be difficult for her to divulge her sufferings to the king because of embarrassment. Now a letter has become a medium to convey the message from one place to another. Therefore, the word 'letter' is used for Correspondence. In context to journalism, the word 'letter' demonstrates the following meanings: " *Newspaper*, a letter, or a page by readers to the editor". In



contrast to this, when news from distinct places of one country or the world is included for the general public, then the piece is known as "Newspaper". Hence, Newspaper consists of the publication of News, Write-ups, Articles, etc. Similarly, magazines are also published either monthly, quarterly, or annually. All these functions are covered under the broad umbrella of journalism.

Journalism was founded somewhere between 60-31 BCE in Rome as "Acodiurna". The printing machine reached in India 1674 BC, however, the first newspaper in India was published in 1776 BC, 100 years after the printing press reached India. Time traveled and new chapters were added to journalism wherein 'photojournalism' is considered as one of the most valuable blessings of science.

There were two reasons: first, the commencement of printing in Calcutta in 1755, other included: the establishment of the press by James Augustus Hicky in 1777 at Calcutta. On January 29, 1780, James Hicky inaugurated '*Bengal Gazette*' or "*Calcutta General Advisor*" therefore, establishing the foundation stone of journalism in India. He utilized journalism as a mirror to reflect the corrupt nature of contemporary Britishers and British officers. "*Bengal Gazzatte*" was 12 inches long, 8 inches wide which was published in columns was a two-page newsletter.

Another newsletter by Peter Reed is known as "*Indian Gazzatte*" which was published on November 25, 1780. It consisted of news related to business dealings by East India Company. This newsletter was published till the next fifty years of its commencement. However, journalism was introduced by "*Madras Courier*" (October 12, 1785) in Madras and "*Bombay Heralds*" in Bombay (1789).

Photo-journalism

Photo-journalism is a channel of communication that does not require language. The act of depiction of news or event is done thoroughly via images.

The word journalism has been borrowed from the French journal which means 'diurnal or daily'.

The utilization of images in the domain of journalism for the depiction of news was done by "*Illustrated London News*" in 1842. One of the first photography wars started with the Revolution for Independence in 1857. Evidence for the same can be found in various magazines as well.

News is represented in the form of graphics and images in photojournalism. The function of photojournalists includes a collection of news in the form of images. Providing titles that suits best for any news depicted by the images is one of the crucial tasks in photojournalism. News that is illustrated in the form of an image is far better and creates more impact on the readers than any other. Graphical news with appropriate titles serves the function of both audio and visual news. It is one of the vital and alluring modes for the transmission of news.

The invention of creating positives from negatives was done by Henry Fox in the year 1839; as a result of this invention, it was possible to print photos. On March 14, 1842, Henry J. Newton's photograph "City of Huts" after its publication in New York Graphics reached several other newspapers of different languages.

Photo is one of the essential dimensions of journalism. The intrusion of photos in journalism has brought another kind of revolution in its form. Nowadays, more emphasis is given to graphics and images instead of news and information that both newspapers and magazines decipher. This has led to the evolution of photojournalism. Along with both printing art and mechanical development, photojournalism is being observed in its evolution period. In contemporary times, photojournalism is primarily used for television broadcasting, as it illustrates the events in a more realistic form via graphics and images. However, almost all the newspapers and magazines in today's generation are full of images, this reliability on images is evident in itself that people prefer images more than the words they come across.

According to Dr. Gursharan Lal, "Cinematography is the language of words however he believes images should be effectively attractive as well as should impart knowledge". For him, an image becomes attractive when it can leave its impact on the brain of readers.

For Dr. Bhavar Lal, "photo in itself is an amalgamation of news, ideas, reports, articles, documents as well as editorials. It is the most reliable medium".

It is comprehensible that the reason for publication and inclusion of photographs in a newspaper is done not only to inform the public about the events and happenings but also to fetch their interest in the newspaper and news readings. Photojournalism has brought another kind of revolution in the field of journalism because it has not only led to

minimum use of words for the depiction of news and information but also has inculcated an interest amongst less educated masses as they can now know and make guesses about incidents.

Photography

Sketches were given more importance before the invention of photography. However, its invention has led to the popularity of photo publication; credits for its popularity are solely for the scientists and researchers who have done several kinds of research for the invention of photography. Prof. Ramesh Jain asserts, "the word photography is a result of a combination of two words: photo+ graphy. The word photo has been borrowed from the Greek language means light whereas graphy is related to illustration. Therefore, whatever is illustrated through a photo is known as photography. Photography was invented in India in 1840 BC when Britishers came to India to capture Indian historical places and scenic beauty. Photography is a blessing of science that has led to the revolution in every field from science, art, industry, medicine, entertainment, astrology, space, research, crime, cinematography along with its impact on journalism. The employment of photography is been increasing day and night. For a photojournalist, a camera is like a notebook that records all day-to-day events.

Photography and journalism

There is an old-age history of Photography and journalism. In Europe, the news was printed through sketches and alphabets carved on wooden blocks that were dipped in ink for printing. The utilization of this technique has not only attracted regular readers but also has increased their number. With this practice of application of wooden blocks, a base and a photojournalism background were prepared. Dr. Vikas Singh finds the history of photojournalism and asserts, "implementing images for the depiction of news was observed for the first time on March,14,1842 by Illustrated London News.

The mentioned newspaper initially consisted of images of news value only. Later the practice was followed by people throughout the world. Following that, America also added new chapters in photojournalism. As a result, images were being published in the newspaper along with the news. Photographs were introduced a couple of years ago before the commencement of photojournalism in the domain of journalism. This exercise of depicting news through images and graphics has led to the evolution in photography hence it became easier for people to create positives from negatives. Thereafter, the Halftone technique was developed to print more realistic and quick images. The technique was not only quick, real but also was cheap and easy to print. Halftone technique was a credible technique where images were printed using printer and ink; so that images could be printed alongside the news. This technique employs tiny dots, its utilization has brought a revolution in the domain of print journalism. Before the development of the Halftone technique, the act of printing was solely dependent upon human labor. For instance, during American Civil War, engravers used to trace images using wooden blocks.

The year 1842 marked the beginning of photojournalism. However, it gained its importance during First World War and Spain- American War. Mathew Brady, Robert Capa, and many other cinematographers published snapshots from War that depicted the were more lively.

Thus, new devices were developed on daily basis for the publication of sketches. However, the evolution of photojournalism happened in 1890, the idea was borrowed from carving wooden blocks. Photojournalism has a prestigious history in India as Newspapers and magazines were full of patriotic messages before independence. Newspapers during this era not only focused on the independence movement but also focused on social evils that prevailed. In India, the publication of images was not given special space in newspapers before independence. Publication of newspapers with both news and images started during the 20thC after independence. Subhash Prabhu believes, " Newspapers got a suitable environment for their development after 1947 when India got its Independence. Today, graphics and images in newspapers are given equal importance in India; and Indian newspapers can easily be compared with any other of the worlds'. Therefore, we can say that press photography is not only an art but a vital organ of journalism. As a result, it is considered as a special independent mode because according to its function it is reliable and completely counts upon real events, persons, and things. Two things: photo and news play a major role in photojournalism because it might be easy to click a picture but to fetch a snapshot as a journalist is an essential and accountable task. At present, the photographer is considered equivalent to the reporter as both are artists and photojournalists represent news via zestful pictures.

We can find several instances in our Indian mythical stories, where information was communicated from one place to another via people eg.Narad Muni. According to Indian myths, it occurred during the 'Satyug". In "TretaYug" the task was transferred to Hanuman. During "Dvaparyug", it was the responsibility of Sanjay to provide a live commentary of the war between Pandava and Kaurava brothers at Hastinapur. The above-mentioned examples are evident that during

ancient times, the news was transmitted from one place to another in a traditional audio form (oral communication was prevalent) through spies, runners, saints, etc. journalism is considered as a mirror of society. Hence, for any form of journalism, the journalist is considered as the spine. Dr. Bhavar Surana has rightly asserted in his comparison between journalist and journalism, "journalism is a religion that depends upon the functioning of journalist, where he portrays events in a more absolute, non-discriminating manner and forces his readers to read consciously.

Photojournalist

A skilled journalist is well versed in photography and thus utilizes different devices for maximum benefit for his work. Apart from this, he should also be an alert, conscious person who is capable of capturing the pictures immediately after any event and is also able to write and publish them reliably. However, few journalists play with the snaps to make it more attractive so that it can fetch readers' attention; but it is unethical, forging pictures to make them attractive is equally offensive as creating ones' news for popularity. The main responsibility of a photojournalist is not only to click pictures with their camera but to keep an eye on every aspect of life and whatever is happening in the living world. There major roles of a photojournalist include: taking snapshots, their selection, as well as publication. Photojournalists have always involved themselves in featuring reports and creating attractive yet real images. Because of broadcast and their vision they have become omnipresent. Any other journalist may get late or mold the news but a photojournalist, even if he wants to, cannot create his news. Hence, photojournalism consists of an amalgamation of truth, reality, and trust.

Major Indian Photojournalists

Britishers started capturing pictures of Indian historical monuments, and their scenic beauty through their photographers. It is evident from pictures that are still there in primeval magazines and newspapers that pictures from India's Independence movement of 1857 were one of the first war photographs in the world. Later the same picture was repeated by the World War. When the size of camera decreased after development in technology during the era of Indian Independence, photojournalism began to develop its root in journalism and thus got its popularity as a lot of movements were taking place during the movement; and a lot of people got a chance to click pictures and publish it for the masses.



Raja Deen Dayal, 1890s, IJERED

Raja DeenDayal

Birth: 1844, Sardhana, North- West Province (India)

Death: 1905 (61 years) Mumbai

Nationality: Indian

Education: Thomson College of Civil Engineering (Roorkee)

Occupation: Professional Photography (Cinematography)

Raja DeenDayal is one of the famous pioneers in the domain of photojournalism. He was the photographer in the court of Hyderabad's 6th Nizam. Since he was the only photographer during the British reign, he left a lot of important documents for the nation.

Till January 1840, "The Friend of India" used to advertise that they have imported cameras of Daguerreotype. French customs inspector has taken pictures of Indian temples located in Pondicherry using one such camera, these pictures has

been discovered only a few times ago. Because of the personal interest of higher officials such as Governors, and viceroys; the Archeological Survey of India has declared the necessity of photography. Along with the foreign photographers, a few Indian photographers like Lala DeenDayal emerged. He was born in a Jain family in 1844 in Sardhana Meerut. In 1870, he started his career as a photographer. Later, he established his studios in Mumbai, Hyderabad, and Indore. Hyderabad's Nizam Mehboob Ali Khan has entitled him as "*Mussvirr Jung Raja Bahadur*". In the year 1855, he was appointed as Subedar's Photographer and in 1897 he received a Royal Warrant from Queen Victoria. 2857 negative glass plates from his studio were bought by Indira Gandhi National Center for Art, New Delhi in 1989; and it is considered the largest and oldest treasure of photography to date. An exhibition for his photography was held in 2006 during the Hyderabad festival in Salar Jung Museum, following this another exhibition was held in 2010 in IGNCA. In November 2006, the Ministry of Communications, and the postal department has issued a ticket in his honor.



Nika Masjid Hyderabad, 1880 (Photographer Raja DeenDayal)
Indira Gandhi National Centre (IGNCA)½ Raja DeenDayal..../www.thebetterindia.com



Sunil Janah

Birth: April 17, 1918 (Assam, India)
Death: June 21, 2012, Berkeley, California (US)
Nationality: Indian
Occupation: Photography
Education: St. Xavier's College
Award: Padma Shree

Being a political worker and a journalist, Sunil Janah has written, reported, and documented various articles wherein he has published his self-clicked pictures. His pictures covering Indian partition, tribal people, industry, and the temple have gained immense popularity.

Sunil Janah was born in Dibrugarh, Assam. However, he was raised in Kolkata. His pictures are a portrayal of all the historic incidents, that is still unknown to most of the population. His snapshots are proof of Bengal, Orissa, and Andhra Pradesh's famine. Also, they illustrate the real picture of the independence struggle, true colors of political leaders, life and culture of tribal people, etc. he has covered a vast range through his photography that included pictures from historical monuments to natural calamities and even laughter of great political leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and Mohammad Ali Jinnah. Therefore, for him, photography was his political passion as well. In 1943, General Secretary of

CPI, P.C. Joshi who was a repeteur has offered to accompany him to fetch snapshots from famine-affected areas. Both Chitt Prasad and Sunil Janah gained popularity for their sketches and photography respectively. His photographs of the Bengal famine consist of faces from all generations and gender tormented, waiting for their death. This was a saddening experience for Janah.



Men Leaving their village to walk to the Relief Centres in the District towns, Andhra Pradesh, 1945
<https://www.sunitjanah.org/SSjanah/>



Homi Vayarwalla

Birth: December 9, 1913; Navari (Mumbai)
Death: January 15, 2012; Gujarat
Nationality: Indian
Education: Sir J.J. School of Art (Mumbai)
Occupation: Photo Journalist
Husband: Mankeshwar Vayarwalla (photographer)

Born in a Parsi Gujarati Family, Homi Vayarwalla was awarded Padma Shree. She has completed her education at Sir J.J. School of Art, Mumbai.

Her husband has introduced her to the world of photography who himself was working for "Times of India". According to him, the quality of a good photo includes the right time, composition, and right angle. She has started his career in the 1930s; with the commencement of World War II, she started working with "The Illustrator Weekly" (Mumbai-based magazine). She was a fresh unknown face during the initial years of her career; also, her snapshots were published under her husbands' name. Homi Vayarwalla gained popularity across the nation and later in 1942, she joined British Information services in Delhi. There she clicked pictures of American President 'Izenhaver', John Canady, along with Mamy Izen Hawer and Jackeline Canady. Moreover, she got the opportunity to capture pictures of Queen Elizabeth II and Dalia Lama's escape from Tibet. As a photographer, she captured the pictures of the Indian National Flag on August 15, 1947, that was hosted for the first time on Red Fort after India's Independence. Her photograph has not only captured the images but also has made the moment alive for all of us. Furthermore, she has captured photographs of Mahatma Gandhi's, Jawaharlal Nehru's, and Lal Bahadur Shastri's last rites. Vayarwalla was awarded the second-highest citizen award "Padma Vibhushan" in the year 2011. She left the world in 2012 in Gujarat after completing 98 years of her life.

Where Three Dreams Cross 1950, Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru with his grandsons

Rajivand Sanjay Gandhi Photographes: Homai Vyarawalla



<https://asianartnewspaper.com/three-dreams-cross/>



Henry Cartier

Birth: August 22, 1908 (France)

Death: August 3, 2004 (France)

Occupation: Photographer and Artist

Wife: Ratna Mohini (1937), Martin Frank (1970)

Award: 1981,

His pictures are a perfect example that depicts real images with appropriate meaning, mystery, and comedy. Cartier Bresson was born in France. He did his education in Arts from Cambridge University during 1928-29. He started with his passion 'photography' in 1931. He assisted Jean Renier in 1936, later following him, in the year 1937 he created his documentary "Return to Life". In 1940, he was appointed in a photo unit for a film on French Army; however, he got imprisoned by the German Army in the same year. He was awarded by *Overseas Press Club Award* four times. Other awards in this list include *the American Society Of Magazine Photographers Award (1953)*. In 1947, he established a government agency "*Magnum Photos*" along with his colleagues Robert Cappa, David Chim, Seemare, and George Rozer.

His remake was especially done to cover India and China. However, in reality, he roamed across the world and covered all the vital incidents and information in the form of photographs. "India in Full Frame" in "Rubin Museum of Art" defines how pioneer photographers have found poetic images in India. He has also covered Mahatma Gandhi, and during his last tour, he has captured photographs of Chandani Chow, Maharashtra, Gujarat, paddy fields in Tamil Nadu, etc. through his realistic sketches and cinematography. He has primarily worked with "*India Today*", "*Outlook*", "*Indian Express*" as a photojournalist and editor. Also, he has worked for major magazines such as "*Times Magazine*", "*New York Times*" etc. as an independent photojournal.



Henri Cartier Bresson: Children Seville in Spain 1933. <https://mastersofphotography.com/henri-cartier-bresson/>



Prashant Panjiar

Birth: 1957

Occupation: Photo Journalist

Nationality: Indian

Prashant Panjiar has contributed to various national, international non-profitable organizations in different fields such as health, education, and employment. He has devoted himself to several annual decisive committees such as *the World Press Awards*, *China International Press Photo Competition*, *Indian Express Press Photo Award*, along with *the National Foundation of India*. Furthermore, he worked for considerable Delhi-based magazines. He was successfully associated with "Outlook" magazine where he was employed as a photographer and editor. He was one of the founding members of this organization that bestowed popularity upon him and made "Outlook" one of the leading magazines in India.



Raghu Rai Photographer

Birth: 1942, Jhang, Punjab

Nationality: Indian

Wife: Gurmeet Sadha Rai

Occupation: Photographer and photojournalist

Awards: Padma Shree (1972); Photographer of the Year USA (1992)



Ragu Rai is amongst the famous photojournalists after independence. His self- clicked photographs can be still found easily as he is still active in his profession. He started his career in 1960 in Delhi and served for significant national newspapers like *Hindustan Times* and *Statesman*. Moreover, he has worked as a chief photographer for *India Today*. His clicked snapshots of Indra Gandhi and Mother Teresa are popular. He has an eye for detail, therefore, he managed to click every minute details that the world could not observe. He is popular for creating realistic images of dull information and instances. After he received the camera from his brother (as a gift) he has captured images almost from all the generations and has beautifully preserved our history.

He has documented complete Bhopal Gas Tragedy with his camera. His photograph of burying a dead baby after the tragedy is still considered as a symbol and evidence of the tragedy. Apart from this, he has also published several books on Delhi, Taj Mahal, Sikhs, Banaras, etc. Photos that he clicked during his initial days were black and white, however, later he opted for colored photographs.



Raghu Rai among goddesses, Calcutta, 1991.

CONCLUSION

An image expresses all sets of feelings and emotions that one cannot express through thousands of words. Image is poetry without words. Photojournalism plays a significant role in the domain of Journalism. News can only be read, but the image (photo) is a medium that expresses every incident in detail without uttering a single word. Therefore, whatever the brain captures through images remains in our memory for a longer period. The process of reading through images seems more realistic as we observe incidents as they happened. Many-a-times, we are unable to trust news published by the print media, but photos published in the support of the news force its readers to trust the authenticity of the information. Therefore, the significance of photojournalism gets multiplied in both print and electronic media.

Hence, it can be said that a photograph is equivalent to thousands of words. It not only functions as a treasure of newspapers but also impacts readers' minds and draws their attention. A photograph not only increases the credibility of the news but also removes the barrier for the readers of not being present at the place of the incident. Even less educated people can gather news and information through photographs. Therefore, the significance of photographs gets manifold in journalism.