

## A Study on Indian Journalists and their Stressful Working Conditions

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### Abstract

*Journalism is considered as fourth pillar of any democratic society and it is only a Journalist who can take many challenges to bring truth in front of society. But sometimes journalist has to face difficult and stressful conditions while working in field where they have serious threat for their life even. In this paper researcher is trying to explore various challenging and stressful conditions of Indian Journalists along with the data which reveals that why India is considered a dangerous country for Journalists. Mostly Secondary data is taken to analyze various aspects of working Conditions of Journalist. Through this paper the actual dangerous conditions for Indian Journalist will be analyzed and explored.*

**Keywords:** Stressful Environment, Journalist and Journalist Killing.

### 1. Introduction

*George Orwell once said;*

*“Journalism is printing what someone else does not want printed: everything else is public relations.”*

Safety of journalists in India has an uncertain division. Apart from all other countries in India there were many incidents in which journalists were killed or the reason of their death is doubtful. Threat and harassment is a common thing for journalists in India these days. In the era of social media every citizen can play a role of a journalist and through this a real journalist may get or collect a lot of authentic information for investigation. Media people or journalist those who are working for bigger media houses are also not safe so it can be stated that those who are working for smaller media organizations are also working under threatening and dangerous environment.

**Concept of Journalism:** “A function shared by a wide range of actors, including professional full time reporters and analysts, as well as bloggers and others who engage in forms of self-publication in print, on the internet or elsewhere”. (As per Human Rights Committee 2011)

**Concept of Journalist:** “All representatives of the media, namely all those engaged in the collection, processing and dissemination of news and information including cameramen and photographers, as well as support staff such as drivers and interpreters”.

In special reference to Indian context journalist are really working in conditions where security is a big issues, while covering different stories like Coal Scam, 2G Scam and VYAPAM Scam, many journalists has faced insecurity regarding their safety of life and some of them had found dead in different conditions. Not only life threat is an issue for their stressful working conditions but insecurity related to their job security is also an issue, the wages they are getting in different media houses is also an issue.

Reporters have been killed in many states of India over the years, but most of these cases are reported or presented like accidents.

### 2. Literature Review

It is very hard to find research papers at this issue specially in Indian context, but few studies has been done at this issue along with many guidelines and reports published by United Nations and Indian Print Media.

**Aarefa Johari (2015)**, In this article the writer tries to explain the working conditions of Indian journalist. The writer also had taken various examples in his paper which shows how dangerous life is for Rural Journalist.

**Omar Rashid (2015)**, “For regional journalists, it’s a fight for survival”, The Hindu, in this article the writer explained again the fight of rural journalists for survival. In this article he highlighted that the media people those who are working for regional media are paid very less, sometimes even they are fail to bear their travel expenses.

UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (2015), “Inside the News”, this report highlights the research results of working conditions of Women Journalist.

### 3. Objectives of the study and Methodology

#### 3.1 Objectives of the Study

1. To highlight working conditions of Indian Journalists
2. To analyze dangerous environment of Indian Journalists.
3. To explore various challenging and stressful conditions of Indian Journalists

#### 3.2 Methodology

Mostly Secondary data is taken to analyze various aspects of working Conditions of Journalist. This data is presented in this paper to highlight the actual dangerous conditions for Indian Journalist.

### 4. Data Interpretation

On behalf of various research reports from United Nations and other national and international organizations the data is explained below.

As per the reports of United Nations and other international organizations 41 Journalists killed in 2015, various angles has been analyzed which is explained here

#### Analysis of Beats covered by Journalist who were killed in 2015

| Beat         | Percentage |
|--------------|------------|
| Business     | 2%         |
| Corruption   | 15%        |
| Crime        | 17%        |
| Culture      | 41%        |
| Human Rights | 44%        |
| Politics     | 76%        |
| War          | 41%        |

The above revealed that the journalist who had been killed in 2015 were covering different beats like War, politics, business, corruption, crime, human rights and culture

#### Gender Analysis

| Gender | Percentage |
|--------|------------|
| Male   | 93%        |
| Female | 07%        |

The above data reveals that 93% male journalist were killed in 2015 and 7% female journalist were killed in 2015 till August.

#### Name of the Asian Journalist who killed in 2015

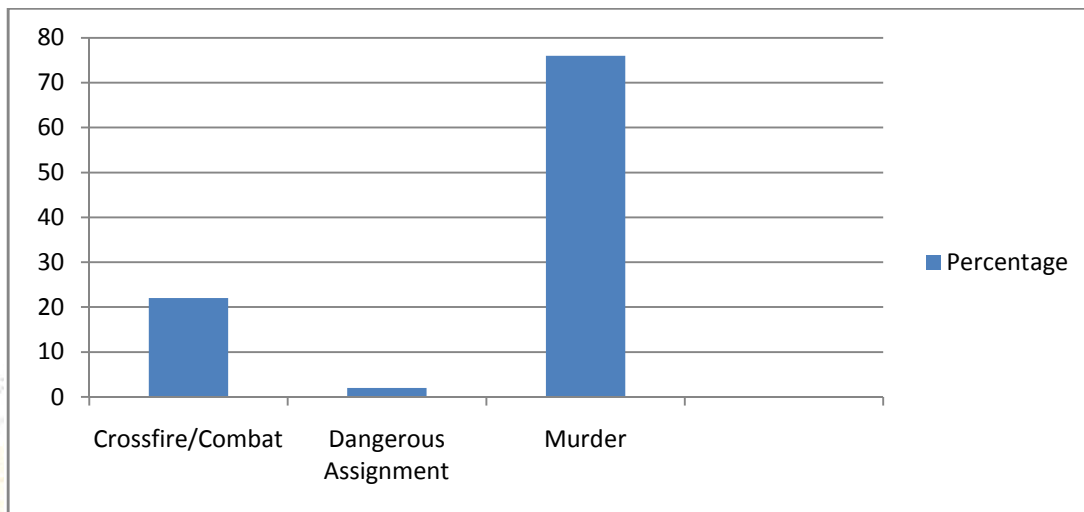
- Journalist Niloy Neel, Freelance killed on August 7, 2015, in Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Reporter from Aaj-Tak Mr Akshay Singh, were found dead on July 4, 2015, in Meghnagar, Madhya Pradesh, India
- Reporter Mr. Jagendra Singh, a Freelance Journalist were found dead on June 8, 2015, in Shahjahanpur district, Uttar Pradesh, India
- A Freelance Journalist, Ananta Bijoy Das, killed on May 12, 2015, in Sylhet, Bangladesh
- A Freelance Journalist, Mr. Sandeep Kothari, were killed on June 19 or 20, 2015, in Wardha District, Maharashtra, India
- A Freelance Journalist, Washiqur Rahman Babu, were found dead on March 30, 2015, in Dhaka, Bangladesh
- A Freelance Journalist, Avijit Roy, were killed on February 26, 2015, in Dhaka, Bangladesh

#### Analysis of Medium

| Medium   | Percentage |
|----------|------------|
| Internet | 49%        |

|            |     |
|------------|-----|
| Print      | 44% |
| Radio      | 22% |
| Television | 24% |

**Graph of Analysis of Medium**



The above reveals that 49% journalists were from Internet, 44% were from Print Media, 22% were from Radio and 24% were from television media.

**Analysis of Job of the journalist killed in 2015**

| Job                      | Percentage |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Broadcast Reporter       | 37%        |
| Camera Operator          | 10%        |
| Columnist/commentator    | 15%        |
| Editor                   | 12%        |
| Photographer             | 15%        |
| Internet Reporter/Writer | 27%        |
| Print Reporter/Writer    | 12%        |
| Producer                 | 5%         |
| Publisher/Owner          | 5%         |

The above data revealed that 37% journalist were working as broadcast reporter and 10% were working as camera operator, 15% as columnist, 12% as Editor, 15% as photographer, 27% as internet reporter, 12% as print reporter, 5% as producer and 5% were working as publisher out of those who were killed in 2015.

**Analysis of Suspected Source of Fire**

| Source               | Percentage |
|----------------------|------------|
| Criminal Groups      | 7%         |
| Government officials | 12%        |
| Local Residents      | 5%         |

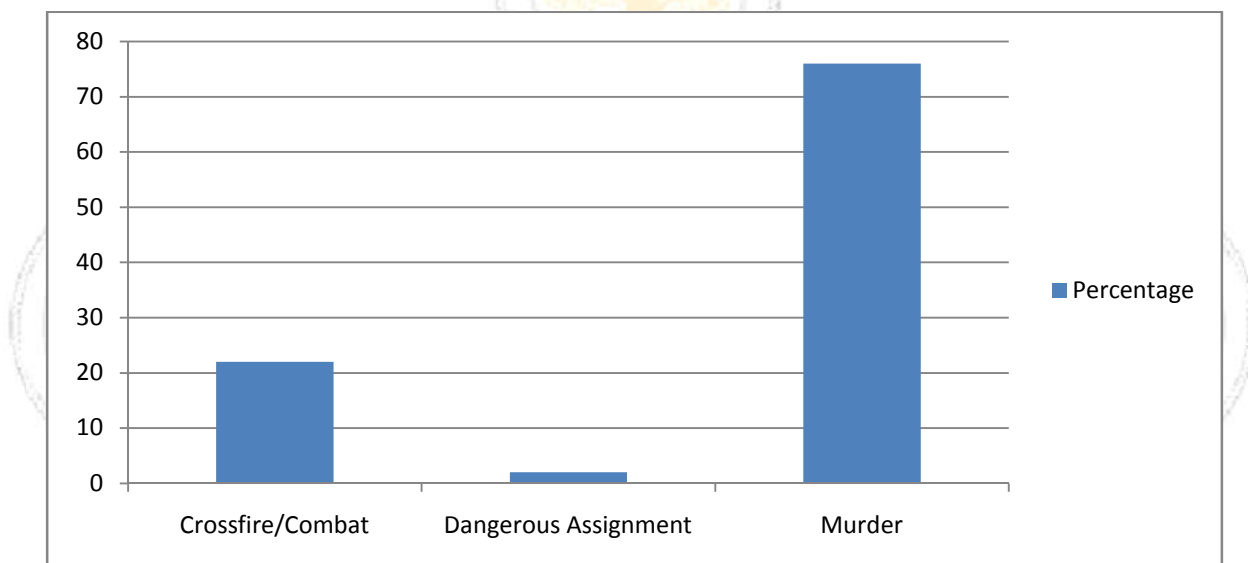
|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| Military officials | 12% |
| Political Group    | 56% |
| Unknown            | 12% |

The above revealed that the journalist those who were killed in 2015 were killed by different suspect sources like political group, military officials, government officials, criminals groups, local residents and unknown sources. It reveals that maximum journalist 56% were killed by political groups and minimum 7% by criminal groups.

**Analysis of Type of Death**

| Type                 | Percentage |
|----------------------|------------|
| Crossfire/Combat     | 22%        |
| Dangerous Assignment | 2%         |
| Murder               | 76%        |

**Graph of Analysis of Type of Death**



The above data revealed that 22% journalist were killed in crossfire/combat, 2% were killed in dangerous assignment and maximum 76% journalists were killed in murder.

**Findings**

1. Maximum 76% journalists were killed in murder.
2. Minimum journalist were killed while on dangerous assignment
3. Maximum journalist 56% were killed by political groups
4. Minimum Journalists were killed by 7% by criminal groups.
5. Maximum 37% journalists were Broadcast Reporter.
6. Minimum 5% were in profession of Publisher/owner.
7. 12% Journalist were from Print Media.
8. 27% Journalists were working for Internet medium.
9. 12% Editors killed in 2015.
10. 10% camera operator is killed in 2015.

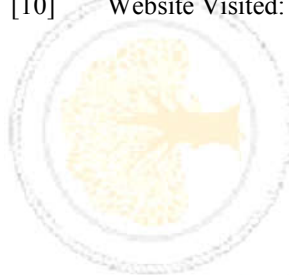
**5. Conclusion**

It can be stated on behalf of above data that Journalism profession is full of challenges and stressful conditions. Many journalists have lost their life while doing their duties. Journalists from all mediums of media are facing these challenging and stressful conditions. It is also revealed that United Nations and maximum countries are taking

preventive measures and assuring security for journalist as a fundamental right and Human rights. In majority of cases journalists were killed by suspects of Government officials, it is really alarming situation not only for journalism but also for the whole society.

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