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JOURNALISM DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA

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Abstract:

Journalism is the investigation and reporting of events, issues and trends to a broad audience. Though there are many variations of journalism, the ideal is to inform the intended audience about topics ranging from government and business organizations to cultural aspects of society such as arts and entertainment. The field includes editing, photojournalism, and documentary. In modern society, news media have become the chief purveyor of information and opinion about public affairs; but the role and status of journalism.

KEYWORDS:

Journalism , government and business organizations.

INTRODUCTION:

The history of journalism, or the development of the gathering and transmitting of news, spans the growth of technology and trade, marked by the advent of specialized techniques for gathering and disseminating information on a regular basis that has caused, as one history of journalism surmises, the steady increase of "the scope of news available to us and the speed with which it is transmitted."

JOURNALISM AND THE PRINTING PRESS

The invention of the movable type printing press by Johannes Gutenberg in 1456, led to the wide dissemination of printed books. The first printed periodical was Mercurius Gallobelgicus; written in Latin, it appeared in 1594 in Cologne, and was distributed widely, even finding its way to readers in England.

JOURNALISM IN INDIA

Journalism knocked the doors of India with the establishment of colonial rule after the battle of Plassey in 1740 A.D. The first periodical was started by Bolt in 1767 A.D. The objective of the paper was purely commercial. They dissipated sensational news about the corruption rampant in the East India Company. East India Company officials did not like the newspaper and

felt supreme contempt for the newspaper men. The Company gutted the first newspaper and deported 'Bolts' the author of the paper. James Augustus Hicky ventured to start a newspaper in Calcutta on 29th Jan. 1780. Before starting paper he took approval of the East India Company. He named his newspaper as Bengal Gazette or Calcutta General Advertiser. Bengal Gazette in its bold and fearless writings criticized the political and commercial policies of the East India Company. East India Company regarded him as interloper and trespasser of their personal property-the Indian territories. He had several bruising encounters with the company. The authorities forced to cease publication as a result of a successful private prosecution.

Though, Hicky was convicted and his paper was discontinued but he laid the foundation of Free Press in India. From 1780 to 1793 six papers were started in Calcutta ;The Calcutta Gazette in 1784, The Bengal Journal in 1785, The Oriental Maritime of Calcutta in 1785, The Calcutta Chronicle in 1786, The Madras courier in 1788, The Bombay Herald in 1787. Three papers and weeklies were started in Madras from 1785 to 1795.5 From 1789 to 1792 three weeklies and papers came into circulation in Bombay.

These newspapers had common characteristics. Firstly, they refrained themselves from the criticism of the Government, its official and policies. Editorials were mainly on political and military affairs. Public in general was not interested in them. They mainly published orders of the Government; Indian news; letter to the editors; notes on fashion and extracts from British newspapers. Taking lesson from Bolt and Hicky these papers tried to remain non-controversial and of non-political character consequently, officials were not apprehensive of them and some papers enjoyed favor of the Government. In spite of all this government was very cautious about the papers and whenever any news or criticism of the government was published it took strong action against them. Bombay Gazette was asked by the authorities to submit every issue for censorship before publication. These newspapers were in English so the circulation was limited to English speaking Anglo-Indian and British community.

The journalism took another significant step in 1818 when the first Bengali monthly paper Digidarshan (Indicator of ways) was started under the editorship of J.C. Marshman. Marsman was a missionary of Serampore, was its nominal editor, it was really conducted by Bengali pundits. The paper was disseminating liberal views and useful information on variety of topics of local interest. About the same time a weekly paper Bengal Gejet (Bengal Gazette) was published from Calcutta. The name of editors is not definite. No file of this paper is available but it is considered the first vernacular paper. Most probably it was edited by Hara-Chand Ray, a member of Atmiya Sabha, founded by Raja Rammohan Roy. The vernacular press, thus, started breathing. Another paper Sambada-Kaumudi appeared on 4th December 1821. He started a weekly Journal Miratul Akhbar in Persian. An English Mercantile firm in Calcutta started an Urdu weekly Jam-i-Jahan on 28 March 1822. It soon became a bilingual (Persian, Urdu) paper. The Bunga-Duta (Bengal Herald) a weekly in four languages (English, Bengali, Persian, Hindi) was published by Raja Rammohan Roy and Dwarka Nath Tagore with some other distinguished citizens of Calcutta. It was edited by Montgomery Martin. The Gujarati Bombay Samachar was started in 1822 from Delhi. Several Urdu papers published from Delhi as Syed-ul-Akhbar, in 1837, Delhi Akhbar in 1838. An important English journal the Bombay Times, which later known as Times of India founded in 1838. In the same year Bombay Courier made its appearance. From 1818 to 1839 Calcutta had 26 European news papers and 9 Indian newspapers; Bombay had 10 European and 4 Indian Journals; Madras had 9 European journals; Ludhiana, Delhi, Agra and Serampore, each had one newspaper. Sadasukh Lal launched an Urdu paper Jam-a-Jahan Numa at Calcutta. In 1823 Mani Ram Thakur brought out the Samsul Akhbar, which survived for 5 years only. On its closure editor wrote, " I have gained nothing by it except vexation and disappointment, notwithstanding what idlers and ignorant may please to assert." 21 They showed the East India Company's repressive attitude towards Indian press. In spite of all this the Indian Journalism, continued its growth since its inception. The earliest authentic record 26 news Papers, 19 in Urdu, 3 each in Hindi and Persian ,one in Bengali and two Magazines also from North West Provinces. In 1852 the number of Hindustani journals increased to 34, Agra published 7 papers, Delhi 6, Meerut 2, Lahore 2, Benaras 7, Saradhna 1, Barielly 1, Kanpur 1,

Mirzapur 1, Indore 1, Ludhiana 2, Bharatpur 1, Amritsar 1, Multan 1. It was well accepted by the people of the land. Newspaper became part and parcel of Indian life.

CONCLUSION

Vernacular press thus assumed the role of an educationist, preacher and socio-religious reformer. The Vernacular press, thus, offered a refreshing contrast to the English press. English press catered only to a small group of Englishmen while vernacular press had large recipients. English press had flippant tone and its objective was amusement and entertainment, while vernacular press had dissipation of knowledge as its primary objective. This was entirely an indigenous version of journalism. The difference in aims and objectives soon divided the press into two parts; Indian; English Press and Vernacular Press. Thus, the house of journalism divided but its dominion spread far and wide.

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