

# The Role of Media in Spreading Legal Awareness

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(The views expressed by author are his own and not that of Government.)

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## ABSTRACT:

Media is a very powerful tool in a democratic country like India. The positive role and use of the mass media is the strongest tool to maintain democracy. Our country had transformed itself from the Police State to Welfare State. Due to this transformation, the responsibility of the state has increased manifold. To work in such increased responsible manner it is required to make a lot of legislation either by the parliament or by the administrative authority. It is important to disseminate these laws to the general public for whose benefit it has been made. If the public is not aware of their rights and liabilities then the very essence of the law is lost. In such condition, the law becomes the toy in the hand of some people which is the more dangerous situation. Whatever progress the country has done, or what is the new area where our country should focus can be projected with the help of media only. The print media and social media help the society to demand justice. In the present era, it is evident that those social and legal matters aroused in the society in which the media has taken initiatives has got more legal support and reached to the conclusion soon than those which never got the attention of the media. The advertisement of the Right to Information Act has proved the usefulness of the media for the betterment of the administration as well as the country. The public has awakened and got the idea about their rights. In dealing with the government offices, the awareness of the general public works as a strong stimulant to fight corruption. There are certain persons and offices which are diminishing the image of the media in the society. These people and organisations are using the wrong ways to publish the fake news which spread rumours in the society. It has caused a quarrel between the groups in the society. Such fake news spread enmities, disturb the social structures of society. It needs to be curbed. It has been proved in times that the media the *Fourth Pillar* of the Democracy.

**Keywords:** Passing Off, Infringement, Goodwill, Reputation and misrepresentation, well-known trademarks, Common Law.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Passing In the present era, the media has become the backbone of society. The society is becoming dependent on the media; hence the responsibility of the media is increasing. The media is becoming more and more powerful. The society is evolving and so the media also is under the process of evolution day by day. The usefulness of the media has opened the door of society towards consciousness about the rights. The media is known as the fourth pillar of democracy. The democratic country is the safe haven for the free media whereas there are certain countries in the world where the media is not free to propagate the news freely.

According to the report published by the Council on Foreign Relations, the media in China is under the strict control of the Government.<sup>1</sup> Although China has provided the fundamental rights of the free public speech yet in the name of the national security the press has been controlled by the government machinery. The free media is the essence for the development of the rights provided to the individual in any country.

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<sup>1</sup> Beina Xu and Eleanor Albert. *Media Censorship in China*, COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS, Nov 12 2018, <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/media-censorship-china>

The legal awareness with the help of the media is an effective tool to implement the awareness among the people of the country. The law rides on the back of the media and reaches with the media to the public at large. Media helps the public to be aware of their rights and duties. It helps the government to act within the purview of the law and limits the arbitrary action of the government servants. In the absence of the knowledge of the law to the general public, it is possible that they may be cheated by the tout's available near them. These touts may have connections in the government offices and prefer to provide benefit to those who have access to them. These touts lure the government servant to deviate from the path of the correct legal action and to work for them and middlemen. This link between the government servant and these middlemen can easily be broken by the media.

The media has opened the door of opportunity to access to the judgements of the courts and the tribunals in India. The judgements of the Supreme Court and High Courts have the direct impact on the judgement passed by High Courts, Lower Courts and Tribunals including Customs, Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal. Hence the latest in the arena of the Customs, Excise and Service Tax field must be known not only to the parties but the tribunal also. For this purpose, the public as well as the tribunals are equipped with the regular update of the tax cases and its progress. Although a few updates are on the internet yet the tribunal has subscribed the magazines, compact disks provided by the vendors regarding the latest happenings in this field.

The media has the power to correct the action of not only of the government and its servant but the wrongful action of the public also. Sometimes the news in the media spread the symptoms of fear or favour to someone and it can be misused by the miscreants to make their own benefits. The paid news system also has developed in the media. The paid news system in the media works in both ways. It is a two-sided sword. It may give profit to society and sometime it may harm tremendously to the society. A system of check and balance needs to be used seriously to regulate the media. It is important to mention that the media should not be made the toy in the hand of someone whereas it is also imperative to have check and balance methods in the media persons and the media industry to be accountable of what they are publishing or putting before the society. A system needs to be developed to maintain such piousness of the media otherwise the media will become the self-destructing body itself, which will destroy its sanctity and value itself in the name of fake news. The media runs on the belief of the public and once the belief of the public will be shaken the value of the media will be destroyed itself.

## **II. DEFINITION AND DEVELOPMENT:**

According to the Oxford dictionary, media is defined as the “the main means of mass communication (broadcasting, publishing, and the Internet) regarded collectively”. Based on this definition the media can be divided into two categories: print and the broadcast media. The easy access to the internet has opened the door of a new type of media known as social media. The print media includes the newspapers, magazines, books, pamphlets etc. The print media is the oldest form of the media. Print media has still had deep accessed in society and people love to read it. The next type of media is the broadcast media. The broadcast media includes radio and television. With the development of technology, the broadcast media has covered the masses of the public. The cable TV helped to expand the broadcast media to the general public.

The Role of Media in Spreading Legal Awareness can be explained as the methods and tools which help the propagation of the ideas in the form of written words, symbols, pictures, cartoons, videos or in any other form to be transmitted from person to person with the help of the media. The mass media includes the different platform available to the public.<sup>2</sup> It may include the Print Media such as the newspaper and books including the articles published for the purpose of its information to reach others, Social Media such as the platform provided by Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp and includes any other types of such platform which brings people to communicate and spread information, Multimedia such as the video and graphical use of the information. This concept of the mass media is very vast. The technology is being changed day by day and the face of the media also. It is possible to say that the development of the media is proportional to the development of technology in society. The more the technology will grow the media will also grow in the same proportion. The technology is the horse for the media. In the old age when there was no paper and no technology of printing was available, the role of the messengers was important. They used to transmit the message from person to person and order of the king also. With the advent of the writing technique and the writing material, the leaves of the trees were used primarily has changed to the latest way of writing on the computers. This system has open the reach of the media to the public at large as compared to the messengers. In this system of writing message reduced the error of the message. It was the prehistoric period of the media. Slowly with the development of the writing skills and printing system in the modernera, the media has grown well. The media has grown tremendously when it was free. The independent reporting of the events without being bias is expected from the media. The media has the power to change the thinking of the people. The value of the media is not only important in peace but it is important at the time of war. Even the value of media becomes more important when there is an event of any crisis on humanity. It is evident in the history that media has changed the shape of the wars also. The media reporting at the time of the Vietnam and other wars are the proof that the media can be an effective tool to save humanity. The independent reporting of the events of the war has been presented by different media and moreover, it was totally uncensored also. These events had attracted the attention of the world towards the saving of humanity. The contemporary Article was written on the topic of “Media Images of War” has elaborated the value of media on in the time of war.<sup>3</sup>

### III. MEDIA AND THE SOCIETY

Media has performed tremendous work for the peace in the society also. In the event of the natural calamities like flood, earthquake, rain, etc. the media becomes the sound of the victims. It helps the government to decide the priority of the places which needs urgent attention. It is evident that the media reaches the place much before the government employees and the support. This action of the media is totally appreciable. The country needs such vigilant media to do the betterment of the public at large. The media helps the people not only to get information but help them to know about the action of the government also. Sometime the action of the government may be hidden by the authorities who are in between the supply chain. In such a case, it is only the media who can explain the public about the benefits provided by

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<sup>2</sup>Stein, Nancy Wendlandt. *The Effective Use of Mass Media in Sociology Education: Confronting the Competing Curriculum*, 10 no. 3, *TEACHING SOCIOLOGY*, 283, 1983 (Nov 21, 2018), <http://www.jstor.org.library.britishcouncil.org.in:2048/stable/1317361>.

<sup>3</sup> Griffin, Michael. *Media Images of War*, 3 no. 1, *MEDIA, WAR & CONFLICT*, 7-41, 2010, (Nov 12, 2018), <http://www.jstor.org.library.britishcouncil.org.in:2048/stable/26000300>

the government. Those who are in between the supply chain if they will try to hide they will be booked. It means the media is the bridge between the public and the government. The media has proved this many times in our country. It is evident at the time of natural calamity in our country. Recently during the flood of Kerala, the media has helped the government and public by doing the reporting from the ground zero. By this, a lot number of people have been helped and this was the great help by the media in the dissemination of the government action towards the public.

#### **IV. TYPES OF MEDIA**

There is no restriction on the development of media. There is no such policy which limits the use of the media using the various platform. The easy access to the different channel of ICT (Information and Communication Technology) has helped to spread the information on the various medium. Based on the uses of the mass media it can be divided into two major groups, first is Print media, the second is Social Media. The Electronic Media is the bridge between the print and social media. The terms of the media have been jumbled based on the requirement and uses of the public. The information and communication technology has helped to create the information in the user-defined channel. The public uses the platform of their choice to select the appropriate items from a large pool of the information. Where the print media like books, newspapers and magazines help to spread the awareness of the information to the society in the form of hard copy, at the same time the electronics media help the user to access the information without using the pen and paper. The government notifications, orders, court proceedings, laws passed by the parliaments and other administrative authorities, government reports etc. are essential to be published on the hard copy or on paper. The hard copy generally takes a lot of time to reach to the public. Sometimes it is also possible that most of the public could not be aware of the law which was in force for their benefit, hence not getting the benefit for which they were legally authorised. Now the time has come when the government and the public should focus their attention on the fast dissemination of the information. This era is known as the information age. The information era denotes the passing of the information to the other person freely and promptly. The information is a very important and valuable commodity. The organisations working in the service sectors are knowing the usefulness of the information. Without the information, it is not possible to run even the day to day activities of the life. Now the importance of information reached in the field of finance. The fast you will get information, the chance of becoming rich will be more. The financial data of the company is necessary to be uploaded on the sites to help to the customers. The data of the government work needs to be known to the general public to make the system more responsive. The print media and the internet supported electronic media is helping to fast propagation of the government plan and action to the public. The evident of mobile phone and social media has helped the information to reach everyone within no time. Social media has broken the barrier of the media.

#### **V. BARRIERS IN THE WAY OF MEDIA**

The media is free in our country. The freedom of the media is the power of the democracy. The free media means the reporter is free to publish any news of the happenings of the society. The news which is being published should have occurred. The spread of false news is known as rumours. The rumour spreader is to be punished. The false news which can harm the mind-body and reputation of the person should not be published in the name of freedom of the media. The

media is also liable to the public. The publication of false news may attract the penal punishment for the media persons and media houses.<sup>4</sup> The freeness of the media is sometimes boon for the society and sometimes become a bane for the society. The selective reporting of the news and events, for the benefit of someone or destroy the image of someone is becoming common in the media. The paid news system has some more destroyed the image of media. The paid news means the printing, publishing, showing the news for the benefit of someone who has paid for it.<sup>5</sup> Paid news consists of the news which does not fully true or which is kept on the air for some personal gain and the price is paid by that agency. Basically, it is advertisement without the level of advertisement. This causes the great loss in two ways, firstly it shakes the pavement of the confidence of people and secondly, it causes the loss of the government revenue. The benefit of the government revenue may be hidden by the channel and the party. It is a loss to the nation also. Once the confidence of the public is shaken, it is very hard to bring it back again. The media has its reputation in the society. When any reputed media runs a program on air, it is assumed to be true to the person sitting away and seeing the program. The paid news system are generally false news or the news which are made to favour or fear someone. The person seeing the news believe it to be true. Due to this belief, he sometimes takes undue action or does reaction which can harm him or others. He even may be cheated by this act. Later when it comes to the knowledge of him about the fault, his faith in the media is shaken. It is easy to shake the faith than to fix it. The latest example in this field is the tug of war between the American President Donald Trump and the CNN News Agency. The American President has discovered a new word “Fake News” for the news broadcasted by the CNN News agency. He has tried on many occasions that CNN has broadcasted the fake news regarding him and his party during and after the recent American Election. It is evident that the American Constitution first amendment clearly puts a ban on the power of Congress to make the law which can delimit the power of the press.<sup>6</sup> This issue has been so furious in America. Now the president wants to cut the wings of CNN but his hands are legally tied. The system of media in our country has been flourishing under the minimal control of the government. The Indian government controls the process not the matter of the media. The news channels are free in their reporting. The print media has the right to publish the articles which may or may not be liked by the government or the public servant. But there are certain limits under which the media is free. In *Romesh Thapar V. State of Madras Case*,<sup>7</sup> the Supreme Court has clarified that the restrictions of freedom of speech are applicable to the press in the same way as it is applicable to the individual. The freedom of the press is also liable to be curtailed in case of not following Article 19- Clause 1 (a) and 2. The condition of reasonable restriction is applicable to the freedom of the press also. The freedom of the speech is subject to the interest of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality or in relation to contempt of court, defamation or incitement to an offence. It is the same for both the person and the media.

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<sup>4</sup>Section 499 and Section 500 of Indian Penal Code

<sup>5</sup>Ashutosh Nandi. “*What is Paid News?*”, TIMES OF INDIA, Oct 24 2010, (Accessed Nov 25, 2018), <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/What-is-paid-news/articleshow/6801559.cms>

<sup>6</sup>Kendrick, Leslie, “*Another First Amendment.*”, 118 no. 7, COLUMBIA LAW REVIEW, 2095-116, 2018, (Dec 13, 2018), <https://www-jstor-org.library.britishcouncil.org.in:4443/stable/26524955>

<sup>7</sup> 1950 AIR 124, 1950 SCR 594

The literacy rate of our country is still in the developing stage. The general public of our country is not sufficiently literate. The dictionary meaning of literacy is the knowledge of reading and writing. In our country, the person who can read and write his name is assumed the literate. The level of education helps to understand better the information provided by the media. It is the matter of discussion at the UNESCO level regarding the relationships between the development of society and the literacy of that society.<sup>8</sup>

In the condition of illiteracy, the print and electronic media are going to help the least. Literacy plays an important role to understand and transmit information. There are a lot of people in our country who has no access to the internet and the cyber media. The usefulness of various channels now comes in the picture. If the information could be converted into audio and video system it will help them to accept than to print media. The radio and television help to spread the news faster than the newspaper.

The mass media refers to the massive reach of the media to the general public. The mass media gives the power to the general public. The general public is informed about the news in a speedy manner. The news and other government activities of the common public interest are advertised and informed to the public. The public listens to the news and is aware of the rights and liabilities of them. This information sharing makes the better use of the news channel and print media. The news channel provides the news of the various parts of the country with the help of their correspondents who are working day and night. They gather the news and forward to the agency, the agency compiles these matters and recommends for its printing. The editors of the news agency edit the news. In case there is anything about to be printed which may harm his reputation in mind, body or person it is necessary for the news agency to have sufficient proof the correctness of the facts. Sometimes the news agency may be put before the court to prove these facts.

## VI. USEFULNESS OF THE MEDIA IN COURTS AND LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Our country follows the system of open court for the purpose of hearing as well as a pronouncement of the order to maintain transparency in the judicial system.<sup>9</sup>In our country, the news media has got access to print the judgements of the court also. In printing the judgement of the court, there are certain restrictions on the media. The media cannot criticise the judge based on the judgement. The fair use policy is fully applicable in the printing of the court directions, orders or the judgement. The media has the power to disseminate the information to the public at once; hence the fruitfulness of the media is increasing day by day as regards to the traditional way of doing the things. The orders of the courts can be uploaded on the same day on the internet. Although the despatch of the hard copy may take a long time as usual. The parties get the information immediately. The usefulness of the media has usurped the traditional method of the court proceedings. Earlier it was very difficult to know about the proceeding of the courts. The party has to attend the court and keep a full vigil on the case. Now, this situation is changing day by day. The media has been permitted to enter into the court except in certain types of cases or by the order of the court to exclude from publication. The status of the case is

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<sup>8</sup>Luebke, Paul T, *Toward A Definition of Literacy*, 1, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT JOURNAL, 33, 1966. (Nov 25, 2018), <http://www.jstor.org.library.britishcouncil.org.in:2048/stable/44254876>.

<sup>9</sup>S.153B of Code of Civil Procedure

made available on electronic media immediately. This helps the parties to be well informed and in time. The more lucid government and court environment put the faith of the public in the legal system.

The media has many times helped the poor and needy person to get the effective justice. The people who are unable to approach to the court also has been highlighted by the media and the system has been morally forced to act. The First Information Report also sometimes been refused to register by the police stations. There is a lot to the cases which has been registered due to the leakage of the news in the media. The media works as watchdogs for those events. The larger public interest is involved in these cases. The media acts to open the veil of corruption in our country. The media sometimes opens the news of the linkage between the corrupt politician and the government servants. These disclosures make the media more valuable in the eyes of the general public. The public becomes responsible if it is known that someone is watching. The media has the power to watch. The vigilant media makes the way tough for the corruption, partiality and illegality.

The media sometimes cover certain issues so strongly before it going to the court. This is known as a media trial. When someone has done the heinous crime or the offence which shakes the belief of the person in the society or the offence is having any relation with the celebrity or politician, the media takes the charge of the events. Such media trial without going to the strict proof sometime may harm the innocent also. The public opinion regarding the event has the least value before the court. The media trial may create sympathy in favour of someone. This may create the bias and may affect the morals of the eyewitness. The witness may change its instance due to peer pressure.

The media trial of the event is not much necessary. The legal issues must be settled before the court. The initiative of the media is necessary to make the way for the matter to reach to the court. When the matter is in the court the media should not predict the judgement of the court. Sometimes the media may cross the border of the freedom of speech to interfere in the judicial sphere, such interference must be avoided. The contempt of court should not be done by the media. The action of the media should be restricted to certain limitations only. The media should avoid the contempt of the court by their actions.

According to the latest news published by the Times of India<sup>10</sup> Newspaper on 27 Nov 18, it is approximately 80% of the population does not know about the Samaritan Law which provides the protections to the bystanders who are available at the scene of road accident and provide the help to the victims. As per the latest amended law, they will not be included in the name of the police and court case until they are not willing themselves<sup>11</sup>. This news was published by another various newspaper<sup>12</sup> for various cities<sup>13</sup> of India. Maximum of the people were unaware of their rights and liabilities everywhere in India. What does this mean? This means the people will not be aware of their right and liabilities automatically. There should be some mechanism to public information system regarding dissemination of the information to the public. The

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<sup>10</sup> 80% of Indians unaware of Good Samaritan Law, (pg 1) *THE TIMES OF INDIA* (Nov 27, 2018)

<sup>11</sup> Durgesh Nandan Jha, 92% in Bengaluru not aware of Good Samaritan law, *TOI* Nov 27, 2018

<sup>12</sup> Survey Reveals Majority Of Indians Still Unaware Of Good Samaritan Law, *THE SHILLONG TIMES*, Sep 27, 2018, <http://www.theshillongtimes.com/2018/11/27/survey-reveals-majority-of-indians-still-unaware-of-good-samaritan-law/>

<sup>13</sup> Dipak K Das, *Good Samaritan Law: Violations go unchecked*, *TOI* Nov 27, 2018,

[http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/66817836.cms?utm\\_source=contentofinterest&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=cpst](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/66817836.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cpst)

purpose of the law fails if it is not known to the public. Here it is important to mention that this condition of unaware of law existed in the places, which are relatively more developed places in India. If such condition existed in most developed places in India then what will be the condition of the least developed places, it can be imagined only! In the absence of the legal awareness spread through the mass media, the public remains unaware of their right. This unawareness leads to legal ignorance, and sometimes the legal ignorance becomes the offence. It is common in our society that whatever we keep on doing from the time at large it seems to be correct, although it is legally wrong.

In the same way, the law becomes diluted on the ground of ignorance. The traffic laws which are made by the parliament to regulate the traffic on the road have become part and parcel of the legal books only. The general public is unaware of most of the provisions of this Act. In our country, the law has become the subject matter of the courts, judges, advocates only. There is no legal or technical way developed by the government that the public should know the law. It is not incumbent on anyone to be informed about the laws. There is no such division of the central government or the state government which will be dealing with the dissemination of the knowledge about the law to the general public. The ministry and information and broadcasting are there with the central government but it is also not responsible for the information of laws to the public. It is not even made mandatory in our legal system that the general public should know the law. In today's circumstance whatever is the condition of the poor is due to lack of information regarding laws which provide them benefit. The government is providing a lot of benefits to the village people and I can say that if all the benefit will be given to someone he will never remain poor. Even the poverty of the country can be eradicated with the help of the improvement in the information system of our country. For example, let us discuss – Government has made the law of MNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) to provide the opportunity of work to the villagers. The PDS (Public Distribution System) is providing the food grains at the cheapest rate than to the market to the poor. Ujwala Yojana, Jan Dhan account, gas subsidy, Housing affordable loans, financial help to purchase a house, PM AwasYojana, Indira AwasYojana, providing the toilet subsidy in the form of cash etc. are a lot of government activities are running throughout in the country. It is not an exaggeration to say that even if one year this all plan run to its full extent, the condition of the village will be changed. But all the efforts of the government is going in vain due to only one thing i.e. the information to the general public, for whom these are made. The persons for whose benefit these plans are implemented in the village they think that the village Sarpanch or the Government Officer is providing these benefits to them on their own. They never come to know that they are having the right to ask for these all benefits for which they are authorised by law. Hence the important thing is the dissemination of the information by mass media. The face of the country can be changed with the help of the mass media. Now imagine the situation in which the person is informed about their rights, he will force the village government officers and the Sarpanch to provide this part of the entitlement. These middle-men, both from the government officials and the private persons having easy access to the government officers are looting the illiterate persons of the village and eating the resources of the country. This all is happening due to sleeping of our mass media at the bottom level. The media comes in the picture only when the wrongful act completed and by chance, someone complained. Now the time has come that the duty of the government officials should be modified towards spreading information to the public. There is a lot of fraud being at all the ground level. It is the duty of the media to point out the ground level of the reporting regularly to make the public awake. The important notification of public interest

should be regularly printed in the village and in the media. The benefit of the general public should be informed to them. Then only it is possible that law may take their own recourse in our country.

The world justice project team has conducted a survey in approximately 113 countries of the world on the topic of the implementation of rule of law in those countries. The World Justice Project Rule of Law Index 2017-18 team assessed the countries based on the eight factors, i.e. constraint on government power, fundamental rights, open government, security, regulatory enforcement, civil justice and criminal justice.<sup>14</sup> All the countries have been assessed numerically on these eight factors and based on the result India has secured a 62<sup>nd</sup> position in the list. In this research, the important point was to assess the implementation of Rule of Law which is not possible at all without the help of the media of that country. In the absence of the information system and mass media, it is very hard to know about the rules. The person who does not know the rules, how can he follow? Our country has secured four places above in ranking than the previous year. The progress of our country in this survey has proved that there is immense potential in our country to develop further. This development is possible with the support of mass media in our country. In the condition where is less or minimal support of the information to the general public if we can achieve this position then it is possible to get the best positions when the government will be bound by the law itself to publish everything before the mass media. The inaction or the non-responsibility of the government to put every information to the public is the main reason for not following the law. Although there may be a few exceptions, a larger part of the society and the public are ready and willing to follow and obey the law. Now it is necessary for our country to make the law which will make compulsory the publication of law of the land in the mass media. This implementation should be over and above the publication of the law in the Gazette of India. Then only it is possible that the general public to know and follow.

In the present scenario, the issue of the Naxal's movements in the Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Orissa etc. is a major challenge to the State and Central Government. The general public of these villages live in the poverty. There is no road, hospitals and schools. The government plans to develop the village has never reached to these remote place. It is not possible to reach there easily. The people are illiterate. The Naxals take the benefit of the ignorance of the public. They want to stop the information to the public and motivate them to act against the government as the propaganda that the government is responsible for their poor conditions. In such an area, it is necessary to bring the people to the mainstream. And for bringing the people in the mainstream the sensitisation of the information for their rights and duties are to be informed to them. The mode of communication is very important. The help of mass media is the actual necessity in such cases. The print media, social media and news channels including radio and television etc. in combination can only do the wonders. It is not possible to print and distribute the newspaper also at such a hard place. In such cases, the broadcast by radio and television about the legal and moral system will help those in need. Such efforts of the media will be appreciated. It has been observed recently that the media persons also got attacked by these Naxals.<sup>15</sup> The attack on the media person is a very serious event for the democracy. This attack is to destroy the sound of the

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<sup>14</sup>World Justice Project Team. "Rule of Law Index @ 2016". Washington. 2016. (Nov 29, 2018), [https://worldjusticeproject.org/sites/default/files/documents/RoLI\\_Final-Digital\\_0.pdf](https://worldjusticeproject.org/sites/default/files/documents/RoLI_Final-Digital_0.pdf).

<sup>15</sup>Shaswati Das, *Ahead of Chhattisgarh Polls, Naxals Kill Doordarshan Cameraperson, 2 Cops in Dantewada*, LIVE MINT, (Dec 04, 2018), <https://www.livemint.com/Politics/nJlcKswX0j5tpljCHfrVII/Two-policemen-DD-cameraperson-killed-in-Chhattisgarh-naxal.html>

freedom of speech in our country.<sup>16</sup> These Naxals feel that if people will be educated about their rights and duties then they will not follow the Naxals. This is the main reason why a handful of those supporters are controlling the spreading of the information.

According to the report published by the World Justice Project, those countries which are law abiding and having a greater score in the index, where the media and media persons are freer and their lives are more secured.<sup>17</sup> In the country that are having more poor score there, the media persons become the soft target to be attacked, as they wear the camera and mike not the gun and bullet. The power of the gun is used to silence the voice of the media. The more control on the media leads to more control of the media persons. The control leads to very serious consequences. Such fake news may lead to wrong perceptions of the events. If some media person refuses to obey the pressure of miscreants he has to pay their life. It shows that the more results of not adherence of rule of law will lead the country into chaos. The freedom of the press and the security and safety of the life of press reporter is essential to maintain the democracy of the country. Then only the people's right will be respected and the personal rights can be claimed.

## VII. SUMMARY

The media has the power to change the future of the country. The use of mass media in the form of the print, social, mass, electronics etc. are the modes of better communications with each other. The development of mass media has opened the door of the transparency in the society and the government work. The officials are bound by the law to take the proper course of action as the party approaching before they are also informed. The development of the media has helped to eradicate the corruption also. The public officer and all those who were of the impression to plan or to take bribe are now under the fear of being caught. The development of media has strengthened the judiciary and the tribunal. The act of the person doing the wrong can be published before the social media within no time. It is possible to attract the attention of thousands of the people on any event in the free media society. The offences for which the evidence may not be available or the witness has changed their mind due to their own interest or fear of force can be continued till punishment to the wrongdoer by way of using the pictures, video clips, audio clips etc. or by using anyone or more of it. These number of sting operation has been increased; the proof of the offence can easily be procured.

The development of the country is dependent on the proportional to the freedom of expression and press. The freedom of the press and the security of the media persons is the major challenge in this field. Due to the fear of life and liberty the media person cannot work in dangerous situations. These situations should be avoided. The media person also should be provided safety and security while going for the coverage of the news in the disturbed areas. Then only there will be no limitations of the benefit of free and open use of media for the betterment of the society.

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<sup>16</sup>*Dantewada Attack: Shocking Details Emerge! Maoists Shouted 'Media WaloKoMaaro.* TIMES NOW BUREAU, (Dec 04, 2018), <https://www.timesnownews.com/india/article/dantewada-naxal-attack-chhattisgarh-shocking-details-maoists-media-walo-ko-maaro-dd-cameraman-doordarshan-achyutanand-sahu-killed-raman-singh/307351>

<sup>17</sup>Supra note 13