Chapter (VI)

Conclusion

Findings of this study provide a snapshot of Role of Media in Promoting Human Rights in Jammu & Kashmir and Chhattisgarh. It also explores similarities and dissimilarities between these two states at the level of human rights, media, violence and many more. This study had few primary goals: (a) to investigate human rights situation in Jammu & Kashmir and Chhattisgarh (b) to investigate reasons behind human rights violations (c) to find out the role played by media in human rights’ promotion and protection and what role can be played by media in future in this regard (d) to explore several mass media platforms and their importance in human rights’ promotions.

Two hypotheses were taken up to this research study, (i) media is a key factor for promoting human rights. (ii) Misuse of media plays an anti role for promoting human right. To the extent, these goals could be separated; the observations from participants’ narratives have been individually explained and analyzed in their respective chapters. Conclusion is the soul of any research
findings. Here are important findings of this research study, which were included in conclusion.

Chapter two of this research study shows that despite the focus of the media on reporting the paid news, politics, crime, etc., the issue of human rights is included in the subjects of media. The existing study of literature on relationship between human rights and media shows that media is constantly working in spreading awareness and protection of human rights. Although this initiative of the media is not entirely adequate.

Human rights is linked with serious aspects of society and individual’s safety, freedom, equality that without which one cannot imagine such a healthy and a better democratic society, so it is essential that the relationship between human rights and media is maintained and in India media being the fourth pillar of democracy in the country must contribute to more and more defence of human rights. In context to media and human rights current literature and research study shows that the topics related to human rights is not getting the desired amount of media coverage as it requires.

Circumstances have slightly changed with the rapid progress of Social Media. People using Internet and smart phone is now playing the role of media and journalists, thus more and more cases associated with human rights violations are coming to the administration. Through social media peoples were made conscious of their human rights, so that they can raise their voice if their rights are being violated. In fact, nearly a half-decade ago, most people were not having complete information about human rights because of which their
voice could not be reached to the Government and administration in case of any violation. Now, although circumstances have not changed too much, but rapid access to technology, Internet, and media have increased awareness of human rights.

On analysing chapter two it shows that the protection and awareness of human rights make individual’s life socially safe. This subject is not limited to feature-rich, capitalists, businessmen, etc, but is connected to the country's 1.25 billion people. Everyone under the Constitution has got some rights and these rights are their human rights. So, it has become necessary for the media to create awareness and include topics related to human rights from the entire population of the nation in their reporting. Chapter two of this research study has come up with a flip side that India has commercially joined the world's largest markets. Most of the things are seen with the commercial point of view. The media is also not intact. Since the source of income for media are ads, so under pressure from advertisers traditional media such as newspapers, magazines, TV, radio etc. sometimes ignore sensitive topics related to human rights. More often due to advertising of more ads the news related to human rights are kept in the waiting list for publishing in the future or else removed completely from the broadcasting list.

This study indicates that all of the media dogmatics (Theory) is relevant in the present time. Agenda setting dogmatics, social responsibility dogmatics etc. all theories are affecting the society at large. Coming into view for example thousands of young children are involved in rape, kidnapping, theft, robbery,
etc. Police investigations of such incidents often comes to the fore that young children involved in such events are in effect of some form of media (film, TV, newspaper, radio, Internet, etc.). From there they have learned how to execute such events. We can understand from an another example, we all know that in real life it is not possible to fly in the sky like TV character Shaktimaan, despite of that hundreds of children attempted to fly in the sky and suffered losses. Viz. this research study indicates that media affects the society at large and gives rise to all kinds of ideas both good and bad (misleading).

In view of the above scenario, chapter two of this research study, states that a negative image of media is prevailing within public and the society. Now people think media is only limited to paid news, entertainment and political news. A large number of people now also believes that media works only after taking money and revolves around politics, crime and entertainment. Now media has nothing to do with sensitive topics like human rights and public concern. Although to some extent this is also OK, but from this research study one realised that despite giving priority to other topics media has played a key role in the development of human rights. For example, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) over the past few years took suo moto cognizance of hundreds of media reports related to various cases of violations of human rights and they themselves made contribution in protecting human rights. It is important to note that NHRC’s actions to the human rights violations could not have been possible if these reports have not come in the media.
Analysis of chapter 2 of this research study also shows that during emergency in 1975 a ban on freedom of expression was announced. All kinds of restrictions were imposed on media. The biggest restriction was that no content could be published or broadcasted without showing it to government officials/authorities. In such a situation, if fair and fearless media wants to write something against government's any anti-people policy than how they can write? That is why many media houses have opposed this policy of the government. But the newspaper like Indian Express has openly told the government and administration too that forcible violation of human rights will not be accepted in any case. In order to protest against Government's anti-people policies and dictatorial attitude towards the protection of human rights such as freedom of expression, Indian Express left his newspaper's editorial page blank. Thus from this research study we got to know that the media has played a key role in the development of human rights and this role continues at present.

On analysing chapter 3 of this research study we came to know that since independence under section 370 of the Constitution, various kinds of problems are still prevalent in special status earned state of Jammu & Kashmir. Shortly after independence, the problem of separatism was born and then Jammu & Kashmir was rapidly impacted by terrorism. Jammu and Kashmir has been grappling with the problem of human rights violations since long time. All categories of people often women, children, elderly, etc are facing the problem of human rights violations.
Jammu & Kashmir comprehensively confronted the genocide and human rights violations by the tribesmen at the time of its merger in India. Followed by this in 1991 separatists and Pakistan supporters have forced Kashmiri Pandits (Kashmiri Hindus) to leave Kashmir overnight. This research study shows, at various times how large Jammu and Kashmir has suffered the demolition of incidents of human rights violations. The human rights violations are still continuing. Several times in Jammu and Kashmir allegations were levied on military forces that they have violated human rights. In some cases, these allegations were found true. For instance, in the year 2014 Budgam encounter case, within just five days, the army has accepted his mistake and Lt Gen D S Hooda by a press conference acknowledged that the military has made a mistake.

This research studies the relationship of media and human rights and focuses on the role of the media in the development of human rights. To understand media and its role in Jammu & Kashmir, it is necessary to understand the functioning of the local media and national media which is described in detail in chapter three. It is known from this study that the Jammu & Kashmir is very sensitive state. Due to the severe problems like terrorism, separatism the state always remains a topic of discussion across the country. In such case this state cannot reach beyond the reach of the media. That is why print, electronic, Internet, social media, etc. everywhere we can see, hear, and read news related to Jammu and Kashmir every day.
Terrorism, separatism, and the loss made by them and issues related to human rights violations are being ranked by local media as well as national media, but this place is not absolutely fair and adequate. Senior journalist and expert on Kashmir, Mr. Jawahar Kaul says that there was a time when most of the newspapers and other news coming out of Jammu & Kashmir is linked to leaders, separatist or any other organizations in some form or other. So, fair journalism can’t be expected from them and where there is no fair journalism, it is meaningless to imagine the role of media in the development of human rights. Mr. Kaul tells, however the situation have changed significantly with the arrival of internet and social media when hidden incidents are emerging without any restrictions and predilection which led to increase in awareness of human rights.

It is known from this study that while on one hand with the arrival of internet and social media the information regarding human rights is emerging on a massive scale and they are getting enough space and on the other hand through social media the number of rumours about the human rights violations has also increased in the state of Jammu & Kashmir. From time to time through various posts on Whatsapp, Facebook etc. efforts are being made to spread rumours that there is a separatist march to Jammu and they will take possession of the state overnight. While such kinds of news found to be fake. On the other hand, this research study also indicates that the terrorist organisations are trying to perplex youth using social media. Terrorist organizations through terrorist activities are trying to attract thousands of young people and involve them in these activities in the name of Jihad. Jamaat-ud-Dawa, the Lashkar-e-Taiba, and all terrorist organizations have made their
That is why the positive and negative effects of social media in human rights and other cases have been reported in this research study.

On analysing chapter 3 of this research study we also came to know that different people and different circumstances are responsible for the human rights violations in Jammu and Kashmir. Terrorist, separatist, military, police, government, all are responsible for human rights violations in some form or the other. For example, Article 9 of the International covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) binds India in a border as a state and explains that the state must provide all citizens freedom. The article says that when the state has the provision of judicial detention then there is no basis for any other form of detention. Despite cases like illegal arrest, illegal detention and torture are persistently visible in Jammu and Kashmir. According to a report by Amnesty International, more than 10,000 people have been detained illegally in the past two decades under the Public Safety Act (PSA). On the other hand, there are thousands of incidents of perpetrators of human rights violations by the terrorists and separatists in Jammu & Kashmir. Forcing Kashmiri Hindus to migrate from Kashmir overnight is the major incident in itself of human rights violation carried out by separatists and other forces.

What is the role of media in the matters relating to human rights violations and what work media has done in the development of human rights in Jammu & Kashmir? In this regard, this study shows that the media has contributed in the development and bringing awareness of human rights, but this contribution is not sufficient in the case of Jammu & Kashmir.
Kashmir is politically very sensitive. Here people are highly influenced by terrorism, separatism, etc., in such case it is the responsibility of government and the administration to protect the rights of the people. But this task is impossible in the absence of the media. In fact, media by creating pressure on the government and administration force them to take action to ensure the protection of human rights of the people. In the last three to four decades, media have done this work but not much as was expected. On the other hand, inclination of media towards some of the organization or political party to some extent is a hurdle in defence of human rights. However the circumstances have changed significantly with the advent of social media and there is an increase in awareness towards human rights.

In many other cases relating to the protection of human rights role of the media is positive and commendable. This research study shows that National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) took suo moto cognizance of many media reports in Jammu & Kashmir related to various cases of human rights violations and took action to provide justice to the victims. Such different issues have been discussed in detail in Chapter Three of this research study. Any victim of human rights violations in such cases do not have to take their plea to the government or to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). Based on the media reports NHRC itself took cognizance and action was taken against human rights violations. Through this action taken on the basis of media reports various media units have played a key role in the development of human rights.
On analysing chapter 4 of this research study we came to know that in the year 2000, with the division of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh state was formed. The state formation was aimed at accelerating the pace of development but as time elapsed Chhattisgarh came under the influence of naxalites. Poverty, unemployment, love of tribals for water, forests, land and government’s promotion to factories, mining etc. was the main cause of human rights violations in Chhattisgarh. However many other cases of human rights violations have surfaced from time to time that had nothing to do with naxals etc. For example, in 2014 sterilization camps were set up at various places in Chhattisgarh. Besides doctors patients were operated by his assistants and wrong medicines were given in these camps. Due to which many people lost their lives and many people suffered from serious diseases. The media named it the sterilization scandal. All kinds of mediums of media, including social media raised this matter widely and tried to put pressure on the government and administration to take harshest action and to provide justice to the victims. Viz. media here played the most important role in the case of human rights violations and attempted to protect human rights.

On analysing chapter 4 of this research study we came to know that not only Maoist were responsible for human rights violations in the state, but the government, administration and others were also responsible. Salwa Judum campaign, backed by the Chhattisgarh government against the naxalites was called illegal and illegitimate by the Supreme Court. Under Salwa Judum nearly 4000 children and young people were appointed as special police officer by the government which were known by the name of a Koya commander. They were
also given weapons training etc., which is a violation of human rights. There are many other cases where the government and the administration are responsible for human rights violations. Such cases were transmitted to the public through various mediums of media, movies, news and debate. By making people aware of such incidents from time to time, media has created an atmosphere in favour of the development of human rights.

The research study shows that there is a relation of naxalites with hundreds of incidents of human rights violations in Chhattisgarh. Naxalites are accused of women abuse, weapons training to children, damaging public property, carrying out activities against our country with foreign forces, etc. For example, the Human Rights Watch report, "Dangerous Duty: Children and the Chhattisgarh Conflict," shows how small children are encouraged to become Maoists or naxalites, or are made naxals forcibly. In an excerpt published in this report, a tad (a Dalai member) experienced –

_I joined the military dalam when I was 13 or 14 years old. I was studying in an ashram school [government-run residential school]—eighth standard—when naxalites came to my hostel. I didn't want to go. They said I could study until the 10th, but I should go with them.... We got weapons training, learnt about landmines, and a little karate.... [Finally] I had an opportunity to run away.... One year after I ran away, both my younger brothers (age 8 and 12) were killed [by the naxalites in retaliation]. They beat my mother and broke her arm. They burned our house and took all our things._

— Former child dalam member, December 2007.
In all these cases the media is expected to work with sensitivity in extremely sensitive cases of human rights violations and to make incidents of human rights violations reach the government and administration in a fair way so that victims could get justice. On analysing chapter 4 of this research study we came to know that Chhattisgarh is not too much influenced by the local media. It is dominated by the national media and social media. Various resources of media are working better in Chhattisgarh, despite of this issues related to human rights violations and its development could not get that much coverage as it was expected.

However, the impact of social media, etc. is quite positive and more and more cases of human rights violations are exposed. Thereby increasing the awareness of human rights on one hand and increasing the role of the media in the development of human rights on the other. Chapter 4 of this research study also shows that despite of the above circumstances there are still many aspects in Chhattisgarh which in some form or other is connected to the human rights violations, but they have been unable to go any media attention.

Among the most important are the issues of land, water, forests. Hundreds of tribals are staging a demonstration from years for the protection of water, land and forests, trying to make their voice reach to the government, but could not able to get any media attention. As these tribals are living in poverty, they do not have access to technology, mobile, etc. yet, so they cannot make their voice reach to the government even through social media. Their only hope
is to traditional media, but still these traditional media can't make their problems reach to the government and administration sufficiently.

In Chhattisgarh, various cases relating to the protection of human rights the role played by the media is positive and appreciated. That is why this research study shows that after taking suo moto cognizance of all media reports, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) took action in various cases of human rights violations in Chhattisgarh and has done justice to the victims. Such different issues have been discussed in detail in Chapter Four of this research study.

Any victim of human rights violations in such cases do not have to take their plea to the government or to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). Based on the media reports NHRC itself took cognizance and action was taken against human rights violations. Through this action taken on the basis of media reports various media units have played a key role in the development of human rights.

On analysing chapter 5 of this research study we came to know that comparatively there are many similarities and dissimilarities both in the state of Jammu and Kashmir and Chhattisgarh. Both the states are very different from each other on the basis of social, political, economical and geographical conditions. But both the states are quite common at the level of human rights violations. There is a constant occurrence of cases of human rights violations in
both the states. In this regard, the data obtained from the National Human Rights Commission is shown in Chapter 3, 4 and 5.

Comparative study of the nature of violent activities and human rights shows that Jammu and Kashmir is severely affected by terrorism and Chhattisgarh by Maoist and Naxalite. Violent activities of Naxalite and terrorism are largely responsible for human rights violations in these two states. It is a great similarity in both the states that the forces that carry out violent activities not only harm the government machinery but also kills innocent people. Although human rights violations have a flip side that the government, administration, police and other groups and individuals are involved in carrying out human rights violations. These Government and non-government organizations or people along with protecting human rights are also responsible for carrying out human rights violations.

Chapter five of this research study also shows that according to statistics of the National Human Rights Commission in the past three to four years, there have been thousands of cases of human rights violations in Jammu and Kashmir and Chhattisgarh and this number is constantly increasing. However rise in incidents of human rights violations should not be viewed as the only negative side rather it also have a positive side that people are now much more aware and conscious of their human rights and they immediately raise their voice in case of violation of human rights so that they could get their rights and justice in right time. Media has played an important role in making people conscious and aware of their human rights.
Comparative study of different categories of human rights violations made by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) shows that according to the data recorded with NHRC more cases of human rights violations came up in Chhattisgarh as compared to Jammu & Kashmir. Though according to categories of human rights violations defined by NHRC, Jammu and Kashmir is at forefront in the cases of human rights violations registered in the category of defence forces and paramilitary groups. In this regard, detailed statistics are shown in chapter 3, 4 and 5.

This research study shows to be aware of identified categories of human rights violations, to make people aware of their human rights and to prevent any new incident of human rights violation and to ensure this, it is the responsibility of the media to maintain constant pressure on the government and administration, and related agencies and organizations. If the media plays this responsibility honestly, than it would be significant contribution played by the media in the development of human rights.

If we talk of the print media than on analysing chapter 5 of this research study we came to know that various reports involving human rights violations in both the states is prominently published in newspapers and magazines in various languages including Hindi and English at local as well as national level. This has not only increased awareness of human rights and its violation amongst the people but also create pressure on the Government and administration to make strict policies to protect human rights and to act against
any violation. However, due to various circumstances in both the states many times it has come round too when several print media is quiet against human rights violators. It has been mentioned in previous chapters.

As far as the electronic media (TV, radio, movies, etc.) is concerned, both the states of Jammu and Kashmir and Chhattisgarh have major impact of this. Several films and documentaries are made on the background and various problems prevailing in these two states. The renowned news channels nowadays aired special prime-time programs hundreds of times on problems of human rights violations prevailing in these two states and this trend still continues. This has not only increased alertness and awareness amongst the people about the human rights but has also increased their self-confidence. Now many people have the self confidence that if the government, administration and related agencies do not listen to them in the case of human rights violations, than through the media environment can be created to get justice.

On the other hand on analysing new media and human rights we came to know that in the last few years new media has played a key role in various issues including human rights. Any information, video, audio can be reached at every corner of the world only in a few seconds and creating a conducive atmosphere is the power of new media. New media has played an important role in the development of human rights in the state of Jammu & Kashmir and Chhattisgarh.
Whether it is the Machhil encounter or if any other case of human rights violation new media has played a vital role in providing justice to the victims. That is why in different cases victims got justice so quickly. However, there are some limitations of the new media because factually correct information, videos etc. can be transported from one place to another through new media which creates confusion. Therefore, this study shows that keeping in mind the limits of new media it can be the most powerful tool in the development of human rights.

6.1 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

It is important to remember at this stage that all research suffers from limitations. In practical, every research has some limitations. Reader is more likely to accept that you recognise the limitations of your own research if you write a high quality reflecting move. This is because explaining the limitations of your research and justifying the choices you made during the research process demonstrates the command that you had over your research. In light of this research, which is based on the role of media in promoting human rights, here are some limitations of this research study.

- Both the states are affected violence therefore it is very difficult to conduct a survey at the local level for a research student.
- It is difficult to establish contact to the peace loving people in violence hit areas because anti government elements dominate at the local level.
- It is difficult to verify human rights violations because anti government elements run their activities in the guise of human rights.
- This research is primarily depends on secondary data, as it is not possible for any researcher to reach and visit to every districts of Jammu-
Kashmir and Chhattisgarh to collect primary data and investigate situation of human rights violation.

6.2 RECOMMENDATIONS AND SCOPE OF FUTURE STUDY

As far as the recommendation and future study are concern, the main recommendation is that being a forth pillar of democracy, media must work for the betterment of society and its citizens. This must be in their priority list. Journalists and media houses should understand the value of coverage of sensible issues like human rights. There must be some specialised journalists to cover human rights and they must be given training time to time about legal and administrative provisions related to human rights.

In a situation of conflicts, journalists, covering news related to human rights violation should be given more protection. There must a separate beat to cover human rights in media houses, so that one can have better life in a democratic country like India. And if we talk about future study, one can have a separate and specific study of any specific form of media such as new media, electronic media, print media etc. and their role in promoting human rights. A separate study can also be done about human rights violation incidents due to naxalites and role of media or human rights violations incidents due to terrorism and role of media. This thesis can be extremely useful for the students of journalism and mass communication and a vision can be found out to establish objectivity of journalism.