

**Preface**

The term ‘privacy’ is often used in our daily conversations as well as in intellectual discussions. But the term has wider ramifications and no single definition of privacy is enough to suffice the broad concept of the term. Though the concept has deep sociological and anthropological connotations yet its implications vary across the globe according to customs and cultural traditions.

The study of privacy issues from a legal and ethical perspective has assumed significance in an era of information technology and the Internet. Attempting to interpret these issues in the context of extant media theories will help us make an in-depth study of current media practices and the extent to which media can be asked to exercise restraint while reporting sensitive news involving a person’s activities in what is termed as his ‘private sphere’.

In order to make the study more relevant in the present era a number of case analyses have been done to understand the ever changing role of the media and the concept of privacy.

The introduction chapter narrates the various extant definitions of privacy including a narration of the various types and nature of privacy and dwells on how privacy and media are entwined in a commensalism type of relationship. In this chapter there is also an endeavour to analyse the legal framework currently in force in India and other countries like the US, UK, Australia, Japan, France and China for protection of privacy.
The review of literature tries to shed light on the various academic opinions on privacy and how these could be linked to the general trend of the understanding of privacy in India.

In many countries like India, laws are at the nascent stage of formulation and people have woken up to the emerging threat to their privacy from evolving technologies which are acting as “peeping toms” in their private lives. The various forms of privacy intrusions going on in the garb of national security by governments worldwide with special reference to India has been discussed in the chapter on privacy issues in the cyber world.

It is felt that from celebrities to the common man, privacy intrusions by some sections of the media have compelled us to think whether our privacy is protected and do the media in pursuit of TRP have the right to invade our privacy. This has been adequately covered in the questionnaire prepared for a mini survey on privacy among the respondents in the Barak valley region of south Assam and national capital region around New Delhi.

The various issues have been discussed and analysed in the background of the right to privacy and the public’s right to know and why a right balance needs to be struck between the two by the media in the light of the Theory of Social Responsibility.

Suggestions on preparation of a set of guidelines which would help the media men to protect privacy while reporting news and formulation of an effective legal framework for protection of individual privacy form the conclusion and recommendation of the thesis.

Subhadeep Dhar