Dear Journalist,

As part of my PhD study at Manonanmanium Sundaranar University, Thirunalveli, I am doing research on the effects of users comments on online Journalism, especially the participation of users expressing their views/opinion about the news. In order to explore this subject, I seek your assistance by completing this questionnaire at the best extent. Please remember there is no right or wrong answers. Your responses will be most valuable because no earlier research has focused on this area. Your participation is highly appreciated. Regardless if you don’t use the Internet at work or at home, your responses remain important for my work. All responses will remain confidential to be strictly used only by the researcher and her supervisors. Thank you for helping me in my study. If you have questions, please be free to e-mail me: narayanthilaka@gmail.com

1 In what media do you currently work? (Please tick what applies)
   1 Newspaper: Please specify
   2 Magazine: Please specify (weekly, monthly, local, special interest etc)
   3 Other print media: Please specify
   4 Radio: Please specify (AM, FM, commercial, etc)
   5 Television: Please specify (government, private, other satellite stations, regional etc)
   6 Online media: Please specify
   7 Freelance: Please specify
   8 Other: Please specify

2 How long have you worked as a journalist?
   1. 0 to 2 years
   2. 2.1 to 5 years
   3. 5.1 to 10 years
   4. More than 10 years

3 Which Department do you work now?
   1 Local
   2 University Affairs
   3 Entertainment
   4 Sports
   5 Politics
   6 Editing
   7 Online Publishing
   8 Columnist
   9 Administrator
   10 Financial
   11 Other - please specify

4 In which media have you worked before?
   1 Newspaper
   2 Radio
   3 Television
   4 Magazine
   5 Public Relations
   6 Online journalism
   7 Other

5 Does your current job entail working outside “traditional” journalism tasks, such as (tick all that apply)?
   1 Video Streaming
   2 Audio Streaming
   3 Weblogs
   4 Online media copywriting
   5 Other
   6 Does not apply

6 Do you have Internet at Work?
   1 Yes
   2 No

7 How long have you been using the Internet for your work?
   1 I do not use the Internet
   2 Less than a year
   3 1 to 2 years
   4 3 to 5 years
   5 More than 5 years
The following questions try to identify how often journalists use the Internet for a variety of journalism tasks. Please tick ( _) in the right space for each question.

How often do you ….

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Daily</th>
<th>3-4 times a week</th>
<th>At least once a week</th>
<th>At least once in fortnight</th>
<th>At least once a month</th>
<th>Less often or never</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>use e-mail for work purposes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>visit web sites for work purposes</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Source news stories only from the Internet (that is, use no other news gathering techniques)</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>seek out diverse views on a subject via the Internet before writing a news story</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>use online information as a primary source</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>use online information without indicating it was obtained via the Internet</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>find new news sources via the Internet</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>find information from individuals or groups via the Internet that you would not access otherwise</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>receive public feedback via the Internet</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>respond to public feedback via the Internet</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>use public feedback via the Internet to create or follow up news stories</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>write news stories only for online publishing</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
20 Have you received training in online journalism issues?
   1 Yes, internal training  2 Yes, external training
   3 Yes, at my initiative  4 No

21 If “yes”, what was this training for? Sourcing has been a major issue in online journalism. We were trained for sourcing skills and ethics involved in picking up stuff from online

22 Do you receive reader feedback via the Internet (this includes e-mail)?
   1 Yes
   2 No

23 How does this compare with other means of feedback (phone calls, letters etc)?
   1 Less feedback via the Internet
   2 About the same amount of feedback via the Internet and other means (Calls)
   3 More feedback via the Internet
   4 I do not receive reader feedback

24 For what purposes do you use the Internet? (Tick all that apply)
   1 E-mail
   2 Interview via e-mail
   3 Online publications
   4 Discussion groups
   5 News stories
   6 Media Releases
   7 New sources or experts
   8 Interacting with readers
   9 Different views to add to a news story
   10 News images or video
   11 Preliminary research
   12 Information and/or quotes
   13 Searching your news outlets’ archives
   14 Searching other news outlet’s archives
   15 Verifying facts
   16 Abreast with breaking News
   17 Interacting with sources
   18 Reading articles
   19 Investigative
   20 Follow up specific news

25 Other: Please specify __________________________________________________________

26 From the above, list your top 5 uses of the Internet? (Use the number in front of each sentence in Q24)
   1
   2
   3
   4
   5
The following statements try to determine in what ways the online journalism especially the interactive features enhances the public to participate. Please respond by adding (_,) in the right space for each question.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No.</th>
<th>User comments and Journalists</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Neither Disagree nor Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>User Comments and interactivity helps journalists gain wider access to diverse points of views</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Helps journalists gain wider access to news sources</td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Helps journalists write freely about political subjects</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Uncensored online journalism broaden the local press freedom</td>
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<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Online journalism give the impression that sensitive issues can be published locally</td>
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<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Users publish sensitive political issues online encouraged others to publish similar issues locally</td>
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<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>User Comments improves the coverage of news story events catering to users needs</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
If you have other opinions different from the above list, please specify ____________

The following statements try to determine how User Comments affects journalists. Please respond by adding ( _) in the right space for each question.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Neither Disagree nor Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>User Comments encourages me to write freely</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>User comments helps in exposure to various views of the users</td>
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<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>User Comments will eventually become journalists’ medium of choice for information gathering</td>
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<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>The Internet is the place where I share my ideas with others</td>
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<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>I am very concerned about the feedback in the Internet</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

41. Your Opinion of online news

42. What is your stand about journalists not responding to user comments?
43. According to you the user comments and participatory journalism is a threat to the professional journalist.

45. Do you think that the continuous feed of news by the users has left no scope for scoop news and exclusive news?

46. According to you user comments and interaction among readers brings a change in the society

47. Your Name:
(Optional, but all responses will remain confidential.)

48. Your Contact Information (To be used only if I need to clarify your responses. Leave blank if you do not wish to be contacted.)

49. Your gender?
1 Male 2 Female

50. Your Age:
1 18 – 24 2 25 – 30
3 31 – 36 4 37 – 40
5 Above 40

Thank you for your response
Dear Respondents,

As part of my PhD study at Manonnanmanium Sundaranar University, Thirunalveli, I am doing research on the effects of users comments on online Journalism, especially the participation of users expressing their views/opinion about the news. In order to explore this subject, I seek your assistance by completing this questionnaire at the best extent. Please remember there is no right or wrong answers. Your responses will be most valuable because no earlier research has focused on this area. Your participation is highly appreciated. Regardless if you don’t use the Internet at work or at home, your responses remain important for my work. All responses will remain confidential to be strictly used only by the researcher and her supervisors. Thank you for helping me in my study. If you have questions, please be free to e-mail me: narayanthilaka@gmail.com

1  Your age is
   - [ ] Under 15
   - [ ] 16 – 25
   - [ ] 26 – 30
   - [ ] 31 – 35
   - [ ] 36 – 40
   - [ ] 41 – 50
   - [ ] 51 – 55
   - [ ] Above 56

2  Your Education level is
   - [ ] School or below
   - [ ] Undergraduate
   - [ ] Postgraduate
   - [ ] Doctorate
   - [ ] Professionals
   - [ ] Others (Please specify)

3  Which occupation do you belong to
   - [ ] Student
   - [ ] Business
   - [ ] Service Industry
   - [ ] Finance
   - [ ] Freelance
   - [ ] Industrial
   - [ ] Government
   - [ ] Others (Please specify)
4  Your Annual Household income is
   - 0 to Rs. 50,000
   - Rs. 50,001 – Rs. 75,000
   - Rs. 75,001 to Rs. 1,00,000
   - Rs. 1,00,001 and above
   - Others (Please specify)

5  Please indicate your gender
   - Male
   - Female

6  What are your various sources of News and Current affairs?
   - Newspaper
   - Magazines
   - Radio
   - Television
   - Internet
   - Others (Please specify)

7  Do you read the online newspaper?
   - Yes
   - No

8  How often did you read online newspaper in the last month?
   - Nearly everyday
   - 4 or 5 times a week
   - 2 or 3 times a week
   - Once a week
   - Almost never (Please answer the next question)

9  Why don’t you read online newspaper

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Undecided</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Too much online ads</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Prefer hard copy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Newspaper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prefer Television/Radio</td>
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<tr>
<td>Not convenient</td>
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<tr>
<td>Not credible</td>
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<td>Others</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
10 Compared with the traditional newspapers, what aspects are the advantages of online newspapers?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Undecided</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Timelines</td>
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<tr>
<td>Entertainment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Convenient</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interaction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Audio Visual Mode</td>
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<tr>
<td>Credible</td>
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<tr>
<td>More News Choices</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hard Copy Not Available</td>
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<tr>
<td>Others</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11 According to you which is your favorite News Website

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Very Satisfied</th>
<th>Not Satisfied</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Satisfied</th>
<th>Very Satisfied</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Times of India</td>
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<tr>
<td>The New Indian Express</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Deccan Chronicle</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Statesman</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Deccan Herals</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Hindu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>The Hindusthan Times</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

12 What was the format of the News item? If the news item had more that one format select all that apply.

News Blog Video Photo gallery Photo Gallery with Audio Stand alone Others Graphic

13 List all the ways you used multimedia tools to engage with the online newspaper.

- Watched a Video
- Listened to Audio
- Posted a Comment
- Clicked on an advertisement
- Scrolled through a photography
- Clicked on a hyperlink embedded in the story
- Took a Poll
- Watched interactive graphic
- None (just read the text)
- Others (Please specify)
14 **Online User Comments are a source of expression.**

- Yes
- No
- May be

15 **In your opinion user comments help developing a dialogue between the users and the journalists**

- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Undecided
- Agree
- Strongly Agree

16 **To what extent does these comments help changing the presentation of News.**

- Poor
- Below Average
- Average
- Good
- Excellent

17 **Online news comments effects the attitude of individuals who either participate or are exposed to such comments**

- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Undecided
- Agree
- Strongly Agree

18 **Online news comments reshapes discussion and debates within and across groups in a society.**

- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Undecided
- Agree
- Strongly Agree

19 **Participation of readers in online news comments have an attitudinal change in inter-group relationships and perceptions**

- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Undecided
- Agree
- Strongly Agree

20 **Online news comments may also affect the potential for individuals and groups to organize, protest, or take other forms of collective actions.**

- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Undecided
- Agree
- Strongly Agree

21 **Online Readers Comments help people to voice their opinion.**

- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Undecided
- Agree
- Strongly Agree

22 **In your opinion Reader Comments in Online News are:**

- Online news give only opinions.