CHAPTER-I
INTRODUCTION

“A woman is the full circle. Within her is the power to create, nurture and transform.” - Diane Marie child

Change is the law of nature. Everything in nature changes and finally dies. There was a time when men was uncivilized and live like savages in forests. But now he has conquered nature. He has become civilized. But as the civilizations have progressed, literacy indices have risen, living standards have up-scaled, media has become social, the world has shrunk but what has not changed is the misogynistic attitude of many people towards women.

Gender discrimination is one of the important aspects that are found in society. All human societies attach great importance to sex differences. Every society differentiates its members on the basis of sex, treating men and women in different ways and expecting different pattern of behaviour from them. This differentiation does not necessarily imply that one sex should have status superiority to the other, but in practice, sexual differentiation is always translated in to sexual inequality. In fact the inequality of sexes is probably the oldest form of structural social inequality (Menon, 1997). Historically it is evident that women have always been reduced to secondary position in the status and importance in the social realm of the society. But currently the picture has been entirely different. The condition and status of women in India is slowly changing and rising.
1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

The idea of developing Human resource management and Gender studies have become a centre core for discussion and debate at global perspective. Hence it is quite obvious that the study of the history of status of women through the ages helps us to project a clear picture of the changing status of women and also facilitates for further studies. The history of status of women in India finds its roots way back in the 2000 B.C which tries to depicts the impact of different culture that brought about significant changes in the Indian social structure and on its functions. When we study explicitly it is clear that there is a major fluctuation like rise and fall in the status of women which needs to be studied and examined. These fluctuations in the role set and on status of women made many sociologists, historians, social reformers to study them in different approaches.

Education as a tool of change social reformers propagated the need for ‘Education for Women’ because Knowledge and Information had never been free from class interest and caste interest. So this made the reformers to propagate Education for women especially for the downtrodden classes. In this way they considered Education as a powerful tool to eradicate the Evil practices (Durkheim: 1858-1917) to women: home maker who tries to break up the existing barriers of stagnation and leading towards progress.

As a result of women’s newly gained freedom women have distinguished themselves in various spheres of life. She started participating in social, economic, political, religious field and also started seeking various opportunities in various areas that was constructed by male dominated society. There is hardly any sphere of life in which women have not taken part and shown their worth. There is also a very large body of educated women in various professions.
And one such field that paved a new way for her to promote herself in a new kind of profession is called as ‘**Journalism**’, which is considered as a noble and dynamic profession, where we find women playing a vital roles such as a **journalists, reporters, Editors, Columnist, Commentator, Photographer, News Presenter, Production Manager, Intern.**

As Journalism became a profession, women were restricted by custom and law from access to journalism occupations, and faced significant discrimination within the profession. Less than fifty years ago, journalism was an almost exclusively male profession (*Frohlich, et.al, 2008*). Female journalists were the exception and women were discouraged to enter the journalism. But today more and more women are employed as Journalists. They are the newspaper owners, editors, and journalists throughout the history of journalism. When journalism took its roots in India as a new profession, the number of women in journalism were very less when compared to other professions. Journalism was not much considered as a job of a woman. Today more and more women can be seen in this profession where they are vying with male colleagues in both print and electronic media. Though the visibility of women is more in media it cannot be judged that women have gained equal status as men in the society.

So with this background it is necessary to look into the status of women in India through different ages in general and changes taken place in particular.
1.1.1 HISTORICAL EVIDENCE

Women constitute about half of the world’s total population. They are integral part of the society. The status of women in India has been subject to many great changes over the past few millennia. It has seen many ups and downs. From equal status with men in ancient times through the low points of the medieval period to the promotion of equal rights by many reformers, the history of women in India has been eventful. In modern India, women have adorned high positions. One can see women in every profession, working equally with men in fields such as education, sports, politics, media, art and culture, service sectors, science and technology etc. (Manas, et.al, 2012)

With the technological development of the 20th century, physical strength is seldom required for most jobs. Rather skill and knowledge acquired chiefly through training for a large number of jobs. Women, given the opportunity have shown that they can equal or excel men in acquiring the necessary skills and knowledge. In the highly industrialized countries, planned families and the mechanization, made it possible for a growing number of women to emigrate (Andiappan, 1980). Today women work at different workplace showing their capacity and skill on a par with men or equally with men. As Purohit, (1995) states that “Women who rocks the cradle and rules the nations”.

The 20th century has witnessed a great deal of independence and autonomy for many countries. Women have been equal fighters for freedom. They have demanded for and received equality in education and there lies the secret of their success. Education and the awareness that comes with it have enabled this gender to fight their cause. They have emerged out of their kitchens and taken their places along with the men in becoming supplementary breadwinners.
This has led to move work in actual fact for now they are “Managers” of their home and family as well as part of the work force. They have penetrated almost all spheres of activity and figure prominently in all walks of life be it education, health, politics, science, social work or law.

Today’s women are joint partners in the world scheme. Indian women have their place even in the Police, Army and now the first batch of Pilots has also been emerged. India has always accorded respect to its women, as can be seen in history such as Rani of Jhansi, Meerabai, Mumtaj Mahal, Indira Gandhi etc., who have been acknowledged as leaders and thinkers of our society. Inspite of these great women, the larger parts of the female species were not accorded their basic rights. It was only the pioneering effects of Mahatma Gandhi that lead to the emancipation of Indian women.

**Jain (1988)** traces the relative change in the socio-cultural values between pre-independence and post-independence periods. The observation of Jain that the change is a basic metamorphosis is relevant, valid and significant in the sense that it throws a good deal of light on the changes that are taking place in India. The twentieth century will go into the pages of the history of human civilization as one of the great epochs of human progress.

The British regime and the post-independence have brought in many social changes in India. The old order has changed, yielding place to the new, thus bringing a perceptible transformation in society. The transformation has brought both prospects and problems. With the advancement of science and technology, new technologies have come into our daily routine and new wants have increased. Gone are the days when people thought that outside work was meant for men folk, while the women were simply contented with their household chores.

Women’s emancipation gained momentum and they were considered equal if not superior to men. But when all is said and done, the status of
women in India had been a fluctuating one sometimes encouraging and sometimes discouraging. However, the present status of women in society is quite encouraging and deserves careful study. While it is true that the known present cannot always be explained in terms of historical origins, it is almost certain that it is impossible to study the present without reference to the past. So it is necessary to study the historical background of the Indian women which will be rewarding and helpful.

1.1.2 STATUS OF WOMEN IN INDIA THROUGH AGES

Status of Women in India through Ages has witnessed several wax and wanes. Strenuous efforts through ages have helped women to achieve a respectable position in the society. Status of Women in India through Ages has undergone through different phases. Each of these phases has cast profound effect on the lives of women. Inequality and discrimination had been an important issue in the life of women since ancient past. Continuous efforts and struggle however have helped them to resolve this issue and the present scenario narrates the story of their success very well.

- **Status of Women in Vedic Age:**

  Ancient texts and researches have furnished that during Vedic Period women enjoyed an equal position with men. Ample freedom was given to them in terms of education, religious activities, marriage and many other aspects. Hindu philosophy during Vedic Age believed in the feminine principle of energy which gave rise to the tradition of worshipping the female goddess.

  Goddess Durga, Goddess Kali and Goddess Lakshmi were the manifestation of this very belief. Brahmavadinis was the name given to the learned women. Female sages and scholars of this age enlist Ambhrni,
Gargi, Khona and Romasa. Co-education was quite prevalent in this era and women belonging to Kshatriya caste were also trained with martial arts. Women of royal families enjoyed the privilege of choosing her life partner through the custom of ‘Swayamvara’. Divorce and remarriage of women was very much acceptable under unfortunate circumstances. No merciless practices were forced upon the women of Vedic age after the demise of her husband.

• **Status of Women in Epic Era:**

  Epic era encountered a huge transformation in terms of the condition of women. Epics in Hindu mythology depict the actual scenario of the condition of women during this era. The classical epics like Ramayana and Mahabharata establish the fact that women still had some liberty in various activities but the respect conferred on them had started to decrease. Education became less important for the women of this era and they started to lag behind men in terms of knowledge. Epics do not have the mention of women scholars. Women in Epic Era had no role to play in politics. Many incidents in the epics also narrate the humiliations conferred upon a woman by men. They clearly state that the position of women in Epic era was much lower than that of men.

• **Status of Women in Medieval Period:**

  With the coming of Muslim rule, medieval India witnessed enhanced dependency of women on men. The Islamic custom of **Purdah** (veiling of women) forced the public world to be separated from the private world, with women confined to the latter.

  Following its subjugation by the Muslims, and fearing adverse outcomes for its women, a large part of the Hindu India accepted the
practice of veiling. Through this privatization, Indian women were forced to trade their mobility for safety. Repeated invasions by the Muslims further pushed the Indian women towards inhuman “traditions” such as child marriage, the dowry system, purdah and sati (the immolation of the widow on the dead husband’s pyre). The challenge of Islamic aggression also made Hindu India defensive and introverted causing a desperate return to orthodox Hindu beliefs and practices and further constraining the status of Indian women. Thus, during the medieval period, Indian women lost their earlier status and were at the lowest ebb. However, women like Razia Begum rose to become a ruler, Chand Bibi, Tara Bai and Ahaliya Bai Holker, left their great imprints for their ruling capabilities. In Bhopal also, Begums or princesses ruled. With the advent of Islam, once again, women like Jahanara, Begum Mumtaz and Noor Jahan enjoyed respectable positions in the country. These remarkable ladies though strict Muslims, publicly administered justice with their faces covered by veils or burkas.

- Status of Women during British Rule

During British rule, many social reformers emerged in the country who worked for the betterment of the condition of women in India. Prominent names among them are Raja Ram Mohan Ray, Jyotirao Phule and Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar. Peary Charan Sarkar, who was a former student of Hindu College, had set up a school in Barasat, West Bengal, for providing free education to girls. Some British personalities also had considerable contribution in the improvement of the status of women. Several women reformers like Pandita Ramabai also worked for the cause of women in the society.

During the freedom struggle of India, Government also took an active part for the betterment of women. Various laws like Child Marriage
Restraint Act were brought into force to protect the women against discrimination. Efforts were also put to save the political rights of women. During British rule, many female freedom fighters also emerged who actively took part in the Indian freedom struggle. These women freedom fighters include Bhikaja Cama, Pritilata Waddedar, Annie Besant, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Kausurba Gandhi, Sucheta Kriplani and Durgabai Deshmukh.

- **Status of Women in Independent India:**

In independent India, women enjoy liberty and equality in all aspects of society such as education, politics, sports, art and culture, media, science and technology. Several laws have been enacted that protect social discrimination of women. In India, the constitution ensures equality of women, prohibition of discrimination, and equality in terms of pay for work and equality in opportunity. Since late 1970s feminist activism in India also acquired momentum and various women’s groups collaborated to oppose the unjust activities against women. Women in independent India also took part in the national issues including female infanticide, women’s literacy, gender bias and women’s health.

Women in India have witnessed numerous phases. The privileges that Indian women enjoyed in the ancient past gradually declined with time and discrimination became an inseparable part of the lives of Indian women in the society. However through the efforts of many social reformers, they succeeded in regaining the respect and equality in the society. Bravery of several women in the society also fuelled the spirit and urge of women to acquire a respectable position in the society.
The Modern Women and their prospects in India:

The Indian society still remains at cross ends; the individuality of women is yet to be realized by them. The western education which was imparted to them made aware that they were one of the two wheels of the life-cart and that they were also key persons in the family. They began to understand that an all-round development of them, equal to men, was necessary for the growth and prosperity of the nation. The modern women have realized now that they have a personality of their own as a human being and that their mission in life does not end with becoming merely a wife and a good mother but also in realizing that they are also a member of the civic community. Thus, the modern women are not having a passive life. They are prepared to express and show their individuality in various walks of life.

Education is a catalytic agent for social change. Changes in life and position of women have been greatly accelerated by the spread of education. As a result, women organizations and a strong women’s movement took place. Many greatest women emerged in the scene. Among them Rani Laxmi Bai of Jhansi, Panditha Rama Bai, Rama Bai Ranade, Madam Cama and Toru Dutt were prominent. As a result of education, women’s economic horizon expanded considerably and they have begun to feel that they must earn their own living. They have made their first response to the call for teachers. More than hundred year’s age in itself, they took this profession. With the establishment of hospitals and health centers, women have qualified themselves as doctors, nurses, health visitors and mid-wives. When law, agricultural, engineering and other professional institutions were opened, they invaded these fields too. Now there is scarcely any venue of employment in which women have not entered.
Various American studies have shown that there is a definite correlation between the educational level of women and their employment (Ginsberg, 1967 and Klein, 1968).

India now has not only women doctors, engineers, judges and officials holding high ranks but also women political leaders who mould and shape the destiny of India. The women have the right to choose and dictate according to their ambitions, but the society and men are the problem to them. Here lies the problem of human valves and relationships. They just do not require merely legal measures for equal rights, but sympathy and understanding both at home and in the place of work.

The necessity for work on the part of the women is not due to their enlightenment alone. The women work either because of economic necessity which force them to do so, or because they want to derive psychological satisfaction out of it. The reasons that prompt women to work apart from economic necessity are manifold. The women may work in order to raise the standard of living of their household or to have an independent income or by the compulsion of the family members. Modern women do not like to stay idle and stagnate at home, but rather aspire to utilize their education and mental abilities in a constructive and creative manner. They prefer to work because they find plenty of time after their household chores is taken care of, or because they can use their job as an ‘escape-mechanism’ from the drudgery of life. They can also gain self confidence within themselves by working, establish themselves a status and gain significant role in the family affairs. These are some of the reasons that motivate women to venture into the men’s world, leaving behind the monotony of home (Vohra and Sen, 1986).
1.2 ORIGIN AND GROWTH OF JOURNALISM:

Any social phenomenon can be understood properly only when examined in its historical context. The history of journalism will, thus, enable us to know the occupation through a wide passage of time, the changes it has gone through, and the various specific events in the process which have directly or indirectly contributed to the present state.

1.2.1 JOURNALISM: A BRIEF HISTORY:

If Journalism is circulation of news then it was in existence even when there was no printing. We can say that it was in existence when even the writing was not known. The Autelycus of the oden times was a living newspaper, for he circulated the news wherever he went. The Kings employed ‘Heralds’, who gathered the people in the square by beating drums and transmitted the commands of the king to them. Some Kings like Hamurabbi inscribed the commandments on the stone pillars for the people to read. In India King Ashoka also inscribed the rules and commands on the famous Ashoka Pillars. They were for the people to read. We can call them newspapers which are still in existence. In those days mass communication was possible only with the help of the town – criers, heralds, stone pillars, stone tablets (of the Ten Commandments), manuscripts and parchments. These were the newspapers when printing was not known.

- HISTORY OF PRINTING

There was a time when people used to write on palm leaves. This was before the discovery of paper. Some of the old manuscripts written on palm leaves are preserved in our National Manuscript Library in Delhi.
The Chinese were the first to invent the art of printing. They made wooden blocks to print letters. This was started during the period of the Tang Dynasty in 600 AD. The oldest known surviving printed work in a woodblock is a Buddhist scripture of 684 AD. It is now exhibited in a calligraphy museum in Tokyo, the capital of Japan. The first printed book published in China was the Buddhist text, the “Diamond Sutra” by Wang Chick in 868 AD. Some copies of the Buddhist scriptures printed in 1377 are preserved in museums in China. Though the Egyptians made paper by 3500 BC, it came to Europe only by the 11th century. The first paper mill in Europe was set up in Spain in 1120.

Block printing came to Europe by 1300. It is believed that Johannes Gutenberg of Germany had developed printing technology around 1439. Gutenberg also invented an oil-based ink for printing. He printed the Bible in 1450. It was in the Latin language and had 1282 pages. He used movable printing blocks for the book. Printing technology came to India in 1556. It was the Jesuit priests who brought this technology to our country. The first book printed in India was in Portuguese language in Old Goa. It was Doctrina Christa by St. Francis Xavier.

The invention of printing has revolutionised mass communication. Books are printed in large numbers and circulated in many countries. No other invention has had such an influence in the history of mankind.

- THE FIRST NEWSPAPER:

In ancient Rome, Acta Diurna, or government announcements, were published regularly. They were inscribed in metal or stone. These can be considered as the earliest form of newspapers. The Chinese were the first to bring out newspaper. They had ‘Court Gazette’ which gave the news about the Chinese Emperor’s court.
It was the first official gazette in the world. Chinese people also knew the use of moveable type. The mention of this gazette can be traced back to the 15th century. In China, early government-produced news sheets, called Tipao, were commonly used among court officials during the late Han dynasty (2nd and 3rd centuries AD). Many researchers consider “The Peking Gazette”, published from China, as the first newspaper. It was started in 618. In the initial stages, this newspaper was hand written and distributed to the readers. Later it was printed and circulated. The Peking Gazette continued its publication till the beginning of the twentieth century.

Newsletters circulated by rulers were the first form of newspapers. In India, the East India Company circulated such newsletters. According to the World Association of Newspapers, the first newspaper in the modern sense was published by Johann Carlous in 1605. The name of the paper is a bit long! “Relation aller Furnemmen und gedenckwandigen Historien”. In 1609, another newspaper was started from Germany called “File”. Yet another newspaper in the modern concept was published from Venice called “The Gazette”. But many such earlier newspapers could not survive for long. The rulers were not happy with these publications as some of them started criticising their rule. So many papers were forced to close down. In USA, a newspaper “The Public Occurrences” lasted only for a day. Similar was the fate of the “Daily Paper” started by James Asher in UK. The first newspaper in France, the Gazette de France was established in 1632 by the king's physician Theophrastus Renaudot (1586-1653), with the patronage of Louis XIII. All newspapers were subject to prepublication censorship, and served as instruments of propaganda for the monarchy. Jean Loret is considered to be one of France's first journalists. He disseminated the weekly news of music, dance and Parisian society from 1650 until 1665 in
verse, in what he called a *gazette burlesque*, assembled in three volumes of *La Muse historique* (1650, 1660, and 1665).

Newspapers underwent a lot of changes in their form and content after that. In England, *The Weekly News* was launched in 1622. The first newspaper in the modern concept was published in Oxford in 1655. It was the “Oxford Gazette”. The first newspaper to be published from London was the Daily Courant”. It was edited by E. Mallet. In 1784, John Walter launched the “Daily Universal Register” from London which later adopted a new name “The Times”. It is known to be one of the greatest newspapers in the world. In USA, the first newspaper was “Public Occurrences”, which was launched in 1690. Postmaster John Campbell started another paper in 1704, “The Boston Newsletter”. In 1783, “Pennsylvania Evening Post” was started in USA that had all the features and content of a modern newspaper. Later in 1851 came “The New York Times”. The largest circulated newspaper in the world is the “Yomi Yuri Shimbun” published from Japan. It has a circulation of 1, 45, 57,000 copies per day. The second and third largest circulated dailies in the world are also published from Japan.

The 18th century saw the development of Defoe, swift and Fielding as journalists. Defoe’s ‘Review’ was popular. Dr. Johnson came up with ‘The Rambier’ and ‘The Idler’. Johnson wrote reports of the parliament. It was politics only for the newspapers of the 18th century. There were a number of newspapers.

1.2.2 HISTORY OF INDIAN JOURNALISM

Journalism is a work of collecting, writing, editing and publishing material in newspapers and magazines or on television and radio for general information. In a broader sense, it also refers to works of persons
professionally involved in mass communications, advertising, and public relations. Journalism in its limited sense of reporting incidents and dissemination of information was there in Bengal and other parts of India even in ancient and medieval periods. In ancient India, inscriptions engraved on rocks or pillars served as a medium of information. Emperor Asoka, for example, had his Rock Edicts and Pillar Edicts posted all over his empire and even beyond. He engaged spies and overseers to collect information (Bhatt, 1996).

During the Sultanate period, the Barid-i-Mamalik or commissioner of intelligence used to serve the authorities with the information of the empire. The munhis or spies of Sultan Alauddin Khalji communicated even the most trivial things to the Sultan. The Mughal government had a network of news-services-the waqai-navis, sawanih-navis, and khufia-navis. In addition to them there were harkarah and akhbar-navis for serving the royalties with general information. The bhats, kathaks and narasundars provided the people with social and cultural information. However, due to despotic forms of government and impossibility of reporting objectively, the proto-journalism of Mughal Bengal could never grow into journalism in its proper sense.

- **HISTORY OF PRINT MEDIA IN INDIA:**

  From 1774 to 1922 Calcutta was the Capital of India. It was from Calcutta that the first newspaper was published from India. It was a Britisher who started the first newspaper in our country. On January 29, 1780 James Augustus Hickey launched the “Bengal Gazette”. It has another title “Calcutta Advertiser”. It was popularly known as “Hickey’s Gazette”. The first issue of the paper had two pages and later it was increased to four pages. Its size was 35 cms x 24 cms. The British East India Company did
not consider freedom of the press as good for society. They tried to suppress publication of newspapers.

Hickey was a very bold editor. He continued his criticism of British authorities’. He published reports attacking the East India Company officials. The British authorities arrested Hickey many times. Finally, they confiscated his paper and press in 1782 and stopped its publication. Hickey was asked to leave the country. He was sent back to England. Copies of the Bengal Gazette are still kept in the National Library in Kolkata and the British Museum in London (Muniruddin, 2005).

Following in Hickey’s footsteps in 1780, the second newspaper was launched from Calcutta “The Indian Gazette”. The “Calcutta Gazette” which started publication in 1784 and the “Bengal Journal” which was launched in 1785 were the third and fourth newspapers to come out from Calcutta. All these four earlier papers were published in the English language. Slowly newspapers started coming out from other parts of the country also. The “Madras Courier” (1785) and “Madras Gazette” (1795) were started from Madras. From Mumbai, the “Mumbai Herald” was launched in 1789.

Thereafter a number of periodicals followed. ‘Bombay Herald’, in 1791 in Bombay, Madras Courier in Madras. In the beginning most of these newspaper stalwarts were British. One particular name among them stands apart from the others. It was James Buckingham, who was the real champion of the freedom of press. He came as an editor of ‘Calcutta Chronicle.’ He gave local reports and newsletters and brought in, the native colour in Indian Journalism. Because of his principled views, he was deported to London. The press regulations and censorship imposed by the British stood in the way of starting more newspapers in India. In 1818, Lord Hastings removed the strict censorship measures for a milder set of policies.
This led to the emergence of many new newspapers, including many in Indian languages.

The first Indian journalist was Gangadhar Bhattacharya of another ‘Bengal Gazette’ of 1816. But the force behind him was Raja Ram Mohan Roy. He started Bengali Weekly ‘Sambad Kaumudi (moon of intelligence) in 1821 at Calcutta. He also established a Persian newspaper Mirut-ul-Akhbar (mirror of news) in 1822 but shut in 1823 as a protest against press regulations. Roy’s journals were short lived but his attacks were so vehement that the Government had to impose restrictions on the press by Vernacular Press Act of 1878. He later turned to social reforms movements in which he was supported by the British government. The first Marathi periodical was launched by Balshastri Jambekar, title ‘Darpan’. Maharashtra produced a number of journalists like ‘Lokhitwadi’, ‘Chiplunkar’, ‘M.G. Ranade’, ‘Lokamanya Tilak’, ‘G.G. Agarkar’, etc. they devoted themselves to the cause of social reform. Dadabhai Naoroji, the veteran leader was a force behind ‘Stri Bodh’.

Lokamanya Tilak’s ‘Kesari’ in Marathi and ‘Maratha’ in English were widely read. His editorials were in the simplest of language and they literally turned the lives of people to nationalistic spirit. It became the voice of the people, an organ of National Movement.

‘Amrit Bazar Patrika’, started by Gosh brothers in Calcutta in 1860, often evoked the wrath of the government with a zeal that is unmatched in history, Gosh brothers continued the publication. They were jailed and sentenced with heavy fines. The issues were confiscated and burnt down but they never gave up. The Indian press has played a very important role in the Indian National Movement. It was Mahatma Gandhi, who dominated the Indian political score for a good number of years. He published ‘Indian Opinion’ when he was in South Africa (1904). After coming to India he
conducted ‘Navjeevan’ in Gujarati, ‘Young India’ in English and also ‘Harijan’ in English.

He was a journalist who touched all the subjects from philosophy, economics, politics, literature and sociology.

Jawaharlal Nehru wrote for the ‘National Herald’. His father Motilal Nehru had been running a newspaper titled ‘Independent’, Lala Lajpat Rai was the force behind ‘Punjabee’. Aurobindo Ghosh edited ‘Vande Matram’ and Dr. Annie Besant was editing ‘New India’. It is impossible to name all the newspapers that were started and run by the leaders of the Indian Freedom Struggle. But in brief it can be said that the press of India was brave and fearless and although the British tried their best to suppress the voice of the press by imposing restriction, fining and jailing journalists, the fight was kept on. The press tried to awaken the people. The political, social and economic realities were put before the people with courage unmatched in the history of the world.

1.3 ROLE OF JOURNALISM:

Journalism is a world of existing, demanding, tiring, exhilarating and ultimately fulfilling to many people. Journalism is that part of social activity which is considered with the dissemination of news and views about the society. Journalism is one of those few professions that have no formal controls over it. It is the field concerned with producing news reports and editorials through various forms of media including newspapers, magazines, radio and television, and the Internet.

Those who practice journalism are known as ‘Journalists.’ They are the writers editors or photographers; broadcast presenters or producers who serve as the chief purveyors of information and opinion of contemporary
mass society. They might work at newspapers, magazines, and websites or for TV or radio stations. "News is what the consensus of journalists determines it to be."

In earlier days, this did not need formal education and training and there are no licensing procedures. But today as it is a highly competitive field it requires extraordinary energy and intellectual accomplishment under the constant pressure of daily deadlines. Journalists meet many challenges in gathering, processing and distributing the news. Journalists have to perform in pressure-packaged environments. They have to meet many challenges in gathering, processing and distributing the news.

1.3.1. Role and responsibilities of a journalist:

The main duty of a journalist is to act as an interpreter of the world round. The journalist observes the events, transmits facts about the event and act as an interpreter of these events and happenings. A journalist performs the following roles:

1. Make people aware of the contemporary world.
2. Inform and educate the audience.
3. Promote art and culture.
4. Entertain the mass.
5. Help people in decision making.
6. Make people sensitive to burning issues.
7. Instill good moral values.
8. Make people aware of their rights.
1.3.2. Meaning and Definitions of Journalism:

Journalism is basically the process of gathering, writing, editing and dissemination of news and views. The word ‘JOURNALISM’, ‘JOURNALIST’ and ‘JOURNAL’ have their origin in a French derivation “du Jour” which in turn comes from the Latin term “Diurnal” or “Daily”, which means of the day. Therefore journalism means providing the latest information to the public.

Journalism can be defined as the profession of gathering, editing, and publishing news reports and related articles for newspapers, magazines, television or radio. Journalism is a form of writing that tells people about things that really happened, but that they might not have known about already.

- Principles of Journalism:

The central purpose of journalism is to provide citizens with accurate and reliable information they need to function in a free society. This purpose also involves other requirements such as being entertaining, serving as watchdog and offering voice to the voiceless. Journalism has developed nine core ideals to meet the task. They are listed below:

1. Journalism's first obligation is to the truth
2. Its first loyalty is to citizens
3. Its essence is a discipline of verification
4. Its practitioners must maintain an independence from those they cover
5. It must serve as an independent monitor of power
6. It must provide a forum for public criticism and compromise
7. It must strive to make the significant interesting and relevant
8. *It must keep the news comprehensive and proportional*

9. *Its practitioners must be allowed to exercise their personal conscience*

### 1.3.3. Scope of Journalism:

Traditionally journalism meant the writing and editing for newspapers and magazines. That is, journalists could be either reporters or sub-editors working for newspapers and magazines. Things have changed a lot. Now, journalism means the preparation and distribution of information for a whole network of communication channels including radio, television and the internet. Because of the vast technological advances in the field of communication in the recent decades, the term journalism has been expanded to accommodate a much wider variety of occupations. This is clear from the wide ranging programmes the various universities and colleges in India and abroad offer in Journalism and Communication. A lot of students are getting attracted to this field nowadays. This is mostly due to the fact that a career in journalism can be challenging as well as highly rewarding. Many Indian colleges offer students with journalism course at the graduate and postgraduate levels. Certification courses are also available. These courses are available in English, Hindi and other Indian languages. The greater the expansion in the field of media technology the greater is the scope for journalism.

Journalism is now part of a major industry producing the printed word, pictures, video and graphics to carry any information and entertainment that people crave for. The scope of journalism can be felt in the fields of Public Relations, Advertising and even in Political Communication. Thus, any area which needs the art and technique of
writing, editing, photography, visual communication, etc. has scope for employment.

- **Journalism as a Profession**

  Journalism is a noble profession since journalists come with a missionary zeal to serve the public. *Rau* (1968) contends that journalism is a profession, with its own technique, its own traditions, and its own sense fellowship, and that, as a profession, it has survived the assaults of commercialization. He quotes the First Royal Commission: “There is still a widespread sense of vocation among pressmen; they feel a call somewhat as sailors feel the call of the sea, journalism is like seamanship; it cannot be without professionalism”.

- **Difference between Journalism and Other Professions:**

  As a profession it is markedly different from other established professions like law, medicine, engineering, management or teaching. While the established professions require some specialised educational qualifications and training to be recruited to them, Journalism does not make any such requirement essential. There is no bar to anyone entering the profession no matter what ones educational background or professional experience is. From the very beginning Journalism (like the other media professions such as Advertising, Public Relations, Film, Television, Theatre, and Publishing) has been and still remains, an open profession. Further, Journalism has no distinct body of knowledge that defines the profession and marks its relationship with its clients (readers, advertisers, advertising agencies, public relations officials’ and others) and other professions (*Rau, 1968*).
• **Professional Evolution of Journalism**

  Contrary to the views stated above, sociologists all over the world feel that although journalism is on the way to professionalization, it has yet to attain the status of a profession.

  **Nevins** (1932) while examining the professionalization of journalism in the United States, Britain and France from 1760 onwards, classified the professional evolution of journalism in these countries into four stages:

  1. Achievement of degree of freedom of speech which is essential to enterprise, dignity and independence;
  2. Emergence of the press from party subservience to a broad appeal to the reading public;
  3. Development of individualistic leadership;
  4. Obliteration of this individualistic leadership.

  It has become more of an impersonal mechanism – more complicated, more departmentalized and more standardized. He contends that great strides have been made since 1900 in developing a specialized education, in bringing into existence professional organizations of a trade union character and in improving both the economic status and the general repute of the profession.

  In the **Encyclopaedia Britannica** (1982) it is mentioned that, during the second quarter of the 20th century, the tradition that anyone could be a journalist first came into conflict with a growing sense of professionalization among workers working for the press. Several important factors influenced this trend: the earlier organization of working pressmen, specialized education for journalism, and an increasing sense of social responsibility on the part of journalists. In India, too, sociologists have
perceived that journalism is on the way to professionalization (Eapen, 1969; Dubey, 1982). Dubey submits that journalism started developing as a free profession during the British administration.

Here, it seems very surprising that Dubey has categorised journalism as free profession in view of the fact that in India most of the journalists are salaried employees and that freelance journalism is not much encouraged (Sharma, R.K.1990).

In the background of these observations there seem to be the various developments in journalism in India, viz.,

- Education in journalism which started much earlier in 1938;
- Organization of occupational associations at the national level, the first being the Indian Federation of Working Journalists in 1950;

**Classification of Journalism**

Broadly Journalism can be divided as:

1. Print Journalism – newspapers and periodicals
2. Broadcast Journalism – radio, television, film, internet, cable, etc.
3. Online Journalism

All the media are listed under the general head “Press” or “Journalism”.

**Print Journalism**

Print journalism can be divided into various categories: newspapers, magazines and books. Professionals of this stream are – staff correspondents, special correspondents, news editors, chief-editors, sub
editors, reporters political commentators, cartoonists, columnists, feature writers, content writers for magazine etc.

A Newspaper is a publication containing news and information and advertising, usually printed on low-cost paper called newsprint. It may be general or special interest, most often published daily or weekly. Since newspapers began as a journal (record of current events), the profession involved in the making of newspapers began to be called journalism.

A Magazine is a periodical publication containing a variety of articles, generally financed by advertising and /or purchase by readers. Magazines are typically published weekly, biweekly, monthly, bimonthly or quarterly with a date on the cover that is in advance of the date it is actually published. They are often printed in colour on coated paper, and are bound with a soft cover.

- **Broadcast or Electronic Journalism:**

  Broadcast journalism is mostly associated with broadcast news where producers, reporters and editors make use of electronic recording devices for gathering and presenting information in telecasts and radio transmissions reaching the public.

  **Radio** has long been used to broadcast news as quickly as possible. It works for broadcasting news and various information through an important medium of mass communication among workers and householders. Radio journalists are well versed with the operations of sound recording equipment, microphones and public address systems. They must also be efficient in digital data recording, operations of the net, audio systems and computers. They gather facts and present them fairly and accurately, but
also find and record relevant and interesting sounds to add to their reports, both interviews with people involved in the story.

**Television** is an audio-visual communication tool. It requires the attention of two senses of the targeted individual - audio and visual. Television journalists rely on visual information to illustrate and characterize their reporting, including on-camera interviews with people involved in the story, shots of the scene where the story took place and graphics usually produced at the station to help frame the story. Hence the TV journalist has not only to give pleasing music, voice, or other audio signals to the targeted audience but also has to mesmerize them with the help of his personality, mannerism, video footage and appropriate colour combinations.

- **On-line Journalism:**
  
  It is defined as the reporting of facts produced and distributed via the internet. The fast and vast growth of the Internet and World Wide Web has spawned the newest medium for journalism, on-line journalism. The speed at which news can be disseminated on the web, and the profound penetration to anyone with a computer and web browser, have greatly increased the quantity and variety of news reports available to the average web user. The bulk of on-line journalism has been the extension of existing print and broadcast media into the web via web versions of their primary products.

Other than the above there are still few types of Journalism:

- Feature Journalism
- Sports Journalism
- Science Journalism
- Investigative Journalism
• **Concept of Fourth Estate:**

   Journalism considered as the *Fourth Estate* indicates the potential of the press. The fourth estate is the public press, referred to as a collective and encompassing photographers, journalist, television broadcasters, and radio announcers, among others. Many people generally agree that the fourth estate has immense political and social power, thanks to the fact that the press can be used to shape societies while imparting news of note and commentary of interest. Because the fourth estate is recognized as such an important body, many nations have laws which protect the rights of the press, ensuring that citizens have access to reporting on matters of interest and of note. Particularly in a democratic society where we notice a growing tendency of the government to increasingly participate in the affairs of the individual citizen. It can construct and destroy, blacken and brighten, quicken and slacken.

   The term ‘fourth estate’ was first used by Macaulay. Writing an essay on Hallam’s Constitutional History, in 1828, he observed: ‘The gallery in which reporters sit has become the fourth estate.’ Burke, Edmund said, *“There were three Estates in Parliament, Royalty, Lords and Commons (Lords spiritual, Lords temporal – House of Lords and House of Commons); but in the reporters’ gallery yonder there sat a Fourth Estate, most important than them all.”* The invention of the term ‘fourth estate’ did was to indicate the importance of the press as ‘distributors of the news of parliamentary debate.’ In the middle of the 19th century, people began referring to the press as a fourth estate, referencing the fact that most parliaments and other houses of government had an area set aside specifically for the use of the press, and pointing out that the press was a distinct group within the larger framework of the realm.
The press plays a very important role in most societies, reporting on a wide variety of topics and creating powerful personalities who are relied upon for sources of information and commentary. Writing about the first estate in 1841, Thomas Carlyle pointed out that the press had a powerful role in parliamentary procedure, shaping the will of the people and influencing the outcome of votes among the government, as well. Carlyle also argued that the press was an important part of a democratic society, saying that writing gives people “a tongue which others will listen to.” Because of the importance of journalism in society, most members of the fourth estate abide by certain professional and personal ethics. Many journalists attempt to cultivate an air of neutrality, focusing on reporting of the issues as they are so that people can judge the facts for themselves, while others focus on offering commentary and analysis from the perspective of a particular position. Journalists are careful as a whole to protect the integrity of the press, protecting sources, verifying information before publication, and using a variety of other techniques to convey a trustworthy appearance to the public, encouraging people to put their faith in the press.

- **Journalism the Watchdog of Society:**

  The press is traditionally bound to serve as the watchdog of the government. This is to protect the rights and privileges of the people. The government by the people will turn autocratic if the press doesn’t act as an adversary and vigilant of the rights of the people. Emergency in India is the best example of the failure of the press in its watchdog function. The role and responsibility of the press in a democratic set up, is quite significant as it strives to safeguard the interest of the people against all obstacles and hindrances to growth and development.
It always challenges those who ignore or violate the interests of the society for their personal benefits. It exposes them of their misdeeds. In democracy it is the great body of the people who govern the country though their representatives elected on the basis of adult franchise.

**NEWS AGENCIES:**

- **International new agencies**

  A news agency, according to UNESCO is “an undertaking of which the principal objective, whatever its legal form, is to gather news and news material of which the sole purpose is to express or present facts, and to distribute this to a group of news enterprises, and in exceptional circumstances to private individuals with a view to providing them with as complete and impartial a news service as possible against payment, and under conditions compatible with business laws and usage”.

**Agency France Press (AFP):**

AFP, founded in 1835, has the maximum representation on its board of directors. Although AFP is described as an unsubsidized autonomous organization, in effect, the French Government and various agencies under its control subscribed to AFP, and provided good support. AFP is regarded as one of the major global news agencies. It has more than 10,000 newspapers and 70 agencies as its subscribers. Its operations are in more than 150 countries with a network of 110 foreign bureaus.

**Associated Press (AP):**

The impetus to provide speedy transmission of news was given by the telegraph invented by Samuel F.B. Morse in 1844. The telegraph enables many small town newspapers in the US to get their news.
The meeting of the leading New York publishers was held in this context in 1848. Although a decision was made to start a news agency, the name AP was not used till about 1860. AP took a concrete form in 1900 as a modern news gathering association. AP with its wide communications network using modern technology has bureaus in more than 100 countries. Its 5000 plus correspondents and a host of stringers cater to about 1300 newspapers, 3400 broadcasters in the US and 1000 private subscribers.

**Reuters:**

The news agency takes its name after its founder Paul Julius Reuter. Around 1850, he set up a carrier pigeon service. Initially his services were confined to commercial information. His first major breakthrough came in 1859, when he sent a dispatch for shadowing a war in Italy. Since then the agency has expanded. Reuter’s supplies news to its media clients such as other news agencies, newspapers, the radio and television stations. Under its present form of ownership Reuters claim that it can ensure that no particular group or faction can have control. Consequently, it hopes to preserve its integrity and freedom from bias.

**Tass- Itar:**

Often it was customary to exclude Tass from the ‘globals’ as the transnational news agencies are called. However, in terms of influence, impact and coverage, Tass was in no way different from the other agencies. Tass began on the foundation of what was known as the Petrograd Telegraph Agency, in 1917. It supplied news through a network of correspondents in all regional and territorial centers. Tass has approximately 20,000 subscribers both domestic and foreign.
The work of Tass was complemented by another information agency, Novosti Press Agency (APN) established in 1961 by the Union of Soviet journalists, the Union of Soviet Writers. Tass and APN merged to form a new Russian information agency called ITAR- Information Telegraph Agency of Russia. Other major agencies are United Press International (UPI) of USA, Deutsche Press Agenteur (DPA) of Germany, Kyodo of Japan and Xinhua of China.

- **Indian News Agencies**

  K.C Roy an Indian journalist during the early years of this century, set up the first Indian news agency called the Press News Bureau (PNB). S. Sadanand established a nationalistic news agency in the 1930’s known as the Free Press Of India (FPI) but could not afford to keep it going for more than a couple of years.

**Press Trust of India (PTI):**

Press Trust of India is a non-profit co-operative among the Indian newspapers. It took over the operations of the Associated Press of India and the Indian operations of Reuters soon after India’s independence on august 27, 1947. It provides news coverage and information of the region in both English and Hindi. India’s largest news agency, Press Trust of India is a non-profit sharing co-operative owned by the country’s newspapers. PTI subscribers include 450 newspapers in India and scores abroad. All major TV/ radio channels in India and several abroad, including BBC in London receive the PTI service. With a staff of over 1300 including 400 journalists, PTI has over 80 bureaus across the country and foreign correspondents in major cities of the world.
United News of India (UNI):

Before long, however, united news of India (UNI), a competitive news agency was set up by Dr. B.C. Roy and sponsored by eight national dailies. Within a decade it could match the services of PTI in the collection and distribution of news. It now has correspondents in over 200 Indian towns and cities and around a hundred bureaus across the nation. The various services it offers to it’s over a thousand subscribers in India (and 30 abroad ), include UNIFIN, a finance and banking service, UNISTOCK, a service for stock exchanges, and UNISCAN a news service fed directly into television sets. Besides, it has a national photo service and supplies computer-designed graphics in ready to use form on economics and other topics. UNI has started a TV wing to provide news features, news clips and documentaries to Doordarshan.

Press Council of India:

In India, the institution of a Press Council functioned from November 1966 to January 1st, 1976, under the Indian Press Council Act 1965. But the emergency regime wound it up. The short lived Janata regime reconstituted it in April 1979 under a new Press Council Act, 1978, as it felt that the liberty of the press needed to be upheld by the press itself. The Press Council of India is a statutory body. It consist of 28 members, headed by a Chairman who is nominated by a committee made up of the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and an elected representative of the council members. Of the 28 members, 13 are nominated in accordance with the procedure prescribed from among working journalists, of whom six are editors of newspapers and the other seven working journalists other than
editors. Six members represent various interests like those of the owners of big, medium and small newspapers, and of news agencies.

Besides there are five MPs nominated by the Speaker of the Lok Sabhas, and two from the Rajya Sabha. Representation is also provided to specialists in law, education, literature, science and culture. This representative body has the power to warn, admonish and censure any editor or journalist who flouts the standards of journalistic ethics or public taste. It has the power of a civil court and can, therefore, summon witnesses, inspect documents and receive evidence. Cases relating to the laws of libel, obscenity and contempt, as also the invasion of privacy can be taken up by it for adjudication. It handles about 500 complaints against newspapers and journalists every year. The Indian Press Council has, besides, not only to help newspapers and news agencies to maintain independence but also to build up principles for maintenance of high standards of the journalistic profession with a stress on public taste, and fostering a due sense of rights and responsibilities of citizenship. It is for the Press Council to keep under review all developments likely to restrict the supply and dissemination of news of public interest, including the question of concentration of ownership of newspaper and news agencies that may affect the freedom of the press.

**Indian Federation of Working Journalists (IFWJ):**

The Indian federation of working journalists (IFWJ) (1950) has its headquarters in New Delhi. It deals with the problems of working journalists. IFWJ promote, safeguard and defend professional interests, welfare and status of working journalists and strive to maintain high standards of professional conduct and integrity. The Working Journalist (monthly) is the organ of IFWJ.
**Indian Newspaper Society (INS):**

The Indian Newspaper Society (INS) New Delhi is an organization of newspapers and periodicals. It is concerned with the business aspects of newspaper industry. The members are not individuals but newspapers. It gives accreditation to advertising agencies, which can place advertisements with member’s publications and become entitled to credit and other facilities. It publishes a monthly journal Indian Press. It maintains close liaison with the government departments and advertising agencies and safeguards member’s interests.

### 1.4 IMPACT OF GLOBALISATION ON JOURNALISM:

The global phenomenon of people’s mobility is indeed, with us, thanks to advances in technology. The “global village” prophecy has become a reality- international schooling, business or trade development, immigration with related problems like those of refugees or displaced persons. And the trend is that people from foreign and alien cultures will be brought closer together at an even more accelerated rate. Within the same cultural boundaries, we see more and more cases of minorities asserting themselves. All these cases have had profound effects on the field of communication.

Globalization impacts journalism in many different ways that we can both imagine and not imagine. Global journalism today accesses instantaneous multimedia communication networks, products and services. However, they also remove journalists’ monopoly on international news, forcing a re-evaluation of who creates, transmits and ultimately owns the news (Knight, Alan: 2001).
According to the Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary, globalization is the development of an increasingly integrated global economy marked especially by free trade, free flow of capital, and the tapping of cheaper foreign labour markets. Global journalism today accesses instantaneous multimedia communication networks, products and services. However, they also remove journalists’ monopoly on international news, forcing a re-evaluation of who creates, transmits and ultimately owns the news (Knight, Alan: 2001).

New forms of communication are reshaping the practice of a once narrow minded craft serving a local, regional or national public. Today, news media use communication technology to gather text, video and images from around the world, with unprecedented speed and varying degrees of editorial control. The same technology allows news media to disseminate this information to audiences scattered around the globe. On the positive side, globalization of news helps demolish national censorship regimes which may have created state-constructed fantasies at odds with local realities. A free international market of ideas allows the participation of more sophisticated information vendors. On the other hand, however, these same more sophisticated media handling techniques act to exclude journalists from directly witnessing the events they are supposed to report on. Through globalization, journalists are becoming increasingly dependent on the internet as a source for their stories. This justifies the growing importance of the interactive internet as a source of information for journalists (reliance on secondary sources) rather than going direct to the source.

The pressures created by live global broadcasting force many to rely on accounts already prepared and sanctioned by the authorities. And the
Internet now allows news sources such as governments to distribute their own material directly to local news outlets.

They bypass foreign correspondents and even international news wholesalers such as a news agencies. Therefore, on the practice of journalism, the internet has encompassed a shift in who creates, distributes and ultimately owns the news. It increasingly shapes the ways of journalists communicate, construct their stories, publish their material and interact with their audiences.

News media now inhabit a radically pluralistic, global community where the impact of their reports can have far-reaching effects -- good or bad. News reports, via satellite or the Internet, reach people around the world and influence the actions of governments, militaries, humanitarian agencies and warring ethnic groups. A responsible global ethic is needed in a world where news media bring together a plurality of different religions, traditions and ethnic groups. One responsibility is to report issues and events in a way that reflects this global plurality of views; to practice a journalism that helps different groups understand each other better. Reports should be accurate, balanced and diverse, as judged from an international perspective. A biased and parochial journalism can wreak havoc in a tightly linked global world. Unless reported properly, biased reports may incite ethnic groups in a region to attack each other. A narrow-minded, patriotic news media can stampede populations into war. Moreover, journalism with a global perspective is needed to help citizens understand the daunting global problems of poverty, environmental degradation, technological inequalities and political instability.

Globalization may overwhelm local perspectives. Research shows that independent local sources are frequently ignored by foreign correspondents seeking to efficiently supply distant editors servicing home
audiences. Even the best-equipped and trained foreign reporters may be hindered by lack of local knowledge or cultural insensitivity.

This is because there is narrower news values powered on a cycle of misinformation. Meanwhile, governments and NGOs exploit these journalists’ weaknesses, avoiding reporters and delivering ‘authorised’ and unquestioned information to news audiences.

1.5 ENTRY OF WOMEN TO JOURNALISM PROFESSION:

Journalism was often stereotyped as a man’s profession, not fit for women. This assumption, however, could not be further from the truth. While men may have founded newspapers and held management positions earlier than women, this is no indication that women were not - and are not – prominent within profession. In fact, women have been working on newspapers alongside men since the beginning of the appearance of broadsides and other circulars, and in the United States at least since the colonial era. Especially during World War II, as men went off to war, women filled in, working every newspaper job from producing the paper to reporting on events and writing editorials.

Women have been involved in journalism since the profession’s beginning. In the colonial era women helped their husbands with the local paper, performing any job that arose. When someone died, women took over the family newspaper to keep the paper running (Mills, Kay 1999). As year passed, and the profession of journalism became more complex, women used family connections to continue working on newspapers. As Marion Marzolf points out, “in 1937 there were at least 3000 women publishers in a field of 12,000 American dailies and weeklies. Often they were wives, widows or daughters of publishing families, but that does not diminish their effectiveness or dedication to journalism”. Marzolf suggests
that for many women this was their only way into the profession. These women paved the way and opened doors for future women journalists (Marzolf, 1977).

Ross, Ishbel (1936) in her book ‘Ladies of the Press’ defines four decades of journalism: the stunt era (1890-1900); the sob era (1900-1910); the suffrage era (1910-1920); and the tabloid era (1920-1930). In the Stunt Era women went undercover to get exclusive stories. The Sob Era refers to the period when women were thought to sympathize with the characters in the article and to write emotional articles about them. As women became more involved in politics and other forms of societal action, the Suffrage Era developed, and women’s issues became serious front-page news. Finally, the Tabloid Era emerged in the roaring 1920s as the nation became more industrialized and cinema and speakeasies dominated the culture creating sensational scandals. Yet, she might have called the 1930s the human interest era and 1940s the wartime era.

1. Writing about Women’s Issues:

A majority of women journalists began by writing about “women’s issues,” or writing from a “woman’s angle.” In discussing the origins of the “women’s angle,” scholars focus on the 1907 Thaw Trial as the beginning of the “sob era” of journalism. The Thaw Trial, in which wealthy Harry Thaw on trial for killing his showgirl wife’s lover, “gave women their first real taste of court work,” as “the emotional and dramatic elements were heavily played. Women “covered sensational crimes with an emotional intensity that brought a tear to the eye.” The term sob sister, in reference to women journalists refer to this idea of evoking emotion through their articles.

Not all women covered trials at the turn of the century; other women journalists wrote about issues pertaining to daily life. Women covered all
social events: “weddings, luncheons, teas, bridge parties, and debutante receptions.”

In a book about opportunities for women in journalism, Genevieve Bourghner considers society writing “the most familiar route to other newspaper positions (that) has been travelled by many star women reporters and special writers.” Deborah Chambers, (Carole Fleming, and Linda Steiner) et.al, in their book “Women and Journalism” state that ‘although women were confined to a restricted area of journalistic reporting, they brought about changes to print and broadcast journalism at least in the sense that they broadened the topics deemed newsworthy.

2. Women’s Impact on Journalism:

The World War I created many opportunities for female journalists. Some women went abroad as foreign correspondents, while other women replaced men at home and made the front page with increasing frequency. The war “gave them experience, assurance, sound technique, and a number of good reporters were developed.” Women gained not only experience, but also credibility writing articles men would normally have written. This was women’s chance to give a voice to the female population. They became not just journalists, but representatives of all women.

First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, whose husband, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, was in office between 1933 and 1945, was a feminist who took advantage of her political position. She worked diligently to create equal opportunities for women, including female reporters. Eleanor Roosevelt helped women journalists by allowing only women into her press conferences, forcing newspaper editors to hire women. Yet, it also left men as the sole journalists covering the President’s press conferences. It was a
double-edged sword, providing women with experience, while also keeping them from being on a level playing field with male reporters.

Nonetheless Eleanor Roosevelt’s openness with reporters and her willingness to speak only to female journalists helped advance the careers of newspaperwomen (Marzolf, 1977).

During the Depression, front-page stories were often human-interest stories (typically written by women) in order to take people’s minds away from their problems. Because of this, hard and soft news began to blur on the front-page. Women used their writing skills to weave their stories into important areas. “From the 1920s through the 1940s, women ‘manned’ city desks, covered political stations, and documented human misery resulting from racism and the Depression.” However, even though women were breaking new grounds obstacles remained. Women were not allowed in the national Press club, they were paid half of what men received, and there were few jobs available to women. While in these eras women worked hard to get to the front page, they left much work to be done by future female reporters. Between 1920 and 1950 California became a destination for many migrant travellers, and it was not long before the state became the home for a variety of professions.

In particular, California became a good place for women to become front-page reporters because of the connection between politics, culture and media. In fact, with Hollywood situated in Southern California, producers and directors turned to the female journalists around them for inspiration. It is easy to see why many popular films in the 1930s and 1940s were based around a young, energetic, female journalist waiting to get her hands-news story. Not only was this a dramatic situation in eras when the majority of filmgoers were women, but also the film industry was located in Los
Angeles, and many of the reporters on the fan magazines who covered Hollywood were women.

In the past women were mostly relegated to the home and their place was the kitchen. Their position and status have been inferior to male members of the society. India is a region of striking socio-economic and cultural diversity with wide variations. Due to the development of patriarchal society women have become weaker section, her functions have been neglected to more procreation and attending to household chores. She has become a target of social and economic exploitation. ‘Invisible hand’, ‘should women count?’, ‘Subordinated half’, neither sustenance nor sustainability’, ‘Half hidden world’, ‘from field to cooking pot ‘, ‘Second sex’ etc. All these peculiar phases are often used to reflect the lack of equality and human rights to women and the freedom to make decisions which affects their lives and results in widening disparities in human capabilities and functioning associated between men and women (Manasa, 2012).

Pandit Nehru remarked: “The greatest revolution in a country is the one that affects the status and living conditions of its women”. Today because of the national need, the change of pattern of society and the desire to contribute towards the general good and their own satisfaction and economic relief women are emerging in various fields of service. The demand for equal status for women with men has been recent origin, so is the employment of women in white-collar occupation. The question arises whether the holding of employment by women has contributed to enhance their status, is it contributed to enhance their status? Whether employment is the sole or even the major factor contributing to this phenomenon? In our opinion the status of working women is higher than that of non-working
women. In this context, Devi (1982) showed that “The women employed in white-collar occupation have a higher status in society that their unemployed counterparts and that employment enable them to engage in many ancillary activities which contribute to further status”. Along with employment other factors also help to increase status and empowerment of women in modern society. The education and social legislation and other factors like age, type of family, place of residence and level of income also have played an important role to enhance the status of working women.

Thus economic necessity, utilizing one’s education, spare time as well the need to supplement the family income are some of the reasons why a woman goes to work. Urbanization, industrialization and modernization have also contributed to broadening the outlook of a woman and encouraging her to come out of the four walls of the house. Though women are becoming educated and are taking up jobs in various sectors, but studies have shown that the majority of husbands wanted their wives to work for financial reasons, they were not prepared to share the household chores. As a result, the working woman overstrains herself in trying to manage both home and workplace.

The traditional jobs carry traditional status, which ascribed to women a lower position than men do. The roles were divided between sexes in such a way that women were given only secondary roles and men retained the real power. A major factor in the declining participation of women in the labour force is limited access to their education. Historically, women have not had equal opportunities for education. Many social reformers in pre-independent India championed the cause of women’s education. Their efforts as well as the statutory measures have not achieved significant success mainly because there existed little consensus on the purpose and type of education for women.
The employment in organized sector requires education. According to Holter (1971), “Increased higher education for women is a royal road which leads to changes in women’s power and self-respect. But higher education alone is not enough for women to gain power.

The economic base for power, of course, has to be there. This was supplied by employment”. In past educational opportunities for women were available to a limited scale. The linking of education with employment and the availability of education for women to secure employment in organized sector is of recent origin. It was only a coming of the industrial jobs that required education for their efficient performance. Though many facilities have come into existence for the expansion of education for women after Independence, the progress of literacy among women is still slow.

Table: 1.1 LITERACY RATE IN INDIA (1951-2011)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>27.16</td>
<td>8.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>40.4</td>
<td>15.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>45.96</td>
<td>21.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>56.38</td>
<td>29.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>64.13</td>
<td>39.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>75.26</td>
<td>53.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>82.14</td>
<td>65.46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Census Reports
One can see women in every profession, working equally and happily with men. A number of careers are now open to women, as teachers, nurses, doctors, public health, inspectors, police officers, Air hostesses, beauticians, bus drivers and conductors, pilots, telephone operators, receptionists, tourist guides, astronauts, etc.

With the advent of education and technology today more number of women are found in all spheres of work. This has provided opportunities for skill-development, training and employment opportunities. More than ever before in history women are using their potential and leaving their mark. They are constantly pushing the boundaries that had limited them, expanding the space that had constricted them, breaching the walls of professions that had kept them out (Akhileshwari, 2014).

More women than ever before are working today in more professions than ever before. More and more number of girls are getting education through schools, colleges, and universities. Women can be seen as doctors, engineers, IT professionals, scientists and researchers, apart from the traditional women–oriented professions like teaching and nursing. Women were given an elevated status in different periods of the country. They were not given an equal status on a par with men. With the appointment of the national committee on the status of women in India in 1972, and the publication of its report in 1975 marked the official attempt in contemporary times to study the status of women in India and recommended changes to improve their position. The report highlighted that despite constitutional guarantees the roles, rights and participation of women in all spheres of life were limited (Ghadially, 1988).

Entry of women into the labour force is one such influence that has effected changes in the status of the women. Inspite of the entry of women
into the labour force, and the women becoming self-reliant, the status of women in terms of being considered an equal partner in the work is not gaining importance in the family and the workplace. For example, women typically receive lower pay than men even when they work in the same sector.

Table -1.2 Distribution of Working Female Population in India 1911-2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percentage of Female Workers to Total Female Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1911</td>
<td>33.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1921</td>
<td>32.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1931</td>
<td>27.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1941</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>23.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>27.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>14.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>19.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>22.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>25.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>25.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: a) Figures of 1941 census are not available.

Source: Census reports

In India, according to the data available the percentage of Female workers to total female population in 1911 they were 33.7 per cent. Thus the percentage of women workers in the total work force declined from 33.7 per cent in 1911 to 25.5 per cent in 2011. The work participation rate in 2011 is
lower than the corresponding figure of 25.6 in 2001. In fact, this declining trend in the proportion of female workers has continued over decades.

**Notable Women in Journalism:**

As journalism became a profession, women were restricted by custom and law from access to journalism occupations, and faced significant discrimination within the profession. Nevertheless, women operated as editors, reporters, sports analyst and journalists even before the 1890s. Like a lamentable amount of professions before (and even some after), for the longest time “Western” journalism only covered the perspectives of white men. But as society progressed, the field slowly opened itself up to women, minorities — and even minority women. While some catching up still needs doing to sweep away the last vestiges of inequality, one must always pause to acknowledge the contributions of those coming before. Far more than 15 females sent boulders flying through the glass ceiling, so take no offense at inclusions or exclusions. Consider it a very quick, very loose primer on some extraordinary contributors to the journalism sphere, allowing future generations amazing personal, professional and educational opportunities.

**Notable women in the Profession were:**

1. **Mary Katherine Goddard:** she was an early American publisher and the first American postmistress. She was the first to print the Declaration of Independence with the names of the signatories. In 1775, Mary Goddard became Postmaster of the Baltimore post office. She also ran a book store and published an almanac. She was a successful postmaster for 14 years.
2. **Sarah Joseph Hale**: she was an American writer and an influential editor. She began her journalism career at age 40, impoverished and mothering 5 children, became the first female magazine editor of a nationally recognized publication, when she moved to Philadelphia in 1837, to became literary editor of Godey's Lady Book, a monthly magazine devoted to morality issues, literature, and fashions. She is the author of nursery rhyme “Mary Had a Little Lamb”. She famously campaigned for the creation of the American holiday known as ‘Thanksgiving’.

3. **Margaret Fuller**: She was a voracious reader and was the first full time American female book reviewer journalist. Her transcendentalist leanings inspired good friend Ralph Waldo Emerson to offer her an editorship position with *The Dial* in 1839. From there, she joined up with *New York Tribune* and secured a lauded literary critic spot, though Fuller also covered the visual and performing arts, social justice and political issues on occasion. Two years after that, the newspaper named her its first female editor because of her column’s great success.

4. **Ida Minerva Tarbell**: an American teacher, author and journalist. She was known as one of the leading “muckrakers’ of her day, work known in modern times in the progressive era as “investigative journalism”. She wrote many notable magazine series and biographies. She is best-known for her 1904 book ‘The History of the Standard Oil Company, which is 654 pages long and was listed as number five in a 1999 list by the New York Times of the top 100
works of twentieth-century American journalism. She began her work on The Standard after her editors at McClure’s Magazine called for a story on one of The Trusts.

5. **Nellie Bly:** Nellie Bly was the pen name of pioneer woman journalist Elizabeth Jane Cochran. She famously endured one of the most courageous, brutal acts of undercover journalism ever. *Ten Days in a Mad-House* chronicled the squalid, abusive plight of the mentally ill interred in asylums — atrocities she witnessed first-hand after faking instability and landing in the women’s facilities on Blackwell’s Island. After publishing her discoveries in 1887, the United States government launched a formal investigation and subsequently called for significant mental healthcare reform. Even beyond that, Bly also reached out to other charitable and social causes, traveling the world and reporting back the politics and culture of all the peoples encountered.

6. **Elizabeth Timothy:** She becomes the first female in the American colonies to assume the role of publisher of a newspaper: the South Carolina Gazette, after her husband, Lewis Timothy, dies. She turned the role over to her son, Peter, in May 1746, and died in April 1757.

7. **Anne Newport Royall:** Royall is considered "The first American newspaper woman" was travel correspondent and Washington editor, didn't begin her newspaper career until she was 51, and at 62, she becomes publisher of the Paul Pry, later renamed "The Huntress." In her career as a reporter and editor, she had a pit bull style, campaigning against graft and corruption within the federal government; and in one story, she exposed a clerk of the House of
Representatives, who was payroll padding and practicing nepotism. Royall became the first female reporter to interview a U.S. president: John Quincy Adams.

8. **Cornelia Walter:** Walter was editor of the Boston Transcript and the considered to be the first woman to edit a major newspaper in the United States. One of her reporting highlights came on August 3, 1842, during a race riot in Philadelphia, in which she chronicled the plight of the black citizens who had been victimized and left homeless.

9. **Jane Gray Swisshelm:** one of the first female journalists on New York Herald Tribune, where she was remembered for being the first woman to sit in the press gallery in Washington D.C. on April 22, 1850, to cover a vote on slavery for the Mexican territory. Swisshelm launched her journalism career in 1842, at age 27, with the Dollar Newspaper and Neal Saturday Gazette, using the pen name Jennie Deans; and later wrote for an abolitionist newspaper in Pittsburgh: the Spirit of Liberty.

10. **Jane Cunningham Croly:** Croly better known as "Jenny June," became the first woman to occupy a desk in a city room of a major newspaper, the New York Tribune. She founded the New York Women's Press Club in 1868 on West 14th Street and served as its first president. During her reporting career, she advocated closer health inspections in stores and restaurants and improved city services of New York residential streets, which were becoming cluttered with garbage. Croly was hailed as one of the first women to teach college level journalism classes during a time when journalism schools were non-existent.
11. Elizabeth Meriwether Gilmer: Gilmer is noted for being the first woman personal advice columnist as "Dorothy Dix Talks," from 1896 to 1951, beginning with the New York Evening Journal, offering advice and personal opinions tinged with humour and sarcasm on a broad range of topics. "Men are a selfish lot" was one of her more popular responses. Her mailbag, according to her obituary, averaged about 2,000 letters a week. By the time of her death in 1951 at age 90, the Bell Syndicate was publishing her column.

12. Dorothy Thompson: Thompson foreign affairs writer for the New York Herald Tribune beginning in 1936 is credited with being the first woman to establish a regular presence on the editorial page when her column: "On the Record" made its debut on March 17, 1936. She reportedly was making over $100,000 in 1938. Prior to World War II, she wrote against the tide of American opinion, when she pushed for the U.S to snap out if its isolationist slumber and intervene in Europe. She wrote that the "National Socialist Revolution in Germany would prove to be the most world disturbing event of the century and perhaps of many centuries." Time Magazine ran a cover story on her on June 12, 1939, and described her and Eleanor Roosevelt as being two of the most influential women in the country.

13. Anne O'Hare McCormick: The first woman in New York Times history to sit on the editorial board is Anne O'Hare McCormick. She begins a column: "Affairs in Europe," later re-named "Abroad." When she died on May 29, 1954, the New York Times blackened the border of the "Abroad Column." McCormick won a Pulitzer Prize in 1937 for foreign correspondence, becoming the first woman in journalism to claim the coveted prize.
14. Judith Crist: Crist is named drama critic of the New York Herald Tribune in 1958, the first woman to hold such a title for a major daily; and in 1960 becomes editor of the Arts. In 1963, her lifelong dream is fulfilled, when she’s name editor film critic. No woman covered World War I, but by World War II, 21 women were assigned to various fronts of the war.

15. Murguerit Higgins: Higgins in 1951 became the first woman to win a Pulitzer Prize for war correspondence for the New York Herald Tribune, when she fought her way to the front lines in Korea despite the objections of General Walton H. Walker, who told her: "This is not the type of war where women ought to be running around the front lines." After protesting, Gen. Douglas MacArthur rescinded the order the next day. Higgins was hired in 1942 at the Herald while still a student at Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, after landing an interview with Chiang kai-shek, who was refusing interviews to all other reporters.

16. Miriam Ottenberg: She became one of the first female police reporters when she joins the Washington Star in 1937; and in 1960, as an investigative reporter, she won a Pulitzer for her series "Buyer Beware" about unscrupulous used-car dealers and finance companies. Her series led to the introduction of federal legislation and the enactment of remedial laws.

18. Marion Carpenter: Thanks to this photojournalist’s passion and drive, one of the industry’s glass ceilings received a nice little breaking. A Minnesota native, Carpenter launched her career with Washington Times-Herald in 1944, and then she joined International News Photo and worked on special assignments involving federal politicians. But her biggest contribution to women in journalism came when she became the first female member of the White House News Photographers Association. This honour bought Carpenter daily interaction with President Harry S. Truman (Lamar, MO), with whom she also travelled, and resulted in some famous portraits.

19. Katie Couric: Broadcast journalist Katie Couric (Arlington, VA), known for her work with NBC and CBS, and paved the way for others in her field when she became the first woman to solo anchor a weekday evening newscast. She began her stint with CBS Evening News in 2006, continuing to participate in specials on a wide variety of subjects. But today’s audiences know Couric for her political commentary and interviews with everyone from Sarah Palin to Shakira, though the majority of her more memorable ones involve current and former heads of state. And, of course, the 15 years she spent co-anchoring The Today Show with Tom Brokaw (Webster, SD).

20. Evelyn Cunningham: Pittsburgh Courier played a pivotal role in the Civil Rights Movement, with Evelyn Cunningham’s sterling, fearless efforts front and center. As both a correspondent and, later, the editor, she tackled social injustices — most especially lynching — the mainstream media never bothered touching. Cunningham (Elizabeth City, NC) also enjoyed the honor of profiling Civil Rights
leaders such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X. Her absolutely amazing accomplishments, which also stretched into a radio career, earned her prestigious positions on several human rights organizations and even a special assistant gig with Nelson Rockefeller.

**21. Dorothy Dix:** Love them, hate them or indifferent them, advice columns eventually became a permanent element of newspaper and magazine journalism. Elizabeth Meriwether Gilmer worked under the pseudonym Dorothy Dix and reached an audience of around 60 million in her prime. *Dorothy Dix Talks* began life in 1896, publishing marriage and homemaking advice on the pages of New Orleans periodical *Daily Picayune*. After *Public Ledger Syndicate* picked it up in 1923, her readership expanded to 273 papers around the world, earning her a swath of dedicated fans and a few book deals — not to mention the honor of being the most widely-read female journalist during the era.

**22. Betty Friedan:** Betty Friedan’s journalism background revolutionized women’s rights from both a rhetorical and professional standpoint. 1963’s *The Feminine Mystique* helped kick off Second Wave Feminism thanks to her painstaking investigative research delving deeply into the disturbing psychological realities of American housewives. Friedan herself had been previously fired from her journalist position at *UE News* for no reason other than pregnancy — an incident that ended up sparking a significant cultural shift. These firebrand actions paved the way for many, many more women than merely those in her industry.

**23. Mary Garber:** For nearly 70 years, heavily decorated Mary Garber enjoyed pre-eminence as the veritable First Lady of sports journalism.
Her career launched in 1940 as *Twin City Sentinel*’s society editor, but snapped up general assignments once World War II started leaving holes in the staff — and it just so happened that sports coverage needed a warm body after a while. After that, Geaber’s knowledge, passion and tenacity earned her a litany of awards, honors and critical acclaim. Most importantly of all, though, such a success challenged preconceived notions of women and journalism.

24. Ayala Hasson-Nesher: This news correspondent with IBA is considered one of Israel’s foremost political commentators, earning the very first Queen of the Desert Award celebrating female empowerment. Ayala Hasson-Nesher’s career unearthed some incredibly shattering conspiracies, most notably the Bar-On-Hebron controversy of 1997. Today, she hosts the news magazine show *Yoman* on weekends and continues to cover the hard-hitting political stories garnering her initial renown. In addition to being seen on IBA, Israeli citizens can hear her “Hakol Diburim” radio program on its Kol Yisrael station.

25. Nancy Hicks Maynard: The Maynard Institute of Journalism Education leaves a wonderful legacy for its stunning, groundbreaking co-founder. Nancy Hicks Maynard paved the way for women and minority journalists alike when she became the first African-American, female reporter with *The New York Times*, working on education, science and healthcare stories. After that, she served as president of the MIJE, which she co-founded with husband Robert C. Maynard. Together, they also purchased the struggling newspaper *Oakland Tribune* — thus making it the very first entirely African-American owned and operated daily in a major metropolitan area.
26. **Ethel L. Payne:** In 1972, Ethel L. Payne made history when CBS made her the very first African-American female commentator at a major news organization. Her blend of journalism and activism during the Civil Rights Era garnered the nickname “First Lady of the Black Press,” and she started out covering the lives of black soldiers stationed in Japan. While working for the *Chicago Defender*, Payne stood at the forefront of racial equality, with stories about the 1963 March on Washington, the Montgomery Bus Boycott, desegregation of Alabama’s University of Alabama and plenty more. She even famously interviewed President Dwight D. Eisenhower and asked him point blank about the desegregation of interstate transportation.

27. **Pearl Stewart:** *Oakland Tribune* once again played an integral role in equitable journalism when it hired Pearl Stewart for its editor position. Though it only lasted seven months from 1992 to 1992, she still became the very first African-American woman to edit a major city’s newspaper. Over a decade after departing to make room for original chair holder David Burgin, Stewart took up editing for *Chicago Defender*, although she ended up resigning two months after. Most of her legacy goes largely unsung, however, as she served in several roles at Florida A&M’s School of Journalism and Graphic Communication.

28. **Barbara Walters:** These days, most think of Barbara Walters as a celebrity first, journalist second, with many completely unaware of her earlier gender breakthroughs. In 1974, NBC named her the first female anchor on a major network’s evening news. Walters co-anchored *The Today Show* and, in doing so, opened up the floodgates for other women journalists wanting a spot on local and national programming. It probably comes as no shock to anyone, but she
encountered considerable sexism from the men with whom she shared desk and studio space — and boy howdy will she remind everyone at any given opportunity.

29. Oprah Winfrey: Oprah Winfrey, regardless of opinion, undoubtedly shapes a not-insignificant segment of pop culture with her juggernaut media empire. The very definition of a self-made billionaire, her traumatized, impoverished childhood ended when she landed a position anchoring the local news at age 19. From there, she climbed her way up the professional hierarchy — no easy feat for a minority woman — and completely revolutionized the daytime talk show format into something viable and (to tens of millions of viewers) relevant. Today, her worldwide acclaim and personal and financial successes inspire many female journalists hoping for even a molecule of what she’s earned.

1.6 Rationale of the Study:

As many studies have been conducted on various factors of profession it is essential to look in to the women dimensions of working class. With the impact of education changing, ever growing opportunities are increased. The previous studies lack the sociological importance. But the present study tires to explore the changing status of women in the journalism field. It tries to analyse the problems encountered by women journalists, the working conditions, and the job satisfaction level of the journalists. Many women who choose the male-dominated areas soon change in favour of more female dominated or gender-balanced career paths. An understanding of women’s experiences may facilitate strategies geared towards this motivation and retention in male-dominated occupation.