PREFACE

Due to journalism being perceived as a ‘man’s’ occupation for several decades, since its onset, women journalists face difficulties in the profession. The underlying theme of this thesis is divided into the role and problems of women journalists in the two countries of research, India and Thailand respectively, including how women’s news are perceived by mass media in general.

The term ‘Women in Journalism’ refers to a dynamic role of women journalists as reporters, sub-editors, correspondents, translators, rewriters and editors etc. The term includes problems of women journalists in relation to male staff, and so on. According to the thesis, problems of women journalists comprise of family and social background, nature of job, conditions of work, recruitment, sexual division of labour, promotion, remuneration, unhealthy attitude of male colleagues, the overlook of ‘serious’ women’s issues, the misportrayal of women in media, the disadvantage of being a woman and married woman in particular, sexual harassment, etc. In brief, the study is based on holistic approach. The objective of the thesis is to handle both the role and problems of women in journalism i.e. as a journalist in both India and Thailand from the arrival of print media in each country until the present.

From a historical viewpoint, one will find that, in both countries mentioned at the onset of the profession, few women were involved. Both societies deemed that ‘a woman’s place is in the home’. Available documents in both countries often revealed that the pioneer women journalists, though they belonged to the progressive family of the upper middle class, in which education was endowed to female member, they are still expected to be just a perfect housewife, mother and daughter. Journalism for the pioneer women journalists, therefore, was perceived by them merely as the relax activity, which they could fill the time in the ‘empty afternoon’. The aforesaid facts proved to be true, especially in India.

The turning point for India women journalists began with their role during the Satyagraha movement (civil, eventually led to the increasing number of women disobedience) led by Gandhi. The movement demanded women’s participation in politics. However, journalism for women in this particular time was described rather as
leisure than profession. The Indian women started taking up journalism as a career, only when India could liberate themselves from the yoke of the British.

The turning point for women journalists in Thailand was the period of King Rama VI, a poet and a journalist King. Women expanded their role in journalism in the following decades after the absolute monarchy was overthrown. In brief, it was democracy that brought social change to Thailand on a large scale. This change ultimately influenced Thai women to take up journalism as a career.

To be precise, women in both countries gradually appeared in the profession since the onset of independent India and democratic Thailand. But their number and their role in the initial time was limited due to the traditional roles they had to perform. However, with the socio-economic and political change, recently, women in both countries began to appear in newspaper organizations in great number. Further, the scope of their work in journalism is no longer confined with ‘Feminine’ role as in the past.

The thesis covers aspects in considerable details and chronicles both in the history of journalism in each country generally and the advent of women therein. The prevalent data, which enables us to understand the broad picture of the role and problems of women journalists in both countries are divided by chapter. The contents of the thesis are as follows:

**Introduction:** The introduction includes the preview, methodology, theoretical framework and a brief review of literature.

**Chapter I:** Profile of India and Thailand. This chapter focuses on geography, history, socio-cultural data and so on of both countries in order to provide broad background to the reader.

**Chapter II:** Background of women writing in relevance with Indian journalism in pre-independent India. This chapter renders the readers, details of the emergence of pioneer women journalists in India. It also introduces the social, cultural and family background of women writers and journalists in pre-independent India.

**Chapter III:** The role and problems of women journalists in pre-independent India. This chapter examines the role and problems of pioneer women journalists in pre-independent India and their background.
Chapter IV: The role and problems of women journalists in contemporary India. This chapter takes the topic of women journalists since the dawn of independent India until the present day, and covers the issues by phase.

Chapter V: Problems of women journalists in contemporary India: A study based on interview and questionnaire survey. In this chapter, the result of interviews and questionnaire survey including data analysis is released for consideration.

Chapter VI: The role and problems of women journalists in pre-democratic Thailand: A study based on background of women writing in relevance with Thai journalism. In this chapter, the role and problems of pioneer women journalists in Thailand during the monarchy rule is elaborated. Although Thailand was never really under British governance, she had to struggle in becoming democratic country. It was in this context that gave rise to the emergence of pioneer women journalists.

Chapter VII: The role and problems of women journalists in contemporary Thailand. This chapter continues the topic of women journalists in Thailand from democratic inception until the present. The issues are covered by phase.

Chapter VIII: The role and problems of women journalists in contemporary Thailand: A study based on interview and questionnaire survey. This chapter handles the result of interviews and questionnaire survey including data analysis on concerned subject.

Chapter IX: Problems of women journalists: A comparative study between India and Thailand. This chapter attempts to demonstrate the lives and work of both Indian and Thai women journalists and draw their similarities as well as differences.

Conclusion: The interpretation of data including summary of all research is contained in this chapter.