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Patriarchy gets more challenging when it accepts a woman’s all decisions without any questions. Because here a woman needs to be more independent and answerable to define and redefine her approach towards changing forms of patriarchy in every changing situation. Patriarchy is a power which keeps oscillating but gets never constant. Thus such work on women by a woman and for women needs to be continued for all those who have been in institutions of marriage, family and challenge despite being chained in the social hierarchy.

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Understanding Women Journalists’ Experiences of Working in Hindi Print Journalism in Cities of Madhya Pradesh

Abstract

This thesis examines the lived experiences of women journalists in four cities of Madhya Pradesh: Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur and Gwalior. This research attempts to understand gendered hierarchies existing in Hindi print journalism and its workplace. It also discusses how women journalists negotiate with these hierarchies and power relations in the male-dominated profession of journalism.

This study employs feminist research methodology using in-depth interviews of women journalists working in Hindi print journalism in these four cities as it seeks to unravel multiple intersecting spatial-social realities embedded in city spaces. Also, this study attempts to understand women journalists’ journey from personal to professional fronts examining different realities in relation to the profession.

This work addresses the following objectives about women journalists in Hindi print journalism focusing on four cities of Madhya Pradesh.

- To document lived experiences of women journalists of Hindi print journalism in four cities Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur and Gwalior of Madhya Pradesh.
- To understand how women negotiate existing hierarchies and power relations at workplace and to examine these gendered hierarchies in these four cities in Hindi print Journalism.

The thesis is located in four cities of Madhya Pradesh and it engages with the lived realities of these being part of urban spaces in the Hindi heartland and women’s negotiations with the cities in which they live. It reflects on the women journalists’ choice of journalism as a career and engages with the gendered caste hierarchies in the profession as well as the language divide between English and Hindi journalism. It also examines the hierarchy of ‘beats’ within the profession, women’s location as low-paid labour, and the domination of men journalists in the receiving recognition through awards.
in journalism. Further it examines the female body in the workplace in relation to the lack of infrastructure like separate toilets. Focusing on lived experiences of women journalists, this study analyses how women’s economic empowerment and rights to execute on their choices are often dismissed in capitalist patriarchy and examines women’s negotiations, battles and victories in relation to these. The thesis also reflects on women’s personal life and dual-responsibilities in performing roles in both domestic and professional spaces, addressing the ways in which the institutions of marriage and motherhood impact women journalists’ lives and careers. This research analyses the sexist nature of journalistic workplace acknowledging incidents of sexual harassment at physical and virtual spaces displaying misogyny in the profession.

This thesis contributes to knowledge in the field by examining the lived experiences of women working in Hindi journalism, an area which has not received much study. It reflects on women’s negotiations with patriarchal structures in their lives and in their chosen profession, documenting both their dilemmas and triumphs.