

## Chapter 21

# Mobile Journalism and Dissemination: Use of Smart Phones in Traditional News Reporting

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### **ABSTRACT**

*Communication and dissemination of information forever changed after 1990, and media is changing to adapt or survive the emerging trends in use with new media. Smartphones with touch screens and online connectivity are more prevalent than computers in the digital age. Emerging new technologies have changed the journalism and styles of news presentation and dissemination as smartphones changed their audience. Mobile journalism is a journalistic practice in which a reporter uses a smartphone for reporting, recording, editing, and even uploading content on media port or air. The researcher is studying how journalists adapt the culture of mobile journalism in their journalistic tasks and the effects of mobile journalism on their work. It also tries to analyze news organizations' responses toward using mobile phones in journalism instead of traditional equipment and studio setups.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

1990 was a landmark year as the inventions of the world wide web, the internet, and then social media changed the communication and dissemination of information forever. After 1990, media is changing to adapt or survive the emerging trends in media use with new media. Smartphones with touch screens and online connectivity are more prevalent than computers in the digital age (Marler, 2018). The low rates for internet facilities in smartphones initially changed the readership patterns in newspapers and, magazines, even books. Countries. The American use of public libraries has changed a lot, as a survey done by Pew Research Centre in 2012 and 2015 concluded that it was 53% in 2012 and 44% in 2015 (Horrigan, 2016). The number of people visiting the libraries was decreasing continually; it was 35%

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## **Mobile Journalism and Dissemination**

in 2016. The reason remained for using library websites and mobile apps (Horrigan, 2016). Emerging new technologies have changed the journalism and styles of news presentation and dissemination as smartphones changed their audience.

News on Radio, Television, and Newspaper is also affected by smartphones. Journalism is studied as print, broadcast, radio, and online or web journalism. New terms such as video journalist (VJ), backpack journalism, and mobile journalism are applied to journalistic practices (Cameron, 2008). Mobile journalism is a journalistic practice in which a reporter uses a smartphone for reporting, recording, editing, and even uploading content on media port or air. Whatever the media, reporting with smartphones is no new concept anymore; the advanced version of smartphones like Apple has made the phone no less than a computer and equal enough to a still and motion camera. When smartphones provide all the facilities of typing, recording, texting, linking, and editing, it is as good as working in a newsroom. The footage and phone recordings of the 9/11 terrorist attacks in the USA and footage of the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian war got the fastest and maximum viewership, establishing the impact of mobile journalism.

2015 was perhaps the worst year for print media before the lockdown shock in 2020, as it showed a 7% fall in readership, which was the greatest decline after the 2010 recession period; in this time, advertising revenue also showed an 8% decline in print media and digital media too (Barthel, 2016). In 2016, Pew research center conducted a survey and found that most of the citizens in America use digital media for news, and print media is showing a further downfall in readership. Digital audiences expanded and moved beyond news websites and moved to social media, mobile apps, podcasting, and email newspapers, giving more control to the hands of tech companies like Apple, Facebook, etc. (Barthel, 2016). The data from various research organizations confirmed that the population is turning to digital sources for the news. The momentum is driven by mobile users, with other digital media like Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, and e-news websites (Barthel, 2016).

Journalists are working on the frontline to deliver news in these tough times; while looking at 2020 and 2021, we will also study the effects of mobile phones as journalists used them during covid pandemic reporting. To see the effectiveness of MOJO in their daily tasks.

## **Forecast Number of Mobile Users Worldwide 2019-2023 (In Billion)**

In 2013 there were 6.8 billion mobile users, 96% of the world's population. Out of these, 2.1 were using the internet on mobile phones, using it for research, news, shopping, music and entertainment viewing, navigation, placing food orders and searching the option for all kinds of services, and for keeping personal socializing and interactions (Mak, Nickerson, and Sim, 2015). The author identified the importance of using mobile phones in affecting customer attitudes toward location-based services and how developing new strategies to include mobile promotion and service information dissemination brought great results in this concerned industry (Mak, Nickerson, and Sim, 2015). Mobile news and cross-media news consumption are showing record rising and simultaneously decreasing the readership of newspapers. Mobile journalism is providing new opportunities for news media, and surely it is regularly transforming (Fardigh, 2014).

Keeping the proximity factor in focus and getting all smaller to bigger news from all areas, the use of the mobile phone in locative news was an obvious step taken by many news organization as the number of smartphone users were increasing, the stats were showing the world is glued to smartphones for news, forced media to find new formats and writing skills suitable to digital media, the need was to invent the right strategies to write content specifically for mobile as a medium (Vaage, 2016). A mobile phone

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