RAPE STORIES IN PAKISTAN
THE FLAWS IN THE TV COVERAGE: REASONS AND SOLUTIONS

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Chapter 1: Introduction

In 2013, a five-year-old girl was raped in the second largest city of Pakistan – an incident that gave me chills. It was not the first incident of a child rape that I heard of but first since my nieces came into my life. I am more sensitive now than I was ever before and it’s not easy because now I can feel how parents and family members of those girls feel who become victims of this horrific crime.

But the irony is that they are not raped just once, once they are raped, the media rapes them multiple times. In Pakistan due to the lack of journalism ethics, male-dominated society and also the male-dominated newsrooms and lack of proper journalism training, there are a lot loopholes in how rape cases are covered – by any media, print or TV.

While covering the abovementioned case, Pakistani journalists, especially TV reporters, crossed all ethical boundaries just to win the rat race of target rating points (TRP). They not only showed the little child’s face on TV and disclosed her name, but also interviewed her father.

According to the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, a woman is raped every two hours in Pakistan and an incident of gang rape occurs every eight days. Many such cases remain unreported and one of the major reason victims don’t stand up against this crime is that the media instead of helping them victimize them – sometimes intentionally, sometimes unintentionally.

I chose this project because I believe that in the Pakistani media, this issue needs to be addressed and journalists should be aware of the flaws in their coverage of rape cases.
During my internship at the International Center for Journalists (ICFJ), I got in touch with a lot of incredible journalists who gave me amazing insights on this issue and because of their help, I was able to complete this project.

During my time at Mizzou, I took Professor Sandra Davidson’s communication law class and I learned that laws don’t protect a rape victim’s dignity in many cases, it’s basically a matter of ethics. If we won’t unplug ourselves from humanity, we won’t need any law. Laws are implemented where ethics fail. Most of the journalists I talked to while working on this project agreed on this. They too believe that ethics are more important than any law and while the knowledge of media law is important for journalists, importance of ethics can never be ignored.

My eventual goal is to work for a media training organization. My professional placement at the International for Journalists (ICFJ) provided me this opportunity to learn how international journalism training programs are managed. ICFJ runs multiple programs to train journalists across the globe and these projects address various issues from media technology, reporting, editing to media ethics. My project being in line with the mission of ICFJ, helped me not only learn about media training practices at a non-profit organization but also the tricks of the trade. Because working for a journalism training non-profit organization not only requires you to have journalism background, it needs whole lot of other skills as well such as public relations skills, building and managing relationships with newsrooms and other non-profits, and managing finances.

I’m fortunate to have a journalism degree from Mizzou but because of my professional placement at ICFJ, I got to learn a variety of other things that are definitely going to be very useful in my future.
Chapter 2: Weekly Reports

This section consists of 24 weekly reports sent to my committee members during the course of my professional placement at the International Center for Journalists.

**June 5, 2016**

This is my first weekly report but as I have been working at the International Center for Journalists (ICFJ) from May 17, I’ll sum up my experiences of more than two weeks in this single report.

The International Center for Journalists is a not-for-profit organization that trains journalists from all across the globe. It’s funded by the State Department but some private donors are also involved. They have a variety of programs and some of them are about bringing journalists from different parts of the world to the U.S. and placing them in American newsrooms for a certain amount of time. However, the Center also conducts workshops in different countries and they also have a variety of online training programs.

**Internship duties**

Because of my journalism background in Pakistan, they have assigned me to work closely with their Pakistani team. But my job title is program intern and therefore, I’m not limited to just Pakistan-related programs, I’m actively involved in their other programs as well.

A few days at the beginning were all about orientation and training regarding the basic operations at ICFJ. They have various departments such as communications, finance, development, new initiatives, etc. I will be directly or indirectly involved with each and every department. For example, the communication department is responsible for promoting ICFJ’s activities through social media and the new initiatives department is
responsible for researching donors and writing proposals for fund-raising. And being a program intern, I’m also involved in promoting their activities and also researching funders.

My supervisor is Elisa Tinsley. She is the Deputy Vice President of Programs. I presented to her a few ideas for fund-raising for journalism training programs in Pakistan and she briefed me about the flaws in my research strategy. She will continue training me about this because besides journalism training programs, I want to get involved in their fund-raising campaigns as well.

Last week, we hosted a group of broadcast journalists from Central Asia. They had a three-day orientation sessions in Washington D.C., that included a few lectures at ICFJ office and some visits to D.C.-based organizations such as WJLA -- ABC affiliated local TV station, Voice of America’s Uzbek service, State Department and the Kazakhstan embassy. I was responsible to shoot the entire orientation program. I captured a bunch of photos and had audio recordings from the lectures. I have already transferred my photos to ICFJ’s communication department to promote the program on social media. Next week, I’ll also create a slide show of these photos that they might use on their website.

The Central Asian fellows will begin working at different TV stations from next week and then after three weeks, they will have a debriefing session in New York. I won’t be there. So far, my work does not include traveling.

**Project-related work**

The Center also has a website called IJNET that includes articles/blogs about media in different countries. For my communication law class with Professor Sandra
Davidson last semester, I wrote a paper about how the Indian media commercialized the 2012 Delhi Bus gang rape case and what the law says about such practices. I converted that academic paper into an opinion piece and submitted it to IJNET. It’s yet to be published. (I’m sending my term paper as well as my article with this email.)

**Research component**

For the research part of my project, last week I contacted 10 people including Pakistani journalists and U.S.-based journalism trainers. Six of them have agreed for an interview. They will be available on different dates in June and early July. I will conduct these interviews via Skype and record them because I’m planning to use these interviews in my online training program. I still have to find two more interviewees. Those who have accepted my interview request include:

**Tasneem Ahmer**, Head of the Uks Research Centre -- a media advocacy and monitoring organization in Islamabad, Pakistan.

**Faiz Rehman**, senior broadcast journalist and the chief of VOA News Urdu Service in Washington D.C.

**Zehra Abid**, freelance journalist and the editorial consultant for The Express Tribune newspaper in Pakistan.

**Sherry Richardi**, senior writer for the American Journalism Review and expert in international issues. She is a professor emeritus in journalism at the Indiana University.

**Kathleen Culver**, assistant professor and associate director, Center for Journalism Ethics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is also a visiting faculty member for the Poynter Institute for Media Studies.
Kristen Lombardi, an award-winning journalist who has worked for the Center for Public Integrity since 2007. She won the Robert F. Kennedy Award and the Dart Award in 2011, as well as the Sigma Delta Chi Award for Public Service in 2010 for her investigation into campus rape cases for the Center.

I will include detailed bios of all my interviewees in my final report.

Training program

For the second part of my project – the online training program – I contacted the Poynter's News University. Poynter’s production department will help me with the technical aspects of developing an online self-directed course. They will just develop a course shell – as they call it – which I think is a dummy for an online program and I will be required to fill in the content.

I want this course to be less text-heavy and more about graphics and videos.

I have a two-week deadline from now when I will submit the learning objectives of this course to the Poynter's News University. They also want me to wrap up the development phase by September in order to have plenty of time for revision.

June 12, 2016

Internship duties

This week, I created a slideshow of the three-day orientation program of the Central Asian broadcast journalists. The presentation summed up all lectures and group visits to different organizations in Washington D.C.

They were 10 fellows and six of them speak English and are placed for a three-week training program in the U.S. TV/radio newsrooms. The rest of them are non-English speakers. They know Russian though, and are on a study tour with the program
officer and two translators. Together they have been visiting San Francisco, Chicago and New York where they are attending lectures and seminars at different media-related organizations such as the Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma.

This week, I also helped the ICFJ team that has been working with the Indian journalists for the News Corp Media Fellowship. They received more than 100 applications for this program and I helped them filter these applications based on cities and states. Because of my familiarity with India, it was easy for me to filter this information from their online application system. Without any doubt, I found that most applications were from New Delhi and Mumbai but based on Indian states, most applications were from Maharashtra (mainly from Mumbai and Pune cities). In future, I’ll be helping this team for other India programs as well.

Next week a group of Georgian journalists is coming. They will be in Washington D.C. for a three-day orientation program and then will leave for a study tour. I helped the supervisor of this program with arranging the logistics at the best possible price. When the fellows will arrive, I’ll also attend the orientation session and video tape the program that might include interviews with fellows and speakers.

My internship mentor is Johanna Carillo who is the senior program director at ICFJ. She’s been overseeing the Bringing Home the World Fellowship that helps U.S.-based minority journalists cover under-reported international stories. I’ll cover this session as well. She’s been encouraging me to attend as many sessions as possible for this program.

The most tedious task this week was to find attachments for a group of Pakistani broadcast journalists that is coming in August. I was also a fellow (ICFJ fellow and later
Alfred Friendly fellow) but I never realized how difficult it is to pursue news directors/editors to place a fellow. It was more difficult for me because none of the news directors I talked to knows me personally. The Pakistani team at ICFJ provided me with a list of possible host TV newsrooms and I emailed about 30 news directors and made about 40 phone calls and just one news director got back to me and showed his willingness to host a Pakistani fellow. We still have to confirm this agreement.

**Project-related work**

This week I interviewed Tasneem Ahmer and Zehra Abid. Each interview was about 30-minutes. I Skyped both of them and audio-taped both interviews. Ahmer’s background in journalism and intensive work she and her team have been doing at Uks foundation made this interview very enlightening. She gave me very useful information. She also put me in touch with her team members who will provide me with video clips of the coverage of rape stories in Pakistan. I will use these news clips in my online course. Uks is a media monitoring organization and they have monitored a lot of rape stories both from print and electronic media in Pakistan. They will also give me a couple of their project reports to use as a reference in my project analysis.

Ahmer’s assistant also provided me with the contact information of journalism professors in Pakistan. They include Altaf Khan, Professor of Journalism & Mass Communication, University of Peshawar; Dr Shamim Zaidi, Chairperson, Communication and Media Studies, Fatima Jinnah University, Rawalpindi and Dr. M. Zafar Iqbal, Chairman, Department of Media & Communications Studies, International Islamic University, Islamabad.
My second interview with Zehra Abid who is a journalist at the Express Tribune newspaper was not as I expected. She gave me some very good sound bites but she was not very knowledgeable on this issue. But my additional interviews with the abovementioned professors will compensate this.

This week I also scheduled an interview with Faiz Rehman who is the head of the Urdu News Service at VOA. I’ll interview him this coming week. He will also arrange for me the video recording facility and I might use this interview in my online course as well.

I will transcribe all these interviews next week.

I’ll approach rest of my interviewees by next weekend. They have openings in the third and fourth weeks of June.

Last but not least, I’m writing my course objectives now that I’m required to submit to the Poynter’s News University on Wednesday. They will go through these goals and suggest any amendments, if required.

June 19, 2016

Internship duties

The International Center for Journalists (ICFJ) has been conducting a series of workshops in Lahore, Pakistan in collaboration with the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) for a few years. These workshops are designed for newsroom managers in Pakistan and covered a variety of topics including covering business, managing digital technology and media ethics. This week, I was assigned to create a survey for these workshops. The survey will be sent to the participants and their feedback will help ICFJ improve its future programs.
I also helped a team at ICFJ that hosted journalists from Georgia. But I couldn’t attend each and every session of their orientation program as I was working on the abovementioned survey assignment and also had to make follow-up phone calls to find host newsrooms for the upcoming group of Pakistani broadcast journalists.

During the Georgian journalists’ orientation program, the most interesting session was from Professor William Gentile who is a professor at the American University’s journalism school and also an independent journalist and a documentary filmmaker. He briefed the journalists about backpack reporting and showed some of his visual stories. His lecture was sort of a revision for me as we, at Mizzou’s broadcast classes, are given the same training.

This week I also had a brief meeting with the program director who leads the Pakistan project. He made me realize that I’m good at working independently but need to work hard as a team member. He also pointed out that I rush into things and need to slow down. He said that I’m giving results and doing well but I need to work with a relaxed mind. Actually, this is something I’ve been struggling with since childhood. I don’t know if it’s my weak point or my strength that I’m never relaxed. I jump into things and try to achieve results quickly.

Next week on Wednesday, I have to attend a home hospitality dinner at the ICFJ’s vice president’s home. All staff members at ICFJ are invited to welcome the minority journalists who are coming to D.C. next week from all across the U.S. to participate in the Bringing Home the World Fellowship program.
**Project-related work**

I couldn’t schedule or conduct any interviews this week but I talked to the interactive learning producer at the Poynter’s News University and shared with her the following learning objectives of my course.

- This is an online self-directed course.
- The goal of this course is to provide the TV journalists in Pakistan with the ethical guidelines about how to cover rape stories for TV.
- This course is for the early to mid-career TV journalists. They might include reporters, anchors, producers, cameramen and TV script writers/editors.
- Learning begins with identifying the mistakes. So one part of this course will be allocated to the previous coverage of rape stories on Pakistani national news channels and journalists though quizzes/multiple choice questions will find out the flaws in those reports – flaws in terms of visuals shown, selection of interviewees and time/duration of the interviews, choice of words and tone of the reporters/anchors. This will give them an idea what needs to be fixed in their reporting, writing, interviewing and video shooting skills.
- The course will also include good examples of rape stories from the U.S. media.
- The course will also provide experts’ opinion in video/audio forms. I’ve been interviewing experts and will incorporate these interviews in my course. These experts are journalists and journalism trainers in Pakistan and the U.S.
- This course is not about media law regarding the coverage of rape. However, a section about communication law will be included to guide journalists on where and how law prohibits unethical coverage of rape cases.
• At the end of this course, journalists will be able to learn the flaws in their coverage of rape cases and follow ethical guidelines to provide the audience with fair and objective stories.

The interactive learning producer has also created an online course shell for me and asked me to start filling in the content. I’ll start writing the course content from next month. Also, I got a bunch of video and print clips of rape stories from the Uks foundation in Islamabad, Pakistan. The foundation has also shared with me some of its research reports. I’ll use all this stuff in my course.

June 26, 2016

Internship duties

The International Center for Journalists (ICFJ) runs the Peace Corps Fellowship program and this week, the proposal coordinator from the new initiatives department at ICFJ asked me to explore details about the funders they already have on their list for this project. The fellowship is for Middle East journalists.

I extracted every relevant information about the funders for example, the kinds of program they sponsor, deadlines for their various projects, their main people and their contact information.

This August, a group of 18 Pakistani female broadcast journalists is coming for a month-long training program in the United States. This week, I received their bios and I was responsible to edit them all and forward it to my supervisor for the final review. This one is an interesting group with a variety of experiences in broadcast journalism and different educational backgrounds. Some of them are reporters, some are anchors and producers while some are web writers. Not all of them are journalism graduates though.
Most of them are from the Punjab province of Pakistan and work in Urdu language news channels while some of them work in Sindhi language channels as well. Sindhi is the regional language of Sindh, the southeast province in Pakistan.

This week, in order to honor the ICFJ’s president Joyce Barnathan on her 10th anniversary at ICFJ, all staff members were invited for a barbecue party. It was a casual get-together that helped me get to know my colleagues because during normal days we are so busy with our day-to-day responsibilities that we hardly find time to see each other.

There was a hospitality dinner as well this week at Patrick Butler’s house who is the vice president at ICFJ. The dinner was to welcome the minority journalists who were in Washington D.C. for ICFJ’s Bringing Home the World Fellowship program. I couldn’t attend this event because I had registered for the Missouri Reception on Capitol Hill – an event for the Mizzou alumni. But Professor Barbara Cochran extended this invitation to the current Mizzou students as well who were in D.C.

I also attended a breakfast talk at the National Press Club by interim president of the University of Missouri, Michael Middleton. The takeaway from his speech was the message to all people who are being discouraged in the name of race, color or cast.

Middleton said that he’s been trained by his family to become thick-skinned and never to be affected by people’s negative behavior. He said that those who discourage us are ignorant and we, as courageous and wise people, should ignore them and remain focused on our goals.

An important piece of advice, indeed!
**Project-related work**

This week, I started to fill in the content in the course shell that the interactive learning producer at the Poynter’s News University has created for me. I’ve been putting together in the shell, all research reports, news stories of sexual assault cases from Pakistani TV stations and also audio recordings of interviews I’ve been conducting. Later, in collaboration with the producer, I will filter and organize this stuff but I will do this once I am done with interviews.

**July 3, 2016**

This week, I interviewed three more people: Sherry Ricchiardi, Masood Haider and Professor Altaf Khan.

Like I mentioned about Ricchiardi in my previous weekly notes, she is a senior writer for the American Journalism Review. She specializes in international issues and is also a professor emeritus in journalism at Indiana University.

Ricchiardi was busy and was not available for a phone interview so she gave me the answers via email. I will use her quotes in my professional analysis, for sure. Though she specializes in international issues but she didn’t have comprehensive knowledge about sexual assault cases in Pakistan. However, her views about Pakistan’s male-dominated society and need for journalism training in Pakistani newsrooms were very enlightening.

The next interview was with Masood Haider who is a United Nations Correspondent for Dawn Newspaper. He works at the UN Headquarters in New York and I interviewed him on phone. Haider was a good choice for this interview – not only
because of his journalism experience in Pakistan but also because of his liberal views
about women empowerment.

The best interview this week was with Altaf Khan who is a journalism professor
at the University of Peshawar – a leading government-funded university in the capital
city of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a north-western province in Pakistan, which is perceived to
be a hub of terrorists and where journalists are in the most vulnerable state.

My interview with Professor Altaf Khan was all about journalism education in
Pakistan. He gave very detailed insights about the loopholes in the Pakistan’s education
system – not just journalism schools. He also said that journalism schools in Pakistan are
not producing credible journalists and international training programs are not serving the
purpose either; because either journalists don’t take these programs seriously or their
editors/media managers restrict them to practice what they learn from the international
media training programs.

Khan also said that including more women in newsrooms is not the only solution
– although it should be encouraged. He said that it’s also wrong to give women reporters
only women-related beats. He urged the importance of giving women reporters every
beat.

Khan is also involved with the Competence and Trauma Center for Journalists
(CTCJ) at the University of Peshawar, which is working in collaboration with the Dart
Center for Journalism and Trauma.

So far, I have conducted five interviews. According to my proposal, I need to do
three more but I would do as many as possible until I get all the information I need. Next
week I will interview Professor Sandra Davidson.
July 10, 2016

Internship duties

We are still searching host newsrooms for the upcoming Pakistani group of women broadcast journalists. So, this week, I aggressively worked on this task and finalized one attachment with the University of Alabama-affiliated TV station, WVUA.

The station is owned by the board of trustees of the University of Alabama and serves Tuscaloosa, Alabama. It’s a student-run TV station just like KOMU 8, which is affiliated with the University of Missouri in Columbia.

At WVUA, I talked to Elizabeth Brock, Director of the Center for Public Television & Radio at the University of Alabama. She liked the idea of participating in a journalism exchange program and put me in touch with Dr. George Daniels, a member of the university’s journalism faculty, and Steve Diorio, who leads the newsroom of WVUA television station.

My supervisor, Babar Taimoor, who heads the U.S.-Pakistan journalists exchange program scheduled a phone call with them and together they discussed the details and background of the program. Steve Diorio agreed to host one fellow and now we will arrange for the logistics in coming weeks.

During an earlier phone conversation with Dr. George Daniels, he told me that football season is coming and there will be a lot to cover. So, I suggested my supervisor to send a sports reporter there (there’s one in the upcoming group).

Dr. Daniels was also very enthusiastic about participating in an international exchange program. He also showed interest in arranging discussions among the journalism students at the University of Alabama and Pakistani fellows.
I learnt from this experience that university-affiliated TV stations are a good source to start with when it comes to finding placements for international fellows -- universities are either interested in participating international exchange programs or they can direct us to TV stations/news organizations that might be interested because of the journalism schools’ affiliations with media organizations.

This week Professor Barbara Cochran visited ICFJ and we had a joint meeting with Elisa Tinsley and Babar Taimoor. During the meeting, I presented my revised goals for the internship and Elisa volunteered to mentor me. Earlier my mentor was Johanna Carrillo but she is in the office only twice a week so, Ms. Tinsley decided to mentor me because she knows more about my day-to-day activities. The purpose behind presenting my revised goals was to be more focused about what I want to achieve from this internship. Earlier, I had been working on a variety of assignments and my supervisors wanted me to be more focused. And, now they are happy with my new and revised plan for the internship.

Here’s the summary of my revised goals:

Through this internship, I aim to learn:

- How non-profit organizations conduct international media training programs:
  - How do they choose potential countries to select participants/fellows.
  - Public-private partnerships: How partner organizations/schools and funders are explored and approached. For example, I used to think that with India, ICFJ can have a lot more partnerships than it has with Pakistan because India is more diverse and open to working with people from different countries and cultural backgrounds. But Ms. Tinsley told me that
partnering with India was a difficult experience for ICFJ. This goes back to basics, actually, where I need to learn to judge people based on rational thinking than emotional and impulsive way of thinking, which even reflects in my reporting too i.e. I’m biased! I need to be neutral and more practical. The experience of working for a bureaucratic organization can actually teach me this important skill. This would help me with my MA project as well, which requires me to interview people without giving my own judgment.

- Basics of grant writing.
- I also want to learn how orientation and debriefing sessions are planned, how speakers and topics for these sessions are chosen and also how the administrative tasks related to logistics are taken care of.

**Project-related work**

This week, I interviewed Professor Sandra Davidson, who teaches communications law at the Missouri School of Journalism and is an adjunct professor at the University of Missouri School of Law. I decided to interview her to get insights on what law says about covering rape cases.

It was about 30-minute long interview in which Professor Davidson shared a couple of rape cases from the U.S. and explained the implementation of law regarding the coverage of assault cases. She also mentioned that in case of disclosing a rape victim’s identity, law sometimes does not protect the victim’s dignity. Because of the first amendment, law favors journalists. Here comes the role of media ethics. She said that
journalists should consider ethics irrespective of what law says about disclosing a victim’s identity.

After the interview, Professor Davidson sent me an email in which she highlighted a few questions, journalists should consider while covering a rape case:

- Is what we are doing, in essence, sensationalism? If so, that is an ethical problem.
- Are we perhaps revictimizing a person?
- Are we creating a record that is more easily accessible by the public than court records and that thus might remain in the public view in a way that a court record simply does not? In short, are we creating potential harm to a victim that will be more widespread and linger longer than potential harm from information in a court record that is not as easy to access as a newspaper, a broadcast, or social media?

During the interview, I also asked her opinion on the 2015 Missouri Capitol interns sexual harassment case in which Missouri lawmakers suggested a ‘modest dress code’ for interns to avoid such incidents in future. Professor Davidson said that while both men and women – not just women – should dress professionally at workplace, one’s attire has nothing to do with rape because rape is not about sex, it’s about violence!

This week, I also interviewed Kamal Siddiqi who is a former editor of the Express Tribune newspaper in Pakistan. Currently, he’s the director of the Center for Excellence in Journalism (CEJ) in Karachi. The Center for Excellence is affiliated with the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) and is a venture of the International Center for Journalists.
Siddiqi was not available for a phone interview but he answered my questions via email. He also said what Professor Davidson said in her interview that “naming of rape victims or interviewing of the family is not a criminal offence. It is more of a matter of ethics and not law.”

He also pointed out lack of proper training as a major factor behind irresponsible journalism in Pakistan. He said, “Most practitioners of journalism in Pakistan do not have a degree. Very few have any formal training in the profession.”

Regarding the inclusion of more women in a newsroom in order to improve the coverage of rape cases, Siddiqi said, “I agree that when women cover a rape case, there is more sensitivity involved.” But he added, “… the larger challenge is to make sure every reporter -- both man and woman -- is able to cover with sensitivity and consistency.”

Next week, I have scheduled three more interviews. Also, one of my interviewee, Kristen Lombardi from the Center for Public Integrity, has promised me to put me in touch with a few more journalists who are expert in trauma reporting. Hopefully, by the end of this month, I will have at least 12 interviews.

**July 17, 2016**

**Internship duties**

This week, I found another host newsroom for the upcoming group of Pakistani journalists. The newsroom is KMIZ in Columbia, Missouri! I talked to Curtis Hancock, who is the news director at KMIZ. He was happy to participate in an international journalism exchange program. My supervisor emailed him the details of the program and Hancock is happy to host one TV journalist from Pakistan. We still have to figure out logistics and other formalities.
Hancock particularly considered this opportunity when I told him that I’m a Mizzou student and it happened last week too when I requested the University of Alabama to host a fellow. They too were happy to know that a Mizzou student is involved in an exchange program. It’s all about Mizzou legacy -- the brand name ‘Mizzou’ is valued everywhere! I’m lucky to be an MU student!

This week, the communication department at the International Center for Journalists (ICFJ) organized a Canva software-training workshop. The aim was to equip the staff members with basic knowledge of this software so that they can design presentations, posters, invitations and reports using graphics and innovative layouts.

I was assigned to videotape this entire training session. They will upload this video on the organization’s internal website as a tutorial for those who were present in the workshop and want a revision or those who couldn’t attend this workshop and still want to learn to use Canva. I’m still editing this video and will submit it to the communications department for a revision next week.

This week, I also approached Tougaloo College-affiliated WLOO TV and the University of Oklahoma-affiliated station OUTV to place Pakistani fellows. I’m still waiting for their response. I also contacted KQTV in St. Joseph, Missouri and Kens5 TV in San Antonio, Texas. Both TV stations are interested in this program but I’m still waiting for a formal response. Hopefully, they will get back to me next week.

**Project-related work**

This week, I had wonderful conversation with three more people for my research.

- I interviewed Aisha Khalid who is the managing editor at the Voice of America’s Urdu language department;
• Zofeen T. Ibrahim, who is a freelance journalist based in Karachi, Pakistan and writes a lot about women-related issues; and

• Kathleen Bartzen Culver, who is an assistant professor and associate director of the Center for Journalism Ethics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

All three of them had great insights to share based on their background and professional experience. One important point that all of them emphasized on was the lack of training. In order to improve the coverage of rape cases, they urged the importance of not only training the reporters but also editors and media managers.

Khalid said that most of the times it’s not only reporters’ fault if they cross ethical boundaries, it’s their editors’ and news organizations’ responsibility as well.

Ibrahim too believes that international journalism training programs should also focus on training editors and media managers and not just reporters. She also said that better journalism can change a society’s mindset. She said that only men shouldn’t be blamed in rape stories. Women who don’t teach their sons to respect women should also be blamed; they are equally responsible for crimes against women. Ibrahim said that journalists can’t totally eliminate crimes like sexual assaults but at least through objective and unbiased reporting, they can challenge the ill norms of a society.

While Culver said that covering assault cases is more challenging for TV journalists because of the visual aspect, Khalid said that TV journalists have a lot more tools than print journalists and they can use them for the better coverage of sensitive stories such as rape cases.
With these three, I have completed 10 interviews. During next couple of weeks, I will try to have a few more. I’m in touch with some people and hopefully I will wrap up all my interviews by the end of this month.

July 24, 2016

Internship duties

This week, I completed my hat trick by finalizing the third partnership for the US-Pakistan exchange program. After WVUA23 and KMIZ, this week I approached the Indiana University affiliated TV station WTIU in Bloomington. It’s a PBS member TV station and is a sister station to NPR member radio station WFIU (103.7 FM). They happily agreed to host two of our Pakistani fellows.

I talked to Sara Wittmeyer. She is news bureau chief for WFIU and WTIU. Wittmeyer previously served at our very own KBIA and has more than a decade of experience as a news reporter. She was excited to partner with ICFJ when I told her that I’m a Mizzou student!

With this partnership and some from my colleagues’ efforts, we have successfully found the attachments for all our Pakistani fellows. Now we are working on logistics and will have to finalize everything within a week – from their flights and hotels arrangements to their orientation and debriefing agendas. August is going to be very busy for me!

During my last meeting with Professor Barbara Cochran, she suggested me to collect as much physical evidence of my work as possible. And, for that I’m now contributing to The International Journalists’ Network, IJNet. This website keeps journalists up to date on the latest media innovations and expert advice. IJNET is owned
by the International Center for Journalists and is operated in seven languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, Persian, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish.

This week my first blog about the rape coverage in India was published. The blog focused on the infamous 2012 New Delhi Bus Gang Rape case and some unethical practices by the Indian media during the coverage of this case.

The Center for Investigative Journalism in India also cross-posted this story on their website.

Previously, I interviewed Kamal Siddiqi. He is director of the Center for Excellence, an ICFJ’s venture in Karachi, Pakistan. I interviewed him for my project -- about the rape reporting in Pakistan. Siddiqi will visit ICFJ sometime next week for a brown bag meeting with ICFJ staff members and my interview with him will be published on IJNET as part of Siddiqi’s major interview regarding his role at CEJ.

The International Center for Journalists (ICFJ) runs a business journalism training program called The Tsinghua Global Business Journalism Program (GBJ) in collaboration with the Tsinghua University in China. Professor Rick Dunham in China is the co-director of this program and my next interview for IJNET is with him. It will be an email interview and I have already sent him some questions. The interview will be based on the importance of a formal business journalism training for young reporters in China – a country where economy is booming.

**Project-related work**

This week I conducted interviews with some fabulous journalists -- Kristen Lombardi, Mark Memmott and Dick Hubert.
Lombardi is a senior reporter is The Center for Public Integrity; Mark Memmott is NPR's supervising senior editor for ‘standards and practices’ and, Dick Hubert is a retired journalist who currently runs a media company called Videoware Corporation in New York. During his active years in journalism, he was a producer/reporter for ABC Television News. He also founded and was executive producer of the Urban America Unit of Westinghouse Broadcasting Company.

All three of them provided me with valuable sights on the issue of rape coverage. Lombardi was particularly helpful. She not only gave me a comprehensive email interview but also provided me with three useful contacts with whom I’ve scheduled interviews for the next week.

**July 31, 2016**

**Internship duties**

The U.S.-Pakistan Professional Partnership in Journalism is an exchange program in which not only Pakistani journalists are invited to the U.S. to work in print and broadcast newsrooms, American journalists are also taken to Pakistan for a two-week tour.

So far, 17 groups of Pakistani journalists have come to the U.S. (I was in the eighth group in 2013); we are preparing to host the 18th group and three groups of American journalists have visited Pakistan. The last group of the U.S. journalists visited Pakistan in early 2014. I was in Pakistan then and met a few of them in Karachi when they visited the Dawn Media Group.

Now we are selecting the fourth group of American journalists from different newsrooms – print and TV. They will depart in September. The American journalists’
tour to Pakistan is not a typical study tour. They visit major news organizations, historical places and ‘safe’ picnic spots. Until 2014, they were allowed to visit Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad but now due to security reasons, Lahore has been eliminated from this list.

This week, I was assigned to contact all newsrooms that have been hosting Pakistani journalists. They may nominate a journalist and if selected, the journalist will participate in this program. The selection procedure for the American journalists is not rigorous though -- as not many American newsrooms are excited about this program either because of the security reasons or some other prior commitments. We still have to find six journalists to complete this group.

This week, I also worked for the development team. The International Center for Journalists (ICFJ) hosts an annual awards dinner event in which a couple of journalists are awarded for their incredible journalistic work. The event brings media professionals and major donors of ICFJ on one platform and is one of the most important fund-raising campaigns of ICFJ.

I worked on the ICFJ’s database that lists all major guests to be invited this year. Some of them have changed jobs, a few of them are deceased and some of them have relocated. I was assigned to find their current contact information including their mailing addresses. The event will take place in November and I’ll be lucky to attend it for the second time.

I attended it for the first time when I was a fellow in 2013 and my group was the first and the only one so far that had the privilege to attend this event! Though this time I will be attending this awards night as an ICFJ intern and that will be a totally different experience. I will be a host this time, and not a guest!
**Project-related work**

Last week, Kristen Lombardi provided me with the contact information of three awesome journalists: Amy Herdy, Paula Lavigne and Nicole Noren.

**Amy Herdy** has more than two decades of experience of covering crime for both television and print newsrooms.

**Paula Lavigne** is affiliated with ESPN since May 2008 as an investigative reporter for television and online. In 2015, she won the first prize for broadcast investigative reporting from the Education Writers Association for a story about the University of Missouri's handling of a sexual assault case.

**Nicole Noren** is a producer for the ESPN program, *Outside the Lines*. She is a winner of the Edward R. Murrow Award for her work on human trafficking at the 2010 World Cup soccer tournament in South Africa.

I interviewed Paula Lavigne this week via email while Amy Herdy and Nicole Noren will get back to me next week.

Being a TV journalist, Lavigne gave me very useful insights about the challenges of covering a rape case for TV.

Lombardi also advised me to contact Bruce Shapiro. He is executive director of the Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma at the Columbia University, New York. Shapiro too has agreed for an email interview. I emailed him my questions this week. Hopefully, I will have his interview in my mailbox by next week.

My mentor at ICFJ, Elisa Tinsley, gave me the contact information of a BBC journalist, Joanna Jolly. She is the BBC’s South Asia editor based in London and was also recently assigned to the BBC’s Washington bureau as a feature reporter.
Jolly has researched on sexual violence in India so she will be a helpful resource for my project. I have already requested an interview with her. If she agrees, it will be my 18th and the last interview. After that I will start writing my professional analysis and MA report.

I’m also gearing up for the MU Washington D.C. program next month. Professor Barbara Cochran has already sent an introductory email about the program commitments and I’m pretty excited to be a part of it!

August 7, 2016

Internship duties

This week was all about preparing to host Pakistani journalists. I was the main intern for this program and though it has nothing to do with my journalistic background, my natural hospitality skills helped me fulfill my duties. From taking care of the conference room to ordering food based on Pakistanis’ dietary restrictions and keeping track of expenses were included in my responsibilities this week. It was not hectic but fun. Though next week will be crazy busy when fellows will be here. I will be attending all in and outdoor sessions with them.

More details next week …

Project-related work

This week Joanna Jolly agreed to give me an email interview. In her recently published paper, Jolly examined the increased coverage of rape cases in English newspapers in India following the 2012 Delhi gang rape case in New Delhi. I’ll include her paper in my online course.
In her interview, regarding the importance of women in newsrooms, Jolly said, “It’s very difficult to remain free from your own culture. The only way to counteract a dominant patriarchal mindset in a newsroom is to hire lots of women and make sure women are in positions of leadership.”

Besides Jolly, I also interviewed Amy Herdy and Nicole Noren.

Both Herdy and Noren answered a question that most of my interviewees couldn’t. The question was: “Why do men become rapists?”

Even Jolly said, “I’m sorry, I cannot give a qualified answer to this question as I’m not a psychiatrist.”

However, Herdy and Noren gave me great answers:

**Amy Herdy:** “Individuals have their own motivations for inflicting pain on others, but generally speaking, men rape due to issues of power, anger and control. This can begin in childhood if there is abuse and neglect. Additionally, it’s easier to hurt someone if you don’t identify with their humanity, and in many cultures, women are viewed as lesser beings than men.”

**Nicole Noren:** “… how someone evolves into a perpetrator of sexual violence is a result of many influences. Among those being pathological predisposition, parental examples/behavior (i.e. if they don’t establish clear boundaries and teaching of moralistic behavior, or they idealize their child and raise them with a sense of entitlement), misogynistic media in which women are often objectified and dehumanized, suffering abuse as a child (desire to have power and control), etc.”

I also asked a follow-up question: are mother responsible for turning their sons into rapists? Noren said, “The decision to inflict violence is a personal choice. … While
mothers are certainly a significant factor in childhood, they are not responsible for someone's choice to rape.”

It means that parents are not ‘always’ responsible for their kids’ criminal activities but childhood influences matter a lot.

August 14, 2016

Internship duties

It was an overwhelming week!

Taking care of 17 Pakistani female TV journalists who didn’t have any prior experience of travelling abroad was actually a very fruitful experience for me.

We invited some wonderful speakers at ICFJ and also took fellows to the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Newseum and the Center for Islam and Religious Freedom.

At the Wilson Center, three speakers were invited:

• Stephen P. Cohen, Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution
• Michael Kugelman, Senior Program Associate, Wilson Center
• Marvin G. Weinbaum, Scholar-in-Residence, The Middle East Institute

They discussed U.S.-Pakistan relations and also Pakistan-Afghanistan relations.

Fellow asked some very intelligent questions and also asked about Donald Trump’s negative remarks towards Muslims. All speakers agreed that Trump’s careless statements are responsible to tarnish the image of America in the Muslim world.

We also had a session with Sherry Ricchiardi who provided the fellows with tips about cyber security. Henry Schuster, Producer, CBS News’ 60 Minutes was also invited
at ICFJ. Schuster shared his insights about long-form investigative journalism for broadcast.

This weekend, fellows will travel to their host newsrooms and will come back to Washington D.C. after three weeks for debriefing.

**Project-related work**

This week, I planned the content of my online course, which is about reporting rape cases in Pakistan. The course will have five chapters.

1. Ethics vs. law
2. Experts’ opinions on different ethical issues
3. Challenges for TV journalists and how to overcome them
4. Journalism training in Pakistan
5. Resources for journalists

As I already mentioned that I’m working on this course in collaboration with the Poynter’s News University; Vanessa Goodrum, interactive learning producer at the university has given me a deadline of September to finish writing the content of this course so that she can work on it for any revisions.

This week I finished writing the course overview and first two chapters. I will try to wrap this up by next week so that I can focus on the Washington D.C. seminar.

**August 21, 2016**

As Pakistani fellows have left for their media attachment phase, this week is kind of less busy at ICFJ. We are working to prepare debriefing agenda along with some administrative tasks such as saving evaluation forms from the orientation session, maintaining expense report of the orientation program and printing certificates.
In my MA proposal, I planned to do eight interviews but luckily I ended up doing 18 interviews. Thanks to my mentors at ICFJ and some of my interviewees who put me in touch with some amazing journalists!

Based on these interviews, this week I wrote my professional analysis – as is required for graduate students who are on project-track.

So far, this article is more than 4000 words as I got enough material from my interviewees. It still needs a lot of revision that I will keep doing and hopefully my final piece will be ready by the end of September.

Sacrificing my weekends paid off as I kept working on my online course during the weekends and besides overview of this course and instructors’ bios; I have compiled all five chapters as well. The content is based on the interviews I have conducted for my project. If the Poynter’s News University will approve this course, it will go online on their website. Otherwise, it will be in my records for sure.

August 28, 2016

This week I, with my Mizzou friends, started our Washington D.C. program with an orientation session with Professor Barbara Cochran followed by a tour to the National Press Club building. Later, we had a session with Mike McCurry, co-chairman, commission on presidential debates and White House press secretary for President Bill Clinton.

McCurry shared with us some great insights about the issues faced by journalists who cover politics in Washington D.C. and the ways to overcome them.

McCurry also believes that inclusion of religious laws in political decisions can bring a positive change in any society. He believes that every religion – Christianity,
Hinduism, Islam or Judaism – teaches us the lesson of love and humanity. And, by adopting religious principles, we can get rid of the ill practices in politics.

He also highlighted the fact that how White House controls the press. For example, photographs of the president provided to the media are all taken by the internal photographers. And of course, those photos can’t give you the true picture because photographers hired by the White House would always show the president in the best light and that way public won’t be able to see the ‘real president’ or a ‘real human’. A real human can’t always look good!

At ICFJ, this week was not so busy. I just had to do some routine administrative tasks and I utilized my free time working on my project. I’m glad that the online course I’ve been designing in collaboration with the Poynter’s News University is almost complete.

As last week I wrote the course content and showed it to the interactive learning producer at the Poynter’s, she asked me to insert some graphics as well to make the pages look more reader-friendly, attractive and less text heavy.

I used Canva software and created some graphics and inserted in my course. I also used a few videos of the rape stories from Pakistan and embedded them. The last chapter of my course is about resources for journalists in which I embedded some relevant research papers for journalists to read.

At the end of each chapter, I am also required to create a quiz so that those who take that course can do self-assessment. The interactive learning producer has asked me to just compile questions and email her. She will create pages for quizzes on her own
because I don’t have access to that part of the software, the Poynter’s University has given me to work on.

After quizzes, I’ll be done with this and once the Poynter’s people with copyedit my content, this course will serve as the physical evidence of my project work along with a few articles I am writing for IJNET.

**September 4, 2016**

This week was not boring by any means!

We had a wonderful session at ICFJ with the chief digital officer of New York City, Sree Sreenivasan.

Previously, Sree was the chief digital officer at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the chief digital officer of the Columbia University in New York.

During his one-hour session with ICFJers, Sree shared some amazing tips of using social media to increase audience engagement for an organization.

He particularly focused on Twitter and emphasized the importance of following people, groups and organizations that have huge number of followers.

According to Sree the ABC of using social media is:

**Always Be Charging**

**Always Be Connecting**

**Always Be Collecting**

This week -- as I said earlier, was no boring by any means – also saw a big change at ICFJ’s management level. My supervisor Babar Taimoor resigned from his job. He was associated with ICFJ for the last five years and had been overseeing many major projects including the Pakistan-U.S. Exchange program.
His resignation not only caused some disruptions in our on-going plans – that we’ll figure out in coming weeks – it also added to the responsibilities of the senior level people at ICFJ who are not only looking for someone to fill this vacancy but also fulfilling the duties, Babar was responsible for.

Last but not least, the week ended with an amazing visit to the Newseum with Professor Barbara Cochran.

This was my third visit to the Newseum, which -- without any doubt -- is one of the best museums in the world.

Previously, I visited the Newseum during my fellowships but visiting it with my Mizzou colleagues was a refreshing experience. I particularly liked the 9/11 section where front pages of all major newspapers from across the world were on display – with the headlines about the most horrific tragedy of the world.

Next week will be even busier because Pakistani journalists who had been working with different TV stations across the U.S. for the last three weeks are coming back for a debriefing session. We will attend their presentations about their learning experiences and, a series of great speakers and site visits is also lined up for the week.

**September 11, 2016**

This week, we welcomed back the Pakistani fellows who had been working at different TV newsrooms across the U.S. for last three weeks. They gathered in Washington D.C. for a debriefing and shared their feedback about their learning and cultural exchange experiences in the U.S.

I also took them to the U.S. Capitol where they had a very informative conversation with the tour guide.
This was the first time I led such a large group of journalists to a site visit. And, now I feel comfortable doing so in coming weeks as well when we’ll be hosting a number of journalists from all across the world for various other programs including the Election Embed program of ICFJ.

The debriefing sessions included visits to the Voice of America, PeaceTech Lab and Pakistani Embassy; and also some enlightening discussions with great speakers such as Hannah Bloch and Steve Inskeep from the National Public Radio, Jonathan Landay from Reuters and Joanne Levine, former programming producer at Al-Jazeera English.

Levine will also be working at ICFJ as interim program director after Babar Taimoor’s resignation so currently she is my direct supervisor.

This week, I was also assigned to find attachments for the ICFJ’s Election program. It’s a hectic assignment and I only have a few weeks to finalize agreements with the host newsrooms. The program will run from October 30, 2016 to November 8, 2016 and ICFJ is bringing 25 journalists from Russia, Tajikistan, Laos, Tanzania, Kenya, Nigeria, China, South Africa, Angola, Mozambique, Romania, Colombia, Ghana, Cabo Verde, and Panama.

Under the 2016 General Election Embed program, these journalists will be assigned to work alongside their American counterparts in “battleground” states to cover the last days of the presidential elections for their U.S. media hosts and their audiences back home.

Therefore, for the next couple of weeks, I will be busy in finding host newsrooms in the battleground states.
So far, I have contacted the Philadelphia Inquirer newspaper that was my host newsroom when I was an Alfred Friendly fellow. Because of the contacts I built there during my fellowship, I’m hopeful to place at least two journalists there. I’m sure they will learn a lot from my Inquirer colleagues and Pennsylvania, being a battleground state, will provide them with some wonderful opportunities to cover the presidential elections.

**September 18, 2016**

This week started with some good and bad news. Bad news is that for the elections’ attachments, the editor of the Philadelphia Inquirer refused to accept any of our fellows because they will be super busy at the time of elections and won’t be able to mentor the visiting journalists.

I learnt from this experience that it’s part of the game. When you have to place a number of fellows in newsrooms, you should be ready to accept rejections. But the good news is that my Mizzou colleagues didn’t leave me alone! Matt Johnson, former assignment editor at KOMU and current news director at KRCG, accepted to host two of our fellows. We will be in touch with him later next week to brief him about the logistics and program agenda.

I also explored some other resources to find contact information of the newsrooms. We are required to place fellows in swing states that according to Politico are Florida, Michigan, Colorado, Iowa, Ohio, Wisconsin, North Carolina, New Hampshire, Nevada, Pennsylvania and Virginia; so I dug up information from the swing states’ press associations such as Florida Press Association, Wisconsin Press Association, Michigan Press Association, etc.
The websites of these organizations have a list of all newspapers in these states but I had to separately search for the chief editors’ contact information by going through each newspaper’s website. It was a time consuming task but it paid off. I found two more attachments at the Capital Times in Wisconsin.

Though KRCG is in Missouri, which is not in the list of swing states but according to a poll released by the Monmouth University on August 23, 2016, Donald Trump is leading Hillary Clinton by a single percentage point in Missouri. And, I hope our fellows who will be working at KRCG will have an interesting experience during elections.

This week we also hosted a group of eight American journalists from different states. They attended a two-day orientation program in Washington D.C. and left for a two-week study tour to Pakistan where they will visit media houses, government organizations, cultural and historical sites in Karachi and Islamabad with our program officer.

During the orientation, they were very curious to know about Pakistan, India-Pakistan relations and current political situation in the country. Some of them had never been out of their states and I appreciate that they opted to come out of their comfort zones and decided to visit world’s one of the most dangerous countries for journalists. This visit is part of ICFJ’s U.S.-Pakistan Journalists Exchange program.

During the orientation, I led the group to the Newseum. It was my fourth visit to the museum of news. We also visited the Wilson Center where fellows met Madiha Afzal, a nonresident fellow in the Global Economy and Development program at the Brookings Institution and Michael Kugelman, senior program associate for South and
Southeast Asia project at the Wilson Center. Fellows discussed Pakistan’s economy and politics and asked many questions.

Both experts particularly highlighted the role of Imran Khan in Pakistan’s politics. Khan is the leader of a major political party called Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf. He is a former cricketer and Pakistan won the Cricket World Cup under his captaincy in 1992 therefore, Pakistanis love him because my nation is crazy about cricket!

Kugelman seemed to be in love with Khan mainly because he doesn’t know the realities. But a person from that part of the world knows a lot more truths and that’s the reason I don’t have a very good opinion about Khan.

Kugelman said that Khan is a leader of the youth, he is straightforward, honest and is loved by Pakistanis because of his cricket stardom. But I believe that politics is not a game of cricket. If someone is a good cricketer, it doesn’t mean he can be a good politician as well. Khan is in his sixties but still immature to become a leader. He lacks emotional maturity to become a politician. And, some Pakistanis would agree with my opinion.

The week ended with our D.C. seminar with Louis Jacobson, senior correspondent for PolitiFact.

Jacobson briefed us about how they practice fact checking at PolitiFact and how important it is for journalists to get into the habit of digging beyond the surface because what is apparent may not always be true.

He also mentioned other fact checking websites such as FactCheck.org and the Washington Post Fact Checker. I knew about PolitiFact already but was unaware of these other two resources. I will definitely be using all these websites in future for fact
checking because relying on just one resource is not advisable. Consulting multiple sources gives you a better perspective.

For my project-related tasks, I’m working on my MA report now and revising my professional analysis. I hope to have a complete report along with my analysis in a couple of weeks.

**September 25, 2016**

Unfortunately, we had to drop KRCG from our list of host newsrooms for the Election Embed program because KRCG operates in Missouri and according to Politico, Missouri is not a swing state. And, one of the stipulations of the grant is that journalists MUST be placed with newsrooms in swing states. But luckily this is not going to affect us as by the end of this week, I along with two program assistants found 24 placements – we’re still looking for one radio attachment though.

Alone, I finalized 10 attachments and by 10 I mean, placements for 10 fellows because some newsrooms are willing to take two participants while others want just one fellow.

The best part is that the attachments that I confirmed are all new newsrooms, ICFJ never approached before, and I helped initiate these new partnerships. These newsrooms – from print and TV media -- include The Florida Times-Union in Jacksonville (Florida), The Gazette in Colorado Springs (Colorado), Capital Times in Madison (Wisconsin), WFRV TV and WGBA-TV in Green Bay (Wisconsin) and The Hawk Eye in Burlington (Iowa).

Next week, we will brief these newsrooms about logistics and send them participants’ bios as well.
The week ended with a visit to the Bloomberg’s office with Professor Barbara Cochran. Not only Bloomberg’s operations are different from any other U.S. newsroom, their infrastructure too is very innovative. There we met Mike Dorning, White House Correspondent for the Bloomberg News and Linda Douglass, Global Head of Communications, Bloomberg Media Group.

Dorning shared with us his experience of covering the Iraq war. He explained the risks involved in practicing journalism in a war zone especially for a foreign correspondent. Covering a conflict area is dangerous even for local journalists and it’s incredible when western journalists take such risks and opt to get out of their comfort zones.

Douglass who previously was a journalist and covered Congress and politics for CBS and ABC News shared with us her transition from being a journalist to a communication professional.

She said the reasons why more and more mid-career journalists are switching from journalism to the field of communications are that the journalism industry is already saturated, communication industry needs journalistic skills and that a communication professional earns a lot more money than a journalist does.

One thing that she didn’t mention and I have noticed is that there’s no quick and easy way to climb the career ladder in journalism, which is possible in the field of communication. Not every journalist who is currently working as a reporter can become a chief editor of his/her publication but communication professionals can assume new roles and added responsibilities within a few years.
October 2, 2016

This week our program director, Joanne Levine, found the last attachment for the 2016 Election Embed program. The attachment is at WFAE, which is a non-commercial public radio station licensed to the University Radio Foundation, Inc. in Charlotte, North Carolina. And, with that we wrapped up the task of finding media attachments and started to work on logistics.

I reached out to all host newsrooms and requested them to recommend hotels at a walking distance from their newsrooms. Some of them got back to me with suggestions and we are now in the process of sorting out that information based on hotel prices and also the distance from the newsrooms. For those newsrooms that didn’t recommend any hotel, I used different websites such as Yelp and [http://www.booking.com/](http://www.booking.com/) to find reasonable hotels for the fellows.

We are also preparing for the orientation that is scheduled for October 27 and October 28, 2016. In order to make this orientation, a useful experience for the fellows, we approached media experts who could talk to fellows and guide them about the upcoming presidential elections. I also suggested a few speakers including Professor Barbara Cochran, John Cochran, Louis Jacobson and Mike McCurry.

Next week, we will finalize the schedule and topics for all speakers and I will work on some administrative tasks as well to prepare for the orientation.

This week I completed my MA report and the online course. My mentors at the Poynter’s News University are going through the course content and working on graphics to make it look more appealing on their website. Once they will be finished with their
revision, the course will be online. But at this stage, it’s ready to submit with my MA report as the physical evidence.

The week ended with our D.C. seminar with Professor Barbara Cochran and John Cochran.

John is a retired TV journalist, who has covered every major beat in the nation’s capital and reported on international stories as well. We discussed with John and Barbara the recent presidential debate between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump and shared our opinions about the most memorable moments of the debate.

My opinion about this debate is not very different from the one published in this article in *The Denver Post* on September 28, 2016. It’s a short editorial that suggests that such debates serve no purpose for the voters. Instead these debates should focus more on positions discussions in which the moderator would have minimal influence and would ask candidates about “what their position was on jobs, the economy, race relations, terrorism, etc. The moderator would also ask them what their proposed policy and solution was. Each respondent would have a specific period of time to answer.”

I agree with this opinion piece by *The Denver Post*.

To me, this debate was a good source of entertainment but didn’t help voters at all to learn about the candidates.

In order to make these debates more purposeful, candidates should discuss more serious issues faced by the country rather than bullying each other.
October 9, 2016

In order to engage the participants of our Election Embed program, this week we created a Facebook group for them and invited them to interact with each other and share any concerns they might have before the program begins.

We’re also organizing a webinar on Zoom platform that is scheduled to take place next week. During the webinar, I along with my team members will interact with the fellows and answer any questions they might have relevant to the fellowship, logistics and their host newsrooms.

I’m also preparing for the orientation program and for that besides the orientation agenda (we are still working on that and finalizing the speakers), health insurance arrangement and compiling ‘welcome letters’; the other important component is to prepare city guides for each fellow.

In this program, 25 fellows will be working in 14 U.S. cities including Green Bay, Denver, Madison, Miami, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, etc. It was a fun thing to prepare city sheets. I extracted information about cities from Wikipedia, city government websites, travel and restaurant websites. The main components of these city guides are general information about a city, restaurants, medical facilities, transportation services and entertainment spots. I tried to be creative as much as possible and used different graphics and MS Word features to make the sheets look attractive.

On Friday, I, with my Mizzou colleagues met Stephen Weiswasser, Kurt Wimmer and Hannah Lepow from the Covington and Burling law firm. We had an in-depth discussion about legal issues frequently faced by journalists including copyright issues.
Having thorough information about copyright issues is crucial for every one in the media not just journalists. When I was working on my online course with the Poynter’s News University, my mentors especially advised me either not to use content (text, graphics and videos) protected by the copyright law, use freely available content or pay and give proper credits to the sources. As I have used a bunch of graphics from Canva software and those available on different websites, I made sure the graphics were freely available and where they were not, I gave proper credits to the sources.

**October 16, 2016**

This week, we held a webinar with our Election Embed program participants to provide them with an opportunity to share their concerns before the program begins. They asked various questions related to logistics and safety and security measures in states where they will be working.

I also helped my team decide per diem for participants during their stay in the U.S. and for that I went through different websites including [http://www.gsa.gov/portal/content/104877](http://www.gsa.gov/portal/content/104877) to research the per diem we can pay for lodging and meals as per the federal government law.

I used to think that arranging logistics is a piece of cake. But it’s not. This week when I began to look for hotels based on reasonable cost and distance from newsrooms, I realized that it was a pretty time-consuming and mentally draining task.

The Election Embed participants are going to 14 different cities and I called two or three hotels in each city to find the best deal according to our available budget. By early next week, we’ll finalize all hotels.
This week we had a great session with Donna Leinwand Leger during our D.C. seminar. She is a breaking news editor and a former reporter at USA Today, who has covered disaster, war and crime.

Donna talked about her experience of covering disasters and shed light on the challenges associated with this beat such as logistics, weather, safety and also language if you are covering a disaster in a region whose language you don’t speak.

Covering disasters is not like covering any other beat. It requires a lot more courage, patience and persistence to cover disasters – be it natural or man-made disasters – only risk-takers can do justice with this beat.

October 23, 2016

This week tested my multitasking skills. I worked simultaneously on three programs – two programs to cover the U.S. elections (one for the journalists across the globe and the other in which 10 journalists from the U.K. are invited to cover the presidential elections); and the World Health Organization (WHO) Road Safety program.

We finalized all hotel deals to accommodate the 25 international fellows and also prepared to host 10 British journalists but the assignment that took most of my time but also proved to be the most useful experience this week was the WHO program for which I was assigned to collect all applications and shortlist the applicants.

The program is funded by WHO and will take place in Sri Lanka. In this workshop on road safety journalism, 16 journalists from South East Asia will gather to attend lectures on how to bring awareness on road safety through news stories, features and multimedia journalism. The eligible countries include India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh,
Nepal, Bhutan, Thailand, East Timor, Maldives, Myanmar, North Korea and Indonesia. As expected, we received most applications from India.

The application material included resume, work samples, letter of support and motivation letter. I gave more importance to applications with good work samples and then to those who belong to larger media outlets such as the Hindustan Times, Times of India and The Hindu in India. There were some countries such as Maldives from where we received only one application so for the sake of maintaining diversity, I shortlisted that application even it was not the best.

I, based on my judgment, shortlisted 20 applications out of 40. My supervisors for this program will further sort out and choose the best 16 out of these 20.

I learnt from this assignment that a single aspect of an application is never enough to judge an applicant’s strength. Sometimes an applicant’s affiliation with a large media outlet is important, sometimes the quality of his/her work and sometimes a strong motivation letter. Some applicants belonged to publications from non-English media organizations and they were short-listed because of their effective motivation letter.

On Friday, as part of our D.C. seminar, we had an interesting conversation with Luis Clemens who is NPR's senior editor for diversity.

Clemens explained NPR’s efforts to maintain diversity. According to him, 22 percent of NPR’s staff belongs to minority groups including African-Americans, Asians and LGBT community.

Most of the times, when we talk about diversity in the U.S., the discussion revolves around the skin color, but diversity is much more than that. Diversity is about every little and big thing we do in our lives. The food we eat, the dress we prefer to wear,
the employer we choose to work for or the employer who chooses to work with us, the kind of relationships we attract, marriage preference, the religion we practice, the newspaper we like to read, the music we enjoy, the festivals we celebrate and so many other things – diversity is not just about skin color.

It was good to hear from Clemens that NPR is making all possible efforts to include members from all communities in the U.S., but this is an issue, the University of Missouri too has been facing for years where when we talk about diversity, it is -- in most cases -- associated with the skin color and all other factors are ignored. While the new management at Mizzou is trying its best to bring diversity on campus, it would be wise to consider every factor in doing so – not just the skin color.

October 30, 2016

This week we hosted 25 journalists from different countries who flew on the weekend to the battleground states to cover elections.

During a two-day orientation in Washington D.C., they learnt about the basics of U.S. electoral system and the nitty-gritty of covering elections as a foreign correspondent.

We had sessions with Ray Suarez, Patrick Butler, Barbara Cochran, John Cochran and Sheila Krumholz followed by visits to the Capitol and the Washington Foreign Press Center.

This week we also prepared to host 10 British journalists who are coming next week to cover the U.S. elections. They will arrive in D.C. for a two-day orientation followed by a tour to Virginia and Michigan. It’s not a media attachment program. It’s a study tour in which these fellows will meet experts in these two swing states and get their perspectives on the U.S. elections.
The week ended with a visit to the Washington Post office with Professor Barbara Cochran and Reuben Stern. It was good to know that Reuben began this year as full-time director of Missouri’s New York program and he’s now based in New York.

At the Post we met Steven Rich, a Mizzou and Washington Program alum, and Amy Brittain, a graduate from the Columbia University. Both Steven and Amy are investigative reporters at the Post and currently Amy is working on a rape case of a 41-year-old college professor.

I didn’t know about Amy before or she could have been another great source to interview for my project. Though her area of expertise is not confined to sexual assault cases but her experience as an investigative reporter could have been an excellent guideline for journalists on how to investigate rape cases.

**November 6, 2016**

This week I was swamped with another election program and this time with British journalists. We invited 10 journalists from different parts of the U.K. and they attended a two-day orientation program in Washington D.C. before leaving for a study tour to Virginia and Michigan.

During the orientation, besides visiting the Newseum and the Capitol, they also had an opportunity to visit the office of the Washington Post where they met Tracy Grant, deputy managing editor and Steven Ginsberg, senior politics editor. They also attended a session with Gene Policinski, chief operating officer, First Amendment Center at the Newseum.

During their study tour, they will be meeting experts on politics to get their perspectives on elections.
Besides helping my colleagues with the logistics, I also attended a few sessions but unfortunately, I couldn’t travel with them to Virginia and Michigan.

During a casual conversation, one of the fellows told me how impressed he is seeing the American press doing well even in times of crisis. He said that in the U.K. most news organizations are going through the financial crisis. The other fellow wrote in his bio that he is keen to learn how the U.S. government functions and he would want to work as a foreign correspondent in the U.S.

The Brits were fascinated to see the Newseum! One of them particularly appreciated the photos displayed in different sections while another liked the 9/11 exhibit.

We are also gearing up for the ICFJ Annual Dinner. It’s a major fundraising event that will take place on November 14. Next week, we’ll have a staff meeting in which all ICFJers will be assigned some duties for the event.

More details about the event next week …

**November 13, 2016**

This is my last weekly report and the highlight of this week was of course, Donald Trump’s victory as the president of the United States – something that shocked many people.

The fact that Trump won the presidency shouldn’t be surprising, as polls don’t always reflect the accurate numbers. Trump’s campaign was much more dynamic than Hillary’s. Also, Trump had his plus point of being a celebrity. And, yes this time Americans chose “an outsider” for this post, as is said by our guest speaker this week, Major Elliott Garrett who is chief White House Correspondent with CBS News.
Trump doesn’t have any political background yet Americans chose him as their leader and it’s a decision based on business and political interests – not an emotional decision in any way.

Instead of just relying on polls, it would be better for reporters to analyze the background of voters – family background, cultural background, religious background and many other factors. Because such an analysis can better judge who is going to win the presidency.

When Trump recently said that India and the U.S. will be ‘best friends’ if he is voted to power, many Indian Americans criticized this statement and said that it’s an attempt by Trump to divide the Hindus and the Muslims in India. But on the other hand, they also understand the importance of having positive ties with the U.S. and I’m sure majority of (if not all) Indian Americans’ votes went to Trump.

This is just one aspect of how Trump won the most important position in the United States. There are many other aspects as well that I believe, the U.S. media failed to explore.

At ICFJ, the week was all about preparing for the most important fundraising event – Annual Dinner. All ICFJers were assigned different duties for the night. I will be responsible for guiding the guests to their tables, receiving donations and handing over gifts.

The event is next week on Monday. It will be a long and tiring but an exciting day. My oral defense is also scheduled for the next week and I’m preparing for that as well.
After the MU D.C. seminar’s final exam next week and my oral defense, I will be done with my graduate program. It was an interesting journey that helped me learn many important lessons of life. All my mentors at Mizzou helped me grow into a better human, not just a better journalist.
Chapter 3: Personal Evaluation

During my professional placement at the International Center for Journalists (ICFJ), I learnt beyond my expectations. I started my internship from the middle of May 2016 and worked there for more than seven months.

My mentor at ICFJ, Elisa Tinsley, was very helpful and with her support not only I successfully completed my project but also learnt many new things.

In my MA proposal, I planned to do just eight interviews but I ended up interviewing 18 amazing journalists from both Pakistan and the U.S. Thanks to Elisa and some of my interviewees such as Kristen Lombardi and Tasneem Ahmer who put me in touch with some other journalists and I got more than enough material I expected at the beginning of my internship.

Through this internship and by working on my MA project, I learnt the importance of making and retaining contacts.

This project also helped me polish my interviewing skills. During my third semester at Mizzou, I took Professor Jacqui Banaszynski’s ‘interviewing essentials’ class and learnt the basics of in-depth interviewing. Through this project, I further improved on my interviewing skills. I learnt to ask difficult and in-depth questions on a harsh topic like rape. All my interviewees were either journalists or journalism trainers, and I realized that interviewing a non-journalist and a journalist are two totally different experiences – easy and difficult at the same. Easy, because we share the same professional ethics and difficult because all my interviewees were all veteran journalists and even the very difficult questions were not actually difficult for them to answer.
One aspect of my project was to develop an online self-directed course that had to serve as the physical evidence of my research work. I had never designed an online course before but thanks to the Poynter’s News University for helping me accomplish this task. With the help and support of Vidisha Priyanka, interactive learning manager, and Vanessa Goodrum, interactive learning producer at the Poynter’s University, I learnt to develop an online course. They provided me the technical help while I worked on the text and graphical content. While working on this task, I realized that this is something I would like to do in future as well.

Previously in Pakistan and then at Mizzou, I had experience of working in newsrooms but I never got a chance of working at a media training non-profit organization. Though I was working with the Press Partners at Mizzou, but there my scope of work was limited to doing social media and promotional materials for the program. At ICFJ, I learned to manage more challenging tasks such as finding media attachments for fellows, arranging logistics, developing programs’ agendas and building new partnerships with newsrooms.

I consider myself lucky to study journalism at the University of Missouri, an experience that prepared me to work productively and efficiently at a prestigious media related non-profit where I learned many other new things besides improving my existing journalism skills.
Chapter 4: Evidence of Work Completed

Self-directed online course designed in collaboration with the Poynter’s News University.

Welcome back to Reporting on Rape? Follow Ethical and Humane Practices.

According to a research by the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP), a woman is raped every two hours in Pakistan, and an incident of gang rape occurs every four to eight days.

It's an ongoing issue that needs better media coverage.

The way rape cases are reported in Pakistani newspapers and news channels is changing and improving, yet it’s not perfect. For TV journalists, covering rape challenging, even more so than for print journalists, because of the visual aspect.

The general ethical guidelines for covering rape cases are the same for print and broadcast journalists; the lessons in this course are primarily based on interviews with experts, including journalists and journalism educators from both print and broadcast media.

**Course plan**

The course has five chapters:

1. Ethics vs. law: Ethics is above the law
2. Experts’ opinions on different ethical issues
3. Challenges for TV journalists and how to overcome them
4. An overview of journalism training in Pakistan
5. Resources for journalists

http://www.poynter.org/courses/55189/
WHAT WILL I LEARN:
This course aims to:
- Explain how communication law impacts reporting on rape cases
- Explain how to talk with a victim of assault
- Describe ways to protect a source when discussing a highly sensitive topic
- Suggest visuals that could be used in these stories
- Provide ethical guidelines
- Deconstruct sample stories, identifying good and bad elements

Tip #781: Natural sound is almost always close-up sound. So get the microphone closer and listen to the audio while you are capturing it.

COURSE: Making Words, Pictures and Sound Work Together

MORE TRAINING TIPS

A project of The Poynter Institute funded by The Knight Foundation
Reporting on Rape? Follow Ethical and Humane Practices

Chapter 1: Ethics vs. Law: Ethics Is above the Law

(Note: purchase iStock photo)

Thanks to Professor Sandra Davidson's guidance about U.S. law, it was invaluable in compiling this chapter.

During your career as a journalist, you will encounter many scenarios where you might see conflicts between ethics and law.

When reporting on rape, some issues that are addressed by the law, but prescribed actions might be unethical.

Disclosing a rape victim's identity, for example, is protected by the law if the information is obtained from publicly available records. But before blindly disclosing a rape victim's identity, simply because the information is available in government records and you are protected by the law, you must carefully consider the consequences of your actions. This presents an ethical dilemma.

Even when acting as a journalist, think like a human first!

Tasneem Ahmar, director of Like, a media advocacy and monitoring organization in Pakistan, criticizes the way Pakistani media covers rape — as if the goal is just to sell stories, not to address the issue.

In her research paper, "Covering Crime: How Pakistani Media Reports on Rape Cases," Ahmar writes, "In Pakistani media, sensationalism sells stories. Irrespective of the fact that the journalists involved are aware of the code of ethics, they employ this approach as there are innumerable readers who are attracted toward it."

She also mentions the rape case of a nurse in Pakistan. "When she was brought to the hospital ward, the 30-second video clip zoomed onto the victim's wounded face and other apparent injuries."

In Pakistani media, sensationalism sells stories.

TASNEEM AHMAR


The author believes that the way crimes against women are reported by the Pakistani media shows media insensitivity and a lack of ethics.
Chapter 1: Ethics vs. Law: Ethics to above the Law

Ahsan blames both print and electronic media for violating the code of conduct. She says that Pakistani journalists cross all ethical boundaries in their race to be first with breaking news. They present news in a sensationalized way to capture audience members' attention.

Ahsan also points to the male-dominated newsroom culture as one of the reasons behind this insensitive approach toward rape coverage. She says that, although women make up 48 percent of Pakistan's population, they are not given enough representation in the newsrooms or the news.

Read the complete paper here:

Related reading:
DISCLOSING A VICTIM’S IDENTITY

Under section 238A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860, revealing the identity of a victim of any sexual offence (not just rape) is punishable. The Press Council of India also cautions against identifying victims. “While reporting crimes involving rape, abduction or kidnap of women/females or sexual assault on children, or raising doubts and questions touching the chastity, personal character and privacy of women, the names, photographs of the victims or other particulars leading to their identity shall not be published.” (Pg. 94, 13).

The complete report is available here.
RAPE SHIELD LAWS

“Adopted by every [U.S.] state in the 1970s, rape shield laws were passed to protect the integrity and reputation of rape victims. These laws limit the introduction of evidence about a victim’s sexual history or past conduct,” wrote Lis Wiehl.

Read the complete article here.

According to research by the Thomson Reuters Foundation, under the Indian Evidence Act 1872, sections 146 (3) and S 159 (4) were often used to impeach the character of a rape victim and damage her credibility. However, the Criminal Law Amendment Act 2003 brought changes which made it harder to do this.

Read the complete research paper here.

Suhasini Rao wrote about rape shield laws in the Indian legal framework. She said that until 2003, bringing up a rape victim’s sexual history was lawful, but “in 2003, a provision of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 (‘Evidence Act’) was deleted in a move toward providing protection to the victims of rape. Further, Section 146 of the Evidence Act also now prohibits the questioning of a victim of rape along the lines of her previous sexual history in order to prove consent, in a rape trial,” she said.

Rao said that the purpose of these provisions was to prove that a rape victim’s sexual history is irrelevant to a rape case, and these laws also “provide an extra layer of protection to victim blaming.”

Read her complete blog here.
Limitations of the Law — in the Context of Rape Cases in the U.S.

The following cases revolve around the limitations of the law, which protects the First Amendment but not rape victims' honor or privacy. In these cases, in order to uphold press freedom, the court did not hold the media organizations liable for disclosing the names of the rape victims.

COX BROADCASTING CORP. V. COHN

In a 1971 gang rape in Georgia that is somewhat parallel to the Delhi bus gang rape case, a 17-year-old girl was raped by six youths and did not survive the incident. The case is known as Cox Broadcasting Corp. v. Cohn; the victim's father, Martin Cohn, filed a lawsuit against the broadcasting company for disclosing the name of his daughter. The case was decided in favor of Cox, upholding the First Amendment.

You can read the complete case details here.

THE VICTIM'S IDENTITY WAS OBTAINED BY THE REPORTER FROM A PUBLIC RECORD AND NOT BY ANY ILLEGAL MEANS. JUSTICE WHITE OF THE GEORGIA SUPREME COURT SAID THAT LAWS THAT INTERFERE WITH FREEDOM OF THE PRESS COULDN'T BE IMPLEMENTED.
Limitations of the Law — in the Context of Rape Cases in the U.S.

White said that he and the other justices "are reluctant to embark on a course that would make public records generally available to the media but forbid their publication if offensive to the sensibilities of the supposed reasonable man. Such a rule would make it very difficult for the media to inform citizens about the public business and yet stay within the law ... Once true information is disclosed in public court documents open to public inspection, the press cannot be sanctioned for publishing it."

A report on the court's decision is available here.

FLORIDA STAR V. B.J.F.

The Florida Star v. B.J.F. case (1989) also raised the issues of disclosing a rape victim's identity and press freedom.

In 1983, a woman, B.J.F., reported a case of robbery and sexual assault to the sheriff's department in Duval County, Florida. The department prepared a report on the incident, including her full name. The report was then placed in the sheriff's press room, where it was available to reporters.

A trainee reporter collected the report and, out of negligence, published it with the victim's full name. Because a newspaper employee accessed the report lawfully, this act was protected by the First Amendment. But, since Florida's shield law makes it unlawful to publish the name of the victim of a sexual offense, the sheriff's office paid the victim $25,000 in punitive damages, and the newspaper was required to pay $75,000 in compensatory damages. But this decision was later reversed, and the court decided that the law was unconstitutionally applied in this case, since the newspaper had lawfully obtained the victim's name and details of the crime from publicly available police records. Thus the Florida Star was exempted from paying the damage and was found not liable.

You can read the complete case details here.

A project of The Poynter Institute funded by The Knight Foundation
Giving the Victim a Fictitious Name

RETURNING TO THE 2012 DELHI GANG RAPE CASE

Obeying section 228A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), which prohibits disclosing a victim’s identity, journalists in India didn’t publish the victim’s real name. Instead, they gave her a fictitious name, “Nirbhaya,” meaning fearless. Follow-up stories used phrases such as “Nirbhaya rape,” “Nirbhaya case,” "Nirbhaya gang rape case,” etc.

However, there are some points to be considered when a journalist considers this approach:

In India, according to a report released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), in 2014, 90 women were raped every day in India, and there has been a gradual increase in the number of rapes reported. The number increased from 24,823 in 2012 to 33,707 in 2015.

Giving the Victim a Fictitious Name

In such circumstances, how can journalists and news organizations focus all their attention on just one case?

No doubt, the case was horrific as compared to many other rape cases. But a rape is a rape.

Treating this case as though it is on a different level, giving this case a special identity and trying to glamorize it by giving the victim a fictitious name not only violates journalism ethics, it also does an injustice to other victims of rape.

Skshikanta Rao wrote in the Journal of Mass Media Ethics that Indian television media is narrowly focused on middle- and upper-class rape victims and ignores lower-caste women.

You can read her paper here:

The Delhi bus gang rape victim was not upper-class; she belonged to a lower-middle-class family. But the rape happened in the Indian capital, New Delhi, and the victim was a medical student. She was out at night with her boyfriend when the couple was lured onto the bus, where she was raped. All those factors, including that the girl was progressive and liberal, encouraged the media to frame it as a high-profile, glamorous case.

It’s worth noting that journalists didn’t need a fictitious name to report this story. In order to dramatize the story, to enhance the sensational aspect, journalists referred to the victim as “Nirbhaya,” a Hindi word that means “fearless.” Some other names were also given to her, such as “Amanat,” a properly kept in trust, and “Damini,” or lightning. However, it was Nirbhaya that became the identity of this case. Even in such high-profile cases, a journalist’s job is to remain objective.

“Insensitive as this may sound, the excessive focus on one case is inappropriate. It is also unfair — to the thousands of rape victims across the country,” wrote a blogger, Saetha.

Saetha wrote, “The term ‘Nirbhaya’ should really be used for all the countless rape survivors” who gathered courage and fought for justice.

You can read her blog here.

A project of The Poynter Institute funded by The Knight Foundation
Reporting on Rape? Follow Ethical and Humane Practices

Giving a Rapist a Public Platform

BBC documentary filmmaker Leslee Udwin made a documentary on the Delhi rape tragedy. The documentary, titled “India’s Daughter,” premiered in 2015 in the U.K. and the U.S. but was banned in India.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that banning the documentary is a legal action and doesn’t mean to curb freedom of expression. He said that under section 228A of the Indian Penal Code, the law protects the identity of the rape victim, and this film violated the law.

Read the complete report here.

Udwin’s “India’s Daughter” had a controversial aspect to it. The BBC filmmaker interviewed one of the six convicts, M.Kesh Singh, and included Singh’s comments in the documentary.

Singh, in his interview, justified the rape and blamed the victim. He said, “A decent girl won’t roam around at nine o’clock at night. A girl is far more responsible for rape than a boy.” He showed no remorse during the interview and said, “Housework and housekeeping is for girls, not roaming in discoes and bars at night doing wrong things, wearing wrong clothes. About 30 percent of girls are good.”

People “had a right to teach them a lesson,” Singh said. “When being raped, she shouldn’t fight back. She should just be silent and allow the rape. Then they’d have dropped her off after ‘doing her.’”
"A girl is far more responsible for rape than a boy."
-- Mukesh Singh

Read the complete report here.

Singh’s comments were aired in the documentary’s trailer on NDTV and created furor in India. Home Minister Rajnath Singh intervened, leading to a ban on “India’s Daughter” throughout India.

The restraining order said: “British filmmaker Leslee Udwin from BBC interviewed Mukesh Singh ... in which he had made offensive and derogatory remarks against women, creating an atmosphere of fear and tension with the possibility of public outcry and law and order situation. The court has passed order prohibiting the publication/transmission of the interview till further orders.”

Read the complete report here.

The Delhi police registered the case under Section 509 for humiliating remarks against women and Section 504 for the violation of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). The interview was conducted on the premises of Tihar Jail in India, where Mukesh Singh was imprisoned. Home Minister Rajnath Singh also sought a report from the jail administration about allowing the filming of a convict who had received a death sentence.

Read the complete report here.

A project of The Poynter Institute funded by The Knight Foundation

Glamorizing the Violence

In 2014, a Mumbai-based photographer, Raj Shetye, released a photo series called “The Wrong Turn,” in which he depicted a fictional incident of a glamorous young woman being harassed by a bunch of men on a bus.

The photo shoot showed an incident that appeared to be very similar to the Delhi bus gang rape incident—a horrific tragedy—that shouldn’t have been glamorized. Shetye, however, claimed that it might be a coincidence and said, “It is not based on Nirbhaya.”

Read the complete report here.

Fashion photography is different from journalism photography; press photographers and fashion photographers follow different codes of conduct. There are no formal rules (in India) on how a fashion photographer can manipulate an image. This refers to the digital manipulation of the image, but it can also refer to the manipulation of a particular situation, for instance, basing a shoot on an incident that has been in the news. In this case, the photographer showed the woman wearing a very glamorous outfit, although that was not the case in the real incident. Jyoti Singh, the rape victim, was wearing jeans; she was not dressed up like a fashion model.
In a conservative society like India, even a staged photo shoot is enough to shape people’s opinions about modern girls who are raped. It can encourage the belief that, if a girl wears provocative clothes, she should be held responsible for the rape.

Fashion shoots for a social cause are common, and there’s no harm when they serve a positive social purpose. For example, in 2015 an Indian photographer, Rahul Sathar, used two acid-attack victims as his models. These women delivered a message of happiness and freedom, even after going through such a horrific experience.

Read the complete report here.

That project defied stereotyping about the concept of beauty. Even though the women’s faces were ruined after acid attacks, their courage displayed their inner beauty.

But it’s unclear what social cause Shetya was trying to achieve through his photo shoot glorifying one of the most horrific rape cases in history. Besides, his photos portrayed the victim as helpless, although the real victim fought back and was thus named “Nirbhaya” — fearless.

The photographer defended his position, and said, “It is my personal work, not for any commercial value.”

But others in the Indian fashion industry were critical. Mumbai-based fashion designer Nachiket Barve said, “Fashion is always a reflection of social issues; sometimes it can also be provocative, titillating — it also depicts desire. You can also draw attention to social issues through it. But certain things should be off limits — things like child abuse and gang rape, as in this case. I think it’s a case of really bad judgment, a loss of perspective. Some creative people, in pushing the boundaries, overstep them.”

Read the complete report here.
Reporting on Rape? Follow Ethical and Humane Practices

Interviewing an Eyewitness on TV

Zee News, an Indian TV channel, India featured the sole eyewitness of the crime in a TV interview, where they violated the laws that are meant to protect the victim’s identity.

The news channel also, a few days after the horrific rape, featured the victim’s boyfriend.

Photo courtesy: Zee News

He was interviewed while the case was still being investigated. Under such circumstances, interviewing a key witness on TV violates section 228A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860, which emphasizes protection of the victim’s identity. Interviewing a victim’s boyfriend on TV is an indirect way of revealing the victim’s identity, and thus a further violation of this law.

Following the interview, the Delhi Police registered a case against Zee News channel in the Vasant Vihar police station, under Section 228A of the Indian Penal Code, for...
Interviewing an Eyewitness on TV

disclosing the identity of the gang-rape victim by conducting an interview of her boyfriend.

Read the complete report here.

The case against the TV channel, however, was condemned by the Committee to Protect Journalists.

Bob Diet, the TV network's Asia director, said, "This is an instance of greatly misplaced priorities. Authorities are hardly protecting the victim's rights by retaliating against news media that are bringing to light details of the horrific crime that claimed her life. Police should immediately drop their misguided plan to file charges."

Read the complete report here.

Diet's argument is valid, but information from an eyewitness can be obtained by other means as well — by conducting a phone interview, for example. Showing him on TV is an obvious attempt to improve ratings.

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A project of The Poynter Institute funded by The Knight Foundation
Television Reenactments of Crimes

The reality-based crime show, "Crime Patrol" — a venture of Sony TV in India — created a reenactment of the Delhi rape tragedy. The episode was scheduled to be aired on January 11-12, 2015, only a month after the rape.

Usually, this TV show features lesser-known cases whose reenactment can raise awareness among viewers. But this case had already gained national and international media coverage; the details were well-known to the public. Thus this episode appeared to be only a way to commercialize the tragedy.

The show, however, was not aired on the scheduled date because Bhartiya Stree Shakti, a non-governmental organization, challenged the telecast.
Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC) restrained the channel from airing the episode. Even before the BCCC action, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting of India had asked the channel not to air the episode. Consequently, the Bombay high court's Nagpur bench stayed the telecast of this episode and asked Sony TV to wait until further orders were issued in this regard.

Read the complete report here.

The Bhaiya Stree Shakti argued that this particular episode was a way to commercialize this tragedy. The nonprofit organization claimed that the show would “increase the misery of the victim’s family as well as hurt the feelings of women in general.”

Read the complete report here.

Sony TV, however, did not give up on airing the episode, and after eight months — when the accused were about to be sentenced through a fast-track trial — Sony got permission from the court to air the episode.

Read the complete report here.

Rajeev Sen raised some valid points about this show in her blog. She wrote that the rape took place on December 16, 2012, and the TV episode was ready to be aired just after a month later. “So, while people were protesting at India Gate, the content and programming team at Sony Entertainment was having a brainstorming session on how to make a reality program on one of the most gruesome rapes reported in urban India.”

Sen also argued that this particular episode served no social purpose at all. “What is the point of rehearsing an incident which was utterly heinous and gruesome? An incident that has been followed by many gang rapes, almost as if it’s provided a new template for sex criminals. Do we have to publicize and sensationalize it any more?” she wrote.

Sen criticized Sony TV for trying to commercialize such a tragic incident. She said that, just as news channels were reenacting the incident and earning money by increasing their ratings, Sony TV was simply following the trend.

The show’s host, Arup Soni, claimed that the purpose of the show was to raise awareness. However, Sen argued that she didn’t learn anything new from the show, as
everything was already known to the public. "... The only new piece of information I learnt from the show was that the bus, which was the scene of the crime, was owned by Sekhi Travel. Nothing more," she wrote.

Read her blog here.

LESSONS FOR JOURNALISTS

For journalists, covering a case like this is more about ethics than law.

While it is clear that there are no particular laws to stop such practices as a fashion photography shoot, media organizations and media professionals can apply their personal and professional ethics to situations like this.

If journalists, along with news and entertainment channels, don't unplug themselves from humanity, there will be no need for laws to ban unethical practices.

But everything is commercialized.

News and entertainment channels seek higher ratings. And high-profile crime cases always can be counted on to draw great profits.

Ethical behavior is more important than profit.

In a country where a woman is raped every 20 minutes, and even the death sentence of the convicts involved in the Delhi bus gangrape case failed to reduce the number of rapes in India, journalists' and media organizations' irresponsible, callous attitude toward covering rape cases does more damage than the weak laws.

Before blaming the judiciary for weak laws against rape, journalists should assess their own attitudes toward this crime.

If, instead of providing people with awareness, journalists try to cash in on these tragedies, the law is unlikely to curtail criminal activity.

Note: Though the case used in this chapter is from India, the lessons are applicable in the entire Indian subcontinent, perhaps even throughout South Asia.

Before proceeding to the next chapter, please read this official report by the Senate of Pakistan, released in 2015. It lists some laws regarding rape, including the 1984 (Anti-Rape Laws) Bill.

Also read Pakistan Global Media Monitoring Project — 2016 — Report.
Reporting on Rape? Follow Ethical and Humane Practices

Self-Assessment Quiz

You are about to start Self-Assessment Quiz. Once you begin Self-Assessment Quiz, you will have to complete the quiz.

Click the button below to begin. IMPORTANT - Clicking the Start Quiz button will start the timer and count as your chance to pass the test.

START QUIZ
Reporting on Rape? Follow Ethical and Humane Practices

Self-Assessment Quiz

Question 1 of 3

Current Question
If a prostitute is raped, and she approaches you to publish/air her story, would you mention her profession and her sexual history while reporting this incident?

Choose one

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] Maybe
- [x] No

Next
Reporting on Rape? Follow Ethical and Humane Practices

Self-Assessment Quiz

Question 2 of 3

Current Question
A minor girl is raped; her parents are not educated enough to make an informed decision about revealing their child’s name. Would you make the minor’s identity public?

Choose one

- [ ] Maybe
- [x] Yes
- [ ] No
Reporting on Rape? Follow Ethical and Humane Practices

Self-Assessment Quiz

Question 3 of 3

Current Question
If a woman is raped and she wants to go public, would you inform her about the consequences and the long-term effects of revealing her identity before publishing/airing her identity?

Choose

☐ No

☐ Maybe

☐ Yes

Finish
Reporting on Rape? Follow Ethical and Humane Practices

Self-Assessment Quiz

You got 3 out of 3 possible points.
Your score: 100%

Question 1 Correct: If a prostitute is raped, and she approaches you to publish/air her story, would you mention her profession and her sexual history while reporting this incident?

Question 2 Correct: A minor girl is raped, her parents are not educated enough to make an informed decision about revealing their child’s name. Would you make the minor’s identity public?

Question 3 Correct: If a woman is raped and she wants to go public, would you inform her about the consequences and the long-term effects of revealing her identity before publishing/airing her identity?

Question Results

Question:
If a prostitute is raped, and she approaches you to publish/air her story, would you mention her profession and her sexual history while reporting this incident?

Response:
Yes
Maybe
No

Feedback:
That is correct! It’s not illegal to disclose the profession of a rape victim — even if it’s a controversial profession or can reveal the victim’s identity. But
Self-Assessment Quiz

it is definitely unethical. Referring to the rape victim as a prostitute will shift the focus of the story and may create a biased frame.

Question Results

Question: A minor girl is raped; her parents are not educated enough to make an informed decision about revealing their child's name. Would you make the minor's identity public?

Response:

- Maybe
- Yes
- No

Feedback: That is correct. Even if parents allow publication, journalists should think about the long-term consequences a child can suffer once her identity as a rape victim is made public. Again, it's a matter of ethics.

Question Results

Question: If a woman is raped and she wants to go public, would you inform her about the consequences and the long-term effects of revealing her identity before publishing/airing her identity?

Response:

- No
- Maybe

Feedback: A woman who is raped might not be in a stable state of mind. But journalists should make careful decisions and warn the victims about the long-term consequences of being revealed as a rape victim. If you're 100 percent sure that the victim is mentally stable then you can go ahead and reveal her identity.

- Yes

Feedback: That is correct. A woman who is raped might not be in a stable state of mind. But journalists should make careful decisions and warn the victims about the long-term consequences of being revealed as a rape victim. If
Chapter 2: Experts’ Opinions on Ethical Issues

I) Disclosing Identity: Victim and the Accused

Problem: Some of the most respected media organizations in Pakistan, such as the Dawn Media Group, lack ethics while covering assault cases for example, in a story about the rape case of a nurse in 2010, Dawn News reporter showed the victim’s face on TV while she was on a hospital bed. Also, in 2010, a 6-year-old girl was raped in Lahore; the media not only revealed her name, her face was shown. Her father was also interviewed on TV – thus journalists violated the law that requires protecting a rape victim’s identity.

Here’s what experts have to say about this practice:

SHERRY RICHIARDI

Media behavior in rape cases definitely could affect societal opinions about this crime. Right now, cultural biases toward women in Pakistan are a big influence. This needs to change, and media can be instrumental in showing — not just telling — about the impact/consequences of these injustices. Sometimes, rape in Pakistan is not just an attack on a woman. It this male-dominated society, it also can be revenge against her father, brothers or husband. You can find many examples of this.
DICK HUBERT

I still believe that the victim's identity should not be publicized, and I also believe that the alleged rapists should not be identified by name until a case has been fully adjudicated. We have the horror of the famed Duke lacrosse team, which was branded with the label of rapist until it was conclusively proven that they were innocent and their accusers were liars. But they never got their good names back. We also currently have a dynamite public case at Amherst College (John Doe vs. Amherst College), wherein a young man claims that he was accused of rape and thrown out of school and not allowed to present evidence to defend himself, that his accuser openly bragged in texts and emails that she had encouraged sex with him. That case will soon be in court; the legal document is now public, and it looks like it will be a huge mess. I am always in favor of protecting a victim's identity. If the victim insists on going public, it would really be necessary to sit her down and go into detail about the hazards involved. It is the ultimate 'whistleblowing' act.

KAMAL SIDDIQI

The naming of rape victims or interviewing of the family is not a criminal offense. It is more of a matter of ethics and not law. In terms of law, the legal recourse is the defamation law, which is weak and largely unenforced in Pakistan. What we have seen is that over the passage of years, through training and awareness and by involving news directors and news editors, the practice of naming rape victims or minors involved in offenses of any kind has become minimal. But there are still some newspapers and TV channels who continue the practice to gain ratings. But they are in a minority.

KRISTEN LOMBARDI
Chapter 2: Experts' Opinions on Ethical Issues

I will say that in the United States, the press has generally kept anonymous the identity of rape victims for years. There are historical reasons for doing so, largely having to do with the backlash women have faced when coming forward with rape claims. But there is a line of thinking that argues against shielding rape victims' identities. The thinking goes, because we protect victims' identities, we perpetuate the rape culture of shame and blame for rape victims. I have only rarely used pseudonyms for rape victims. I don't write about a rape victim unless she or he wants to go public and, in my experience, most victims who want to go public with their stories want people to know their names and the details of their cases. I would never publish a victim's story if he or she did not want to go public.

“Media outlets such as NPR try to be sensitive when reporting about those affected by any type of trauma. We do not want to ‘retraumatize’ the survivors by unnecessarily making them relive the events. Rape survivors are particularly vulnerable. To a great extent, we follow their lead. If a survivor does not wish to be identified, we respect that decision. If a survivor wants to be identified – perhaps to ‘destigmatize’ what has happened – we also respect that decision.”

MARK MEMMOTT

PAULA LAVIGNE

Our position on this is to shield her identity if she asks for it. We always push for as much transparency as possible. If a woman decides she's OK with having her name/image used, we will generally use it. You should look into some research on this topic, because there are a number of people — including women — who feel that shielding a woman's identity in a sexual assault cases just adds to the stigma. There is an opposing view as well, of course, but it's worth noting that there are solid arguments on both sides of this issue.
Reporting on Rape? Follow Ethical and Humane Practices

Protecting the Victim’s Identity

When the victim is an adult woman

Michelle Johnson, assistant professor in the school of communication and the arts at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York, discusses how revealing a victim’s name can change public’s perception about the crime. She says there are different perceptions about different rape stories based on the circumstances, and readers will be more interested in identifying the rape victim of one case than the other. “Perhaps readers would be interested in the name only when a victim’s story was contested.”

The results of her study suggest that the crime and the story surrounding it matter more than the victim’s identity.

Tommy Thomason, Paul Laroque and Maggie Thomas conducted a survey in which they asked editors about their newspapers’ policies to disclose a rape victim’s identity.

http://www.news.org/courses/reporting-sexual-violence/chapter-5-resources/chapter-5-resources-journalists-1

1/2
Despite the fact that in mid-80s some of the high-profile rape stories disclosed victims' identities, editors showed reluctance to do this across the board. A majority of the editors refused to reveal the victim's identity. In most cases, however, they said they would disclose a rape victim's identity in special circumstances, such as if the victim was murdered or if the victim asked to be identified or go public in some way.

Read the complete papers:

How Identifying Rape Victim Affects Readers' Perceptions by Michelle Johnson

Editors Still Reluctant to Name Rape Victims by Tommy Thomason, Paul LaRocque and Maggie Thomas

II) When the victim is a child

Lisa M Jones, David Finkelhor and Jessica Beckworth, from the University of New Hampshire, discuss the sensitivity surrounding the child victims of sexual abuse. The authors examine newspaper articles that covered the cases of child victimization and find out that in 51 percent of those articles "at least one type of identifying information about the child was included."

These articles either contained child's relatives' information, the street where the family lived or, the child's school, daycare or church name; in some cases, that was enough to reveal the child's identity. The authors say that this media practice seriously affects victims, adding to their anxiety level and preventing their recovery from trauma.

Read the complete paper:

Protecting Victims' Identities in Press Coverage of Child Victimization by Lisa M Jones, David Finkelhor and Jessica Beckwith
Blaming Victims

Problem: In a 2010 nurse rape case, the incident happened at the convict’s home. A reporter said, “The main question is what that nurse had been doing at the convict’s place.” He said this in a very judgmental tone; this represents Pakistani society’s mindset toward women: Women are blamed even if they are victims.

So, does the society influence journalism practice or does journalism affect societal behavior, especially in rape cases?

Here’s what experts say:

KRISTEN LOMBARDI
This is the same in the United States. Yes, social myths and cultural norms influence journalism because journalists are part of the society in which they practice their craft. They are susceptible to the same biases and prejudices. It’s up to journalists to recognize their own biases. If they don’t, then journalism won’t be much of an agent for social change.

MARK MEMMOTT
There is also the issue of “blaming the victim.” Often the person accused of the crime will allege that there was “consensual sex” or that the survivor did something to signal that the sex was consensual. Media outlets need to be careful about drawing conclusions. They should stick to the facts as investigators determine what happened.

There is also, of course, the issue of “rushing to judgment.” As we saw with the “Rolling Stone” story about an alleged gang rape at the University of...
Blaming Victims

Virginia, stories of rape can be fabricated. Care must be taken to protect the suspect’s rights as well.

**Problem:** Mukhtar Mai was a gang rape victim in Pakistan who fought for justice and gained international media attention. Here’s her story.

Pointing to Mai’s celebrity status, the former president of Pakistan Pervez Musharraf, in an interview with the Washington Post, said, “You must understand the environment in Pakistan. ... This has become a money-making concern. A lot of people say if you want to go abroad and get a visa for Canada or citizenship and be a millionaire, get yourself raped.”

> The rape survivors’ families are no different from the rest of society; they discourage victims from registering or pursuing cases, in an attempt to sweep everything under the carpet. Society looks at the sufferer as if (getting raped) was her own fault.

Photo courtesy [http://www.cnn.com](http://www.cnn.com)

Mukhtar Mai
Survivor of gang-rape and now a women’s rights activist

Here’s how experts responded to this statement:

**PAULA LAVIGNE**

We see the same thing with women who accuse athletes of rape. Some people (often fans of that particular athletic team) say the women do it for the money, because a few — although very few — women end up filing lawsuits and getting legal settlements that can be substantial sums of money. Sometimes they accuse women of targeting athletes who are likely to turn pro, because then they’ll have bigger paychecks to pursue. You need to keep an open mind. Although very, very rare, I have come across at least one case where a woman completely made up an accusation against an athlete just to get him in trouble, which she herself later admitted to me. Use good judgment in interviews. Get all sides of a story. Talk to witnesses, friends, etc. And get information from police/prosecutors is key. We probably have better access to police records here, which helps us tremendously.

**DICK HUBERT**

Musharraf’s statement is idiotic and makes him look like a prejudiced fool in Western eyes.

**Problem:** A “modest” dress code was proposed by Missouri lawmakers following a sexual harassment case involving Capitol interns in 2015. In Pakistan, you will find rape cases of women who lived in villages and covered themselves with a long veil; rape doesn’t have anything to do with the victim’s dress.

Here’s what experts said:

**PAULA LAVIGNE**

Blaming Victims

Yikes, I mean, it’s a dicey situation. Yes, there is a big problem with blaming women for getting raped because of what they’re wearing. I gather there was a lot of backlash here as well. Tied to the sexual harassment case, it certainly draws controversy and it’s silly to think that the solution to sexual harassment is a dress code. Sure, any workplace can implement a dress code — and probably should in cases where you’re dealing with the public, customers, etc. — but to do so in reaction to something like this was probably not a wise move."

I would suggest that the Missouri lawmakers were putting the onus of rape on young women and how they dress. Unfair. As for Pakistan, you seem to have a rape problem even when the women are dressed in a burkha. That is a societal issue where the rot comes from the top (I am thinking of the assassination of PM Bhutto).

DICK HUBERT

A project of The Poynter Institute funded by The Knight Foundation

http://www.nwmu.org/content/reporting-upc-be-human-first/chapter-2-experts%E2%80%99-opinions-different-ethical-issues
Reporting on Rape? Follow Ethical and Humane Practices

Media Stereotypes

Cultural Stereotypes

Eileen Berrington and Helen Jones, lecturers in criminology at the Manchester Metropolitan University, U.K., argue about media coverage of drug rapes, in which women are blamed and the role of masculinity is ignored. The study examines how media portrayals can change society’s perception about the rape victims: “Women who reject patriarchal norms around ‘appropriate behavior’ find themselves blamed if they become victims of male violence. By stepping outside their prescribed role, they place themselves at risk.”

The writers suggest that a few elite and powerful people control media who, themselves, never had any encounter with a crime, yet they have opinions and “what they see, hear and read directly influences views and perceptions.”
“Stories about women abused and killed provide a clear warning to other women. Unless you put yourself under male protection, this is what could happen to you.” -- Eileen Berrington & Helen Jones

Berrington and Jones also highlight the issue of imposing societal norms on women. The writers say when a story about sexual violence is reported, journalists try to warn women instead of focusing on the issue. “Stories about women abused and killed provide a clear warning to other women: Unless you put yourself under male protection, this is what could happen to you.”

The study points out journalists’ perception about men and women — men’s aggression is considered normal while women are treated as sexual objects.

Read the complete paper here: Reality vs. Myth: Constructions of Women’s Insecurity by Eileen Berrington and Helen Jones

Class Stereotypes

Shikuntala Rao, professor and communication studies chairperson at the Pittsburgh State University of New York, argues that the Indian television news media is focused on covering rape cases of only middle- and upper-class women, and it ignores violence against women from poor socio-economic backgrounds.

The writer particularly focuses on the 2012 Delhi bus gang rape case, which caused protests throughout India and gained national as well as international media attention.

Rao says the reason this particular case gained so much attention from the media was that it happened in the Indian capital, New Delhi, which, due to its growing rate of crimes against women, is now called the ‘rape capital of India.’ This case got media attention

also because of the massive protests across the country. But, she writes, “Except in rare instances, such as the December 2012 rape, the Indian media has rarely sought to address the pervasiveness and complicated matrix of rape in Indian society.”

The writer also highlights the fact that the globalization of Indian media has benefited the rich and the upper middle class of the country, yet it has failed to give a similar platform to the underprivileged, poor communities of Indian society.

Read the complete paper here: Covering Rape in Shame Culture. Studying Journalism Ethics in India’s New Television News Media by Shaktanta Rao
Victim Stereotypes: Sexual History

Maria Los, emeritus professor at the University of Ottawa, and Sharon Charnard, associate professor, Justice department, at the University of Alaska Anchorage, write about media representation of women and sexual assaults based on the 1983 Canadian sexual assault legislation that abolished some rules that continued to create bias against women.

They try to explore the relationship between the feminist law reform and media coverage of this issue. The study suggests that print media, until 1984, focused more on rapes committed by strangers than acquaintances, but this trend changed and courts saw a number of rape cases by acquaintances. The criticism from the feminist movement toward the dominance coverage of rape by strangers gave way to more detailed reporting and provided the issue with a new perspective. It also changed journalists' understanding of rape; many thought that sexual assault was a crime only if it was committed by a stranger.

Sarah Moore elaborates on stereotypes surrounding date rape. She analyzes the stories about date rapes in U.S. newspapers published between January 1, 1985, and December 31, 1998. Her study reveals that date rapes were treated differently than rapes committed by strangers; victims of date rapes were not considered ‘victims’ in the real sense. Moore suggests that, due to our cultural norms, media refused to accept that rapes could happen in intimate relationships and should be treated like other crime cases. “What it more obviously signals is a refusal or inability, at the level of the culture, to cede to the idea that rape can be an extension of normal heterosexual relations.”

Read the complete papers here:

Selling Newspapers or Educating the Public? Sexual Violence in the Media by Maria Los and Sharon Charnard

Tracing the Life of a Crime Category: The shifting meaning of “date rape” by Sarah Moore

http://www.newson.org/courses/reporting-rape-be-human-first/chapter-5-resources/j/5-resources-journalists
Racial Stereotypes

Meenakshi Gigi Durham, professor of gender, women's and sexuality studies at the University of Iowa's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, highlights the issue of racism that plays a vital role in media's framing of rape and rape victims.

Durham emphasizes the "importance of feminist scholarship and activism around this issue." A New York Times story held an 11-year-old girl responsible for being gang-raped in Cleveland, Texas, because of her glamorous lifestyle. The story generated criticism from commentators and bloggers, and eventually The Times published an apology. Of this, Durham says, "The case suggests that the theorization and analysis of sexual violence over the past decade has in fact raised public consciousness of the ways in which the media industries contribute to a culture of rape in our society."

In the Texas case, the victim was Latina and the assailants were black. "The public critics were aware that the victim-blaming frame was an outcome of the race of the child and her assailants, so that the child's implied promiscuity and the rapists' uncontrollable hyposexuality became apologies for the event."

Jack Lule discusses the rape trial of heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson. The author says racial prejudices play a role in framing a rape story. Tyson was given biased coverage by the media and either was portrayed as "a sex-obsessed, violent savage" or "a victim of terrible social circumstances."

According to Lule, some reports suggested that Tyson was a victim of his impoverished childhood, and other reports depicted him as a victim of racism. The accuser in this case was also a black woman, and some reports portrayed Tyson as "a victim of a more subtle battle — a struggle for power between black men and women."

Lule says, "Stereotypes are invoked subtly but inexorably through the language, conventions and narrative forms of the press."

Read the complete papers here:

http://www.news.org/courses/reporting-up-see-human-first/chapter-5-resources/chapter-5-resources-journalists-0
Reporting or Ignoring Details of the Crime


The study reveals that people were reluctant to read horrific news, and journalists were obliged to provide them with a silver lining for every tragic story. Also that rape stories — stories in which the accused were not strangers — were often under-represented by the media.

The authors say that, while it’s a normal practice to not reveal the victim’s identity in case of rape stories in order to save her from further humiliation, the reporters must mention necessary details about the crime, such as the area in which the crime was committed or the weapon used. This is said to enlighten readers and prevent further crimes.

The authors say that rape stories reveal fewer details than stories about other crimes. By emphasizing the need for more detailed stories on rape, the authors say, “Filing in more details about crime itself and providing more perspective cues in articles about rape, the media could improve the accuracy of the ‘vicarious reality’ of rape they create for readers and more adequately fulfill their role as watchdogs for society.”

Read the complete paper here:

What Newspapers Tell Us (And Don’t Tell Us) About Rape by Linda Heath, Margaret T. Gordon and Robert LeBailly

Reporting on Rape? Follow Ethical and Humane Practices

Highlighting Unnecessary Details to Blame the Victim

**Problem:** In this report, a woman reporter from the Sun Sentinel newspaper, which is published in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, writes about a rape victim and convicts (all teenagers): "The victim’s and suspects’ Facebook pages depict a clique of teens enamored of ‘thug life’, posing with wads of cash and extended middle fingers. The girls assert their young sexuality through a preponderance of bathroom selfies featuring puckers, abs, cleavage and kissing couples."

These were all unnecessary details. They also create a frame that blames the victim’s lifestyle for the crime. Is this practice justified?

Here’s what experts say:

**DICK HUBERT**

Writing in detail about the “class” of the victims and accusers is always dangerous. Here again this would seem to be an example of a middle-class journalist writing about lower-class kids, and being repelled by the social scene. BUT these lifestyles are rife with potential danger — rape, early and unwanted pregnancy, disease spread, sex, the works. So writing about them could be termed a public service. It is a very difficult editorial decision to make.

**PAULA LAVIGNE**

“I’m sorry, but I don’t know the full context of this and am reluctant to question the reporter’s decision here.”

Shannon O’Hara discusses the rape case of an 11-year-old girl who was repeatedly raped by 21 men in Cleveland, Texas, between September and November 2010. Not only
Highlighting Unnecessary Details to Blame the Victim

was she raped, her perpetrators also filmed the incident on their phones and "circulated the images and video to friends and classmates."

O'Hara says it's important not to reveal too much detail about the victim, but the ordeal the victim went through in this particular case was ignored by the media. The author says, "The press was concerned with how the town or the rapists' families were themselves affected by the rape." They disregarded how the incident affected the victim.

O'Hara also highlights the issue of media delving into unnecessary details that might affect victim's image in a negative way. In this particular case, O'Hara gives an example of a New York Times article that portrayed the 11-year-old victim as a fashionable girl who dressed in a way that made her look older than her age. The writer says that a major part of reporting on rape is based on myths and stereotypes that shape public opinion as well as policy-making.

Read the complete paper here:

Monsters, Playboys, Virgins and whores: Rape Myths in the News Media's Coverage of Sexual Violence by Shannon O'Hara

A project of The Poynter Institute funded by The Knight Foundation
Reporting on Rape? Follow Ethical and Humane Practices

Self-Assessment Quiz

You are about to start Self-Assessment Quiz. Once you begin Self-Assessment Quiz, you will have to complete the quiz.

Click the button below to begin. IMPORTANT - Clicking the Start Quiz button will start the timer and count as your chance to pass the test.

START QUIZ
Reporting on Rape? Follow Ethical and Humane Practices

Self-Assessment Quiz

Question 1 of 3

Current Question
Is gender equality only about women’s rights?

Choose one

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

NEXT  LEAVE BLANK

BROWSE THE COURSE:
Chapter 1: Ethics vs. Law: Ethics is above the Law
Chapter 2: Experts’ Opinions on Ethical Issues:
- Protecting the Victims’ identity
- Blaming Victims
- Media Stereotypes
Victim Stereotypes: Sexual History
Racial Stereotypes
Reporting or Ignoring Details of the Crime
Highlighting Unnecessary Details to Blame the Victim
Self-Assessment Quiz
Chapter 3: Overcoming Challenges
Chapter 4: The Importance of Journalism Training Resources for Journalists
Special Thanks

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Reporting on Rape? Follow Ethical and Humane Practices

Self-Assessment Quiz

Question 2 of 3

Current Question
Should you consider the rights of a rape suspect as well while doing a rape story?

Choose one

- Yes
- Maybe
- No

BACK NEXT LEAVE BLANK

A project of The Poynter Institute funded by The Knight Foundation

http://www.poynter.org/code/558963 haute
Reporting on Rape? Follow Ethical and Humane Practices

BROWSE THE COURSE:
Chapter 1: Ethics vs. Law: Ethics is above the Law
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- Victim Stereotypes: Sexual History
- Racial Stereotypes
- Reporting or Ignoring Details of the Crime
- Highlighting Unnecessary Details to Blame the Victim
Self-Assessment Quiz
Chapter 3: Overcoming Challenges
Chapter 4: The Importance of Journalism Training
Resources for Journalists
Special Thanks

Self-Assessment Quiz

Question 3 of 3

Current Question
While covering a rape case, what would you focus on? (select all that apply)

Choose
- Statistics of the crime in a particular city, state, or country
- The issue of rape, in general
- People involved in the story — the victim and suspects

BACK FINISH LEAVE BLANK AND FINISH
Reporting on Rape? Follow Ethical and Humane Practices

Self-Assessment Quiz

You got 3 of 3 possible points.
Your score: 100%

Question 1 Correct: Is gender equality only about women’s rights?

Question 2 Correct: Should you consider the rights of a rape suspect as well while doing a rape story?

Question 3 Correct: While covering a rape case, what would you focus on? (select all that apply)

Question Results

Question: Is gender equality only about women’s rights?

Response:

Yes

No

Feedback:
That is correct. Gender equality is about every gender’s rights -- men, women and also LGBT community.

Maybe

http://www.newsuniv.org/code/55b9d3_ahce
Self Assessment Quiz

Question: Should you consider the rights of a rape suspect as well while doing a rape story?

Response:
- Yes

Feedback:
That is correct. As mentioned in the previous question, gender equality is about every gender’s rights. The suspect in a rape case should also be given a chance to tell his side of the story — he might be a victim of a conspiracy. It’s very much possible that a rape story is fabricated.

- Maybe
- No

Question Results

Question: While covering a rape case, what would you focus on? (Select all that apply)

Response:
- Statistics of the crime in a particular city, state, or country
- The issue of rape, in general
- People involved in the story — the victim and suspects

A project of The Poynter Institute funded by The Knight Foundation
Chapter 3: Overcoming Challenges

Read what experts have to say about the challenges of covering rape cases for TV.

“TV tends be be much more sensationalistic. I know there have been times when TV has shown a photo of victim and her used her name. I hear common complaint that media do expose victims but not perpetrators. Shaming and blaming the woman is common in some — but not all — Pakistani media.”

Sherry Richchiardi

PAULA LAVIGNE

Getting women to talk to you. (I say ‘women’ because they’re most often the victims of sexual assault, but it could be men too.) They’re skittish enough to talk on the phone or over email, but getting them to sit down in a chair in front of a camera is a huge hurdle. And in many cases, they ask to have their identity shielded, so you need to figure out how to do that with lighting/shadows, B-roll and, if necessary, altering their voice. It’s also tough to come up with B-roll. That’s true in either case, but especially again if

you're trying to protect someone's identity. If you see our original Baylor piece, you'll see how we did it and I think the producer who did that work did a fabulous job.

Watch the Baylor report: Baylor Faces Accusations of Ignoring Sex Assault Victims.

KRISTEN LOMBARDI
I think covering the topic of sexual assault is difficult for any reporter, though I suspect there are unique challenges for those who have a camera. It is perhaps the hardest topic I've had to cover in my two-plus decades as a journalist, for a myriad of reasons. Victims often do not want to come forward because of the disbelief they have experienced when trying to report their rape or assault to institutional authorities, family members, friends, etc. That disbelief makes them very wary of reporters' motivations as well. You have to gain their trust and you have to cede your own control over the reporting, writing and editing process in ways that you don't encounter with other topics. I have spoken about best practices for covering sexual violence and my own lessons learned extensively in interviews and have written several tip sheets on this topic. You can find some enlightening interviews and tip sheets on the website of the Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma, at Columbia Journalism School. I'd encourage you to look up the tip sheet I did for Dart on the art of the interview, in which I lay out my own method for interviewing victims of sexual assault. Click here to see a panel I did for the National Press Club in January on how to improve your reporting of this topic.

KAMAL SIDDIQI
The pressure on TV is more to give visuals and details. Also, the quality of journalism practiced in (Pakistan) broadcast media leaves a lot to be desired. There is little training or sensitization. But this is now changing.

DICK HUBERT
The danger in TV is that TV needs a picture, so how to protect the two sides until the case is adjudicated is a difficult one.

NICOLE NOREN
The biggest challenge is maintaining confidentiality/anonymity for those who wish to remain unnamed. Also, the charged nature of these cases makes it tough to fairly cover them because a majority of the time all parties won't participate in the story.

JOANNA JOLLY
Sometimes a lack of pictures can make illustrating a rape story difficult. It’s important to prejudice a case by releasing sensational or sensitive material before a trial. It’s also important in general not to be sensational and give too much attention to the gruesome details of a case.

AMY HERDY

Television news is often sensationalistic, so they will try to sexualize a crime that is actually a crime of violence. The media in general is often victim blaming and also disregards a victim’s privacy.

Despite its challenges, TV reporting has some plus points as well as the challenges described. TV journalists have tools that print journalists don’t have. Let’s read what our experts have to say about the advantages of covering rape cases for TV.

PAULA LAVIGNE

Well, I think the emotion gets conveyed extremely well on television. And that’s from all parties. Even if you have to shield a woman’s identity, hearing her tell her story in her own words is incredibly compelling. If you look at the online video posted by the University of Kansas student who accused a football player of raping her, that’s pretty powerful stuff. Or if you see our Outside the Lines original piece on Baylor, you’ll see how much stronger the emotion is in words and gestures than it would be in print. In interviews with the suspects, you might get details that weren’t given to law enforcement or attorneys, and that might lead you to other follow-up investigations. You can get to those questions about personal life, etc. with a suspect that probably weren’t covered in a criminal investigation. Does the suspect have some

sort of alternate justification for what happened? It's important to get that and for people to hear it in the suspect's own words.

NICOLE NOREN
Being able to watch/hear someone describe the violence involved in a rape is very different than reading it. A television story about sexual assault has the ability to make the experience hit home for viewers in a visceral way. It's also important to provide both sides, and a TV story can be quite effective because it gives the accused an opportunity to show their character and explain their situation. It humanizes the characters in a way that simply can't be done in print.

JOANNA JOLLY
TV tends to have bigger audiences and more impact. This can be used to highlight a case.

AMY HERDY
Being a visual medium, television news can carry a greater impact than a print story. Toward that end, if TV stations reported on sexual assault in a responsible way, conveying sensitivity and confidentiality for the victim and approaching the issue as a societal issue, then they could help shift the culture of shame and blame.

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Reporting on Rape? Follow Ethical and Humane Practices

Experts Thoughts on Interviewing for TV

PAULA LAVIGNE

I think the same rules apply for any interview: Give them space to tell their whole story, but be persistent in challenging statements that don’t add up, that seem fishy or that contradict one another. I think sometimes reporters are wary of being confrontational with an alleged victim, but you have to be. If there’s something in her story that doesn’t add up — and you don’t question it — then that puts you and the story at a disadvantage. You might not end up using it in the finished piece because of its relevance, or time constraints, but you need to have that on the record and feel confident that you’ve got your own questions answered. Same thing with interviewing suspects and witnesses, although I think people are more comfortable being confrontational in those types of interviews already.
DICK HUBERT

The best rules would seem to be to blur the faces and distort the voices so that no one can identify the victim or the accused rapist.

NICOLE NOREN

Some good general rules are: Be very respectful and careful with confidentiality, don't ask leading questions, and be very honest and upfront with the people you are interviewing so they understand what they are agreeing to do and know what the repercussions will be once a story airs.

JOANNA JOLLY

Abide by the law or by the guidelines given by the Press Council. When a suspect has been arrested for rape, only release basic details about them and do not try to reconstruct the crime through interviews with eyewitnesses, etc. until after the trial. Most countries do not allow you to identify rape victims, which means you have to be careful when you interview friends and relatives so as not to give their identity away.

AMY HERDY

The rules that apply for rape victims and rapists and witnesses are the same. Treat everyone with dignity and respect, ask open-ended questions, make sure you are representing what they said accurately and get both sides.

Experts offer tips on effective visuals:

PAULA LAVIGNE

We often use videos of the place where the alleged rape occurred, or of any other location tied to the incident. We try to get as much police interrogation video as we can. Also, courthouse video. We also use animations of
documents — police reports, trial transcripts, mug shots. Any sort of social media video from the time of the incident or of the parties together. Maybe an Instagram of the suspects from just a few hours before the reported assault? Stuff like that. And then of course any video of interviews.

**AMY HERDY**

Since rape is a very traumatizing act, any visuals connected to such a story should convey that. They could depict a person in pain, through either clenched hands or a grimace of pain or a bowed head, etc.

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http://www.poynter.org/reporting-upo-be-human-first/chapter-3-challenges-for-journalists-and-how-avauce
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What Not to Do: Examples from Pakistan

Watch these stories from Pakistani TV news channels: These are some examples of poor-quality or unethical rape coverage from Pakistan. They include news stories and talk shows, such as the one hosted by Dr. Asmir Liaquat. His program is not a typical example of bad journalism, but since we are talking about media, we're including all of mass media.

SHOWING THE VICTIM

Report by Dawn News

NEWS PACKAGE - JINNAH HOSPITAL NURSE SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Report by Aaj News
Nurse Case - Jinnah Hospital Karachi

Report by Dain News
Pakistan- Mansehra Report Sonia Police Gang Rape Case Manseh...
SHOWING THE VICTIM’S FAMILY ON TV
Program Aalam Aur Aalam by Dr. Aamir Liaquat

Aamir liaquat Part 2 Aalam Aur Aalam Rape in karachi 3 choti buch...

INTERVIEWING THE VICTIM AND ALLEGED RAPIST
Program Sach Ka Safar by Metro One

Sexual Harasment Ep # 31 Part 3 (Sach ka Safar).DAT

Note that the victim (shown in the later part of this video) — a teenage girl — was not raped. She was sexually harassed by her employer. She is still a victim whose identity should be protected; she shouldn’t have been interviewed openly on TV.

INTERVIEWING THE ALLEGED RAPIST
Report by Samee TV

Man who raped 48 dead bodies in Pakistan (Must watch)

Note that the man interviewed in this report is an alleged rapist who used to rape dead women in a graveyard in Karachi, Pakistan. The journalist was unable to control her emotions and was obviously very aggressive. As a reporter, you are just required to report — not pass your own judgement. Keep your emotions under control!
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Resources and Reading Material

Read and watch these examples of compelling rape stories, told without crossing ethical boundaries.

- The Best Reporting on Rape: A Marshall Project reading list.
- Pulitzer-Winning Reporting Highlights the Challenges of Reporting on Rape and How the Media Can Do Better. An 15-year-old said she was attacked at knife-point. Then she said she made it up. That’s where our story begins. Here’s the full story.
- The Hunting Ground — a film about campus assault cases in American universities.

Watch the trailer here. The film is available on Netflix.

You may also watch these interviews with the filmmakers:

THE HUNTING GROUND - Campus Rape Culture Exposed in Docu...

And read this: NPR report, which has some highlights of the interviews with rape victims.

- An excellent example from CNN of focusing on the issue without creating any sensationalism.

http://www.npr.org/2014/03/20/301416506/campus-rape-culture-exposed-in-documentary-the-hunting-ground

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Last but not least, you must read this analysis of the 2014 story that the Columbia Journalism Review called the winner of the “media-fail sweepstakes.” The Poynter Institute named it the “Error of the Year” in journalism. Rolling Stone, an American biweekly magazine, published a University of Virginia student’s story of a gang rape. Within days, the Washington Post discovered that the entire story had been fabricated by the victim. One important lesson for journalists here is: Believe everything, trust nothing. Fact-checking is the backbone of every story, not just rape cases. Read this report, which has some good lessons for journalists about covering rape stories.
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Self-Assessment Quiz

You are about to start Self-Assessment Quiz. Once you begin Self-Assessment Quiz, you will have to complete the quiz.

Click the button below to begin IMPORTANT - Clicking the Start Quiz button will start the timer and count as your chance to pass the test.

START QUIZ

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http://www.news.org/quiz/503630
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BROWSE THE COURSE:
Chapter 1: Ethics vs. Law: Ethics is above the Law
Chapter 2: Experts’ Opinions on Ethical Issues
Chapter 3: Overcoming Challenges
   Experts Thoughts on Interviewing for TV
   What Not to Do: Examples from Pakistan
   Resources and Reading Material
   Self-Assessment Quiz
Chapter 4: The Importance of Journalism Training
   Resources for Journalists
   Special Thanks

Self-Assessment Quiz

Question 1 of 2

Current Question
What would be an effective visual for a rape story? (Check all that apply.)

Choose

- Social media video
- Videos of the place where the alleged rape occurred
- Animations of documents — police reports, trial transcripts, mug shots
- Video of the police interrogation
- Courthouse video

NEXT

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Self-Assessment Quiz

Question 2 of 2

Current Question
Which techniques or rules would you adopt to hide the identity of a rape victim for a TV interview? (Check all that apply.)

Choose
- Bowed head
- Show clenched hands
- Distort the voices
- Blur the faces

FINISH

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Self-Assessment Quiz

You got 2 of 2 possible points.
Your score: 100%

Question 1 Correct: What would be an effective visual for a rape story? (Check all that apply)

Question 2 Correct: Which techniques or rules would you adopt to hide the identity of a rape victim for a TV interview? (Check all that apply)

Great job! You seem to have a very good understanding of punctuation.

Next, try the Spelling and Usage Quiz

Question Results

What would be an effective visual for a rape story? (Check all that apply)

Response:

✓ Social media video
✓ Videos of the place where the alleged rape occurred
✓ Animations of documents — police reports, trial transcripts, mug shots
✓ Video of the police interrogation
✓ Courthouse video
Question Results

Question:

Which techniques or rules would you adopt to hide the identity of a rape victim for a TV interview? (Check all that apply.)

Response:

- Bowed head
- Show clenched hands
- Distort the voices
- Blur the faces

Score 1 of 1

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Chapter 4: The Importance of Journalism Training

A Message from Professor Altaf Khan

Mass communication departments in all Pakistani universities are teaching the same courses, which include reporting, editing, media history and law, public relations, advertising. Media ethics is part of the media history and law course. Pakistani universities are not producing credible journalists. For that, not only journalism schools but the entire education system is responsible. Journalism is an art of communication. You have to be good at writing and speaking if you want to be a journalist. If the education system is not capable enough to train students to express themselves, how can you expect them to become good journalists? This basically is a problem of communications skills. Ninety percent of educated youngsters lack basic communication skills. Many of us think English is difficult; I believe many of us can't read and write Urdu either. It's the problem of the entire education system, but it shows up immensely in the media teaching institutions because these schools are all about communication skills. In any other discipline you can just hide behind books.
At journalism schools, we are serving the society. Every institution blames universities.

We can’t produce graduates who are more useful for the market but less useful for the society. It’s important to teach the courses of media laws and ethics to students; otherwise anyone with good writing and communication skills can become a journalist with any other degree. Professional journalists must be aware of media ethics and laws.
Reporting on Rape? Follow Ethical and Humane Practices

Lack of Training on Rape Coverage

Carolyn M. Byerly, assistant professor of journalism at the Radford University, says that journalism textbooks contain no comprehensive guidelines about the coverage of rape. She also emphasizes the importance of including sociology courses in the journalism curriculum.

“The teaching of social issues is mostly left to social science classes. In fulfillment of their general education requirements, journalism students may or may not take courses that explore gender, race, and other social issues,” she wrote.

The writer suggests that the inclusion of general and legal information on covering rape cases in journalism classes can be very beneficial. Byerly says that veteran as well as aspiring journalists should be reminded of their responsibility to highlight the sensitive and complex issues of the society — better journalism training in this regard would help journalists and victims as well as the audience.

Read Carolyn M. Byerly’s paper: An Agenda for Teaching News Coverage of Rape

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http://www.poynter.org/reporting-ups-be-human-first/chapter-5-resources/
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A Message from Kamal Siddiqi

The biggest issue is lack of training in ethics and law. Most practitioners of journalism in Pakistan do not have a degree. Very few have any formal training in the profession. This is a challenge that we are trying to address through a number of platforms.

At the Centre for Excellence in Journalism (CEJ), where we hold monthly courses for journalists, we make it a point to hold a session on media law and ethics as well as media safety. These are the two challenges for the media in Pakistan today. There are other platforms, notably the Coalition for Ethical Journalism, as well as the Pakistan Coalition for Media Safety, that also work on these issues.

Inclusion of Women in Newsrooms

 Barely 6 percent of working journalists in Pakistan are women. But this percentage is now changing and more women are coming into the profession. I agree that when women cover a rape case, there is more sensitivity involved. I know from my experience: When I assigned a woman reporter to cover a rape case after a male crime reporter did the typical judgmental job, it showed how reporting can change based on who is

http://www.poynter.org/courses/reporting-unfirst/chapter-4-importance-journalism-training/content/
A Message from Kamal Siddiqi

covering the story. The larger challenge is to make sure every reporter — both men and women — is able to cover with sensitivity and consistency.

Read Half the Sky, by Kamal Siddiqi, about hiring more women in newsrooms.

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Messages from Other Experts

“Male-dominated newsrooms have a lot to do with it. So does lack of professional training and lack of ethical standards. During media ethics workshops in Islamabad that I ran, a female reporter shared her feeling about the injustice rape victims face. The men – the majority in the room – tended to agree her. We set about creating a list of ethical issues and possible solutions. That was about five years ago. One of the first standards they set: minimize harm to the victim.” – Sherry Ricchiardi

DICK HUBERT
I can’t speak to the problems in Pakistani newsrooms, but it would seem the society is so socially backward that the newsrooms have to catch up as much as the society – an incredibly heavy lift.

NICOLE NOREN
Generally speaking though, covering stories about rape is not for everyone. It should only be done by journalists who 1) understand their responsibility to cover these stories fairly and accurately; and 2) have the training, emotional maturity and sensitivity to follow recommended best practices.

KRISTEN LOMBARDI
I tend to believe that most journalists are in this business to make the world a better place and that lack of training is the primary reason reporters screw up when covering sexual assault. They just haven’t been trained on how to properly recognize signs of trauma and how to handle trauma victims with sensitivity yet still be a dogged reporter. I don’t think gender has much to do with it — I know plenty of male investigative reporters who have written incredibly powerful journalistic pieces involving victims of sexual assault.

The difference is, they took the time to learn about the psychological,
emotional, and social fallout of sexual assault and adjusted their reporting techniques accordingly.
Reporting on Rape? Follow Ethical and Humane Practices

Joanna Jolly on Journalism Training

It's very difficult to remain free from your own culture. The only way to counteract a dominant patriarchal mindset in a newsroom is to hire lots of women and make sure women are in positions of leadership. They are more than capable of doing the job. The impetus behind hiring more women needs to come from the senior management — they need to be open to the idea of change. Journalists tend to be liberals, so this is not impossible.

Over the past few years, quite a few international media training programs have been launched that provide Pakistani journalists with opportunities to learn journalism in Western countries. But even after all the training, when journalists are on the field, they forget everything.
A TRAINING Lasts ONE WEEK.

The society you live in has a far bigger influence on you so it's not surprising that Western values do not stick. Perhaps it's more sensible to see a change in attitudes as a long-term project which may take a decade or so to happen. Again, hiring more women will help counter this.

Joanna Jolly

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Self-Assessment Quiz

You are about to start Self-Assessment Quiz. Once you begin Self-Assessment Quiz, you will have to complete the quiz.

Click the button below to begin. IMPORTANT - Clicking the Start Quiz button will start the timer and count as your chance to pass the test.

START QUIZ
Reporting on Rape? Follow Ethical and Humane Practices

Self-Assessment Quiz

Question 1 of 3

Current Question
Which skill(s) are very important for journalists? (Check all that apply.)

Choose
- Knowledge of media law
- Knowledge of media ethics
- Communication skills — written and verbal

NEXT LEAVE BLANK
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Self-Assessment Quiz

Question 2 of 3

Current Question
Do you think that international media training programs are effective in changing Pakistani media practice?

Choose one

- Maybe
- Yes
- No

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Self-Assessment Quiz

Question 3 of 3

Current Question

After taking this course, do you think that including more women in newsrooms, especially at senior editorial positions, can bring a positive impact on how rape is covered in Pakistan?

Choose one

- Maybe
- No
- Yes

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Self-Assessment Quiz

You got 3 of 3 possible points.
Your score: 100%

Question 1 Correct: Which skill(s) are very important for journalists? (Check all that apply)

Question 2 Correct: Do you think that international media training programs are effective in changing Pakistani media practice?

Question 3 Correct: After taking this course, do you think that including more women in newsrooms, especially at senior editorial positions, can bring a positive impact on how rape is covered in Pakistan?

Question Results

Question: Which skill(s) are very important for journalists? (Check all that apply)

Response:

- Knowledge of media law
- Knowledge of media ethics
- Communication skills — written and verbal

Score 1 of 1

Question Results

Question: Score 1 of 1
Do you think that international media training programs are effective in changing Pakistani media practice?

Response:

Maybe

Feedback:
That is correct. International journalism training programs can’t bring quick change to the Pakistani media landscape; it will take a decade or so to see lasting impact.

Yes

No

Question Results

Question: After taking this course, do you think that including more women in newsrooms, especially at senior editorial positions, can bring a positive impact on how rape is covered in Pakistan?

Response:

Maybe

Feedback:
That is correct. It has nothing to do with gender. Every journalist — man or woman — should be skillful and sensitive enough to cover a rape story in an ethical way.

No

Yes
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Resources for Journalists

Uks: A Research, Resource and Publication Center on Women and Media, Islamabad, Pakistan
(website)

Center for Ethics in Journalism — University of Arkansas
(website)

Center for Journalism Ethics – University of Wisconsin-Madison
(website)

Center for International Media and Law and Policy Studies – Indiana University, Bloomington
(website)

Competence and Trauma Center for Journalists (CTCJ) — University of Peshawar, Pakistan
(website)

Resources for Journalists:

Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma, Columbia Journalism School, New York

Media Law Center for Ethics and Access, Kent State University

National Sexual Violence Resource Center

Pew Research Center – Journalism and Media

Sexual Violence Research Initiative

Sliha Center for the Study of Media Ethics and Law – University of Minnesota

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Special Thanks

A special thank you to the consultants and advisors for this project:

Atif Khan, journalism professor at the University of Peshawar

Chairman of Journalism department at the University of Peshawar, Atif Khan is global adjunct faculty at the center for International Studies at Ohio University. He completed his doctorate in communication and media sciences from Germany. He lives in Peshawar with his wife and three sons. Email: atifakhan@gmail.com

Amy Herdy, investigative producer for Chain Camera Pictures

For more than twenty years, Amy Herdy has specialized in covering crime for both television and print newsrooms. During her career, Herdy has won awards for her work in journalism, including an Emmy for an investigative television series she produced on the misconduct of public officials; Society of Professional Journalists awards; a Radio, Television News Directors Association award; an Associated Press award; two American Society of Newspaper Editors awards and a Military Reporters & Editors award.

http://www.poynter.org/courses/reporting-upo-be-humane-first/special-thanks
Now an investigative producer for Chain Camera Pictures, Ms. Herdy lives with her husband and a variety of animals on a farm on an island off the coast of Washington state.

Dick Hubert, retired journalist, chairman and executive producer of Videoware Corporation

Dick Hubert is the founder, chairman and executive producer of Videoware Corporation—a media production company in New York. He formed this company in 1984 to help the business and broadcast communities create quality content and reach specific audiences using the latest electronic delivery systems.

Joanna Jolly, BBC journalist

Joanna Jolly is the BBC’s South Asia editor, based in London; she was also recently assigned to the BBC’s Washington bureau as a feature reporter. Over the past decade, she has worked as a radio producer in London, Brussels and Jerusalem. Jolly has also spent several years based in South Asia, first as the regional producer in Delhi and later as the BBC Nepal correspondent in Kathmandu. Jolly specializes in radio documentaries and long-form journalism. She won the 2015 Amnesty International Award (radio) for the BBC documentary "Red River Woman." She is currently writing a book on murdered and missing Aboriginal women in Canada.

Kamal Siddiqi, director, Center for Excellence (CEJ), Karachi

Kamal Siddiqi is the director of the Centre for Excellence in Journalism (CEJ) in Karachi. CEJ is an initiative for the professional development, training and networking of Pakistani journalists and media professionals.

Siddiqi earned a master’s degree in mass communication from the University of Karachi and another master’s in media studies from the London School of Economics. Email: ksiddiqi@iba.edu.pk

Kristen Lombardi, staff writer, Center for Public Integrity

Kristen Lombardi is an award-winning journalist who has worked for the Center for Public Integrity since 2007. She was one of 24 journalists awarded a Nieman Fellowship in Journalism at Harvard University in 2011-2012. She also won a fellowship from the Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma for her coverage of child sexual abuse, and she is active in the Dart Society. Lombardi graduated with high honors from
the University of California at Berkeley and has a master’s degree in journalism from Boston University. Email: klombardi@publicintegrity.org

Mark Memmott, supervising senior editor at NPR

Mark Memmott is NPR’s supervising senior editor for standards & practices. In that role, he’s a resource for NPR’s journalists — helping them raise the right questions as they do their work and uphold the organization’s standards. Twitter handle: @MarkMemmottNPR

Nicole Noren, producer, ESPN

Nicole Noren is a producer for the ESPN program Outside the Lines. A member of the network’s Enterprise and Investigative Unit, she specializes in stories on education, health and youth sports. Her account of human trafficking at the 2010 World Cup soccer tournament in South Africa was honored with the Edward R. Murrow Award in video investigative reporting — a first for a sports entry. Her story on a college swimmer who battled borderline personality disorder was awarded the Mental Health America 2015 Media Award. An avid traveler and outdoor enthusiast, the University of Hawaii graduate completed a yoga teacher training program in 2014. Email: Nicole.K.Noren@espn.com

Paula Lavigne, reporter at ESPN

Paula Lavigne has been with ESPN since May 2008 as an investigative reporter for television and online, working primarily for the show Outside the Lines. She is a true cross-platform reporter, able to work on camera for television and write for online, print and mobile. She is experienced in covering several topics and is a specialist in data journalism and statistics (data acquisition, cleaning and analyzing). She also trains colleagues on databases and investigative reporting techniques, including making public records requests and negotiating for records and data. Email: Paula.Lavigne@espn.com

Sandra Davidson, communications law professor, Missouri School of Journalism

Sandra Davidson teaches communications law at the Missouri School of Journalism and is an adjunct professor at the University of Missouri School of Law. Davidson received her J.D. from the University of Missouri-Columbia, where she was a member of Law Review and graduated Order of the Coif. She received her doctorate in philosophy from the University of Connecticut-Storrs. Davidson is a member of the honor societies of Phi Kappa Phi and Phi Beta Kappa. She is the attorney


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for the Columbia Missourian, the web-first community newspaper produced by the School of Journalism. Davidson has been active in the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, previously serving as chair of the law division. Email: davidsons@missouri.edu

Sherry Ricchiardi, author and media development specialist

Sherry Ricchiardi, Ph.D., is a professor emeritus at the Indiana University School of Journalism. Based in Washington, D.C., she has worked with journalists in more than 50 countries. In March-April 2016, she was a Fulbright scholar at Zaporizhzhia National University and Karazin Kharkiv University in Ukraine, teaching media ethics, investigative reporting and conflict sensitive journalism. As part of the U.S. State Department speaker program, she has worked in Pakistan, South Sudan, Colombia, Guatemala, Armenia and Spain. Ricchiardi spent 14 years at the Des Moines Register, a prize-winning newspaper in the Midwest, as an investigative reporter and Sunday magazine writer. She later became city editor for the Columbia Missourian, a newspaper produced at the University of Missouri School of Journalism, her alma mater. Email: srichiai@iu.edu

Tasneem Ahmar, director, Uks Foundation, Islamabad, Pakistan

Tasneem Ahmar holds master’s degrees in communication (1989 University of Hawai, USA); and mass communication (1978 University of Karachi, Pakistan). Currently heading Uks Research Centre — a media advocacy and monitoring organization — she is also executive producer for Meri Awaaz Sunno (hear my voice), a rights-based radio program with a predominantly female technical and editorial team. Email: info@uksresearch.com
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Sahar Majid, Course Developer

This online course was conceived and designed by Sahar Majid.

Majid is a graduate student at the Missouri School of Journalism, where her area of emphasis is broadcast. She is currently working as a program intern at the International Center for Journalists (ICFJ) in Washington, D.C. She is also working on her MA project; developing this course formed part of her master’s research, which focuses on improving the sexual assault coverage at Pakistan’s news channels.

Majid is from Karachi, Pakistan, and before joining the University of Missouri, she worked at the Dawn Media Group in Karachi — the oldest and one of the largest media houses of Pakistan. In 2013, she was an ICFJ Fellow and worked at the Sun Sentinel newspaper for a few weeks. She also worked on the Philadelphia Inquirer’s editorial board for six months as an Alfred Friendly Fellow in 2014. As part of her academic requirements at Mizzou, she worked at KBIA and KOMU — university-affiliated radio and TV stations. She also worked as a reporter for a campus-based website called Missouri Business Alert.

Sahar Majid, Course Developer

Majid is a fan of Bollywood movies and songs. She also loves to cook Pakistani food.

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A project of The Poynter Institute funded by The Knight Foundation
Guest blog: How to improve coverage of rape in India


Sahar Majid | July 20, 2016

On December 16, 2012, a 23-year-old medical student in New Delhi boarded a bus with her friend and was fatally gang raped by six men.

The rape caused massive protests throughout India, garnering international media attention.

While the justice system did a poor job of dealing with the assailants, the media arguably did not do much better in terms of covering the story fairly and sensitively. Here’s a look at what could have been done better.

Disclosing a victim’s identity

In India, revealing the identity of a victim of any sexual offense (not just rape) is punishable. The Press Council of India also cautions against victim identification. Obeying this law, journalists in India didn’t publish the victim’s real name. They gave her an imaginary name, “Nirbhaya,” meaning fearless. Follow-up stories referred to the "Nirbhaya rape," "Nirbhaya case," "Nirbhaya gang rape case," etc.

However, by applying an easily recognizable label to the case, the media may have done a disservice to other rape victims whose stories are largely ignored. According to a report released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) in 2014, 93 women are raped every day in India. Giving the New Delhi victim a fictitious name may have made it easier for the media to refer to the case in shorthand, but it arguably made
the case seem like a horrific, isolated event rather than the symptom of a far larger problem.

**Bringing the eyewitness on TV**

While the investigation into the New Delhi case was still ongoing, Zee News brought the incident’s sole eyewitness, the victim’s friend, on TV for an interview.

In such circumstances, bringing the key witness on TV is a violation of section 228A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), which emphasizes the protection of victim identity. Bringing her friend on TV was an indirect way of revealing the victim’s identity, violating her privacy as well as the law. To avoid this, the media should have interviewed her friend as an anonymous source rather than disclose the friend’s identity, inadvertently disclosing the victim’s identity as well.

**Reenacting the crime**

“Crime Patrol,” an Indian true crime show, produced an episode about the tragedy that was scheduled to air about a month after the victim died. Usually, this show deals with lesser-known cases. However, the New Delhi case had already gained national and international media coverage; everything about it was known to the public. Arguably, broadcasting this episode was a way to profit off the tragedy by chasing TV ratings.

Bharatiya Stree Shakti, a nongovernmental organization, challenged the episode’s telecast, arguing that the show would “increase the misery of the victim’s family as well as hurt the feelings of women in general.” The Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC) thus restrained the channel from airing the episode on its original air date.
However, Sony TV never gave up the idea of broadcasting the episode. After eight months – when the accused were about to be sentenced through a fast-track trial – a court allowed the show to air.

**Final thoughts**

Covering sensitive stories like rape should always raise ethical questions for newsrooms. Unfortunately, this isn't the reality for news channels that may be more concerned about reaching their target ratings rather than ethics.

Despite intense media coverage of the New Delhi case -- and even though four out of the six assailants received death sentences -- India still has not done enough to improve justice for female victims of sexual violence. Even though gang rapes continue to make headlines, the risk is that the media will continue using rape cases as a short-term, sensational way to rack up views and comments. India's victims of sexual violence deserve better than that.

**CEJ director: For less sensationalist rape coverage, journalists need ethical training**


**Sahar Majid | August 15, 2016**

IJNet sat down for two conversations with Kamal Siddiqi, a longtime print journalist in Pakistan and director of the Center for Excellence in Journalism (CEJ), which offers trainings for journalists in Pakistan and plans to offer the country's first-ever master's program in journalism.
One of the aims of the CEJ (which is backed by the International Center for Journalists) is to provide practical training for Pakistani journalists, helping them better engage with audiences. Below are excerpts from IJNet's conversations with Siddiqi about a common problem facing newsrooms across the globe: producing sensationalist coverage for the sake of attracting clicks. As Siddiqi discusses, this has been particularly evident in Pakistani media coverage of sexual assault cases.

**IJNet: How can journalists identify a sensationalist story?**

**Siddiqi:** Sensationalism is when you take a story out of context or give it some sort of different meaning from what it’s supposed to be. We have a lot of journalists who do that in Pakistan, mainly because there’s such a major ratings war. And that, in many instances, is a problem because then you’ll have stories with information added to it that is not true. That just defeats the purpose of journalism.

Some of the most respected media organizations in Pakistan lack ethics while covering assault cases. For example, in a story about the rape case of a nurse in 2010, Dawn News showed the victim's face on TV while she was on a hospital bed. Also, in 2013, a five-year-old girl was raped in Lahore and not only was her name revealed, her face was shown and her father was interviewed on TV. How is the rape shield law practiced in Pakistan? If journalists or news organizations violate it, are there any severe consequences?

The naming of rape victims or interviewing of the family is not a criminal offense. It is more of a matter of ethics, not law. In terms of law, the legal recourse is the
defamation law, which is weak and largely unenforced in Pakistan. What we have seen is that over the passage of years, through training and awareness and by involving news directors and news editors, the practice of naming rape victims or minors involved in offenses of any kind has become minimal. There are still some newspapers and TV channels who continue the practice to gain ratings, but they are in a minority.

**Do you think covering sexual assault cases for TV is more challenging than print media?**

Yes, it is. The pressure on TV is more to give visuals and details. Also, the quality of journalism practiced in the broadcast media leaves a lot to be desired. There is little training or sensitization. But this is now changing.

**What do you think are the main reasons behind this?**

The biggest issue is lack of training in ethics and law. Most practitioners of journalism in Pakistan do not have a degree. Very few have any formal training in the profession. This is a challenge that we are trying to address through a number of platforms. At the CEJ, where we hold monthly courses for journalists, we make it a point to hold a session on media law and ethics as well as on media safety. These are the two challenges for the media in Pakistan today. There are other platforms, notably the Coalition for Ethical Journalism, as well as the Pakistan Coalition for Media Safety, that also work on these issues.
In the 2010 nurse rape case, a woman was raped by the doctor in his on-call room. While reporting this story, a Dawn TV reporter said, “There’s a question that needs to be answered: why did the nurse go to the doctor’s on-call room?” He said this in a very judgmental tone. How do you think social expectations influence how journalists report on rape cases?

 Barely 5 percent of working journalists in Pakistan are women. But this percentage is now changing and more women are coming into the profession. I agree that when women cover a rape case, there is more sensitivity involved. I know from my experience, when I assigned a woman reporter to cover a rape case after a male crime reporter did the typical judgmental job, it showed how reporting can change based on who is covering the story. The larger challenge is to make sure every reporter — both man and woman — is able to report with sensitivity and consistency.

 If journalists are provided with proper training, do you think it can bring substantial changes to how assault cases are covered in Pakistan?

 Yes, I believe that will happen.

 What should be the main components of a journalism training program for journalists who cover sexual assault cases?

 Ethics. Law. Media safety. I would also recommend counseling for those who cover trauma.
GBJ's Rick Dunham offers insight into entering today's business journalism landscape


Sahar Majid | August 30, 2016

Since its launch in September 2007, the Global Business Journalism (GBJ) program has produced 403 graduates from 61 countries. A joint venture of the International Center for Journalists and Tsinghua University in China, GBJ is aimed at preparing skilled business reporters and editors who can cover China’s economy and international markets in a more transparent way.

In an interview with IJNet, GBJ co-director and professor Rick Dunham discussed the importance of formal training in business journalism, China’s economic trends and important tools for business journalists.

IJNet: What role do business journalists currently have in China’s growing economy? How does that compare with their role on a global economic scale?

Dunham: Business journalism in China may be more important than business journalism in most countries because the economy has grown so quickly over the past three decades and is going through a period of uncertainty and restructuring. There is a strong need for high-quality business reporting to explain Chinese economic issues to news consumers.
Historically, the quality of economic reporting in China was low, and it is one of the top goals of the GBJ program to improve the skills of business journalists so they can accurately convey information and analyze it intelligently.

Of course, because the government owns or regulates the media, there is a different relationship between reporters and their audience. Outside of China, a business reporter who understands the complexities and contradictions of the Chinese system becomes a real asset to international news organizations.

Does a previous degree in business, commerce, finance or economics help in easily pursuing a degree in business journalism? Do journalists necessarily need a background in business to report on business and economics?

Journalists don’t need a degree in business to be successful business or financial journalists, but it is a major asset to have a broad knowledge of the business world, economics and finance. I recommend developing one or more specialties as well.

While journalism jobs are shrinking worldwide, business journalism jobs are increasing, and well-trained young journalists who know business and know how to tell business stories in a compelling way are in great demand around the world.

Which tools and skills do journalists need to excel in today’s business journalism environment?

Four sets of skills are essential. First, a basic knowledge of business, finance and economics. Second, critical thinking skills. You must be able to analyze and explain
complex subjects. Third, an ability to tell stories clearly, completely and yet concisely. And fourth, an ability to tell stories in multiple media. Young journalists must be versatile to succeed. That means an ability to create interactive graphics, photo galleries, audio and video reports, and an ability to adapt to the latest technological tools for storytelling.

**What advice would you give to journalists interested in taking on business and economic beats?**

Learn about the global economy and study how to analyze balance sheets. You need both “macro” and “micro” skills. You don’t need to be a business expert when you’re hired, but you need to be a quick and willing learner. You must be more than a stenographer who rewrites company or government agency press releases. You need to develop a network of sources and analytical expertise in the subject of your beat, whether it is a company, an economic sector or the global economy.

**What resources are available for journalists who want to specialize in business and economics?**

I strongly recommend University of North Carolina Professor Chris Roush’s “Show Me the Money: Writing Business and Economics Stories for Mass Communication,” a highly readable and deeply informative textbook. “The Bloomberg Way,” a manual created by the prestigious news organization, also is invaluable to would-be business specialists. The blog “Talking Biz News” keeps you up to date with the latest trends in business journalism and job openings, too.
Business and economics often intersects with other “beats,” such as politics, health and social issues. How can journalists who don’t specialize in business coverage increase their understanding of difficult economic concepts?

You are absolutely correct. If you follow the money, every beat is fundamentally an economic one. I covered politics at BusinessWeek magazine for 15 years, but I joke that I got an MBA at BusinessWeek because I took crash courses in international economics, trade, macroeconomics, budgets and taxes, corporate strategies, health care economics and money-in-politics.

You don’t need a real MBA to be a good economic reporter. You just need intellectual curiosity and a willingness to learn from diverse sources who often disagree with each other. The world is more interdependent than ever, and global business is more important than ever to all of us. I think it’s an exciting time to be studying global business journalism and to be reporting on our rapidly changing world.

Philadelphia Inquirer's Diane Mastrull talks the business of business journalism


Sahar Majid | September 13, 2016

As a business reporter at The Philadelphia Inquirer, Diane Mastrull has been reporting on businesses across Philadelphia since 2008.

While some might see business reporting as dry, Mastrull believes that business stories can actually be stories of willpower and courage. While in many newsrooms, the business section may not receive as many resources as other beats, Mastrull has found the
best approach for business reporting is working hard, drawing on her court reporting experience, and adding a human angle to her business stories in order to grab her audience’s attention.

During a conversation with IJNet, Mastrull shared what she loves about her job, what frustrates her, the best ways to connect with her subjects and audiences and more:

“Sobering topics”

Mastrull spent a significant chunk of her career covering politics and criminal court cases. The one thing she hated while covering these beats were the tragic, traumatizing stories, she said.

“What I love about business reporting is that you don’t have to deal with all that stuff,” she said.

However, business reporting has also allowed her to cover tough times, including the U.S. 2008 recession. “The stories involved a lot of people losing their jobs, a lot of downsizing; it also involved a number of banks being taken over. Those were really sobering topics,” she said.

**Business reporting blends everything**

Business is not the kind of beat that can be handled in isolation, because so many other story topics — education, health, travel, marriage, divorce — are connected with money in one way or the other, Mastrull said. “It blends everything,” she added.

This is partly why Mastrull draws heavily on her past experience as a court reporter. The ability to find and analyze relevant documents — such as bankruptcy records — has served her well in fleshing out her reporting, she said.
The human element

Audiences tend to be more interested in hearing stories of the people behind the businesses than the business itself, which contradicts the general perception that business reporting is boring, dry and all about statistics.

Mastrull said she believes that people want to know what motivated successful businessmen and women and what hurdles they had to face in order to get to where they are. While the business beat does deal with economics, it still requires general reporting and storytelling skills.

“Businesses are very much about the people behind them,” Mastrull said.

“Everybody has a story of what led them to what they are doing and sometimes it’s really amazing, the journey they’ve been on.”

A business reporter is not a business promoter

Last year, Mastrull wrote about two local women who launched a natural deodorant product. Her first story focused on how the two friends joined forces and went into business together. However, her follow-up piece tracked how they later ran into trouble when they switched manufacturers and customers’ orders didn’t get delivered on time.

In her second story, Mastrull couldn’t give her subjects the same positive coverage granted in her first article. As a business reporter, she had to give the readers accurate information, and giving undue publicity to a business is not a business reporter’s job, she explained.
**Connecting with audiences**

Mastrull admitted she finds it difficult to live and breathe social media as other reporters do, but she has been adapting in order to connect with her readers. There’s a constant push at the Inquirer for staff to be on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

“[Journalists] are the people who generally hide behind the bylines,” she said. “People were unaware who we were and we liked it that way. We now are being urged to market ourselves so people can feel a connection with us and continue to follow us.”

**Business education**

Mastrull doesn’t have a degree in business, commerce or economics, but she said she feels that pursuing such degrees is very important for those who want to become business reporters. As a result, the best thing aspiring business reporters can do is get a business degree, she explained, in order to understand the unique language of business.

“If you’re a journalist covering business, it helps you become smarter about what you have been working for,” she said. “It’s a tremendous disadvantage that I don’t have that kind of education. The more of this kind of knowledge you have, the more astute you can be.”
Chapter 5: Professional Analysis

According to a research by the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP), a woman is raped every two hours in Pakistan, and an incident of gang rape occurs every four to eight days.

It’s an ongoing issue that needs better media coverage.

This article aims to highlight the flaws in the TV coverage of rape cases by the Pakistani national news channels and the possible solutions to improve the reporting on rape.

The research is based on one-on-one in-depth qualitative interviews with 18 journalists and journalism trainers in Pakistan and the U.S. The interviews were conducted on phone and via email and besides this analysis, which is based on my interviewees’ opinions; I have also designed a free online course in collaboration with the Poynter’s News University that will be available next year. The course basically targets Pakistani TV journalists but can be useful for journalists across the Indian subcontinent.

The reason for choosing TV media for this project is that the literacy rate in Pakistan is 58 percent, according to the 2014-15 Pakistan Economic Survey. The national language of the country is Urdu. Because of the high illiteracy rate in Pakistan, only 11 percent of the population can read English newspapers. While Urdu language newspapers cater to a wide range of audience, growing number of Urdu language news channels have been playing a great role in informing the public.

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Cultural biases against women

Joanna Jolly, who was recently assigned to the BBC’s Washington bureau as a feature reporter, has experience of working in South Asia. She recently wrote a paper[^3] about the rape coverage in Indian English press. According to her, the concept of ‘false rape’ is popular in South Asia.

Mukhtara Mai, a gang rape victim in Pakistan, fought for justice and gained international media attention.[^4] She also received aid from international organizations for her bravery. Pointing towards Mai’s celebrity status, former president of Pakistan, Pervez Musharraf, in an interview with the *Washington Post* said, “You must understand the environment in Pakistan ... This has become a money-making concern. A lot of people say if you want to go abroad and get a visa for Canada or citizenship and be a millionaire, get yourself raped.”[^5]

“Getting raped is not a pleasant thing to happen to anyone. No one would volunteer to be the victim of a violent crime voluntarily,” Jolly said.

She suggests that it’s important to view this as one narrative – what she calls as a patriarchal narrative – and then counteract it with a different perspective that speaks for the rights of victims.

Sherry Ricchiardi is an expert in international media training and has conducted journalism workshops in Pakistan as well. She says that cultural biases toward women in

Pakistan are a big influence. “This needs to change and media can be instrumental in showing — not just telling — about the impact/consequences of these injustices.”

Ricchiardi says that in the Pakistani society, rape is not just an attack on a woman. “In this male-dominated society, it also can be revenge against her father, brothers or husband. You can find many examples of this.”

Masood Haider, a New York-based United Nations correspondent for the Dawn Media Group in Pakistan, says that in the Pakistani society, there are biases against women.

“There’s this male-dominated feudal system, which rules Pakistan, and the mindset of Pakistani journalists is also made by that because they are not devoid of the society,” he says.

Haider suggests that journalists need to be more sensitized to the needs of the profession and also towards women – how they are mistreated and maltreated.

“Until they are sensitized, until they know that this is right or wrong, they will continue to operate in a male-dominated, male chauvinist society,” he says.

The way rape cases are reported in Pakistani newspapers and news channels is changing and improving, yet it’s not perfect. For TV journalists, covering rape is challenging, even more so than for print journalists, because of the visual aspect.

Amy Herdy, an investigative producer for Chain Camera Pictures and an expert with more than 20 years of experience in covering crime for both television and print newsrooms, says that being a visual medium, television news can carry a greater impact than a print story. “Toward that end, if TV stations reported on sexual assault in a
responsible way, conveying sensitivity and confidentiality for the victim and approaching the issue as a societal issue, then they could help shift the culture of shame and blame.”

Kristen Lombardi, an award-winning journalist who has worked for the Center for Public Integrity since 2007 says that the situation in the United States is not very different. She says that social myths and cultural norms influence journalism because journalists are part of the society in which they practice their craft. They are susceptible to the same biases and prejudices. “It’s up to journalists to recognize their own biases. If they don't then journalism won't be much of an agent for social change.”

Pointing towards Pervez Musharraf’s statement for Mukhtara Mai rape case, Paula Lavigne, an investigative reporter with ESPN, suggests journalists to keep an open mind. “Although very, very rare, I have come across at least one case where a woman completely made up an accusation against an athlete just to get him in trouble, which she herself later admitted to me.”

Lavigne also urges journalists to realize the importance of good judgment during interviews. “Getting all sides of a story. Talking to witnesses, friends, etc. And getting information from police/prosecutors is key.”

Rape trauma

It’s important for journalists to understand the trauma of a rape victim.

Laura Palumbo, communications director at the National Sexual Violence Resource Center in the U.S, says that for victims and survivors of sexual assault, there are many short and long-term impacts on physical, mental and emotional health.
“There is significant stigma and barrier for those who experience sexual assault, and most survivors never report their experience for fear they will not be believed or supported.”

Palumbo says that when victims of sexual assault do report, their actions are often scrutinized or misunderstood. For instance, after traumatic events, delayed reporting is common. It is also common for memories to be unclear or inconsistent. She defines it as the neurobiology of trauma that most lay people and even many professionals are not aware of. They don’t understand what behaviors to expect from those impacted by trauma.

“When rape is covered in the news without proper context it can contribute to victim-blaming and myths such as false reporting,” she says.

Challenges for TV reporters

Kathleen Culver, assistant professor and associate director at the Center for Journalism Ethics, University of Wisconsin-Madison, believes that speed, competition and productivity are the main challenges a TV reporter has to face. “… how fast you are getting information out there, competition and … the need to fill time on the air is certainly a factor.”

Culver says, “In TV, we see more competition for ratings that can lead to more sensationalism, so you have to be extra careful, extra aware of whether you should play certain angles of a crime because you’re chasing ratings.”

Another challenge TV journalists face while covering a rape story is to show visuals and no doubt, it’s tricky.
On the one hand, they are equipped with all sorts of visual tools they can use to enhance the impact of their stories. On the other hand, all those tools can play a negative role – if not used carefully – in covering a sensitive issue such as rape.

Aisha Khalid, managing editor, Urdu department at the Voice of America, says that the tools that are available to TV journalists are not available to print journalists. “The only tool available to them [print journalists] is the language. So, sometimes it can be hard to find the right kind of words.”

Khalid says that the right use of TV reporting tools such as graphics, visuals, natural sound and pictures can enhance the impact of stories.

Lavigne suggests using videos of the place where the alleged rape occurred, or of any other location tied to the incident. She also advises TV reporters to film police interrogation as much as possible and also courthouse video.

“We also use animations of documents – police reports, trial transcripts, mug shots. Any sort of social media video from the time of the incident or of the parties together -- maybe an Instagram of the suspects from just a few hours before the reported assault.”

Lombardi says that covering sexual assault cases was the hardest topic she has experienced in her two-plus decades as a journalist, for a myriad of reasons. She says that victims often do not want to come forward because of the disbelief they have experienced when trying to report their rape or assault to institutional authorities, family members, friends, etc. That disbelief makes them very wary of reporters' motivations as well.
“You have to gain their trust and you have to cede your own control over the reporting, writing and editing process in ways that you don't encounter with other topics,” she says.

Lavigne says that the biggest challenge for TV journalists covering a rape case is getting women to talk to you.

“They’re skittish enough to talk on the phone or over email, but getting them to sit down in a chair in front of a camera is a huge hurdle.”

Lavigne says that in many cases, they ask to have their identity shielded, so you need to figure out how to do that with lighting/shadows, b-roll and, if necessary, altering their voice.

“It’s also tough to come up with b-roll. That’s true in either case, but especially again if you’re trying to protect someone’s identity,” she says.

With all challenges involved in the TV coverage of a rape case, it has some plus points as well.

Lavigne suggests that emotions get conveyed extremely well on television.

“Even if you have to shield a woman’s identity, hearing her tell her story in her own words is incredibly compelling,” she says.

Besides interviewing the victim, talking to the suspect(s) too is an important aspect of covering a rape case that can not only provide the audience with both sides of the story but can also lead to follow-up story ideas.

Lavigne says that in interviews with the suspects, you might get details that weren’t given to law enforcement or attorneys, and that might lead you to other follow up investigations.
“You can get to those questions about personal life, etc. with a suspect that probably weren’t covered in a criminal investigation. Does the suspect have some sort of alternate justification for what happened? It’s important to get that and for people to hear it in the suspect’s own words.”

To interview a rape victim, Lavigne advises journalists to give them space to tell their whole story but she also asks journalists to remain persistent in challenging statements that don’t add up, that seem fishy or that contradict one another.

“I think sometimes reporters are wary of being confrontational with an alleged victim, but you have to be. If there’s something in her story that doesn’t add up – and you don’t question it – then that puts you and the story at a disadvantage,” she says.

According to Lavigne, you might not end up using every bit of information in the finished piece because of its relevance, or time constraints, but you need to have that on the record and feel confident that you’ve got your own questions answered.

“Same thing with interviewing suspects and witnesses, although I think people are more comfortable being confrontational in those types of interviews already.”

**Revealing the victim’s identity**

In a 2010 story about the rape case of a nurse in Karachi’s Jinnah Hospital, a reporter from the Dawn News showed the victim’s face on TV while she was on the hospital bed. Also, in 2013 a five-year-old girl was raped in Lahore and not only her name was revealed, her face was shown, her father was also interviewed on TV.  

6 [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F-OcC1L7Dpc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F-OcC1L7Dpc)  

7 [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ptEwQ6W88XA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ptEwQ6W88XA)
Regarding the revelation of a victim’s identity, there are two contrasting views: one is based on the media law and the other on ethics.

In 2002, the Press Council of Pakistan implemented a 17-point Ethical Code of Practice. According to this, “In the cases of sexual offences and heinous crimes against children, juveniles and women, names and identifying photographs shall not be published.”

“The naming of rape victims or interviewing of the family is not a criminal offence. It is more of a matter of ethics and not law,” says Kamal Siddiqi, Director, Center for Excellence (CEJ) in Karachi, Pakistan.

Siddiqi mentions that the legal recourse to address this issue is the defamation law, which is weak and largely unenforced in Pakistan.

“What we have seen is that over the passage of years through training and awareness and by involving news directors and news editors, the practice of naming rape victims or minors involved in offences of any kind has become minimal. But there are still some newspapers and TV channels who continue the practice to gain ratings. But they are in a minority,” Siddiqi says.

Haider says that the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) is responsible for monitoring the TV stations in the country. But PEMRA’s code of conduct is ineffective as a guideline for Pakistani journalists.

Haider also mentions that there are a lot of influences that prevent PEMRA from performing its duties. Journalists in Pakistan don’t abide by the rule of law. “In Pakistan there is no rule of law so, anything goes,” he says.

According to Lombardi, in the United States, the press has generally kept anonymous the identity of rape victims for years.

“There are historical reasons for doing so, largely having to do with the backlash women have faced when coming forward with rape claims,” she says.

Lombardi believes that there is a line of thinking that argues against shielding rape victims' identities. She says that the thinking goes, because journalists protect victims' identities, journalists perpetuate the rape culture of shame and blame for rape victims.

“I have only rarely used pseudonyms for rape victims. I don't write about a rape victim unless she or he wants to go public and, in my experience, most victims who want to go public with their stories want people to know their names and the details of their cases. I would never publish a victim's story if he or she did not want to go public.”

Mark Memmott, National Public Radio’s supervising senior editor for standards and practices, says that media outlets such as NPR try to be sensitive when reporting about those affected by any type of trauma.

“We do not want to ‘retraumatize’ the survivors by unnecessarily making them relive the events.”

Memmott mentions that rape survivors are particularly vulnerable. “To a great extent, we follow their lead. If a survivor does not wish to be identified, we respect that decision. If a survivor wants to be identified – perhaps to ‘destigmatize’ what has happened – we also respect that decision.”
When the victim is a minor …

Covering the rape case of a minor is more difficult and should be dealt with more sensitivity.

Memmott says that in such cases because the survivor -- because it’s a child -- cannot make an informed decision about whether or not to speak about what happened; only if the child’s parents agree can they be interviewed. “And even then, a media outlet should consider carefully whether to broadcast or publish such an interview. It will follow that child the rest of his or her life,” he says.

Palumbo says that protecting a minor’s identity and privacy are very significant concerns.

“Identifying information about the accused can also betray a victim’s identities in cases when a family member has perpetrated the crime or in small communities where people are familiar with one another.”

According to Palumbo, parents may be involved in the legal considerations of the case, but the child or minor may not agree with the parent’s view or response to the situation. “These family dynamics can make stories involving children very difficult to cover,” she says.

When the victim/suspect is a public figure …

Covering rape cases in which public figures are involved can raise challenges. Lavigne has covered sexual assault cases in the U.S. in which athletes were involved. She says that some people -- often fans of that particular athletic team -- say the women do it for the money, because a few -- although very few -- women end up filing lawsuits and getting legal settlements that can be substantial sums of money.
“Sometimes they accuse women of targeting athletes who are likely to turn pro, because then they’ll have bigger paychecks to pursue.”

Memmott says that in cases where any public figure is involved, to some extent, he or she has already given up some of his or her privacy by courting public attention. But that does not mean, however, that the media can be any less careful about what to report or not report.

“Credible news outlets must avoid the temptation to report something just because a famous person is involved,” he says.

Palumbo says that in cases where a celebrity is involved, there is often heightened public response and it can be difficult for members of the general public to reconcile this information with their expectations of a high profile figure.

“Yet we know people who commit acts of sexual violence sometimes abuse celebrity status and the illusion of trust that comes with it. We also know sexual violence impacts such a significant portion of the population. This also includes leaders, celebrities and public figures.”

**Victim blaming**

In the 2010 nurse rape case in Karachi, the suspect was a doctor and the incident happened at his on-call room. A reporter from Dawn TV said in his report, “The question that needs to be answered is that what that nurse had been doing at the suspect’s place?”

He said this in a very judgmental tone and so is the Pakistani society’s mindset towards women – women are blamed even if they are victims.
Memmott says that often the person accused of the crime will allege that there was ‘consensual sex’ or that the survivor did something to signal that the sex was consensual.

“Media outlets need to be careful about drawing conclusions. They should stick to the facts as investigators determine what happened.”

Memmott also points out the issue of ‘rushing to judgment.’

“As we saw with the ‘Rolling Stone’ story about an alleged gang rape at the University of Virginia, stories of rape can be fabricated. Care must be taken to protect the suspect’s rights as well.”

**Focus on the issue, not on the individual**

There are different strategies to cover a rape case. Either journalists can focus on the individuals involved in the story (rape victim or suspects), statistics of the crime in that particular city, state or country or the issue in general.

There’s neither a set rule for this nor can we say with surety which strategy would bring a positive impact in the society. Experts have different views. But the aim is to do objective reporting that is not sensationalized in any way. However, Jolly believes that it’s important to focus on the factors that lead to rape and not on individual stories -- which are often sensationalized as horror stories for high ratings.

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Lack of training

In the Pakistani media, the root cause behind unethical practices while covering rape cases is the lack of training. Most practitioners of journalism in Pakistan do not have a degree and very few have any formal training in the profession.

Altaf Khan, a journalism professor at the University of Peshawar says that mass communication departments in all Pakistani universities are teaching the same courses which include reporting, editing, media history and law, public relations and advertising. Media ethics is part of media history and law course.

Professor Khan believes that journalism is an art of communication. “You have to be good at writing and speaking, if you want to be a journalist.”

Khan says that Pakistani education system is not designed to groom students’ communication skills and without these skills, we can’t expect to have good journalists.

He says that many Pakistanis think that they are not good at expressing themselves in English while he believes that most Pakistanis can’t properly read and write Urdu either, which is their native language.

“It’s the problem of the entire education system but it shows up immensely in the media teaching institutions because these schools are all about communication skills. In any other discipline you can just hide behind books.”

Khan criticizes the media organizations in Pakistan that expect journalism schools to train students to meet the needs of the market more than the needs of the society.

He says that at journalism schools they are serving the society. “We can’t produce graduates who are more useful for the market but less useful for the society.”
Khan also urges the importance of teaching the courses of media laws and ethics to journalism students. “… Otherwise anyone with good writing and communication skills can become a journalist with any other degree. Professional journalists must be aware of media ethics and laws.”

Lombardi tends to believe that most journalists are in this business to make the world a better place and that lack of training is the primary reason reporters screw up when covering sexual assault.

“They just haven’t been trained on how to properly recognize signs of trauma and how to handle trauma victims with sensitivity yet still be a dogged reporter.”

Noren also agrees that covering stories about rape is not for everyone. “It should only be done by journalists who understand their responsibility to cover these stories fairly and accurately and have the training, emotional maturity and sensitivity to follow recommended best practices.”

**Inclusion of women in newsrooms**

Kamal Siddiqi suggests the inclusion of women in newsrooms as a possible solution for the better coverage of rape cases in Pakistan.

He says that barely five percent of working journalists in Pakistan are women. “But this percentage is now changing and more women are coming into the profession.”

Siddiqi agrees that when women cover a rape case, there is more sensitivity involved.

“I know from my experience when I assigned a woman reporter to cover a rape case after a male crime reporter did the typical judgmental job, it showed how reporting can change based on who is covering the story.”
But at the same time, he adds, the larger challenge is to make sure every reporter -- both man and woman -- is able to cover with sensitivity and consistency.

Lombardi agrees that men can cover such stories with sensitivity. “I know plenty of male investigative reporters who have written incredibly powerful journalistic pieces involving victims of sexual assault. The difference is, they took the time to learn about the psychological, emotional, and social fallout of sexual assault and adjusted their reporting techniques accordingly.”

However, based on her experience of training journalists in Pakistan, Ricchiardi believes that male-dominated newsrooms in Pakistan are a major factor behind insensitive media coverage of rape cases. “During media ethics workshops in Islamabad that I ran, a female reporter shared her feelings about the injustice rape victims face,” she says.

Jolly too is of the same opinion that it’s very difficult for journalists to remain free from their culture. “The only way to counteract a dominant patriarchal mindset in a newsroom is to hire lots of women and make sure women are in positions of leadership,” she says.

Jolly strongly believes that women are more than capable of doing the job. “The impetus behind hiring more women needs to come from the senior management -- they need to be open to the idea of change. Journalists tend to be liberals so this is not impossible.”

**International media training and fellowship programs**

Over the past few years, quite a few international media training programs have been launched that provide Pakistani journalists with opportunities to learn journalism in
Western countries. But Jolly says that a training lasts one week. “The society you live in has a far bigger influence on you so it’s not surprising that Western values do not stick.”

Jolly says that the more sensible approach is to see a change in attitudes as a long-term project, which may take a decade or so to happen.

**Conclusion**

Based on this research, here are some recommendations for Pakistani journalists to improve the practice of reporting on rape cases:

- They must observe the code of ethics implemented by PEMRA and the Press Council of Pakistan, according to which the identity of a rape victim should not be revealed. Even if a victim wants to be identified, she should be warned about the long-term consequences of this decision. In case of a minor, even if the child’s parents allow journalists to disclose their kid’s identity, care must be taken because revealing a child’s identity who became a victim of a sexual offense might affect the rest of his/her life.

- Training shouldn’t be only for reporters, it’s equally important to train editors as well because they are the ones who are involved in policy formulation in any news organization.

- Hiring more and more women in newsrooms is one of the solutions, not the only solution. The right strategy is to make both men and women reporters capable enough to cover rape cases in an ethical manner.

- Training shouldn’t be considered as a short-term goal. It should be treated as a long-term project and journalists should be facilitated to participate in more and more training programs.
Interview with Aisha Khalid, managing editor, Voice of America, Urdu department

*Do you think covering rape cases is more challenging than print media?*

I would say Sahar that no and yes. TV journalists have so many tools. They can tell stories effectively in a more impactful way but at the same time those tools can work negatively as well if not used carefully.

*So, you mean to say that TV journalists have a lot more tools than print journalists?*

I'm saying that it can be both challenging and not challenging to cover a story of a sexual assault for TV. If you are well-versed in the basics of journalism, you would be better at using the tools, which are available to any TV journalist. But if you're not well versed in understanding the basic principles of journalism, the same tools are not going to help you. I would say about the print media that the same tools, which are available to TV journalists, they are not available to print journalists. The only which is available to them is the language. So sometimes it can be hard to find the right kind of words being mindful of the sensitivity of your readers to explain the context, to explain the situation. All you have to use are words. It's the power of the pen. But TV reporters have a lot more tools. They have graphics, they have visuals, they have stills, they have nat sounds, they have pictures to show. They can hide the identity of their subjects or the culprits using these tools. There are tools available but only the right use of these tools can determine how challenging covering the sexual assaults can be.

*In Pakistan we see some very reputable organizations such as Dawn TV violating journalism ethics. While searching the archives, I found the story of a nurse rape case from 2010. The incident took place in 2010 in Karachi. The victim was a nurse at the Jinnah Hospital and the suspect was a doctor at the same hospital. But she was raped at the doctor's mess. A reporter from Dawn TV in his story showed the victim's face on TV. Also, in the rape case of a five-year-old girl in Lahore, news channels showed her face and disclosed her name. The headlines ran with her name.*

I would not name any particular media outlet or newspaper but we do see this practice a lot. But my question is who is primarily responsible for setting up the basic rules and making sure that the laws are implemented to secure the identity of the victim. But there is a race for ratings and I would say this is the answer to your question. Because of the ratings' race, we see such thing happening. In today's news world of 24/7 channels, every channel is chasing the ratings and the result of that we see in the form of such
reporting. I'm not saying that it can be justified in any way but this is the explanation for such a behavior. My question regarding hiding the identity of a victim is that who is giving access of victims to the journalists. Isn't it the law enforcement agencies' basic responsibility to secure the identity of the victims. So, this is the kind of environment that journalists are working in. It is also one of the basic responsibilities of the editorial teams to guide their reporting teams in a way that stories of sexual assault can be covered in the right context -- in a balanced way -- in a way that the audience's sensitivity is not hurt.

Another thing that I would like to add is that there is a need for constant dialogues in our newsrooms between editorial teams and reporters about what ethical journalism involves especially in the cases of sexual assault. Recently, a group of Pakistani journalists visited the Voice of America's office in Washington D.C. One of the journalists was from FATA [Federally Administered Tribal Areas in Pakistan]. She said that the office of the managing editor who should give a final read to any story is almost non existent in Pakistani newsrooms. Another journalist, a very senior journalist, in fact he is part of a Islamabad Press Club. He, in an interview, said that in Pakistan there's no one to guide reporters. There's no experienced editor guiding the team in the direction of the right reporting or the right coverage of the news. So, that too is a reason.

In the story of the nurse rape case I just mentioned, the reporter also said in a very judgmental tone that what that nurse had been doing at the doctor's room. We as reporters are not supposed to pass our judgment. Our duty is report the facts. But this is the mentality of our Pakistani society as well. Women are blamed even if they are victims. So, the society influences journalism or journalism influences the society -- especially in rape cases?

I think so far the society has a more powerful role in having an influence on journalists. While we expect from journalists to impact the society but it's the other way around. And again, it happens in societies where we don't see enough freedom available to journalists for covering the stories in a balanced and unbiased way. The media is very impressionable. They don't have the right kind of freedom. On one hand, we see the Pakistani media have freedom to criticize politicians. But on the other hand, same media can't exercise this freedom when it comes to reporting certain issues of the society. So, I would say that the freedom of journalism ... freedom of speech ... also has to play a major role in the development of this phenomenon in the Pakistani society.

When it comes to journalism training, there are mass communication departments in almost all government-owned universities in Pakistan. Do you think these universities are producing credible journalists? If not, what lacks in their training?

Students in these universities are not getting enough practical training -- outside of books. As far as I know, students in the U.S. get internship opportunities, they get the opportunities to work at news organizations and a lot of times, these are paid internships.
So, they are getting the practical training, they are applying what they are learning in theory in schools at the same time -- even before they get a degree, even before they step into their professional lives. Even those students who are not studying journalism as their major subject, they take journalism courses as part of their specialized training that help them become more aware and independent individuals even if they don't want to pursue a career in journalism. In Pakistani journalism departments, students are not getting enough practical training.

_During the last few years, we have seen quite a few international journalism training programs have been launched and Pakistan is given considerable importance while providing sponsorships/funding to attend these fellowship programs. We have Alfred Friendly fellowship, ICFJ fellowships, East-West Center programs. Either they bring journalists to the U.S. or organize workshops in Pakistan or conduct webinars. But even after all these training programs, when Pakistani journalists are on the field, they forget everything. Pakistani universities are not providing them with enough training but that gap is filled by these training programs. But Pakistani journalists do what they are used to do. So, what do you think are the reasons behind this attitude?

I'm not surprised. Because they are going back to the same environment. They are going back to the same newsrooms. While I hope that these programs do succeed and I hope they do continue and I think their continuation will help Pakistani journalists get exposure of the right kind of environment. But in terms of giving results, in the form of the right kind of reporting -- if you talk especially about the coverage of sexual assault cases -- I would say that they won't go too far because they are going back to the same old newsrooms.

_One thing that many journalism trainers suggest is the inclusion of women in newsrooms. They think that if women are hired in newsrooms -- as reporters, editors or media managers -- sexual assault cases can get better coverage. Is it practically possible to hire more and more women in Pakistani newsrooms?

Yes and no, again. Yes, because if a woman is present in a newsroom, we can expect some changes. But again, if that woman doesn't have enough journalistic skills and knowledge of journalism principles, I don't think even the presence of women can bring the right kind of change.

You mean to say that gender doesn't matter, training does? If journalists are well trained, it doesn't matter who is covering an assault case.
I think that gender does not matter. Male or female ... it's all about journalism training, guidance and directions coming from the editorial team and also the environment they are working in. And, freedom of speech. 

*Can better journalism help eliminate or minimize this crime from our society?*

Yes, journalists can change the society by using the right kind of context, the right kind of language. Just reporting the incident, just reporting the crime and not avoiding the language that would glorify the culprit won't help. We see many rape stories that end up glorifying the culprit and making the rape victim look like a culprit. In a lot of cases, a victim becomes a culprit. In a lot of cases, when we finish reading the story, we leave the story with this thought in our mind that the victim must have done something that caused this incident. I would again say that the training is very important -- be it print media journalists or the electronic media journalists. Training and constant dialogues in newsrooms are important.

*Leslee Udwin, a BBC documentary filmmaker made a documentary on the infamous 2012 New Delhi Bus Gang Rape case. She interviewed one of the culprits, Mukesh Singh, involved in this case and included his interview in her film. Singh in his interview justified his act. He said that they tried to teach the victim a lesson and she was actually responsible for her rape because she was wearing wrong clothes and roaming around at 9pm. Don't you think including Singh's interview in the documentary is a glorification of a rapist?*

I think it was the right decision. It is a very good idea to reflect the mindset of a culprit. People who have this kind of mindset, they would think that he didn't do anything wrong. But people who sympathize with the victim, they must have a very strong reaction against this statement, which actually is the reflection of any patriarchal society. So, I think the filmmaker's decision was right. I don't see it as a glorification of the culprit, it actually was a mirror to the society.

*Interview with Amy Herdy, investigative producer for Chain Camera Pictures*

*Why do men become rapists? Are mothers responsible?*

Individuals have their own motivations for inflicting pain on others, but generally speaking, men rape due to issues of power, anger and control. This can begin in childhood if there is abuse and neglect. Additionally, it's easier to hurt someone if you don't identify with their humanity, and in many cultures, women are viewed as lesser beings than men.

The decision to inflict violence is a personal choice. A history of childhood abuse or neglect can contribute to feelings of powerlessness and sadness, which can lead to anger/rage and control as a means of coping. While mothers are certainly a significant factor in childhood, they are not responsible for someone's choice to rape.
In rape stories, only men/rapists are held responsible not their families -- especially parents. Please comment on a journalist's responsibility to highlight rape as a culture in which a family brings up sons in such a way that they think it's their right to dominate women and rape is just a consequence of that male-dominating culture.

When reporting an issue, it's important to look at it from every perspective. This is especially true of rape. Putting perpetrators in prison is just a beginning of addressing the epidemic of this type of violence. We should explore what is happening culturally when men are raised to have contempt or disregard for women, and raise the public's awareness that this is wrong and ultimately contributes to violence that harms everyone.

What are the challenges of covering a rape case for TV?

Television news is often sensationalistic, so they will try to sexualize a crime that is actually a crime of violence. The media in general is often victim blaming and also disregards a victim's privacy.

What are the plus points of covering a rape case for TV? I mean how TV journalists can effectively use the tools they have, that print journalists don't have?

Being a visual medium, television news can carry a greater impact than a print story. Toward that end, if TV stations reported on sexual assault in a responsible way, conveying sensitivity and confidentiality for the victim and approaching the issue as a societal issue, then they could help shift the culture of shame and blame.

What are the rules for good TV interviews with rape victims, rapists, eyewitnesses if any, such as in 2012 New Delhi Gang Rape case, there was an eyewitness) and family members of both rape victims and rapists?

The rules that apply for rape victims and rapists and witnesses are the same: Treat everyone with dignity and respect, ask open-ended questions, make sure you are representing what they said accurately and get both sides.

Please recommend effective visuals for a rape story?

Since rape is a very traumatizing act, any visuals connected to such a story should convey that. They could depict a person in pain, through either clenched hands or a grimace of pain or a bowed head, etc.

Which strategy is the best to bring impact from a rape story: focusing on number/crime statistics? Focusing on the subject (victim, for example, or may be the rapist)? Or focusing on the issue, in general?
The best strategy to make an impact regarding any kind of issue, including rape, is to make the story personal for the reader or viewer -- introduce them to someone affected by the issue, and delve deeply into their story. Statistics do not move people.

*Mukhtara Mai* was a gang rape victim in Pakistan who fought for justice and gained international media attention. She also received foreign aids for her bravery. Pointing towards Mai's celebrity status, former president of Pakistan, Pervez Musharraf, in an interview with the Washington Post said, “You must understand the environment in Pakistan ... This has become a money-making concern. A lot of people say if you want to go abroad and get a visa for Canada or citizenship and be a millionaire, get yourself raped.” Please comment.

That statement shows ignorance and also a misogynistic attitude. Research shows that there are very few false reports of rape, and to imply that someone would willingly put themselves at risk of such a horrific experience for personal gain is ludicrous.

**How much cultural and racial stereotypes play a role in rape stories?**

Unfortunately, cultural stereotypes are still at play in coverage of sexual assault. There is a strong victim-blaming culture in many newsrooms, and this translates into stories that blame the survivor for being in that place at that time, for wearing certain clothes or any use of drugs or alcohol.

**How can journalists remain objective – free from societal pressures and cultural stereotypes -- while doing a rape story?**

Journalists need to recognize when they are "triggered" by a story--when it has a strong emotional impact on them, for whatever reason--perhaps they were sexually assaulted, or a family member, or perhaps someone they know was accused of rape. If they find themselves having strong feelings about the issue, they should seek out advice from an editor or other trusted person, and if they can't work through it, they should give the story to someone else. But if they do cover the story, they should follow guidelines that have been established by organizations such as the Dart Center for Journalism & Trauma, which offers excellent advice on how to responsibly cover sexual assault.

Over the past few years, quite a few international media training programs are being launched that provide Pakistani journalists with opportunities to learn journalism in Western countries. But even after all these trainings, when journalists are on the field, they forget everything. What do you think are the major factors behind this attitude?

I would suggest that the journalists are not forgetting their training; rather, they are choosing to revert back to old (stereotypical) ways of reporting because change is hard, and changing your reporting style is hard, especially if the new way of doing those stories is not supported back in the newsroom by editors and other managers. But one
journalist can have a lot of impact, and if one person forges ahead and sets an example, others will follow.

*Everybody suggests the inclusion of women in newsrooms, is it practically possible in Pakistani newsrooms? If not, what are the limitations of hiring more and more women in the newsrooms especially in the leadership positions?*

I have personally met women in many Pakistani newsrooms, so it is possible. Leadership positions will be the last hurdle. In time, it will happen.

*Naming a rape victim is legal once the victim herself wants to be identified, but we can’t guarantee the victim’s state of mind at the time she agrees to go public and the trauma she will have to go through after going public. Considering this, should a journalist hide a victim’s identity?*

Absolutely not. Rape is a horrific act of exerting power and control over another person; after being victimized in this way, the survivor’s choices should be honored.

*In a rape story*[^11] *a woman reporter from the Sun Sentinel newspaper, which is published from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, writes about a rape victim and convicts (all teenagers): “The victim’s and suspects’ Facebook pages depict a clique of teens enamored of ‘thug life,’ posing with wads of cash and extended middle fingers. The girls assert their young sexuality through a preponderance of bathroom selfies featuring puckers, abs, cleavage and kissing couples.” These were all unnecessary details and also creating a frame that the victim’s lifestyle caused this mishap. Is this practice justified?*

No, it’s not. Rape has nothing to do with sex, although the act of sex is used as a weapon. Rape is about anger, power, and control. Any young girl who is exhibiting her fledgling sexuality is certainly not asking to be raped. To suggest that is irresponsible and ignorant.

*A ‘modest’ dress code was proposed[^12] by the Missouri lawmakers post-Capitol interns’ sexual harassment case in 2015. In Pakistan, you will find rape cases of women who lived in villages and covered themselves with a long veil, which means that rape doesn’t have to do anything with the victim’s dress. Your comments on this law by the Missouri lawmakers?*

Nothing that a woman says, does or wears brings on her own sexual assault. Let’s put it this way: An attractive young woman could wear a bikini into a bar, drink alcohol and dance and be perfectly safe ... if there are no rapists in the room.

[^12]: http://theslot.jezebel.com/missouri-lawmakers-wonder-if-dress-code-would-keep-them-1724889108
Interview with Joanna Jolly, BBC journalist

Why do men become rapists? Are mothers responsible?

I’m sorry, I cannot give a qualified answer to this question as I’m not a psychiatrist.

In rape stories, only men/rapists are held responsible not their families -- especially parents. Please comment on a journalist's responsibility to highlight rape as a culture in which a family brings up sons in such a way that they think it's their right to dominate women and rape is just a consequence of that male-dominating culture.

It’s important for journalists to highlight the patriarchal society that rape takes place in and to highlight the power structures - such as family pressure and expectation - that can lead to rape. It’s important to point out when a crime has been committed and not to excuse it as a widespread practice.

What are the challenges of covering a rape case for TV?

Sometimes a lack of pictures can make illustrating a rape story difficult. It’s important to prejudice a case by releasing sensational or sensitive material before a trial. It’s also important in general not to be sensational and give too much attention to the gruesome details of a case.

What are the plus points of covering a rape case for TV? I mean how TV journalists can effectively use the tools they have, that print journalists don’t have?

TV tends to have bigger audiences and more impact. This can be used to highlight a case.

What are the rules for good TV interviews with rape victims, rapists, eye-witnesses (if any, such as in 2012 New Delhi Gang Rape case, there was an eyewitness)\(^\text{13}\) and family members of both rape victims and rapists?

Abide by the law or by the guidelines given by the Press Council. When a suspect has been arrested for rape, only release basic details about them and do not try to reconstruct the crime through interviews with eye-witnesses, etc. until after the trial. Most countries do not allow you to identify rape victims which means you have to be careful interview friends and relatives so as not to give their identity away.

\(^{13}\) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=43uArAZH8Lo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=43uArAZH8Lo)
Please recommend effective visuals for a rape story?

Location shots can show where the crime took place.

Which strategy is the best to bring impact from a rape story: focusing on number/crime statistics? Focusing on the subject (victim, for example, or may be the rapist)? Or focusing on the issue, in general?

I think it’s important to focus on the factors that lead to rape and not on individual stories -- which are often sensationalized as horror stories for high ratings. It’s more important to understand why rape is an issue in a society. It’s important to remember rape is a violent crime and not a crime of lust or passion.

Mukhtara Mai was a gang rape victim in Pakistan who fought for justice and gained international media attention. She also received foreign aids for her bravery. Pointing towards Mai’s celebrity status, former president of Pakistan, Pervez Musharraf, in an interview with the Washington Post said, “You must understand the environment in Pakistan ... This has become a money-making concern. A lot of people say if you want to go abroad and get a visa for Canada or citizenship and be a millionaire, get yourself raped.” Please comment.

Getting raped is not a pleasant thing to happen to anyone. No one would volunteer to be the victim of a violent crime voluntarily. The concept of “false rape” is popular in South Asia. It’s important to view this as one narrative -- a patriarchal narrative -- and the counteract it with a different perspective that speak for the rights of victims.

How much cultural and racial stereotypes play a role in rape stories? How can journalists remain objective – free from societal pressures and cultural stereotypes -- while doing a rape story?

It’s very difficult to remain free from your own culture. The only way to counteract a dominant patriarchal mindset in a newsroom is to hire lots of women and make sure women are in positions of leadership.

Over the past few years, quite a few international media training programs are being launched that provide Pakistani journalists with opportunities to learn journalism in Western countries. But even after all these trainings, when journalists are on the field, they forget everything. What do you think are the major factors behind this attitude?
A training last one week. The society you live in has a far bigger influence on you so it’s not surprising that Western values do not stick. Perhaps it’s more sensible to see a change in attitudes as a long-term project which may take a decade or so to happen. Again, hiring more women will help counter this.

Everybody suggests the inclusion of women in newsrooms, is it practically possible in Pakistani newsrooms? If not, what are the limitations of hiring more and more women in the newsrooms especially in the leadership positions?

Of course it’s possible to hire more women, they are more than capable of doing the job. The impetus behind hiring more women needs to come from the senior management -- they need to be open to the idea of change. Journalists tend to be liberals so this is not impossible.

Naming a rape victim is legal once the victim herself wants to be identified, but we can’t guarantee the victim’s state of mind at the time she agrees to go public and the trauma she will have to go through after going public. Considering this, should a journalist hide a victim’s identity?

Decisions should be made on a case-by-case basis.

In a rape story, a woman reporter from the Sun Sentinel newspaper, which is published from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, writes about a rape victim and convicts (all teenagers): “The victim's and suspects' Facebook pages depict a clique of teens enamored of ‘thug life,’ posing with wads of cash and extended middle fingers. The girls assert their young sexuality through a preponderance of bathroom selfies featuring puckers, abs, cleavage and kissing couples.”

These were all unnecessary details and also creating a frame that the victim’s lifestyle caused this mishap. Is this practice justified?

This sort of reporting seeks to find blame for the crime through the lifestyle of those involved - it also plays to stereotypes. Again, care should be taken not to sensationalize rape stories and only report the basic facts.

A ‘modest’ dress code was proposed by the Missouri lawmakers post-Capitol interns’ sexual harassment case in 2015. In Pakistan, you will find rape cases of women who lived in villages and covered themselves with a long veil, which means that rape doesn’t have to do anything with the victim’s dress. Your comments on this law by the Missouri lawmakers?

I don’t want to comment on US laws without knowing the context.
Interview with Kamal Siddiqi, Director, Center for Excellence in Journalism (CEJ), Karachi, Pakistan

Do you think covering sexual assault cases for TV is more challenging than print media?

Yes it is. The pressure on TV is more to give visuals and details. Also the quality of journalism practiced in the broadcast media leaves a lot to be desired. There is little training or sensitization. But this is now changing.

How the rape shield law is practiced in Pakistan and if journalists/news organizations violate it, are there any severe consequences?

The naming of rape victims or interviewing of the family is not a criminal offence. It is more of a matter of ethics and not law. In terms of law, the legal recourse is the defamation law, which is weak and largely unenforced in Pakistan. What we have seen is that over the passage of years through training and awareness and by involving news directors and news editors, the practice of naming rape victims or minors involved in offences of any kind has become minimal. But there are still some newspapers and TV channels that continue the practice to gain ratings. But they are in a minority.

What do you think are the main reasons behind this irresponsible journalism?

The biggest issue is lack of training in ethics and law. Most practitioners of journalism in Pakistan do not have a degree. Very few have any formal training in the profession. This is a challenge that we are trying to adders through a number of platforms. At the Centre for Excellence in Journalism (CEJ), where we hold monthly courses for journalists, we make it a point to hold a session on media law and ethics as well as on media safety. These are the two challenges for the media in Pakistan today. There are other platforms notably the Coalition for Ethical Journalism as well as the Pakistan Coalition for Media Safety that also works on these issues.

Everybody suggests the inclusion of women in newsrooms, is it practically possible in Pakistani newsrooms? If not, what are the limitations of hiring more and more women in the newsrooms especially in the leadership positions?

Barely five percent of working journalists in Pakistan are women. But this percentage is now changing and more women are coming into the profession. I agree that when women cover a rape case, there is more sensitivity involved. I know from my experience when I assigned a woman reporter to cover a rape case after a male crime reporter did the typical judgmental job, it showed how reporting can change based on who is covering the story. The larger challenge is to make sure every reporter -- both man and woman -- is able to cover with sensitivity and consistency.
If journalists are provided with proper training, do you think it can bring substantial changes in the journalism practice of how assault cases are covered in Pakistan?

Yes I believe that will happen.

What should be the main components of a journalism training manual for the TV journalists who cover sexual assault cases?

Ethics. Law. Media safety. I would also recommend counseling for those who cover trauma.

Interview with Kristin Lombardi, Senior Reporter, The Center for Public Integrity

Do you think covering sexual assault cases for TV journalists is more challenging than print journalists?

I think covering the topic of sexual assault is difficult for any reporter, though I suspect there are unique challenges for those who have a camera. It is perhaps the hardest topic I've had to cover in my two-plus decades as a journalist, for a myriad of reasons. Victims often do not want to come forward because of the disbelief they have experienced when trying to report their rape or assault to institutional authorities, family members, friends, etc. That disbelief makes them very wary of reporters' motivations as well. You have to gain their trust and you have to cede your own control over the reporting, writing and editing process in ways that you don't encounter with other topics.

I have spoken about best practices for covering sexual violence and my own lessons learned extensively in interviews and have written several tip sheets on this topic. You can find some enlightening interviews and tip sheets on the website of the Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma, at Columbia Journalism School. I'd encourage you to look up the tip sheet I did for Dart on the art of the interview, in which I lay out my own method for interviewing victims of sexual assault.

On the website of the National Press Club, you will find a link to a panel I did in January on how to improve your reporting of this topic. Again, I encourage you to check it out when you're looking to build your own curriculum for Pakistani reporters. I've done similar tip sheets for the Investigative Reporters and Editors.

How the rape shield law is practiced in Pakistan and if journalists/news organizations violate it, are there any severe consequences?

I'm not sure I understand the law. Is it the law to shield rape victims' names or not? I don't really feel equipped to comment on another country's laws about how to handle the identities of rape victims. I will say that in the United States, the press has generally kept anonymous the identity of rape victims for years. There are historical reasons for doing so, largely having to do with the backlash women have faced when
coming forward with rape claims. But there is a line of thinking that argues against shielding rape victims' identities.

The thinking goes, because we protect victims' identities we perpetuate the rape culture of shame and blame for rape victims. I have only rarely used pseudonyms for rape victims. I don't write about a rape victim unless she or he wants to go public and, in my experience, most victims who want to go public with their stories want people to know their names and the details of their cases. I would never publish a victim's story if he or she did not want to go public.

What do you think are the main reasons behind irresponsible journalism in Pakistan where reporters disclose the rape victim's identity?

I tend to believe that most journalists are in this business to make the world a better place and that lack of training is the primary reason reporters screw up when covering sexual assault. They just haven't been trained on how to properly recognize signs of trauma and how to handle trauma victims with sensitivity yet still be a dogged reporter.

I don't think gender has much to do with it -- I know plenty of male investigative reporters who have written incredibly powerful journalistic pieces involving victims of sexual assault. The difference is, they took the time to learn about the psychological, emotional, and social fallout of sexual assault and adjusted their reporting techniques accordingly.

In a patriarchal society like Pakistan’s, some journalists blame women even if they are victims. So, does the society influence journalism practice or journalism affects societal behavior especially in rape cases?

This is the same in the United States. Yes, social myths and cultural norms influence journalism because journalists are part of the society in which they practice their craft. They are susceptible to the same biases and prejudices. It's up to journalists to recognize their own biases. If they don't then journalism won't be much of an agent for social change.

If journalists are provided with proper training, do you think it can bring substantial changes in the journalism practice of how assault cases are covered in Pakistan?

Absolutely. It has only been in the last 10 or 20 years that journalists in the U.S. have really tackled sexual assault in their coverage and helped to change the conversation on sexual assault here. That has coincided with a growth in training. You should really contact Bruce Shapiro, the executive director of the Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma, which is dedicated to training reporters on responsible trauma reporting. He could give you the larger context you're seeking.

What should be the main components of a journalism training manual for the TV journalists who cover sexual assault cases?
Read some of my tip sheets for best practices on interviewing victims of sexual assault. Those practices would apply to any reporter, print or TV. But you may want to speak with reporters who actually work in TV to get the components unique to the medium itself.

**Interview with Laura Palumbo, Communications Director, National Sexual Violence Resource Center**

*How is covering a rape case different from covering any other trauma story?*

Sexual assault is a complex topic. It affects people of all genders, ages, races and incomes. Statistics confirm sexual violence is also widespread, and according to the Center for Disease Control, nearly one in five women and one in 71 men experience rape or attempted rape at some time in their lives.

For victims and survivors of sexual assault there are many short and long-term impacts on physical, mental and emotional health. In addition to the many layers of an individual’s experience, there are many widespread myths about sexual assault in U.S. society.

There is significant stigma and barrier for those who experience sexual assault, and most survivors never report their experience for fear they will not be believed or supported.

When victims of sexual assault do report, their actions are often scrutinized or misunderstood. For instance, after traumatic events delayed reporting is common. It is also common for memories to be unclear or inconsistent. This is due to the neurobiology of trauma, but most lay people and even many professionals are not aware of what behaviors to expect from those impacted by trauma.

When rape is covered in the news without proper context it can contribute to victim blaming and myths such as false reporting.

*What ethical challenges a journalist has to face while doing a rape story?*

It is the role of journalists to cover news events objectively. Still, it is important to understand privacy concerns and vulnerability of victims of sexual assault. Journalists must also be sensitive to the rights of the accused. When interviewing journalists should consider their technique and be aware of the psychological impact of trauma and risk for triggering or retraumatizing victims.

*What are the dos and don'ts of covering a rape story?*

It is never appropriate for newspapers to disclose the names of victims of crime and this poses many safety, privacy and legal concerns for survivors.

Allow the victim to disclose what they are comfortable sharing, and do not prod for details or ask irrelevant questions. Do not provide details such as what a victim was
wearing or information which can be identifying. Avoid using terms that place responsibility with the victim.

If alcohol was involved, consider how this information is included in the story as alcohol and drugs are often used strategically by those who perpetrate sexual violence.

For expert sources, many journalists miss the opportunity to connect with a representative from a rape crisis center or another field expert who can provide valuable insight and context.

There are many helpful guidelines on this topic, please review:


How social media should be used for promoting the coverage of a rape case?

Social media should never be sued to share the specifics of a case or potentially identifying information about the victim. In many instances social media has been used to pressure or harass crime victims into silence. You can use social media to link to resources like a local community rape crisis center or educational materials, statistics and hotlines.

What are the challenges involved in covering the rape case of a child (minor)?

Protecting a minor’s identity and privacy are very significant concerns. Identifying information about the accused can also betray a victim’s identity in cases when a family member has perpetrated the crime or in small communities where people are familiar with one another.

Parents may be involved in the legal considerations of the case, but the child or minor may not agree with the parent’s view or response to the situation. These family dynamics can make stories involving children very difficult to cover.

What are the challenges of a rape case in which a celebrity is involved -- either as a victim or as a culprit?

In cases where a celebrity is involved there is often heightened public response. It can be difficult for members of the general public to reconcile this information with their expectations of a high profile figure. Yet we know people who commit acts of sexual violence sometimes abuse celebrity status and the illusion of trust that comes with it. We also know sexual violence impacts such a significant portion of the population this also includes leaders, celebrities and public figures.
Interview with Nicole Noren, producer for the ESPN program Outside the Lines

Why do men become rapists? Are mothers responsible?

First of all, not only men rape. That being said, how someone evolves into a perpetrator of sexual violence is a result of many influences. Among those being pathological predisposition, parental examples/behavior (i.e. if they don’t establish clear boundaries and teaching of moralistic behavior, or they idealize their child and raise them with a sense of entitlement), misogynistic media in which women are often objectified and dehumanized, suffering abuse as a child (desire to have power and control), etc.

In rape stories, only men/rapists are held responsible not their families -- especially parents. Please comment on a journalist's responsibility to highlight rape as a culture in which a family brings up sons in such a way that they think it's their right to dominate women and rape is just a consequence of that male-dominating culture.

I don’t necessarily agree with this statement, it’s more of an opinion. My journalistic responsibility is to present the facts, and to seek both small and larger societal truths. It’s important to note however, that children in this world are not being brought up solely by their families. They are being heavily influenced by what they consume on social media, video games, violent internet pornography, school, peers, and other areas. Sure, there is still a male-dominated culture, but women have made tremendous strides since the 1950s. Is rape less common now than it was when societies are more male-dominated? Some actually feel the violence against women is a reaction to men feeling emasculated by women, they are seeking a reclaiming of power and control.

What are the challenges of covering a rape case for TV?

The biggest challenge is maintaining confidentiality/anonymity for those who wish to remain unnamed. Also, the charged nature of these cases makes it tough to fairly cover them because a majority of the time all parties won’t participate in the story.

What are the plus points of covering a rape case for TV? I mean how TV journalists can effectively use the tools they have, that print journalists don't have?

Being able to watch/hear someone describe the violence involved in a rape is very different than reading it. A television story about sexual assault has the ability to make the experience hit home for viewers in a visceral way.

It’s also important to provide both sides, and a TV story can is also be quite effective because it gives the accused an opportunity to show their character and explain their situation. It humanizes the characters in a way that simply can’t be done in print.

What are the rules for good TV interviews with rape victims, suspects, eye-witnesses?
Some good general rules are: be very respectful and careful with confidentiality, don’t ask leading questions, and be very honest and upfront with the people you are interviewing so they understand what they are agreeing to do, and know what the repercussion will be once a story airs.

Please recommend effective visuals for a rape story?

Filming the scene of where the events allegedly took place, emergency calls to police, showing visuals of transcripts, crime scene photos, police interrogation videos, and photos/video of the people involved so viewers are able to get to know them.

Which strategy is the best to bring impact from a rape story: focusing on number/crime statistics? Focusing on the subject (victim, for example, or may be the rapist)? Or focusing on the issue, in general?

I’ve found that the best strategy is to focus on one or two subjects and humanize the topic before you go big picture. Stats and numbers, and broad issue-oriented discussions have their proper place, but people won’t stop and take notice when you mention those things. They will however listen to another human being tell their story.

How much cultural and racial stereotypes play a role in rape stories? How can journalists remain objective – free from societal pressures and cultural stereotypes -- while doing a rape story?

Cultural and racial stereotypes often play a part in how a rape allegation is handled by law enforcement and the justice system. So the best thing journalists can do is to always ask themselves the question: Did someone’s culture/racial play a role in how people handled this case? If so, how?

Over the past few years, quite a few international media training programs are being launched that provide Pakistani journalists with opportunities to learn journalism in Western countries. But even after all these trainings, when journalists are on the field, they forget everything. What do you think are the major factors behind this attitude?

Generally speaking though, covering stories about rape is not for everyone. It should only be done by journalists who 1) understand their responsibility to cover these stories fairly and accurately, and 2) have the training, emotional maturity and sensitivity to follow recommended best practices.

Everybody suggests the inclusion of women in newsrooms, is it practically possible in Pakistani newsrooms? If not, what are the limitations of hiring more and more women in the newsrooms especially in the leadership positions?

Sorry, I don’t have a great answer to this. Every woman is in a very different situation, so I think the limitations are often more personal than institutional.
Naming a rape victim is legal once the victim herself wants to be identified, but we can’t guarantee the victim’s state of mind at the time she agrees to go public and the trauma she will have to go through after going public. Considering this, should a journalist hide a victim’s identity?

Every case is incredibly different. But I take someone’s state of mind heavily into consideration before ever naming a victim, and always make sure they understand the repercussions. In the sports media landscape, we often deal with stories about high profile individuals, who are often worshipped by fans in their community, so the risks of a victim going public are more pronounced.

A ‘modest’ dress code was proposed by the Missouri lawmakers post-Capitol interns’ sexual harassment case in 2015. In Pakistan, you will find rape cases of women who lived in villages and covered themselves with a long veil, which means that rape doesn’t have to do anything with the victim’s dress. Your comments on this law by the Missouri lawmakers?

Well, sexual harassment is obviously different than sexual assault, but my personal opinion is that anytime someone tries to connect a woman’s attire to sexual harassment/assault, it’s essentially victim-blaming and adding to the problem rather than addressing the root of the issue.

Interview with Dick Hubert, retired journalist and founder, chairman and executive producer of Videoware Corporation

Why do men become rapists? Are mothers responsible?

I haven’t the first clue. My mother raised me to respect women … so did my Dad. I do remember my mother saying she was in favor of legal prostitution, so that young men with overflowing testosterones and no one to handle it for them should have a legal place to go. But that position (from the 1950s) was in, literally, another age and time.

The United States has reached the point where adult women who seduce under age young men are NOT called rapists, Go figure that one out.

A 15-year-old male who is "bedded" by his female teacher is still considered "lucky" by most males ... not a rape victim. Mostly rape is reported as male upon male and male upon female. Perhaps your survey should reflect that fact. After all, the Pulitzer Prize went to the Boston Globe’s “Spotlight” team for its groundbreaking reporting on male Catholic priests raping young under-age male parishioners.

In rape stories, only men/rapists are held responsible not their families -- especially parents. Please comment on a journalist's responsibility to highlight rape as a culture in which a family brings up sons in such a way that they think it's their right to dominate women and rape is just a consequence of that male-dominating culture.
I don't think we have had a "culture of rape" in the United States, except during slavery times, when Black women were slaves to white masters. Currently, a "culture of rape" does seem to be a problem in third world countries, most especially Islamic.

**What are the challenges of covering a rape case for TV?**

I still believe that the victim's identity should not be publicized, and I also believe that the alleged rapists should not be identified by name until a case has been fully adjudicated.

We have the horror of the famed Duke LaCrosse Team which was branded with the label of rapist until it was conclusively proved that they were innocent and their accusers were liars. But they never fully got their good names back.

We also currently have a dynamite public case at Amherst College (John Doe vs. Amherst College) wherein a young man claims that he was accused of rape and thrown out of school and not allowed to present evidence to defend himself that his accuser openly bragged in texts and e-mails that she had encouraged sex with him. That case will soon be in court, the legal document is now public, and it looks like it will be a huge mess.

**What are the plus points of covering a rape case for TV? I mean how TV journalists can effectively use the tools they have, that print journalists don't have?**

The danger in TV is that TV needs a picture, so how to protect the two sides until the case is adjudicated is a difficult one.

**What are the rules for good TV interviews with rape victims, suspects, eye-witnesses and family members of both rape victims and suspects?**

The best rules would seem to be to blur the faces and distort the voices so that no one can identify the victim or the accused rapist.

**Which strategy is the best to bring impact from a rape story: focusing on number/crime statistics? Focusing on the subject (victim, for example, or may be the rapist)? Or focusing on the issue, in general?**

The issue in general, followed by specific cases that have been adjudicated.

**How much cultural and racial stereotypes play a role in rape stories? How can journalists remain objective – free from societal pressures and cultural stereotypes -- while doing a rape story?**

It's probably best that the journalists in question not be from the same religion, social group, educational institutions, class and race as the parties in the case.
Everybody suggests the inclusion of women in newsrooms, is it practically possible in Pakistani newsrooms? If not, what are the limitations of hiring more and more women in the newsrooms especially in the leadership positions?

I can’t speak to the problems in Pakistani newsrooms, but it would seem the society is so socially backward that the newsrooms have to catch up as much as the society -- an incredibly heavy lift.

Naming a rape victim is legal once the victim herself wants to be identified, but we can’t guarantee the victim’s state of mind at the time she agrees to go public and the trauma she will have to go through after going public. Considering this, should a journalist hide a victim’s identity?

I am always in favor of protecting a victim's identity. If the victim insists on going public, it would really be necessary to sit her down and go into detail about the hazards involved. It is the ultimate "whistleblowing" act.

In a rape story, a woman reporter from the Sun Sentinel newspaper, which is published from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, writes about a rape victim and convicts (all teenagers): “The victim's and suspects' Facebook pages depict a clique of teens enamored of 'thug life,' posing with wads of cash and extended middle fingers. The girls assert their young sexuality through a preponderance of bathroom selfies featuring puckers, abs, cleavage and kissing couples.” These were all unnecessary details and also creating a frame that the victim's lifestyle caused this mishap. Is this practice justified?

Writing in detail about the "class" of the victims and accusers is always dangerous. Here again this would seem to be an example of a middle class journalist writing about lower class kids, and being repelled by the social scene. But these lifestyles are rife with potential danger -- rape, early and unwanted pregnancy, disease spread sex, the works. So writing about them could be termed a public service. It is a very difficult editorial decision to make.

A ‘modest’ dress code was proposed by the Missouri lawmakers post-Capitol interns’ sexual harassment case in 2015. In Pakistan, you will find rape cases of women who lived in villages and covered themselves with a long veil, which means that rape doesn’t have to do anything with the victim’s dress. Your comments on this law by the Missouri lawmakers?

I would suggest that the Missouri lawmakers were putting the onus of rape on young women and how they dress. Unfair. As for Pakistan, you seem to have a rape problem even when the women are dressed in a burqa. That is a societal issue where the rot comes from the top -- I am thinking of the assassination of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.
Interview with Mark Memmott, supervising senior editor for standards and practices at the National Public Radio (NPR)

How is covering a rape case different from covering any other trauma story?

Media outlets such as NPR try to be sensitive when reporting about those affected by any type of trauma. We do not want to “retraumatize” the survivors by unnecessarily making them relive the events. Rape survivors are particularly vulnerable. To a great extent, we follow their lead. If a survivor does not wish to be identified, we respect that decision. If a survivor wants to be identified – perhaps to “destigmatize” what has happened – we also respect that decision.

There is also the issue of “blaming the victim.” Often the person accused of the crime will allege that there was “consensual sex” or that the survivor did something to signal that the sex was consensual. Media outlets need to be careful about drawing conclusions. They should stick to the facts as investigators determine what happened.

There is also, of course, the issue of “rushing to judgment.” As we saw with the “Rolling Stone” story about an alleged gang rape at the University of Virginia, stories of rape can be fabricated. Care must be taken to protect the suspect’s rights as well.

How social media should be used for promoting the coverage of a rape case?

Very carefully. Because most social media posts are very short, the writing must be precise to avoid any misimpressions. They should not be “sensational.” Stick to the facts and provide links to where more information can be found.

What are the challenges involved in covering the rape case of a child?

All the same concerns expressed previously, with the additional caution that the survivor [because it’s a child] cannot make an informed decision about whether or not to speak about what happened. Only if the child’s parents agree can they be interviewed. And even then, a media outlet should consider carefully whether to broadcast or publish such an interview. It will follow that child the rest of his or her life.

What are the challenges of a rape case in which a celebrity is involved -- either as a victim or as a culprit?

The added complications include the fact that this person is a “public figure.” To some extent, he or she has already given up some of his or her privacy by courting public attention. That does not mean, however, that the media can be any less careful about what to report or not report. Credible news outlets must avoid the temptation to report something just because a famous person is involved.

Naming a rape victim is legal once the victim herself wants to be identified, but we can’t guarantee the victim’s state of mind at the time she agrees to go public and the
trauma she will have to go through after going public. Considering this, should a journalist hide a victim’s identity?

Here’s what I would suggest: a journalist should talk with the person and make sure she understands that if she goes public, the story will follow her (because of the internet) for years or the rest of her life.

Even if the victim says she is OK with that, the journalist should not use her name if there is any doubt about whether she understands the ramifications.

\textit{In a rape story, a woman reporter from the Sun Sentinel newspaper, which is published from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, writes about a rape victim and convicts (all teenagers): “The victim's and suspects' Facebook pages depict a clique of teens enamored of 'thug life,' posing with wads of cash and extended middle fingers. The girls assert their young sexuality through a preponderance of bathroom selfies featuring puckers, abs, cleavage and kissing couples.”}

These were all unnecessary details and also creating a frame that the victim’s lifestyle caused this mishap. Is this practice justified?

I can’t say for sure whether the details were unnecessary. There is a balance: the story needs to give enough context so that readers will understand the people involved, without “blaming the victim.” I would need to have been involved in the decisions made by the reporter and editors to make an educated observation.

**Interview with Paula Lavigne, investigative reporter at ESPN**

\textit{Why do men become rapists? Are mothers responsible?}

Wow. I don’t have a solid answer to that question. That’s probably better suited for a psychologist or criminal justice expert. Although I certainly think it’s a subject worth exploring.

I can tell you from reporting that rapists come from all walks of life. All skin colors, social classes, religions, sexual orientations, etc. And there are different types of rapists – those who attack strangers and those who attack people they know.

Rape can be anything from a guy jumping out of the bushes and dragging you into the woods for an assault, or it can be a guy you’ve been dating and whom you’ve invited over at your apartment to watch a movie but who forces you to have sex against your will. Both of those are rape.

\textit{In rape stories, only men/rapists are held responsible not their families -- especially parents. Please comment on a journalist's responsibility to highlight rape as a culture in which a family brings up sons in such a way that they think it's their right to dominate women and rape is just a consequence of that male-dominating culture.}

Well, you have to understand a little about the type of sexual assault situations I report on. I report on athletes who are accused of rape and other violence.
In my line of work, the culture that people say leads to sexual assault is the athletic program or professional sport structure itself. This is a subject of great controversy, but those who believe that there is a culture say that the adoration of athletes, the importance put on the program/team/sport, the encouragement of aggressive behavior on the field and the theme of physical dominance in sport can lead to these young men acting inappropriately toward women and, in some cases, forcing themselves on them sexually. There’s been a lot of work done on that topic by people who are far more expert on it than I am, but it certainly is a subject of concern.

As for being held responsible, I think – as I stated earlier – that there’s a worthy story in looking into the family backgrounds of men who are accused of rape. But once you turn 18, you’re an adult in most states and you are responsible for your own actions. I’ve reported on convicted rapists who come from two-parent families that seem to be on solid ground and those who didn’t really have any parents, or had parents who were in prison. So you certainly can’t make a blanket statement about parenting and eventual rapists.

**What are the challenges of covering a rape case for TV?**

Getting women to talk to you. I say ‘women’ because they’re most often the victims of sexual assault, but it could be men too. They’re skittish enough to talk on the phone or over email, but getting them to sit down in a chair in front of a camera is a huge hurdle. And in many cases, they ask to have their identity shielded, so you need to figure out how to do that with lighting/shadows, b-roll and, if necessary, altering their voice. It’s also tough to come up with b-roll. That’s true in either case, but especially again if you’re trying to protect someone’s identity. If you see our original Baylor piece14, you’ll see how we did it and I think the producer who did that work did a fabulous job.

**What are the plus points of covering a rape case for TV? I mean how TV journalists can effectively use the tools they have, that print journalists don’t have?**

Well, I think the emotion gets conveyed extremely well on television. And that’s from all parties. Even if you have to shield a woman’s identity, hearing her tell her story in her own words is incredibly compelling.

If you look at the online video posted by the University of Kansas student who accused a football player of raping her15, that’s pretty powerful stuff. Or if you see our “Outside the Lines” original piece on Baylor, you’ll see how much stronger the emotion is in words and gestures than it would be in print.

In interviews with the suspects, you might get details that weren’t given to law enforcement or attorneys, and that might lead you to other follow up investigations. You can get to those questions about personal life, etc. with a suspect that probably weren’t

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covered in a criminal investigation. Does the suspect have some sort of alternate justification for what happened? It’s important to get that and for people to hear it in the suspect’s own words.

*What are the rules for good TV interviews with rape victims, suspects and eyewitnesses?*

I think the same rules apply for any interview: Give them space to tell their whole story, but be persistent in challenging statements that don’t add up, that seem fishy or that contradict one another.

I think sometimes reporters are wary of being confrontational with an alleged victim, but you have to be. If there’s something in her story that doesn’t add up – and you don’t question it – then that puts you and the story at a disadvantage. You might not end up using it in the finished piece because of its relevance, or time constraints, but you need to have that on the record and feel confident that you’ve got your own questions answered.

Same thing with interviewing suspects and witnesses, although I think people are more comfortable being confrontational in those type of interviews already.

*Please recommend effective visuals for a rape story?*

Well, we often use videos of the place where the alleged rape occurred, or of any other location tied to the incident. We try to get as much police interrogation video as we can, and I realize that might not be an option for you. Courthouse video. We also use animations of documents – police reports, trial transcripts, mug shots. Any sort of social media video from the time of the incident or of the parties together. Maybe an Instagram of the suspects from just a few hours before the reported assault? Stuff like that. And then of course any video of interviews.

*Which strategy is the best to bring impact from a rape story: focusing on number/crime statistics? Focusing on the subject (victim, for example, or may be the rapist)? Or focusing on the issue, in general?*

I’d say all three.

*Mukhtara Mai was a gang rape victim in Pakistan who fought for justice and gained international media attention. She also received international aid for her bravery. Pointing towards Mai’s celebrity status, former president of Pakistan, Pervez Musharraf, in an interview with the Washington Post said, “You must understand the environment in Pakistan ... This has become a money-making concern. A lot of people say if you want to go abroad and get a visa for Canada or citizenship and be a millionaire, get yourself raped.” Please comment.*

We see the same thing with women who accuse athletes of rape. Some people (often fans of that particular athletic team) say the women do it for the money, because a
few – although very few – women end up filing lawsuits and getting legal settlements that can be substantial sums of money. Sometimes they accuse women of targeting athletes who are likely to turn pro, because then they’ll have bigger paychecks to pursue.

How much cultural and racial stereotypes play a role in rape stories? How can journalists remain objective – free from societal pressures and cultural stereotypes -- while doing a rape story?

You need to keep an open mind. Although very, very rare, I have come across at least one case where a woman completely made up an accusation against an athlete just to get him in trouble, which she herself later admitted to me. Using good judgment in interviews. Getting all sides of a story. Talking to witnesses, friends, etc. And getting information from police/prosecutors is key. We probably have better access to police records here, which helps us tremendously. Keep in mind that my scope is far more narrow - college and professional athletes – so I don’t deal with rape in the general population.

Naming a rape victim is legal once the victim herself wants to be identified, but we can’t guarantee the victim’s state of mind at the time she agrees to go public and the trauma she will have to go through after going public. Considering this, should a journalist hide a victim’s identity?

Our position on this is to shield her identity if she asks for it. We always push for as much transparency as possible. If a woman decides she’s OK with having her name/image used, we will generally use it.

You should look into some research on this topic, because there are a number of people – including women – who feel that shielding a woman’s identity in a sexual assault cases just adds to the stigma. There is an opposing view as well, of course, but it’s worth noting that there are solid arguments on both sides of this issue.

A ‘modest’ dress code was proposed by the Missouri lawmakers post-Capitol interns’ sexual harassment case in 2015. In Pakistan, you will find rape cases of women who lived in villages and covered themselves with a long veil, which means that rape doesn’t have to do anything with the victim’s dress. Please comment.

Yikes. I mean, it’s a dicey situation. Yes, there is a big problem with blaming women for getting raped because of what they’re wearing. I gather there was a lot of backlash here as well. Tied to the sexual harassment case, it certainly draws controversy and it’s silly to think that the solution to sexual harassment is a dress code. Sure, any workplace can implement a dress code – and probably should in cases where you’re dealing with the public, customers, etc. -- but to do so in reaction to something like this was probably not a wise move.
Interview with Sherry Ricchiardi, Author and media development specialist

Do you think covering sexual assault cases for TV is more challenging than print media?

TV tends be much more sensationalistic. I know there have been times when TV has shown a photo of victim and her used her name. I hear common complaint that media do expose victims but not perpetrators. Shaming and blaming the woman is common in some — but not all — Pakistani media.

What do you think are the main reasons behind the irresponsible coverage of rape cases in Pakistan?

Male-dominated newsrooms have a lot to do with it. So does lack of professional training and lack of ethical standards.

During media ethics workshops in Islamabad that I ran, a female reporter shared her feelings about the injustice rape victims face. The men — the majority in the room — tended to agree with her.

We set about creating a list of ethical issues and possible solutions. That was about five years ago. One of the first standards they set: minimize harm to the victim.

In a patriarchal society like Pakistan’s, some journalists blame women even if they are victims. So, does the society influence journalism practice or journalism affects societal behavior especially in rape cases?

Media’s behavior in rape cases definitely could affect societal opinions about this crime. Right now, cultural biases toward women in Pakistan are a big influence. This needs to change and media can be instrumental in showing — not just telling — about the impact/consequences of these injustices. Sometimes, rape in Pakistan is not just an attack on a woman. It this male-dominated society, it also can be revenge against her father, brothers or husband. You can find many examples of this.

If journalists are provided with proper training, do you think it can bring substantial changes in the journalism practice of how assault cases are covered in Pakistan?

Of course training would help. You would not just be dealing with the crime of rape, but also cultural innuendos. I would highly advise finding Pakistani activists, journalists and mental health specialists who could provide insight into the kind of training that would do the most good.

What should be the main components of a journalism training manual for the TV journalists who cover sexual assault cases?

You have to go back to basic ethical values: truth telling, minimizing harm, accountability and independence. Those might have a different slant in Pakistan because
of cultural issues and male-dominance, particularly in rural areas where women are most vulnerable. Look at what is being done, find examples that illustrate the injustices, then come up with possible solutions led by Pakistani journalists. Look at how rape is handled by media in other countries.

**Interview with Kathleen Culver, Assistant Professor and Associate Director, Center for Journalism Ethics, University of Wisconsin-Madison**

*Do you think covering sexual assault cases is more challenging for TV journalists as compared to print journalists?*

Certainly. Because you have the visual aspect so you have to be careful to protect identities. Also, in TV we often see more competition for ratings and that can sometimes lead to more sensationalism so, you have to be extra careful, extra aware of whether you are playing certain angles of a crime because you are chasing ratings.

*TV journalists also have to meet tight deadlines. We get only one copy of a newspaper daily but news channels have more stuff to produce because they have to broadcast news 24/7. Do you think this also plays a role why journalists have to cross the ethical boundaries especially in sensitive cases such as rape?*

Yes, I think of course, some of the primary countervailing factors that work against ethical practice are speed: how fast we are getting information out there; competition and productivity ... you know needing to fill time on the air is certainly a factor.

*I'm not sure how much you are aware of the Pakistani society ....*

I'm not. I want to be really very careful to say that I'm not at all aware. I don't want to overstate things that I don't have enough information about.

*But I can give you a couple of examples of the rape stories from Pakistan and we can relate them with some of the cases in the U.S. In 2010 a nurse was raped was raped in the largest city of Pakistan, Karachi. She was raped at a doctor's on-call room in a hospital where she worked. A reporter from Dawn TV, one of the most prestigious media houses in Pakistan zoomed in on the victim's face and thus violated the law of protecting the victim's identity. Also, in 2013, a five-year-old girl was raped and she was also shown on TV when her injured body was being taken to the hospital. And, her name was also disclosed. This has happened in the U.S. as well when in a few cases a rape victim's identity was disclosed. So, I would like to know how this rape shield law is practiced in the U.S. and if journalists or news organizations violate it, are there any severe consequences?*

We have the First Amendment so the situation here is different from Pakistan. And it would be difficult for any law that would restrain news media from doing something to succeed because of prior restraints of press, it's pretty much the hallmark of
the First Amendment law is that we can't restrain the news media from doing things but you can punish them afterwards for doing things such as liable cases and that sort of things. So, usually we are talking in the United States about ethical questions when it comes to identifying rape victims. So, we are not -- in most reputable newsrooms -- we don't identify victims of sexual assault.

In Pakistan, there is no such First Amendment protection. So, shield laws could be more easily passed and put into place. But again, I'm not an expert on state of the media law in Pakistan.

*How societal norms can affect journalism practice especially when it comes to covering rape cases?*

If you look at the United States for instance, the idea of not naming a rape victim is something that is contested and developed over time. Even today, we are not where we need to be when it comes to dealing with victims of sexual assault.

 Naming a rape victim is legal in the U.S. once the victim herself wants to be identified. But should we just blindly disclose a victim's identity once she agrees to go public? Shouldn't we inform her about the consequences? Because it is very much possible that at the time she agrees to go public, she might not be in a very stable of mind but after a few weeks or months, realizes that it was a mistake.

That's a very very difficult question because victims are not reduced to victimhood so, they still are humans and can still make their own decisions. There's something that is a little perhaps disturbingly paternalistic with news media saying that we are not going to name someone even though they want to come forward. It takes a lot of guts for a woman to say that I'm a victim of a sexual assault and I'm naming my accuser and so, journalists have to be very very careful about what decisions they are making and how they can justify those ethically and they are respecting the victims but not taking over their agency because they, as human beings, have a right to have that agency respected.

*What are some of the factors behind unethical journalism practice in Pakistan especially in rape cases in which sometimes victims are judged based on their sexual history and framed in a negative way?*

I think there are a number of factors at work. I already mentioned the ideas of speed, competition and productivity -- filling time and space. A lot of journalists are trying to get attention, it's a very competitive field and so, sensationalizing these kinds of crimes can be very very disturbing -- it makes our practices more questionable, certainly. I also think that societal attitude towards the two genders and societal attitude towards sexual activity and sexual violence are very much a factor here. So, if you have a society that has violence ... because of sexual violence, it is more related to sex than it is to violence ... that's a real problem in reporting because you are a part of that society and carrying this attitude forward in journalism.
And, you see that in the United States as well. I'm not saying that it's just a problem in Pakistan. But how we think about violence and how we think about women in particular definitely affects how it plays out in journalism. Now, journalism can have a positive impact on those attitudes as well. Journalism can be a part of changing how we think about certain things.

Over the past few years, quite a few international media training programs are being launched that provide Pakistani journalists with opportunities to learn journalism in Western countries. But even after all these trainings, when journalists are on the field, they forget everything. What do you think are the major factors behind this attitude?

Remember that when we are talking about ethics, we are talking about a number of different levels so there's the individual level where I am sort of resolving my own world questions and my own values and then there's a professional role -- what does it mean to be an ethical reporter as opposed to being just an ethical person. What does that professional role dictate about ethics. And then there's the institutional level. What do our media organizations expect from us. When you are talking about how journalism deals with sexual assaults... the role of the organization ... that institutional level of ethics is very very important.

Because if I apply my personal values in how I should cover a rape story ... even if I'm the strongest person in the whole world and I've worked hard and got good training but if my organization does not support the better reasoning I have gone through then I'm going to have much less of a chance of success.

So, when you are talking about pretty much any ethical reasoning, but we can just apply it to this case, if you don't have that interaction between that individual level, the professional role level and the institutional level, it can be very hard for any body, for any one person to be able to justify the decisions that they are making.

So, for instance if I go to a training and I realize that I should not be identifying rape victims by face or by name and come back into my newsroom and that's the standard practice in my newsroom to disclose rape victims' identity, it's going to be very difficult for me to overcome that.

Everybody suggests the inclusion of women in newsrooms for better coverage of rape cases because women can think in a sympathetic way about rape victims that men can't. So, do you think it is practically possible in the male-dominated society of Pakistan?

In a male-dominated society, it is even harder. Absolutely, newsroom diversity across genders, races, ethnicities, religions, sexual orientations, newsroom diversity is critical to having balanced coverage that properly reflects the society as a whole. If you have any group dominating newsroom employment and management especially, you can end up with very tilted coverage that doesn't reflect the society. So, yes it is important to have women in newsrooms. Not just because of coverage like this but all sorts of coverage -- coverage of economics, coverage of civic affairs, women should be part of
the teams that are reporting on that. So, that's important. But it's a very slow moving wheel.

Bringing diversity in the newsrooms is the goal of many news organizations in the U.S. too. Racial diversity for instance, is the goal of a lot of organizations and they are not making a lot of progress at all. So, the other important thing to point out here is that, that's not the solution. It's part of the solution. But it's not enough to say that if we get more women in newsrooms, we are going to have more sensitive coverage of sexual violence. It's not realistic. And, it also gets male reporters off the hook. It says it's only women reporters' responsibility to sensitively cover rape cases. And, that's not true. Male reporters have to understand all of the elements of sexual violence against women and they have to become more ethical in their reporting of it.

What do you think are the major factors behind the male-dominated newsrooms in Pakistan. For instance chief editors in all newspapers in Pakistan are men. Does the management believe that women are not capable enough for such positions and they are unable to make critical editorial decisions?

In part it's because people like to hire people like them. So, one of our normal instincts as humans is to cluster with people who make us comfortable and we are more comfortable with people who are like us. So, I'm more likely to hang out with white women who are working mothers because I am a white woman who is a working mother. So, that is valid about hiring as well because men who dominate media management are more likely to hire other men. You have to have people conscious of the problem and eager to try to fix it.

Interview with Altaf Khan, Professor, Department of Mass Communication, University of Peshawar, Pakistan

You emailed me a brochure of the Competence and Trauma Center for Journalists, established at University of Peshawar. So, tell me something about it.

The Competence and Trauma Center for Journalists was established to give journalists basically two things: one of it is counseling services where the Department of Psychology at the University of Peshawar collaborates with us. It's funded by the Deutsche Welle Akademie.

We are giving just free of cost counseling services to journalists and during the first year within a month and half in 2014 and early 2015, we got at least 18 people in one month. And then in 2015, more than 40 and we are looking at about 50 or 60 people this year. But the other part is about building competence, which is giving journalists information about how to do stories. So, one of these brochures is that I sent you and the other one is about how journalists deal with the threats of terror, how to protect themselves and other such things.

Another one is about how to report on children and one of those is about that normally journalists along with law enforcement agencies are the first people to reach out after an incident and act or terror or violence and they have to play their role as the first supporters -- the first human contact to the victims of such incidents. These brochures are
in fact translations and localizations of the brochures of the Dart Center's offices in New York and also in Sydney, Australia. So, we are just translating and localizing them. And that's the story of the Competence and Trauma Center for Journalists. The brochure that I shared with you is kind of an effort to bring some information to journalists about rape victims. Things that they do know are wrong but they are not in a habit of taking care of such issues. And, we are also planning to give some sessions to explain these brochures to journalists.

Will you invite only Peshawar-based journalists for these sessions or journalists from all over Pakistan?

Right now we have only Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on our priority list because the university does not have enough funding so mostly, it's going to Balochistan and Peshawar, mostly Peshawar. We are looking for opportunities to spread this brochure in the entire country but you know it takes a lot of time, money and efforts. But I'm hoping to get some funding in 2016, if not in 2016 then in 2017 to do it nationwide. We can circulate the brochures and that's not an issue. We have one thousand copies of it, we can make five thousand copies as well. But the important thing is to explain these lessons to journalists. Because people in Peshawar and Islamabad know about the Competence and Trauma Center for Journalists but not the whole country.

Which courses are taught at the University of Peshawar's mass communication department?

It's the same all over Pakistan. That's the dilemma. All universities are teaching the same courses. Along with traditional journalism courses, we also have media development, public relations and advertising courses. The University of Peshawar also offers M.Phil. and Ph.D. degrees in journalism so there we have room for independent research. Otherwise if you go to any part of the country and look at the syllabi of the mass communication departments in universities, these are mostly the same. so, basically it's a journalism department with a bit of mass communication.

Can you please list some traditional journalism courses taught in Pakistani universities?

Reporting, editing and also the traditional stuff about press history -- media laws and history, basically. So, it's about media history and development journalism, public relations, advertising and mass communication theory. It's an annual system and in two years, we offer eleven courses including research and internships. Some other courses include basic economics, political science and current affairs to give students an understanding of what's going on. Broadcast journalism -- radio and TV together. We are not yet opened to new media but we are offering new media courses in our development journalism courses.
Is media ethics course included in the curriculum?

Yes, media ethics course is basically a part of media history and law and a portion of this course also covers ethics. Also, the mass communication course offers a firm background in media ethics. I have specialized in ethics. Basically every course that we teach -- reporting, advertising, broadcast journalism, it revolves around ethics. Ethics is a major component of journalism studies and that's the reason we receive a lot of criticism from the industry. They complain that we are giving students too much doses of ethics and students are not good enough for the market. I disagree. We are not here to serve the market. We are serving the society. We can't offer students to the market who are more useful for the market but less useful for the society.

You mentioned that the media law is also a part of this curriculum. So, how important is to teach the media law to journalism students? And does it really matter in Pakistan to study law when law and order situation is so fragile and you also mentioned that people in the media industry are going against ethics? Because we are taught about ethics on campus but there's a totally different world in the practical life. So, these are two questions basically. How important is to teach the media law and does it really matter in Pakistan?

Well, I think it's very important. It's not simply for the sake of others but rather for the sake of journalists. Journalists don't know about libel, defamation and all these things ... basics ... And they get trapped in defamation cases, contempt cases because without knowing the laws, it's impossible to understand how it goes. So, whatever the media says or the market says, I think it's important to give an understanding of ethics and also of laws because otherwise I think you don't need to teach journalism in universities. You just let people do bachelor's degrees or just let them learn to read and write and then go into the media, they can't do journalism at all because I think when you grow in your stature in the media industry, you have to understand what laws are and if you have it in your pocket when you enter the industry, it's a plus.

As far as the implementation is concerned ... you know lawlessness is something that exists only in a society, which has laws. I think it's always important and also it's important in many other ways. Journalists' own safety is dependent on laws. Understanding of laws would avoid a lot of troubles for journalists and also, when I look at the Pakistani media especially TV media ... I'm writing five or six conference papers -- all related to the Pakistani media and how it has really damaged itself by not taking care of the audience, by not considering laws as important and by becoming another bully element in the Pakistani society.

Do you think Pakistani universities are producing credible journalists?

I don't think so, honestly.
What lacks in your journalism schools?

Well, I think it's not a matter of universities. For that not only journalism schools but the entire education system is responsible. Journalism is an art of communication. You have to be good at writing and speaking, if you want to be a journalist. If the education system is not capable enough to train students to express themselves, how can you expect them to become good journalists! This basically is a problem of communications skills.

Ninety percent of educated youngsters lack basic communication skills. Many of us think English is difficult, I believe many of us can’t read and write Urdu either. It’s the problem of the entire education system but it shows up immensely in the media teaching institutions because these schools are all about communication skills. In any other discipline you can just hide behind books.

Over the past few years, quite a few international media training programs have been launched that provide Pakistani journalists with opportunities to learn journalism in Western countries. But even after all these trainings, when journalists are on the field, they forget everything. What do you think are the major factors behind this?

I will be very honest about this that journalists don't take these opportunities as a chance to learn. They take it as a field trip to the U.S. or any other country or even within Pakistan -- to beautiful places such as Murree or Bhurban where usually journalism workshops take place. This is an irony that journalists take these opportunities for granted.

Can better editorial control help journalists do ethical reporting especially in cases of sexual assault?

Yes, editorial and managerial control is very important. It's critical to involve media owners and top editors and bring home the agenda at that level. Because they are the ones who decide, they are the ones who have to make the decisions that this is the limit that you won't cross. It's easy to make the working journalists understand these issues because they are directly exposed to trauma, they witness incidents and they are not callous. But since they have to earn the bread and butter for their families and they are bound to follow the orders of the management so, if the top media management agrees to follow ethical guidelines, things will become easier.

Everybody suggests the inclusion of women in newsrooms, is it practically possible in Pakistani newsrooms? If not, what are the limitations of hiring more and more women in the newsrooms especially in the leadership positions?

I agree and disagree at the same time. It's good to have more female journalists in newsrooms but here comes the question of gender. Responsible journalism cannot be restricted to only women journalists. You should not expect that only hiring women as
reporters and editors can bring a positive change in journalism -- especially when it comes to covering rape cases. Existing workforce in the media -- both men and women -- has to take the responsibility.

I'm also against the practice of assigning women reporters only women-related beats. Women should cover everything. Every journalist should cover every beat. The important thing is that he/she should learn how to do it. It would be good to have more women journalists in Pakistani newsrooms especially in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa where the number of female journalists is very low -- I think among more than 1000 working journalists in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, there are only seven or eight women. In Sindh and Punjab, there are more female journalists as compared to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa but when you look at the proportion against male journalists, it's not enough. A good number -- though not enough -- is concentrated in big cities only such as Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad. But you won't a decent number of female journalists in small towns.

But the question of how to bring women in media is a million dollar question! Because not many women want to be journalists. At times, there are more than fifty percent female students in a journalism class but I don't see many of them on the field.

The other thing is that most media outlets especially TV media, they are looking for female journalists only as anchors -- just to treat them like show pieces. They are not looking for female journalists as reporters.

Also, the environment in Pakistan restricts women to opt for this profession. A country where a five-year-old girl is raped, women simply avoid this profession in order to protect themselves. It's really difficult. But somebody has to do it!
How Pakistani National News Channels Cover Rape Cases

Sahar Majid

MA Journalism University of Missouri
Introduction

My project will analyze the characteristics of sexual assault coverage on Pakistani national news channels. Based on the results, I will design a curriculum to train the TV journalists in Pakistan on how to cover sexual assaults.

My emphasis area at the Missouri School of Journalism is TV reporting. My experience of taking broadcast journalism classes with Professor Gary Grigsby and Professor Elizabeth Frogge has given me substantial knowledge about the technical as well as the ethical aspects of TV reporting.

This project involves TV journalism practice in Pakistan regarding the coverage of rape cases, and my knowledge of TV reporting from Mizzou’s broadcast classes will not only help me analyze the flaws in TV coverage of rape cases in Pakistan but will also help me design a curriculum for journalists to improve their reporting skills and fix the flaws in their journalism practice.

This project also deals with the communication law aspect because journalists in every country have to follow certain rules while reporting on an issue and there are specific laws for rape reporting as well such as the rape shield law to protect a victim’s identity. My coursework in communication law class with Professor Sandra Davidson helped me understand the ethical as well as the legal aspects of journalism practice and this knowledge will help me better analyze Pakistani reporters’ work on rape reporting.
The professional skills component

- Professional qualifications and project’s emphasis area

Before getting enrolled at Mizzou, I worked with the Dawn Media Group -- the oldest English daily in Pakistan. My native language is Urdu. And, I believe my journalism experience in Pakistan and expertise in Pakistan’s native language will prove to be very useful for this project.

The journalism specialty areas for this project are TV reporting and media ethics. I’m going to analyze the rape reporting on Pakistan’s national news channels. There are 20 national news channels in Pakistan and 19 of them telecast news in Urdu. In order to understand their coverage and that particular newsroom culture, my familiarity with the journalism practice in Pakistan, my ability to connect with the Pakistani journalists on a cultural level and fluency in Urdu language will help me a lot in achieving the desired outcome for this project.

Besides my prior journalistic experience and regular studies at Mizzou, I also have a research assistantship with the Alfred Friendly Press Partners, a not-for-profit organization based at the Missouri School of Journalism that brings journalists from all across the globe and places them in U.S. newsrooms for a six-month training program.

As a research assistant I work with the program director and fellows to promote program’s activities on social media. This includes producing promotional videos, interviewing fellows and keeping in touch with the former fellows to learn about their accomplishments and program’s impact on their professional lives. I also help
maintaining a database for which I extracted contact information of all former fellows who won this fellowship during last 30 years. And, under the guidance of Press Partners’ staff: chairman Professor Randall Smith, program director David Reed and business development coordinator Lisa Schwartz, I’ve been learning to connect with fellow journalists from diverse backgrounds, understand their training needs and help them overcome their issues by developing useful programs for them.

Before getting enrolled at Mizzou, I was an Alfred Friendly fellow in 2014 and worked on the editorial board of the *Philadelphia Inquirer* as part of my fellowship assignment. Back in 2013, I was a fellow for the International Center for Journalists’ (ICFJ) U.S.-Pakistan Exchange Program and ICFJ placed me at the Sun Sentinel newspaper for three weeks where I worked with different reporters and editors. These fellowships gave me an understanding of the U.S. newsroom culture that, too, will be helpful when I’ll be designing a curriculum for the Pakistani journalists in consultation with the veteran journalists at ICFJ and other not-for-profit organizations, for example, The International Women’s Media Foundation.

- **Internship details**

  Based on my prior journalism experience in Pakistan and degree program at the University of Missouri, ICFJ has hired me to work as ‘program intern’ for their Pakistan project.

  The project is a journalists’ exchange program that invites Pakistani journalists to the U.S. for a brief but formal training in U.S. newsrooms and American journalists are sent to Pakistan to learn about Pakistan’s newsroom culture and media practices.
I will start my internship this year in the summer and it will continue through fall. I will be working fulltime – 35 hours a week – for 14 weeks as part of my professional project. I will be at the center for a longer period.

My regular duties as a program intern will include:

- Assisting the ICFJ staff with arranging travel and other logistics for program participants
- Maintaining databases with contact information and project results
- Conducting research on media in different countries
- Assisting with proposal development and conducting online courses
- Processing expense reports and updating financial tracking systems
- Managing social media websites -- Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, etc.
- Helping recruit program participants and assisting in the implementation of workshops/trainings
- Assisting in conducting program evaluations and writing reports

Besides these regular duties at ICFJ, my project work will include studying news coverage of rape cases from the archives of Pakistan’s national news channels, recruiting Pakistani journalists and experts in Pakistan and the U.S. for interviews, conducting in-depth interviews with them based on the prior coverage of rape cases in Pakistan, transcribing those interviews and based on those interviews developing a curriculum for the television journalists in Pakistan.

I know some experienced former and current reporters and editors from Pakistan who will be my interviewees, and they will also help me recruit some other journalists through their connections.
My project chair is Barbara Cochran who oversees the University of Missouri’s Washington program. She will also help me get in touch with relevant organizations in D.C. where experts might be able to give me useful feedback on this project. The other members on my committee are Professor Randall Smith and Professor Stacey Woelfel of the Missouri School of Journalism.

- **Material to be included in final project report**

  My final project report will include weekly field reports of my activities, transcripts of the interviews with Pakistani TV journalists, and the curriculum that I will create.

**The analysis component**

The professional analysis of my project will be based on interviews with the Pakistani journalists and experts in Pakistan and the U.S. who have insights on this issue.

The interviews will be based on the following research question:

*What are the characteristics of sexual assault coverage at Pakistani national news channels?*

In order to analyze the sexual assault coverage on Pakistani national news channels such as Geo News, Dawn News, ARY, Metro One and Aaj News, I’ll study the TV reports on a few rape cases. While studying I’ll focus on visuals used in rape reporting, language and tone of the reporter and interviews he/she conducted. Based on these observations, I’ll conduct in-depth interviews with Pakistani journalists and experts in Pakistan and the U.S. who could give insights on media ethics on rape reporting.

The second part of my project is to develop a curriculum to train the TV journalists in Pakistan in order to improve reporting on rape cases.
I will design the training program in consultation with the experts at the International Center for Journalists (ICFJ) in Washington D.C. However, specialists’ opinions and insights from other news, research and not-for-profit organizations will also be included. These experts might include Sherry Richardi and Tasneem Ahmer. Richardi is a senior writer at the American Journalism Review (AJR) and specializes in international issues. She has conducted journalism training in the developing countries throughout the world. Ahmer heads Uks, a media advocacy and monitoring organization in Pakistan.

- **Statement of the problem**

The reason for choosing sexual assault coverage in Pakistan is that I truly feel, this issue needs to be addressed in my part of the world.

Rasheed (2015) writes, based on the statistics provided by the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP), a rape incident occurs every two hours and a woman is gang-raped every four to eight days.

Munshey (2015) writes, in 2013, 2,576 rape cases were registered in the Punjab province alone. Punjab is the second largest province in Pakistan after Balochistan in terms of land area and is located at the northwestern edge of the Indian subcontinent.

Ghosh (2013) in his article says that in 2011, about 2,000 women from minority faiths in Pakistan were forcibly converted to Islam through rape, torture and kidnappings.

Sex is a saleable subject, for sure -- not just in journalism but also in all kinds of media. That’s the reason, Weisman (2015) writes, Pakistan tops the list of most porn-searching countries, according to a report released by Google.
I agree that everything is commercialized because every individual and every single industry needs money in order to function. But I believe treating a celebrity’s extra-marital affair and an assault case on the same level is an injustice to the journalism profession. And, journalists need to be more sensitive and sympathetic while covering assault cases.

While my project won’t help minimize this crime in Pakistan or the Indian subcontinent, it will at least train journalists to report this issue in a more responsible way that is fact-based, objective, ethical and far from being sensationalized so that the victims, instead of running away from the media, may feel comfortable approaching journalists to stand against this crime.

Pakistan doesn’t have any proper, full-fledged journalism schools. It’s an irony that even the most respected media houses are too irresponsible and callous regarding the coverage of sexual assaults.

There are two factors behind this: 1) Journalists are poorly trained in Pakistan and, 2) Women are treated as second-class citizens in the conservative and religious society of Pakistan where some religious scholars misinterpret Islam as a religion in which men have got the superior power and people, even the educated ones, tend to follow religious scholars more than the real Islam itself.

Both these factors affect journalists’ work in every way, not just in the cases of rape coverage.

Journalists through responsible coverage can change a society’s perception about sexual assaults. And through irresponsible and unethical journalism, they also have the
capacity to portray assault cases in a way that audiences begin to think of rape coverage as a source of entertainment and not as a critical issue of the society.

Often on Pakistani news channels, religious scholars, politicians and also senior journalists appear on talk shows about sexual assault cases. Their opinions matter a lot in shaping public’s perception about any incident. And, it happens more often that religious scholars’ negative remarks on rape victims shift public’s sympathy towards the perpetrators because of the religious influence in the Pakistani society.

Former president of Pakistan, Pervez Musharraf, once criticized a victim of gang rape, Mukhtara Mai. O'Shea (2005) writes, Mai stood up and defied social taboos by speaking out. She became an icon and was awarded with grants for her work by the international organizations.

Musharraf in an interview with Kessler and Linzer (2005) for the Washington Post said, “You must understand the environment in Pakistan ... This has become a money-making concern. A lot of people say if you want to go abroad and get a visa for Canada or citizenship and be a millionaire, get yourself raped.”

Since Mai became famous and earned a celebrity’s status, not only Musharraf, some journalists also blamed her for commercializing on her rape. This, on the one hand reflects the mentality of the major part of Pakistan’s society but on the other hand, it also shows how mass media and opinion leaders reshape a society’s attitude.

Later in a press conference, Musharraf said that he had been expressing a commonly held opinion rather than his own.

My professional analysis -- based on the interviews with journalists and experts -- will highlight the flaws in the sexual assault coverage by the national news channels of
Pakistan and how media shapes public opinion about rape incidents and victims. The analysis will help journalists understand what needs to be improved in their journalism practices.

- **Theoretical framework**

  The mass communication theory that most resonates with this project is framing theory.


  He based his theory on a commonsense assumption that language and written words are flexible enough to allow a person whatever he wants to express, in a way he wants to. (Goffman, 1974, p11)

  Goffman said, when an individual experiences an event, he tends to interpret it through a primary framework that is independent of any prior interpretation. (p21)

  He categorized primary framing in two broad classes: i) natural ii) social. Natural frameworks are undirected and “purely physical” while social frameworks are developed based on the background knowledge about certain events. (p22)

  Framing has three elements: i) language, ii) thought, and iii) forethought. Language facilitates in remembering the information while thoughts and reflections on certain issues help audiences interpret the information based on their own frameworks and those of the others. (Fairhurst & Sarr, 1996)

  In the context of news, “Frames call attention to some aspects of reality while obscuring other elements, which might lead audiences to have different reactions.” (Entman, 1993, p55)
According to Entman, “Framing involves selection and salience.” He said, to frame means to select and highlight some aspects of a perceived reality in order to promote “a particular problem definition, causal interpretation, moral evaluation, and/or treatment recommendation.” (p52)

Entman argued, though journalists follow the rules of objectivity yet unintentionally – due to the lack of understanding of framing – they heavily use framing in delivering news that prevents audiences from having an unbiased judgment of a situation. (p56)

Lewis and Reese (2009) used framing theory to analyze journalists’ perception of the phrase ‘war on terror.’

The study was based on a previous textual analysis of the USA Today. Lewis and Reese interviewed 13 journalists at the USA Today – the journalists whose bylines had appeared in the news stories and features -- the writers previously used for a textual analysis. (p89)

The article suggested that whatever the U.S. government planned or decided to combat terrorism and ensure the nation’s security, public officials framed it as ‘war on terror’ and journalists just accepted it and used it as a symbol of all anti-terrorism activities by the U.S. government. Journalists confessed that the government transmitted the phrase and it became a part of their day-to-day discussion about terrorism. (p94, 95)

Freyenberger (2013) used framing theory to analyze the effect of media coverage on an individual’s image.

Newspaper coverage can have a positive or negative impact on the image of an individual. (p2)
Freyenberger based her study on Amanda Knox, an American foreign exchange student, who was studying in Italy and when her roommate was murdered, major newspapers around the world portrayed her in different ways. A content analysis of 500 articles from major world newspapers was performed for this study. (p2)

The results from this study indicated that the way newspapers frame an individual -- through the words and the tone of the story -- plays a great role in changing his/her image in public. “There is a strong connection between the media and the opinions of the reader and how a topic is presented can influence one’s viewpoint.” (p40)

- **Review of the literature**

  **I) Stereotypes in the media**

  **i) Class stereotypes**

  Rao (2014), professor and communication studies chairperson at the Plattsburgh State University of New York, argues that the Indian television news media is focused on covering rape cases of just the middle and upper class women, and it ignores violence against women from the poor socio-economic background.

  The writer particularly focuses on the infamous Delhi bus gang rape case that took place in December 2012 and caused protests throughout India and gained national as well as international media attention.

  Rao says the reason this particular case gained so much attention from the media was that it happened in the Indian capital, New Delhi, which, now due to its growing rate of crimes against women is also called the ‘rape capital of India’ and also because this particular case caused massive protests across the country. But, “Except in rare instances,
such as the December 2012 rape, the Indian media has rarely sought to address the pervasiveness and complicated matrix of rape in Indian society.” (p155)

The writer also highlights the fact that the globalization of Indian media has benefited the rich and the upper middle class of the country yet it has failed to give a similar platform to the underprivileged, poor community of the Indian society.

ii) Cultural stereotypes

Buddie, associate director for graduate student support at the Kennesaw State University, and Miller, professor emeritus of psychology at the Miami University (2001) examine how individual beliefs and cultural stereotypes affect people’s understanding about the incidents of rape and victims. The result of their research suggested that the women who wear revealing clothes and drink are considered responsible for their rape while conservative women are considered innocent. The writers conclude from this study that people’s cultural background develops such stereotypes about women and sexual violence.

Berrington and Jones (2002), lecturers in criminology at the Manchester Metropolitan University, U.K. argue about media’s coverage of drug rapes in which women are blamed and the role of masculinity is ignored. The study examines how media’s portrayal can change society’s perception about the rape victims. “… women who reject patriarchal norms around ‘appropriate behavior’ find themselves blamed if they become victims of male violence. By stepping outside their prescribed role, they place themselves at risk.” (p309)
The writers suggest that a few elite and powerful people control media who themselves never had any encounter with a crime yet they have opinions and “what they see, hear and read directly influences views and perceptions.” (p311)

Berrington and Jones (2002) also highlight the issue of imposing societal norms on women. The writers say when a story about sexual violence is reported; journalists try to warn women instead of focusing on the issue. “Stories about women abused and killed provide a clear warning to other women. Unless you put yourself under male protection, this is what could happen to you.” (p312)

The study points out journalists’ perception about men and women – men’s aggression is considered normal while women are treated as a sexual object.

iii) Stereotypes based on victim’s sexual history

Los, emeritus professor at the University of Ottawa, and Chamard, associate professor, justice department at the University of Alaska Anchorage (1997) write about media representation of women and sexual assaults based on the 1983 Canadian sexual assault legislation that abolished some rules that continued to create bias against women.

They try to explore the relationship between the feminist law reform and media coverage of this issue. The study suggests that print media until 1984 used to focus more on rapes committed by strangers than acquaintances but this trend changed and court cases witnessed a number of rape cases by acquaintances. The criticism from the feminist movement towards the dominance of rape coverage by strangers gave way to more detailed reporting and provided this issue with a new perspective and changed journalists’ understanding of rape who used to think that sexual assault is a crime only if it’s committed by a stranger.
Moore (2011) elaborates on stereotypes surrounding date rape. She analyzes the stories about date rapes in U.S. newspapers published between January 1, 1985 and December 31, 1998. Her study reveals that earlier, date rapes were treated differently than rapes committed by strangers – victims of date rapes were not considered ‘victims’ in its real sense. Moore suggests that due to our cultural norms, media refused to accept that rapes can happen in intimate relationships as well and they should be treated like other crime cases. “What it more obviously signals is a refusal or inability, at the level of the culture, to cede to the idea that rape can be an extension of normal heterosexual relations.” (p462)

Buddie and Miller (2011) suggest that cultural stereotypes are mainly composed of rape myths than the actual sufferings of the rape victims. For example, a sexually experienced woman is perceived as less affected by a rape incident than a woman who had no sexual experience before.

iv) Racial stereotypes

Durham (2013), professor of gender, women’s and sexuality studies at the University of Iowa's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences highlights the issue of racism that plays a vital role in media’s framing of rape and rape victims.

Durham urges the “importance of feminist scholarship and activism around this issue.” (p10) Regarding a New York Times story -- that held an 11-year-old girl responsible for being gang-raped in Cleveland because of her glamorous lifestyle – the story that received criticism from commentators and bloggers and eventually Times had to publish an apology, Durham says, “ … the case suggests that the theorization and analysis of sexual violence over the past decade has in fact raised public consciousness of
the ways in which the media industries contribute to a culture of rape in our society.” (p9-10)

In the Cleveland case, the victim was Latina and the assailants were black. “The public critics were aware that the victim blaming frame was an outcome of the race of the child and her assailants, so that the child’s implied promiscuity and the rapists’ uncontrollable hypersexuality became apologies for the event.” (p9)

Lule (1995) discusses the rape trial of the heavyweight boxing champion, Mike Tyson. The author says racial prejudices play a role in framing a rape story. Tyson was given biased coverage by the media and either was portrayed as “a sex-obsessed, violent savage” or “a victim of terrible social circumstances.” (p181)

According to Lule, some reports suggested Tyson as a victim of his impoverished childhood and other reports depicted him as a victim of racism. The accuser in this case was also a black woman and some reports portrayed Tyson as “a victim of a more subtle battle – a struggle for power between black men and women.” (p187)

Lule says, “… stereotypes are invoked subtly but inexorably through the language, conventions and narrative forms of the press.” (p189)

II) Protecting victim’s identity

i) When the victim is a woman

Hurlbut (2011), a graduate of the Stanford University discusses the difference of opinions among journalists surrounding the issue of naming a rape victim in news stories.

Hurlbut suggests that due to the sensitivity of the nature of this crime, it’s ethical for journalists not to name a victim unless the disclosure of the victim’s identity is significantly important for the story. There are some journalists who argue that in order to
do fair and unbiased reporting, it is important to reveal the rape victim’s name; however, Hurlbutt argues, “In the case of rape, reporting the facts truthfully only serves to further disguise the truth about the facts. And until journalists are able to turn a critical eye to their coverage of rape as a societal issue, they have a responsibility to protect victims from the press’s own shortcomings.” (p26)

Johnson (1999), assistant professor in the school of communication and the arts at Marst College in Poughkeepsie, New York discusses how revealing a victim’s name can change public’s perception about the crime. She says there are different perceptions about different rape stories based on the circumstances and readers will be more interested in identifying the rape victim of one case than the other. “Perhaps readers would be interested in the name only when a victim’s story was contested.” (p68)

The results of this study suggest that the crime and the story surrounding it matters more than the victim’s identity nor do the revelation of a victim’s name can provide her with more sympathy from the readers.

Thomason, LaRocque and Thomas (1995) conducted a survey in which they asked editors about their newspapers’ policies to disclose a rape victim’s identity. Despite the fact that in mid-80s some of the high profiles rape stories disclosed victims’ identities, editors showed reluctance to change this policy for each and every case. A majority of the editors refused to reveal the victim’s identity. In most cases, however, they said they would disclose a rape victim’s identity in special circumstances such as if the victim is murdered, if the victim asks to be identified or go public in some way.
ii) When the victim is a child

Jones, Finkelhor and Beckwith (2010) from the University of New Hampshire discuss the sensitivity surrounding the child victims of sexual abuse. The authors examine newspaper articles that covered the cases of child victimization and find out that in 51 percent of those articles “at least one type of identifying information about the child was included.” (p353)

These articles either contained child’s relatives’ information or street, school, daycare and church name that was enough to reveal the child’s identity. The authors say that this media practice seriously affects victims and add to their anxiety level and prevents their recovery from trauma.

III) Details of the crime

i) Ignoring important details

Heath, Gordon and LeBailly (1981) analyzed the crime stories in three cities: Chicago, Philadelphia and San Francisco. The stories were published in major metropolitan newspapers in those cities between Nov. 1, 1977, and April 30, 1978. The study reveals that people were reluctant to read horrific news and journalists were obliged to provide them with a silver lining for every tragic story. Also that rape stories – stories in which the accused were not strangers – were often under-represented by the media.

The authors say while it’s a normal practice to not reveal the victim’s identity in case of rape stories in order to save her from further humiliation, the reporters must mention necessary details about the crime such as the area in which the crime was
committed or the weapon used in order to enlighten the readers and to prevent further crimes.

The authors say that rape stories have fewer details as compared to the stories about other crimes. By emphasizing the need for more detailed stories on rape, the authors say, “… filling in more details about crime itself and providing more perspective cues in articles about rape, the media could improve the accuracy of the ‘vicarious reality’ of rape they create for readers and more adequately fulfill their role as watchmen for society.” (p55)

**ii) Highlighting unnecessary details to blame the victim**

O’Hara (2012) discusses the rape case of an 11-year-old girl who was repeatedly raped by 21 men in Cleveland, Texas between September and November 2010. Not only was she raped, her perpetrators also filmed the incident on their phones and “circulated the images and video to friends and classmates.” (p249)

O’Hara says it’s important not to reveal too much detail about the victim, but the ordeal, the victim went through in this particular case was ignored by the media. The author says, “The press was concerned with how the town or the rapists’ families were themselves affected by the rape.” They disregarded how the incident affected the victim. (p252)

The writer also highlights the issue of media delving into unnecessary details that might affect victim’s image in a negative way. In this particular case, O’Hara gives an example of a New York Times’ article that portrayed the 11-year-old victim being a fashionable girl and dressed up in a way that made her look older than her age. The writer
says major part of reporting on rape is based on myths and stereotypes that shape public opinion as well as policy-making.

**IV) Sensationalized stories**

Ahmar (2011), director of Uks, a media advocacy and monitoring organization in Pakistan, criticizes the way Pakistani media covers rape just to sell stories and not to address the issue.

“In Pakistani media, sensationalism sells stories. Irrespective of the fact that the journalists involved are aware of the code of ethics, they employ this approach as there are innumerable readers who are attracted towards it.” (p15)

The author also mentions the rape case of a nurse in Pakistan. “When she was brought to the hospital ward, the 30 second video clip zoomed onto the victim's wounded face and other apparent injuries.” (p16)

The author believes the way crimes against women are reported by the Pakistani media shows media’s insensitivity and lack of ethics.

Ahmar (2011) blames both print and electronic media for violating the code of conduct. She says, in order to win the rat race of breaking news, Pakistani journalists cross all ethical boundaries and want to present news in a sensationalized way to capture audiences’ attention.

Ahmar also points out the male dominated newsroom culture as one of the reasons behind this insensitive approach towards the rape coverage. She says though women make 48 percent of Pakistan’s population, yet they are not given enough representation in the newsrooms or the news.
V) Lack of training

Byerly (1994), assistant professor of journalism at the Radford University, says journalism textbooks contain no comprehensive guidelines about the coverage of rape. The author in this article also emphasizes the importance of including sociology courses in the journalism curriculum.

“The teaching of social issues is mostly left to social science classes. In fulfillment of their general education requirements, journalism students may or may not take courses that explore gender, race, and other social issues.” (p63)

The writer suggests that the inclusion of general and legal information on covering rape cases in journalism classes can be very beneficial. Byerly says that veteran as well as aspiring journalists should be reminded of their responsibility to highlight the sensitive and complex issues of the society -- a better journalism training in this regard would help journalists, victims as well as the audience.

- Methodology

My research will be based on qualitative research interview method.

“The interview is probably the most widely employed method in qualitative research.” (Bryman, 2012, p469)

There are two main types of qualitative interviews: i) unstructured interviews ii) semi-structured interviews. However, these are not the only types of interviews. Other major types of interviews include: structured interviews, standardized interviews, intensive interviews, in-depth interviews, focused interviews, focus group, group interviews, oral history interviews and life history interviews. (p212-213)
For unstructured and semi-structured interviews, researchers sometimes use the term: ‘qualitative interviews.’ (p469)

For my project, the most suitable type is in-depth semi-structured interviews. In-depth interviews can be both semi-structured and unstructured but in unstructured interviews, the interviewer has a list of issues or topics and “the style of questioning is usually informal.” (p213)

In semi-structured interviews, “the interviewer has a series of questions that are in the general form of an interview schedule but is able to vary the sequence of questions.” According to Bryman, the questions in a semi-structured interview are “more general in their frame of reference from that typically found in a structured interview schedule.” Semi-structured interviews also provide the flexibility to add more questions or change the sequence of questions from the original list depending on the responses of the interviewee. (p212)

The purpose of qualitative interviews is to get the interviewee’s point of view and thus these interviews provide the flexibility of changing the schedule. Qualitative interviews need detailed answers and encourage the interviewee to change the direction of an interview based on what he/she has to share. In qualitative interviews, researcher gives more room to the interviewee to express his/her thoughts. (p470)

For my project, I will conduct in-depth interviews with Pakistani journalists. My interviewees would also include some experts in Pakistan and the U.S. who could give insights about the best practices in rape reporting.

Some possible questions for these interviews are:

1. Do you think covering sexual assault cases for TV is more challenging
than print media?

2. Some of the most respected media organizations in Pakistan such as the Dawn Media Group lack ethics while covering assault cases for example, in a story about the rape case of a nurse in 2010, Dawn News reporter showed the victim’s face on TV while she was on the hospital bed. Also, in 2013 a five-year-old girl was raped in Lahore and not only her name was revealed, her face was shown, her father was also interviewed on TV – thus journalists violated the law to protect the rape victim’s identity. I want your opinion on how this law is practiced in Pakistan and if someone violates it, are there any severe consequences that journalists or news organizations should face?

3. What do you think are the main reasons behind this irresponsible journalism? Lack of ethics, lack of training, insensitivity, male dominated newsrooms or any other reason?

4. In the 2010 nurse rape case, the incident happened at the convict’s home and the reporter said in his report, “The main question is that what that nurse had been doing at the convict’s place?” He said this in a very judgmental tone and so is the Pakistani society’s mindset towards women – women are blamed even if they are victims. So, does the society influence journalism practice or journalism affects societal behavior especially in rape cases?

5. If journalists are provided with proper training, do you think it can bring substantial change in the journalism practice of how assault cases are
covered in Pakistan?

6. What should be the main components of a journalism training manual for the TV journalists who cover sexual assault cases?

As my interviewees will begin to narrate their opinions and observations, this will open room for further questions and in-depth discussion. Based on these interviews, I will design a curriculum – in consultation with the experts at the International Center for Journalists in Washington D.C. – to train the TV journalists in Pakistan to improve their skills to report the incidents of rape.

Semi-structured interviews in such projects “… allow much more space for interviewees to answer on their own terms than structured interviews …” (Edwards & Holland, 2013, p29)

For my project, I will recruit journalists of Pakistan and approach them via email or telephone. I will brief them about the purpose of the study and the questions I will be asking. Besides journalists, I will also approach experts such as those who work at the Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma. I aim to interview at least four journalists and four experts. Most of my interviews will be conducted via phones/Skype. However, those who will be physically available in D.C. or nearby cities, there’s a possibility to conduct face-to-face interviews as well.

As my interviews will be based on rape reporting on national news channels in Pakistan so, in order to prepare my interviewees for the questions I will be asking them during the interviews, I will send them the clips of some TV news reports on rape coverage in advance.
In the past several researchers have used this methodology to conduct their research.

García-Avilés (2014), a journalism professor at the Miguel Hernández University in Spain tried to explore some of the ethical issues faced by online journalists through this method. He conducted in-depth interviews with 34 media professionals from 10 Spanish online media outlets that cover general news. The interviewees included editors, publishers, reporters and technical directors. They were asked about the evolution of digital journalism and its effect on the quality of journalism. The interviews were conducted face-to-face and recorded. The length of the interviews varied between 30 minutes and one hour.

Parmelee (2013) from the University of North Florida explored through his research, the impact of Twitter usage on journalism practices of political reporters. He recruited 11 political reporters and editors of the U.S. newspapers from all states and conducted in-depth interviews with them during the 2012 presidential campaign. The interviewees however, in this study were given a choice to respond to the interview questions on phone or via email.

Hopper and Huxford (2015) too adopted qualitative interview methodology in their study to explore journalists’ experiences of emotional stress while covering traumatic stories. The one-on-one interviews were aimed to let journalists reflect on their experiences of emotional trauma and suppressing their feelings in order to maintain objectivity in their reporting. The authors recruited 20 former and current journalists from print and online media who had about 20 years of experience in their field. The
interviews were audiotaped and analysis was based on journalists’ reflection on their past experiences of trauma reporting.

- **List of suggested publications**

  Some suggested journalism trade publications for my professional analysis include:

  - Columbia Journalism Review
  - Communication: Journalism Education Today
  - Global Journalist
  - Herald, a monthly magazine from the Dawn Media Group in Pakistan
  - Nieman Reports
  - Quill
  - Radio Television Digital News Association
  - Television & New Media
Bibliography


