



SOCIOLOGY OF JOURNALISM MORES IN SIERRA LEONE: COMMUNICATION, APPLICATION AND DERELICTION

Mohamed Bangura

Lecturer One, Department of Sociology and Social Work, University of Sierra Leone, Fourah Bay College

Email: mfb17320@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT: *Contemporary communications automations have diversified journalism application in a philosophical social system and Sierra Leone has not been an exclusion. However, social research on the encounter of these automations on journalism humane is scrappily skimpy. Loads of the sociological or intellectual focus contribute to concentrate on purposes of contemporary communications automations in commonplace social application, while their humane conclusions are considered to be furtive. The aforementioned is despite the verity that the social applicability of journalism is broadly signified on its competence to socially operate as a robust gifter of civic awareness or education, and “reliable, all- inclusive and rational” obligations of news organisations and events (Marcinkowski & Engelman, 2021). The current social research explores humane challenges confronted by Sierra Leonean journalism professionals or practitioners when utilising cellular phones, the internet and email in their social engagement. The research incorporates an inquiry questionnaire and semi-structured dialogues to produce data on humane challenges and difficulties confronted journalism professionals or practitioners in Sierra Leone. Outcomes acknowledge a dialectical crush of contemporary communication automations on journalism and submit that cellular phone, the Internet and email are perceived as promoters as well as barriers to humane journalism. The research excites the application of the sociology of journalism mores as a social structure for inquiring humane challenges and difficulties confronted by journalism professionals when utilising contemporary communications automations. It is debated that the application of humane journalism should be perceived as encircled by the social interaction of a mosaic social network of tectonic, institutional and socio-economic components, both within and outside to the social community in which journalism is practiced or applied.*

KEYWORDS: Sociology, Journalism, Mores, Sierra Leone, Communication, Application, Dereliction.



INTRODUCTION

The path in which news is theorised, assembled, produced, circulated or fascinated is transforming in the ambience of contemporary communications automations. Previous social research on the crush of contemporary communications automations on journalism practice or application has maintained to concentrate more on how these automations have reformed news production, circulation and consumption practices or applications. Contemporary communications automations, such as the mobile phone, empower journalists to assemble news from every corner of the macrocosm, and disseminate text missives to their newstudios with corresponding calm. Ordinarily, others manifest how the internet affords communications organisation or staff with absolute social contact to information on any discipline, and how email news cohorts permit journalists to “...explore into the concerted brain, wit and wisdom of mass of informed journalists and non-journalists should not be not at risk” (Clark, 2020).

One limitation of these studies is their tendency to perceive communications automations in dual circumstances, either more granting scholarly improvements of contemporary communications automations or their negative adverse effect on journalism application or practice. Ahuja (2023) notes how on the positive and negative strings, the internet is treated as an “inclusive communications landscape for journalists,” gifting absolute prospects for promoting journalistic venture, while the “negative” glimpse criticises contemporary communications automations bearing about a genus of journalism professionals or practitioners with dwarfed ingenuity or creativity due to the modern social parade of ‘model and paste fashion.’

These dual approaches veil complicated transformations in journalistic etiquettes, news assessments and humane applications that are embodied within the political, economic and social communities in which these contemporary communications automations are positioned and snatched. Thus, previous social research works have been limited inquisitive about how journalists grasp transformations in journalistic humane applications in the situation of contemporary communications automations, and how these transformations are intricately interlaced with the socio-political and economic community in which journalists conduct. Ripolles (2022) notes that:

“The relationship between journalism and politics has always played a central role in democratic society. The emergence of social media has led to many changes in the communication environment and relationship dynamics. Additionally, the power distribution between journalism and politics has changed.”

This research therefore explores humane challenges and difficulties confronted by Sierra Leonean journalism professionals or practitioners when utilising the internet, email and cellular phone in their daily social engagements. Specifically, the research examines how these contemporary communications automations are affecting daily journalistic applications and humane applications among journalists who utilise the internet, email and cellular phone in their social engagements. It draws insight from Capilla’s perspective that journalism mores lack a richer theoretical foundation and ‘adequate epistemology,’ specifically one that clarifies applications in a multi-media community (Capilla, 2021). Capilla argues that journalism mores too often recede on oversimplified overtures to holistic perceptions such as “truth-seeking”, “freedom”, “serving the public” and “democracy”, vocables which are strongly argued. The article makes attempts to widen pathways for conceptualising journalism mores by



concentrating on how journalists perceive challenges posed by contemporary communications and how these challenges and difficulties are fringed by circumstances in which journalism is practiced and applied. The conceptual approach debated here is one that aims to embellish society's social knowledge of how humane applications are intertwined with scientific, economic, and socio-political situations in which journalism is practiced or applied.

The aforementioned perspective will assist individuals comprehend better the circumstances in which journalism mores are being reconfigured by the tidal wave of automotive innovations. Previous research works have examined the impact of contemporary communications from divergent approaches utilising divergent modes (Garcia-Aviles, 2021). However, in Mano River Basin, social research on the impact of contemporary communications automation on journalism application or practice in holistic and on journalism mores in specific is fractured, sparse, and applicably or practically, there are no familiar social research on contemporary communications and journalism mores in Sierra Leone. The scattering researches available (Serwornoo, 2019; Winters, 2020) do not concentrate on how the utilisation of contemporary communications automation influence journalism mores per se.

This research attempts to generate previous data and to usher in academic social discourse on the field by examining Sierra Leonean journalists' perceptive of the ethical complexities offered by cellular phone, the internet and email. The research addresses two fundamental questions, expressly: What ethical complexities and plights do journalists perceive in the utilisation of cellular phones, the internet and email? What are the allusions of these automations on journalism application and practice?

Although the vocable "contemporary communications automations" is an "all-around vocable" attributing to an extensive array of web associated communication automations such as wikis, blogs, social networking and other social media (Arzo, 2021), in this article contemporary communication is utilised loosely to refer to cellular phone, the internet and email. The article also takes observation of evidence that the "contemporaneity" of these automations is an argument that is exceptionally debated (Arvindhan, 2019), but does not wish to engage any further on the argument since it merits an isolated research.

Adventing a Sociology of Journalism Mores

Aguinaldo (2022) addresses mores as "the reasoning of conduct responsible social application or practice and decent human interactions in the radiance of the finest prevailing human social conventions." Aguinaldo extends that mores is about pragmatic sense and the application of conventions to points and judgements. Journalism mores thus envelope a scope of pragmatic and logical judgements made by journalists during the news gathering, construction and circulation process. According to Parks (2022), journalism is confined to its discourse as a truthful discourse about the real world, and for it to command permissibility, it must be applied or practiced truthfully or ethically. Committing journalism ethically is therefore an instrument for "constructing permissibility" and to organise the assurance of the public. For the dissolution of theory around journalism mores, this article excites a sociology of journalism mores which identifies journalism mores within the organisational context. While organisational perspective of communications sociologists concentrate on the constraints imposed on journalism professionals or practitioners by the routine professional (Sadia, 2023), the sociology of journalism mores should concentrate on how the ethical behaviour, practices or applications, and attitudes are structured and shaped by a diversity of organisational and external



determinants. Thus, journalism products are regarded as functions of the organisational structure and routine bureaucratic problems such as limits on space and time. These routines also determine how news is prioritised in terms of time and space. Schwaiger (2022) notes that the presence of space, according to this perspective, is a fundamental organisational reason which may explain better than any presumption of prejudice why a certain newsworthy item is absent from a news programme or newspaper.

Loblich (2018) contends that journalism echoes and mirrors the historical formations within which it is advanced, and contemporary social circumstances in which it is constructed. This means that the way journalists perceive mores is influenced by the social circumstances in which they operate. Integrating the sociology of journalism and mores enables individuals to broaden the conceptual foundation of journalism mores. If individuals acknowledge that ethical values are a by-product of social history, the link between journalism mores and contemporary communication automations becomes unclouded. Bufacchi (2021) records how the search for unbiased truth was inspired by the development of photography, a commonplace with unrivaled “frenzied veracity and obvious truthfulness.” The sociology of journalism mores therefore facilitates individuals to comprehend how journalism mores are intricately interlaced with socio-historical procedures or processes. While the product of journalistic tasks and the structural, organisational and outside forces that pattern have been subject to academic social scrutiny (Gans, 2018), research works that locate journalism mores in a sociological paradigm are non-existent. This is why the current research finds stature in ensuing a sociology of journalism mores. Such a perspective will assist individuals to have a better recognition of forces positioned within and without the organisational ambience constrict journalists from committing ethical journalism. While there has been extensive attention on evolving journalistic applications or practices in the ambience of a transforming automotive community, very diminutive research has been aimed at humane applications or practices. Mastrapa (2020) argues that there is a better or rather more intelligent element to be inquisitive about how contemporary journalists do their task. No doubt for elements of professional conceit but perchance also for elements of adherence; journalists themselves report only the most intense cases of their colleagues’ dereliction and it is bizarre for news organisations to correct their errors or to examine them in detail. When they do permit themselves to reflect publicly on mistakes and dereliction journalists are apt to be philosophical or abstract.

Individuals hope that assimilating journalism sociology and journalism mores will bolster blueprint contemporary theoretical paths on significant attitudes of journalistic resolutions, including humane resolutions, to such a stretch that individuals can commence to discuss about ‘a sociology of journalism mores,’ which may bolster folks to comprehend better the complexities of humane resolution making in communications organisations. A sociology of journalism mores should also bolster folks to comprehend better the situations in which journalism mores are evolving and the diverse justifications that shape such evolution rather than leaning on an oversimplified mono-causal influence. A sociology of journalism mores is immediate and indispensable not only because of the poverty of theory in the discipline, but also because the limitations of mores are operating as a repercussion of automotive innovation. Moreover, journalism plays a significant role in producing public education. The quality of information from the communications and its social convenience is signified on its reliability.



Contemporary Communications and Journalistic Application

Current researches on the reciprocity between contemporary communications and journalism application are chiefly grounded on the technological passivity theory through which automation is perceived as a handler of social transformation. This perspective textures transformations in journalistic applications or practices to technological innovations. Thus, automation is either extolled for ushering immense privileges to the journalism profession or reprimanded for diverse negative upshots on the aspect of communications products (Robertson, 2023).

GeiB (2023) pinpoints triple paths in which the Internet has remodeled the journalism profession. The first is its improvement of democratic culture; the second is the extensive host of resources and technological potentiality it submits; and the third is that it brings about a contemporary sort of journalism (online journalism), which permits citizens to interact amongst themselves and with their leaders or other social actors.

A techno-science social research by Corgi (2022) discloses that journalists established both negative and impacts of contemporary communication automations on their task, but the vast majority felt that the contemporary automation has additional positives than negatives. Perceiving the impact of contemporary technology on journalism application and practice as either having “negatives” or “positives” is problematic because it masks the complex interplay of forces that shape journalistic applications or practices. Some scholars argue that journalism application or practice takes place within convinced institutional set-ups and organisational social structures, where verdicts are made and production procedures reign (Omidi et al., 2022). Completing these elements must be appropriated into consideration if individuals are to wholly comprehend the impact of automation on journalism application or practice.

Tryens and Picones (2021) investigated how journalists (professionals and practitioners) accommodate conventional benchmarks of journalism such as neutrality, or pragmatics such as power or opportunities. They found that most journalists or practitioners opt to function within the boundaries and models of conventional journalism. The research brings out significant perceptions on the interplay between journalists and conventional journalism practices albeit it did not specifically concentrate on humane applications and challenges. The inference that journalists should examine “the emancipating” possibilities lodged by the contemporary commonplace reverberates the high-tech passivity attitude of previous research works through which journalists are regarded as a vault of comprehension in society.” Parallel perspective does not bolster much in unwrapping the path in which contemporary journalists interface with contemporary innovation.

Most research works that have examined the effect of contemporary communications automations on journalism application or practice are lodged on the social observations of communications and indigenous journalism (Bhrion, 2021). These research works tend to concentrate further on humane conundrums which constituted contemporary communications automations on online journalism. Consequently, the effect of contemporary communications automations on conventional communications, specifically in the Mano River Basin, remains unreliable and unscientific.

This research strives to generate previous data on the effect of cellular phone, the Internet, and email on journalism mores, concentrating on the social observations of Sierra Leonean



journalists. The research recognises the extant fragments of literature relating to contemporary communications and journalism on the Mano River Basin (Koroma et al., 2023).

A research article by Barrie and Jackson (2022) is perhaps one of the first attempts to investigate the use of Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) (the internet, email and cellular phones) on “macroeconomic variables in a small open economy like Sierra Leone.” The research examined the divergent humane dilemmas immersed in the utilisation of Information Communication Automations (Dhirani et al., 2023). Internet utilisation was found to differ beyond organisations, but email was utilised by all respondents. The research found that there was considerable utilisation of Information Communication Technologies and an immense number of journalism professionals or practitioners revealed that they had become involved in some unprincipled applications, like hoisting stuff from the internet without acknowledgement or downloading nude stuff (Koljaric, 2020). Most Sierra Leonean journalists who engaged in the research disproved the presence of plagiarism among themselves. The research did not specifically delve into the issue of humane challenges and difficulties as it was more concerned about the dissemination and utilisation of digital automations and newsroom practices or applications in a transforming setting. Consequently, miniature is known about humane ramifications of contemporary communications automations on news reportage and circulation or publication in Sierra Leone.

The condition in the Sierra Leonean newsrooms has outstandingly transformed since 2007, when the social research of digital essence and dissemination suggested above was introduced. Cellular phone and Internet utilisation have greatly advanced nationally and in the broadcasting studio. But then the cell phone and Internet were status symbols in 2007; in 2013 there was barely a journalist in the broadcasting studio that did not utilise these automations to congregate stories. There are persuasive elements or factors to manage an inquiry of this social nature in order to assist in comprehending the implications of the Internet, email and cellular phone on humane applications among the country’s journalism professionals. Apprised by the preceding analytical scheme and literature, this research explores the humane challenges and difficulties encountered by Sierra Leonean journalists through the utilisation of contemporary communication automations, and how this impacts on the character of news story and facts.

METHODOLOGY

The research integrated an expressive social inquiry and semi-structured dialogues to examine the journalism mores and difficulties encountered by Sierra Leonean journalists and their effect on the character of news and information or facts. The social inquiry was predominantly utilised to collect data on perceptions of Sierra Leonean journalists of humane difficulties and challenges they encounter when utilising cell phones, the Internet, and email in their news collection social functions. Sociologists debate that the social inquiry method is further effective when examining social problems in pragmatic social spaces or collecting considerable measure of data than other modes (Ali, 2022). The marked populace for the social research was all practicing journalists or professionals in the print and broadcasting business who resided in Sierra Leonean at the time of the social research. Purposive sampling was utilised to designate respondents because of the dilemma of accessing subjects who are dispersed throughout the country. Forty questionnaires were assigned to practicing journalists in Freetown. Efforts were made to ensure that the sample was representative of holding, communications nature and



social identity. The questionnaire comprised fifteen questions, thirteen of which were open-ended and two closed-ended. Thirty-four questionnaires were prosperously concluded providing a social recall evaluation of eighty-five. Although purposive sampling has been criticised for being prejudiced, the approximately diminutive measure of practicing journalists in the country at the time, and the dispersed social essence of their functions throughout the country, made the purposive sampling process further appropriate (Gul, 2023). To corroborate data from the social inquiry and also to competently deliver out subtleties which could not be gleaned through a questionnaire, semi-structured dialogues were conducted with ten divergent journalists. The dialogues or interviews took place in the capital city of Sierra Leone, Freetown, between the 12th and 16th of June, 2023. Records from the semi-structured dialogues were deciphered, classified into contents and examined utilizing critical analysis. Data from the social inquiry was examined utilising semantic scale (Chen et al., 2020) and granted in tables.

Demographic Data

Sixty-eight percent of the respondents were males, while thirty-two percent were females. Ninety-one percent of them were employed in the print media, while nine percent were employed in the broadcasting industry. The average respondent was a holder of a university diploma, with the youngest twenty to twenty-five constituting forty-one percent, while the oldest forty plus constituted twelve percent of the respondents. Respondents had an average working experience of six years.

Contemporary Communication Automations and Unprincipled Applications

A pivotal objective of this research was to examine the humane challenges and difficulties encountered by Sierra Leonean journalists as a result of contemporary communication automations, such as cellular phone, Internet and email. Question C3 of the social inquiry questionnaire asked respondents whether they felt the cellular phone, Internet and email had contributed to certain humane difficulties and problems in Sierra Leone. Table 1 beneath depicts what Sierra Leonean journalists recognise as common humane problems in the country.

Table 1: Most existing unprincipled applications in Sierra Leonean communications

Unprincipled Applications	Yes %	No %
Infringement	97	3
Utilisation of unknown data feeds	88	12
Despise monologue	82	18
Slander	82	18
Circulation and ingestion of obscenity	82	18
Incursion of confidentiality	76	24
Hype	76	24
Frame-ups of picturing	74	26
Falsification	74	26



Table 1 above signifies that the majority of the respondents (ninety-seven percent) feel that the Internet has contributed to infringement compared to three percent who feel that the Internet has not. Furthermore, to infringement, the utilisation of unknown data feeds is perceived by eighty-eight percent of the respondents to be another grave unprincipled application that has augmented due to the Internet, while twelve percent contradict this stance. Slander, despise monologue, and circulation and ingestion of obscenity are also other unprincipled applications that are viewed to be associated with the contemporary communication automations, such as the Internet. Respondents were also inquired to affirm or decline if they recognise someone who had engaged in some unprincipled applications or practices in the previous (question no. 6). Table 2 beneath depicts the responses to this question.

Table 2: I recognise someone who has participated in this humane application

Humane Application	YES (%)	NO (%)
Infringement narratives (internet)	74	26
Employed mythical data feeds	71	29
Circulated obscenity via the cellular phone	59	41
Infringement narratives (foreign news organisations)	44	56

Table 2 above depicts that infringement, the employment of mythical data feeds and the circulation of obscenity via the cell-phone are the most grave humane applications that have appeared about as an outcome of the employment of contemporary communication automations. Seventy-four percent of the respondents declared that they recognise someone who has infringed narratives from the Internet compared to twenty-five percent who said they did not recognise anyone who had participated in this humane application. Respondents were also inquired to title what they imagine is the most grave humane application in Sierra Leonean journalism.

Table 3 below depicts the gravity of humane applications as recognised by Sierra Leonean journalists.

Table 3: The most grave humane application among Sierra Leonean journalists

Humane application	%
Infringement	26
Employ of unknown data feeds	24
Slander	21



Fabrications	10
Hype	9
Incursion of confidentiality	5
Despise message	3
Circulation and ingestion of obscenity	1
Frame-ups of picturing	1
Total	100

Table 3 above depicts that the most grave humane applications among Sierra Leonean journalists are infringement (26%), employment of unknown data feeds (24%), slander (21%), falsifications (15%) and the least grave is the frame-ups of picturing (1%).

FINDINGS

Findings from dialogues also validate the social inquiry outcomes, specifically what is holistically recognised to be the most usual humane applications. Infringement, employment of unknown data feeds and slander were regularly communicated as the dominant humane enigmas connected with the utilisation of cell phones and email. The attachment of journalists on contemporary communications for referencing news wrecks ingenuity and cripples the culture of hurdle connected with traditional journalism. Some journalists dialogue verbalised concern about “desk-bound journalistic application” as a result of contemporary communication automations which permit them to collect news from their desks. One respondent said journalism was becoming more of “a lazyboy Salone (Sierra Leone)” vocation because of cellular phone, the Internet and email. What is enlightening is that these trepidations were communicated even by respondents who were immensely assured about the contemporary communications automations.

Thus, cellular phone, the Internet and email were reforming newsperson-data feed connections in a serious manner. As journalists no longer ventured outside the newstudio like they used to do before the inauguration of cellular phones, the Internet and email the connection between them and their data feeds was separating. There is decreasing private contact between journalists and their news data feeds, by that means raising trepidations that in the distant future, news could become more synthetic because journalists no longer have ample time to inquire into issues in a strong bearing.

One respondent claimed that he recognised some peers who ‘counterfeit dialogues’ when they are unsuccessful in reaching data feeds via the phone because of strain of deadlines.



Fisher (2018) expresses the connection between journalists and their data feeds as positioned within the social ambience or context of communities (critical communities – technological, social, political and cultural), where shared meanings evolve via persistent social interaction. Fisher (2018) argues that the social connections between journalists and news data feeds are structured by the selected socio-cultural meanings of the established community's critical cohorts, inclusive of journalists and their news organisations or associations.

Moral Applications and Social Identity

Insights about the gravity of moral problems contradict considerably beyond social identity lines. For instance, seventy-three percent of the female respondents view the “hoisting of duplicate from the Internet lacking appropriate admission” to be either grave or very grave, compared to sixty-two percent of the male respondents who view the same application to be either grave or very grave. A symbolic percent of female respondents, that is, eighty-two percent, correlated to sixty-five percent male respondents view “hoisting of duplicates from the Internet lacking appropriate admission.”

The divergences in insights about the gravity of unprofessional problems is not simple to determine; the stretch to which journalists utilise news from online news data feeds emerges to be further plausible. Importantly, fifty-six percent of the female respondents described the utilisation of narrative from other news organisations as “solid” compared to three percent male respondents who stated the utilisation of narratives from other news organisations as solid. It is probable that the elements for these divergences lay shaded news studio applications autographed by organisational social power affinities. It would appear that female journalists most of whom cover comfy flows such as entertainment, cuisine, and health are prone to infringement than their male counterparts because they bank on ‘off-the-shelf’ data, which expands the possibilities of infringement over their male counterparts who cover ‘complex flows’ such as employment, education and politics and that demand raw contexts that take them out of the news studio. This depicts that moral issues are interwoven with intricate organisational and socio-cultural applications. However, to be able to formulate such social constructs convincingly, more social research is required.

Humane Applications Conforming to Communications Social Nature

Insights of humane problems also alter appreciably between print communications journalists and their broadcasting counterparts. For instance, ninety-six of print communications journalists view infringement to be a very grave problem in the country, correlated to sixty percent of the broadcast journalists who view infringement to be very grave. Furthermore eighty-five percent of the print communications journalists conceive that the utilisation of unknown data feeds is a very grave enigma in the nation, compared to fifty-two broadcast journalists who share a comparable conviction. There is further rivalry in the independent print communications precinct in Sierra Leone, correlated to the broadcasting precinct which enjoys monopoly. Print communications journalists also encounter grim rivalry from websites and online publications websites managed by Sierra Leoneans abroad. Consequently, they are subject to unprincipled applications than their counterparts in the broadcasting precinct. Online news websites have more independence to broadcast without validating narratives because they function or work outside the confines of rigorous media laws such as the Independent Media Commission Act, 2000 (IMC). One respondent discussed that the trepidation of being ‘gouged’ by online news communications has put print communications journalists in a very strenuous



position, in that any lag in broadcasting a narrative means ruining it to an online publishing. As a result, online publishing stringers utilise anonyms they are not scared of political harassment or their image. The notion that the print communications is amenable to unprincipled applications is corroborated by a statement from a respondent who had this to narrate:

“As for broadcasting, perhaps it (contemporary communications automation) has diminutive impacts, but print, affirmative. Journalists can do anything they regard imperative so that they bring forth a narrative” – Abdulai Print Communications Reporter.

Rigid obliges print journalists to catch “a dive into the void, thereby surrendering competent mores at the chantry of financial wisdom,” as one respondent puts it. Aside from financial strain, broadcast communications construction gravitates to be further consolidated than print. Print communications journalists appreciate further liberty than their broadcast colleagues whose narratives are further ‘regularised’, and consequently submitted to robust ostiary methods. Circumstantially, all the lofty social inquiry cases of infringement that have been broadcast in the nation over the years involved print communications journalists. It could also be debated that these occurrences of improper applications might have swayed print communications journalists to amplify the gravity of humane dilemmas in the nation.

Most relevant merit observing that humane applications are intertwined with divergent constructional, associational, cultural and social applications such that an obvious casual relation between contemporary communications automations and the grasped humane enigmas is arduous to uphold. For example, one could argue that commercial attention or the imperative to make earnings rather than automation directs the speed for journalists to function at a ‘jet pace,’ thereby thwarting competent mores. A respondent had this to narrate in this regard: “There is currently evident rivalry among journalism practitioners or professionals; with these automations, one can simply outdistance you and publish the similar narrative within hours; so professionals or practitioners are consistently on the anchor for scoops and exclusively boost the view being formed in this direction. This depicts that contemporary communication automations reformulate humane challenges and difficulties encountered by journalists as well as bringing about contemporary items.

Humane Enigmas and Industry Social Proficiency

Insights of humane enigmas vary considerably between more proficient and less proficient journalists. Further proficient journalists tend to perceive improper applications among Sierra Leonean journalists as less grave than those who are less proficient. For example, only thirty-five percent less proficient journalists perceive ‘overdependence on international news organisation duplicate’ as either grave or very grave, compared to forty-four percent of further proficient journalists who express a related social perspective.

Repeatedly, thirty-five percent of further proficient journalists perceive the ‘widespread utilisation of references from internet data feeds’ as grave or very grave, compared to fifty percent less proficient journalists who perceive this enigma in comparable context. Moreover, eighty-one percent less proficient journalists perceive the ‘utilisation of fictional data feeds’ as grave or very grave, compared to seventy-six percent further proficient journalists who contribute a comparable sense. The possible social account for this could be that more proficient journalists are better qualified to handle humane difficulties than less proficient ones.



Proficient journalists are further ingenious than junior ones who are on the enlightenment ambit. Journalism, being more of a commonplace task, means that those who have many years experience are further enlightened in the mores of the vocation than those who have just associated. Furthermore, proficient journalists have formulated a chain of data feeds such that it is eminently impossible for them to run out of data feeds for any specific stint.

Amidst another twist, it could be debated that these divergences in insights of humane enigmas deliberate the divergences in notions towards contemporary communications automations between the ‘mature custodian’ and admittance-threshold, youthful journalists. Youthful journalists are adapted to perceive contemporary communications automations less hesitantly than veteran journalists who commenced journalistic practice or application before these automations acknowledged extensive approval. Some of the communication by youthful journalists indicate to this and intimate that youthful journalists perceive contemporary communications automations as unlocking immeasurable chances for the journalism vocation.

The statements from some respondents support this perspective:

“I don’t comprehend how the matured generation used to do it. I assume it was a horror for them. As for me I am lucky enough to have commenced employment when these communications automations were already in place” – William, Age 26, Broadcast Communications.

“I only commenced employment three years ago and these automations were previously there. But I have consistently inquired how the ‘old timers’ used to function. I am sure it must have been difficult working without Internet or cell phone” – Adama Print Communications.

Previously mentioned emotions imply that youthful journalists lean further on contemporary communications automations and therefore are vulnerable to unprincipled applications which are bolstered by these automations. However, further examinations are still required to be done across this theme; already there is an intricate net of communal elements involved. It would be impractical to select contemporary automation as the most convincing of humane enigmas.

The Paradoxical Influence of Contemporary Communication Automations on Journalism Mores

Information from the research depicts that contemporary communication automations have both a positive and negative influence on journalism mores. The essence and extent of influence banks on the sort of automation. Most respondents dialogue for this social research inclined to highlight the functional advancements delivered by the Internet, such as the competence to review and corroborate data, thereby bolstering equity, veracity and neutrality of news. The fact that the Internet capacitates journalists to do investigative research certifies that narratives are accomplished and costless of actual blunders. One respondent had this to express:

“The Internet assist me ensure that my narratives are costless of actual blunders. If doing a narrative regarding a certain character in the amusement business, and not certain about the nomenclature of their debut record or the year they released their debut record, I log in to the Internet, rather than wasting time going to the records” – Aminata, Print Communication Amusement Reporter.

The shortcoming of this is nonetheless that as a result of its invisibility, the Internet establishes



chances of infringement. Infringement holds various shapes, but the central ones are lifting text from parts of a narrative lacking admission or taking someone's narrative notions and accommodating them to the regional or national background. The following expressions are illustrative:

“Assuming that I am under stress, I duplicate and plaster lacking admission of data feeds” – Ali, Print Communication.

“I notice some folks who drop in on some foreign web pages and duplicate entire narratives lacking admitting their data feeds” – Mariama, Print Communication.

Single distress articulated by respondents, associated with the issue of infringement but has distant stretching ramifications on traditional journalism social mores, is the insight that the Internet was reinstating the culture of rigor linked with traditional journalism social mores with what most respondents stated as ‘lazy boy Salone (Sierra Leone) journalism.’ Consequently, there was a holistic social agreement that the internet elevates ‘sleepy journalism’ because rather than venturing outside and interacting with news data feeds, journalists were now banking on the Internet. Some respondents indicated the danger of generating what they stated as a ‘Google Salone (Sierra Leone) Journalist,’ that is, a Google Sierra Leonean journalist who depends on the Internet for everything, culminating in them landing out of touch with actual folks.

Although the humane ramifications of these applications are not simple to specify with accuracy, some emotions from respondents intimate that revising, precision and most significantly rigours, that are the attributes of conventional journalism mores, could be under risk. The successive utterances from some respondents are vital or educative:

“The Internet elevates a culture of not shoveling profoundly, because everything is present, so writers tend to have information at hand, even if not credible” – Zainab Broadcast Communications.

“My swift losing touch with list of dependable data feeds utilised before the approach of the Internet” – Abubakarr Broadcast Communications.

“The Internet has given place to bogus and spiteful narrative. For example, one individual commenced a narrative that Harlton passed on and it trekked like blaze on the Internet” – Kaisamba Print Communications.

Nevertheless impression on mores is ascribable to the Internet one requires to be more refined as the endorsement and utilisation of automation is interposed by an anchor of elements, and financial acknowledgement is one of those. This is proof that it is educational to recognise that most journalists who affirm to have disobeyed journalism mores mention stress of deadlines or absence of sufficient hours. Considering the existing reasoning of the communications under the exchange structure is sanctioned further by the acquisition of constructing imperative than something extra. This is an affair that consents an independent social inquiry.

Respondents also referenced both impressive and pessimistic effects of cellular phones on journalism mores, but inclined to note the positives. Nonetheless, it took a fragment of social inquiry for them to hint at the negatives. Notwithstanding most of the impresses about the cellular phone commune further to holistic journalistic applications or practices; one



fundamental condition combining that was repetitive was the evidence that the cellular phone has bolstered the capability of journalists to inquire and authenticate data before publication, hence securing veracity, equilibrium, legitimacy, objectivity and integrality of narratives. One respondent had this to narrate:

“I am able to phone data feeds to verify notes, nomenclatures, and numbers while doing the narrative. At the same time given folks concerned the right to respond to cover both sides of the narrative. There are no further permissions about folks not reachable “at the time of going to press” – Sulaiman, Print Communications.

Furthermore, some respondents were swift to mention the pessimistic effect of the cellular phone on journalism mores. One respondent narrated of ‘a bad habit’ by some journalists who, when they are under stress of deadlines, counterfeit dialogues, thereby their entire data feeds are either “exceptionally positioned data feeds that declined to narrate on the report for professional factors” or simply “an unknown data feeds nearest to this newspaper” “inside source.” Some respondents also narrated of expanding matters of comrades who, because of stress of duty or inertia, publish a narrative lacking which associates the social right of responding to the erroneous apology that ‘their cellular phone was on voicemail.’ The piecemeal deterioration of communal kingship between the journalist, his or her data feeds and the ensuing declining relationship between the dual emerges to be elevating a non-traditional and tolerant humane culture: how not being accessible through the mobile phone is paired with ‘not being present at all.’

The other ambiguous affair regarding cellular phones is the affair of ‘news tips’ from anonymous members of the public. Respondents spoke of some of these ‘news pointers’ which in the past rolled out to be ‘shams’ or bare gossips or rumours. One respondent had this to say:

“Occasionally we get news pointers from associates of the public through sms. There is constantly a convincing impulse to publish at the earliest desirable hour, but more often we unearth that such narratives are lodged on gossip or rumour. If you are apprehensive of failing a ‘lush’ narrative you may end up publishing it, only to unearth that it was a hearsay or rumour. An instance is a narrative that has been doing the rounds that Mohamed Kamarainba Mansaray (a Sierra Leonean Political Detainee) has died. That narrative has travelled the whole world through the internet and yet it was just a rumour or hearsay. That is how some newspapers end up publishing delusions and then renounce them the following morning.” – Alhaji, Print Journalism Reporter.

Nevertheless, automation alone cannot be reprimanded for the deterioration of conventional journalism mores. An appraisal of the actual intentions for not obeying suitable humane processes (at least from what most respondents narrate) is that the determination whether to publish right now or later is predicated on financial deliberations, that is, ‘if we do not publish today because we cannot get hold of folks concerned, the narrative will be acquired by another publication that does not worry about mores,’ thus the reasoning. Therefore, our comprehension of how contemporary automation is designing and redesigning journalism demands that we glance at the entire connection in which journalism is exercised now, alternately concentrating on a single aspect.

In reference to positive emails is applauded for having advanced the character of narratives. Email permits journalists to communicate faraway news data feeds, specifically those outside



the nation. This permits them to publish fair and open-minded narratives, the emblem of humane journalism. Regarding the pessimistic overtones of the email on journalism mores, respondents discussed largely about the enigma of ‘public bearings’ emails from civil society and corporate or collaborative agencies who hunt to dominate the news docket. One respondent narrated about how his newspaper occasionally gets affected with press releases through email from civic associations who may want to set the docket on specific narratives, aggressing the commentary autonomy of the newspaper.

Nonetheless, email also crippled the clarity of journalism both on the path of journalists and the public. For example, a respondent alleged that some associates of the public utilise ‘counterfeit email accounts’ to spread malice and despise messages in newspaper features.

The contradicted political community in which journalism is applied or practiced in the nation means that folks hold fortified statuses and some utilise counterfeit email accounts to unleash suppressed feelings against some folks. One respondent affirmed that he used to publish his email address in a perspective column in his newspaper but stopped doing so after he started receiving ‘pessimistic response’ in the sort of abusive emails from newspaper critics. He had this to narrate:

“The emails began arriving solid and swift and my email was loaded with abusive missives, launched at my dignity. Some appreciated immoralities while others called me all kinds of nomenclatures; some were frightened, and admonished not to walk the streets of Freetown. As a result, closed my email account, but the column persisted with fresh determination” – Baron, Print Communications Line Editor.

The salutary lesson from this narration is that automation can be utilised by anyone, for anything, virtuous or demonic. Thus, when narrating the effect of automation on journalism mores, it is imperative to comprehend the entire gamut of elements in which it is adopted and utilised.

CONCLUSION

This social research has discussed insights of Sierra Leonean journalists of the divergent humane obstacles or challenges linked with cellular phone, the Internet and email. It was found most journalists view infringement, utilisation of unknown data feeds, slander and despising messages as the most grave unprincipled applications associated with contemporary communications automations. There is a gesture that journalism professionals or practitioners are over-depending on contemporary communications automations for collecting news. This propensity may in the distant future pessimistically affect journalistic ingenuity and the determination for which conventional journalism is famous or popular.

Social findings also depict that insights of the gravity of these obstacles or challenges differ across mediums, task observations and social identities. The social observation is also corroborated by one established by Hermans et al. (2023) who argues that journalists’ insights of the impression of the Internet on journalism application or practice varied according to social identity, automation and employment related. This is educative in the sense that it might be a gesture that humane affairs are embedded in intricate associational and socio-cultural procedures.



Another pivotal social observation established is that respondents in this research perceive contemporary communications automations as having both impressive and pessimistic effects on journalism mores. This depicts that automation has got a dialectical effect on journalism application and journalism mores, and the factual path in which it effects on journalistic applications is also intricate. The social discourse progressed in this research is that a wider comprehension of the path in which automation effects on journalistic applications in holistic and mores in specific Sierra Leonean journalists and other communications state actors requires to consider the entire spectrum of drives (within and outside) that affect communications agencies.

The research revealed Koljaric's (2020) argument that unprincipled journalistic social behaviour should be perceived against the background of the organisational community in which it is applied further cogent. Consequently, there is a demand to investigate intently the organisational circumstances and procedures in which journalism is applied in order for individuals to comprehend better the effect of contemporary communications automations on journalism mores. This social research therefore shades a holistic perspective that fuses sociology of journalism, sociology of journalists and critical economic approaches to be able to appraise the procedures in which automation impacts on journalism mores. Such a perspective will empower individuals to formulate a further grounded theory of the 'sociology of journalism mores in Sierra Leone.'

It is moreover significant to point out that the sampling mode utilised in this social research makes it arduous to generalise findings in this social research since the social research only covered journalists in the metropolis of the nation, Freetown. A further representative social research, employing or incorporating ethnographic perspective, could submit further indisputable findings. Additional potentially fascinating domains of investigation could be a comparative assessment of the insights of online journalists and conventional communications journalists of humane dilemmas and challenges, or investigating how insights of humane challenges contradict beyond divergent newspapers in Freetown, Sierra Leone.

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