

Topic 1.

Investigative journalism:
a modern form of social
communication



What is investigative journalism?

Investigative journalism is finding, reporting and presenting news which other people try to hide.

The job of journalists is to let people know what is going on in the community, the society and the world around them.



What is investigative journalism?



Story-Based Inquiry, an investigative journalism handbook published by UNESCO, defines it thus:

“Investigative journalism involves exposing to the public matters that are concealed—either deliberately by someone in a position of power, or accidentally, behind a chaotic mass of facts and circumstances that obscure understanding. It requires using both secret and open sources and documents.”



Investigative journalism comprises the following elements:

- Investigate social and legal issues
- Document analysis includes examining legal papers, public records, and financial information
- Several in-depth interviews, both with on-the-record and anonymous sources.



Investigative journalism comprises the following elements:

- Technical details, research, and physical examination of specialized equipment
- Exploration of data
- Use subscription-based tools to conduct research
- Research that takes weeks, months, or even years to complete

There are several reasons why societies need investigative journalism

- People have a right to know about the society in which they live.
- People in power can abuse that power.
- Journalists have a duty to watch how well people in power perform their jobs, especially those who have been elected to public office.



Importance of investigative journalism

Investigative journalism serves the public interests through its detailed research and reporting of injustices. This is done through the appropriate updates given to the readers, listeners and viewers through the investigative reports. Therefore investigative journalism serves as a public eye to those in authority against the abuse of power. Since media is independent it therefore becomes evident that those in position of authority cannot manipulate it for their own purpose. So investigative journalism becomes the only refuge for the public through which facts about hidden things are exposed.





Investigative journalism's cultural aspects

Investigative journalism is critical to modern society's cultural ideals

With investigative journalism in play, today's society is concerned about securing justice. Society trusts the media to expose the truth behind many incidents. This has increased the media's role because it is expected to obtain facts and disseminate them through investigative work.



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