



A Study of The Ethics Associated with Crime Reporting in Sri Lanka: Specific to Television

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Abstract

Television can be introduced as a very powerful mass media among mass media. Due to the speed and attractiveness of television as an audio-visual medium, television has been able to create a large community of followers on it. After the introduction of television in Sri Lanka in 1979, television has become one of the most powerful forms of mass media in Sri Lanka. Information reporting is at the top of the main functions of mass media. There is a basic ethical system to be followed in the reporting of media-related information. Sri Lankan journalists are bound to report information based on that code of ethics. But to what extent Sri Lankan journalists engage in news reporting based on these ethics when reporting information related to crime incidents is a problem. The problem of this research is the violation of media ethics in reporting crime news by the Sri Lankan television media. The primary purpose of this research is to explore the reasons for reporting criminal incidents in violation of media ethics and to determine remedies for the same. Here, the case study method was used under qualitative data analysis as the research method. Interviews were taken with the victims and the HR Head as the sample of the study. The case related to the killing of Seya Sadevmi and the killing of a young woman by a police officer in the Kuruwita area of Ratnapura is used as data. Internet and research reports were studied as secondary data. There, the violation of media ethics in television news reporting, the shortcomings of the legal system related to news reporting in Sri Lanka, and the need for the active contribution of journalists on media ethics were explained.

Keywords: Crime reporting, Media ethics, Mass media, Television, Violation

