

**AN EVALUATIVE STUDY OF CITIZEN JOURNALISM IN
MIZORAM**

**A THESIS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF
THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF
PHILOSOPHY**

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MZU REGISTRATION NO.: 3102 of 2011

Ph.D. REGISTRATION NO.: MZU/Ph.D./1593 OF 04.11.2020



**DEPARTMENT OF MASS COMMUNICATION
SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS, MANAGEMENT
AND INFORMATION SCIENCE
MARCH, 2024**

AN EVALUATIVE STUDY OF CITIZEN JOURNALISM IN MIZORAM

BY

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Submitted

**In partial fulfillment of the requirement of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy
in Mass Communication, Mizoram University, Aizawl**

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I begin by expressing my gratitude to God, the source of wisdom and strength, for guiding me through this Ph.D. journey. It is with divine grace that I've navigated the challenges and joys of this scholarly endeavor.

Sincere appreciation goes to Professor V. Ratnamala, my supervisor in Ph.D. and also my guiding star since my post-graduation days in 2014. Her guidance has been a beacon of light, shaping my academic path.

My deepest thanks to my parents for their unwavering faith, sacrifices, and prayers. Their love and encouragement have been my anchor, enabling me to reach this academic milestone.

I am grateful for the support of my friends, which has made this journey intellectually rewarding and emotionally enriching.

To my fellow Ph.D. scholars, thank you for the collective spirit of inquiry and discovery that has enriched my perspectives and research.

In conclusion, I acknowledge divine guidance and the contributions of these exceptional individuals to my academic and personal growth. This thesis stands as a testament to the grace that has surrounded me throughout this transformative experience.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AD	Anno Domini
CGNet Swara	Central Gondwana Net Swara
CNN-IBN	Cable News Network - Indian Broadcasting Network
csv	comma-separated values
DDK	Doordarshan Kendra
IIT	Indian Institute of Technology
IPSMF	Independent and Public-Spirited Media Foundation
IVR	Interactive Voice Response
MJA	Mizoram Journalists Association
MNF	Mizo National Front
MNFF	Mizo National Famine Front
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
OPT	Occupied Palestinian Territory
UK	United Kingdom
US	United States
YMA	Young Mizo Association

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Journalism, in all its varieties, is the constant background and accompaniment to everyday life (McNair, 2005). Mouton (2018), in his work *Journalism*, says that journalism is an amazingly rich field of study, generating interest from a variety of perspectives and disciplines. The author of this book explored how the modern digital era is undermining the hegemony in publishing held by established young journalists. He also spoke about how, as the amount of content and contributors grows, there is more competition for readers and for understanding media as a cultural discipline.

Even though traditional journalism exists at present, there is a new trend in journalism, which is called citizen journalism in the state, and with it, citizen journalists. Citizen journalism plays a big role in the formation of public opinion and is a crucial platform to exercise freedom of expression under the Constitution of India. This study attempts to examine traditional journalism versus citizen journalism in Mizoram.

1.2 Traditional Journalism

According to Parthasarathy (1989), China was a forerunner in the development of paper and printing. Paper was invented in the second century A.D., and Wang Chieh wrote the first book printed from blocks in 868 A.D. A Buddhist scripture known as the Diamond Sutra, dated 868 A.D., is the earliest record of Chinese printing. Many individuals have been credited as pioneers of printing technologies throughout history. Gutenberg of Mainz, Laurens Janszoon Coster of Haarlem, Johannes Brito of Bruges, and Pamfilo Castaldi of Feltre (Italy) are only a handful of them. Scholars from all over the world have done extensive historical research. Johann Gutenberg, a German, invented movable cast metal type printing machines in Mainz around 1440–50.

Eisenstein (1979) focuses on the early days of printing, particularly between 1460 and 1480. It illustrates a novel method of knowledge protection by printing as well as significant consequences that led to a crucial moment in Western history. According to Eisenstein, the introduction of printing altered people's views toward literacy.

Edmund Burke first applied the term "fourth estate" to the press gallery in the late eighteenth century, contrasting it with the three estates of the realm in France, which are the Clergy, Aristocracy, and Commoners (Carlyle, 1840). The idea of the Fourth Estate signifies that, whatever the formal constitution, genuine political power lives in the informal role of the press, which derives from the relationship between the press and its readers (Hampton, 2010).

Gangadhar Bhattacharjee launched the Bengal Gazette, the nation's first English newspaper owned by Indians, in Calcutta in 1816. Raja Rammohan Roy started Brahmanical Magazine in 1820, Sambad Kaumudi in 1821, Mrat ul Akhbar in 1822, a Persian weekly, he also started journals called Reformer, the Inquirer and the Gyan Auneshun. Between 1831 and 1833 there were 19 new journals published in Bengal. In Bombay Bal Gangadhar Tilak started Kesari (Marathi) and Mahratta (English) in January 1881 (Pernau & Jafery, 2009).

Bayly (1996) said that after the invention of printing technologies, the Indian public communication system underwent a significant transformation. Following the 1850s, Indian journalism reached its pinnacle, coinciding with the rise of the independence movement. As a result, several printing presses emerged as one of British India's modern institutions. Early information networks started to deteriorate by the 1870s. The intelligence agent, spy, informer, or runner, who were so important in the early stages of British rule, became less important. The unified early correspondence networks of the postal system, the electric telegraph, and printing presses took their place (newspapers, printed books, and pamphlets).

1.3 Citizen Journalism

According to Noor (2016), citizen journalism is a term used in the media to describe investigative actions carried out by everyday citizens. It ensures that people themselves report on the problems they face. Participatory and democratic journalism are other terms for citizen journalism.

Miller (2011) says that citizen journalism, also known as participatory journalism, is most often carried out by online services such as Facebook, Twitter, and personal web blogs. Internet-based social media channels have been an integral part of people's daily lives, whether at work, in their recreation, or in their social and political lives. Kiran (2009) says that, given that the media is the fourth cornerstone of democracy, citizen journalism today offers an answer to the ancient issue of *quis custodiet ipos custodies*, or "who watches the watchers," whose freedom and objectivity are challenged and compromised by political and commercial intervention.

1.4 Mizoram at a glance

In February 1987, the hilly area of Mizoram was accepted as the 23rd state of the Indian Union. Mizoram is located in the northeastern region of India, sandwiched between Bangladesh to the west and Myanmar to the east and south. This region is extremely strategically significant. It has a 722-kilometer boundary with Myanmar and Bangladesh (Bhatt & Bhargava, 2006). There is confusion about the Mizo's origins and their migration to their current home.. Historians believe that the Mizos were a part of the great wave of the Mongolian race spilling over into eastern and southern India centuries ago (Gajrani, 2004).

According to Sailo (2006), Mizoram's population comprises ethnic tribes that are culturally and linguistically related. Mizos (Mi means people, Zo means the name of a progenitor); thus, six major tribes inhabited the Mizo Land. They are Lusei,

Ralte, Hmar, Paite, Pawi (Lai), and Lakher (Mara). Besides these, there are many sub-tribes.

The majority of Mizos are now Christians as a result of British missionaries' influence over them in the 19th century. There is no unique script for the Mizo language. The missionaries introduced the Roman script for the Mizo language and formal education (Bhatt & Bhargava, 2006). Mizoram was formally brought under British administration on September 6, 1895 (McCall, 1980). According to Chatterjee (1985), in 1898, the north and south hills were merged into the Lushai Hills district, which was headquartered in Aizawl. When the Lushai Hills and a few other hill districts were classified as "backward tracts" by the Government of India Act of 1919, the consolidation of British rule in Assam's tribal-dominated areas started in 1919. Known as the 'Mautam Famine' in Mizo history, it was a severe famine that struck the Mizo Hills in 1959 (Indian Express, 2012). Jagdish (2008) states that the famine was caused by the flowering of bamboo, which resulted in an increase in the rat population. It resulted in a widespread loss of food supplies and crops. A lot of people died as a result of hunger. Mizo Cultural Society was established in 1955, Pu Laldenga serving as its secretary. To combat the famine, the Mizo Cultural Society's name was changed to "Mautam Front" in March 1960. The society changed its name to the Mizo National Famine Front (MNFF) in September 1960. The MNFF gained popularity as many Mizo youth helped carry rice and other necessities to interior communities. According to Lalchungnunga (1994), on October 22, 1961, the Mizo National Famine Front was renamed the Mizo National Front (MNF) after its rebound from the catastrophe. Greater Mizoram's sovereign freedom was the stated aim. With the rebellion against the government on February 28, 1966, it resorted to armed insurgency, targeting government installations in Aizawl, Lunglei, Chawngte, Chhimluang, and other locations. On March 5 and 6, 1966, the Indian government bombed Aizawl with Toofani and Hunter jet fighters.

According to Baruah (2007), in May 1971, a delegation from the Mizo District Council met with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and requested absolute statehood for Mizoram. In July 1971, the Indian government offered to make the Mizo Hills a Union Territory. On the 21st of January 1972, Mizoram was officially declared as a UT. Mizoram holds two seats in Parliament: one in the Rajya Sabha and one in the Lok Sabha.

Chatterjee (1994) states that, on June 30, 1986, the Mizo National Front and the Union Government signed the Mizoram Peace Accord (officially known as the Mizoram Accord, 1986, Memorandum of Settlement). Mizoram became a federal state of India on February 20, 1987, after achieving statehood as a condition of the agreement. The 2011 Indian Census shows that there are 10,91,014 people living in Mizoram, 5,52,339 of whom are men and 5,38,675 of whom are women. The sex ratio is 975 females per 1000 males. Mizoram has the largest concentration of Scheduled Tribe residents in all of India, with 95 percent of the total population listed as Scheduled Tribe. Mizoram has a literacy rate of 91.33 percent, and the majority (83.18 percent) of the population are Christians. At present, there are 11 districts in Mizoram.

1.5 Traditional Media in Mizoram

The history of print journalism in Mizoram dates back to British colonialism in India. Along with the rest of India, Mizoram was under British rule. The motives of the English missionaries to convert the tribal people into Christians set the groundwork for educating and changing the lifestyle from headhunters to gentlemen. They introduced the Mizo alphabet and taught the people how to read and write. As a result, the first handwritten Mizo newspaper was born. Published in 1898, Mizo Chanchin Laisuih became the first newspaper in the Mizo dialect. It was started by the most powerful colonial official, J. Shakespear, in the Lushai Hills District. Four issues of this newspaper appeared over two years, from 1898 to 1899. The newspapers were handwritten, and they were multiplied by carbon copies. The purpose of producing and circulating these artefacts was not to enlighten the masses. It is possible that these. This newspaper was published four times in two years, from 1898 to 1899. The newspapers were written by hand and printed out on carbon copies. newspapers were consumed by the local bureaucracy and the native elites (Lalrozami, 2012). In 1902, J. Shakespeare also started Mizo leh Vai Chanchin, another newspaper. Sylhet Dinna Nath Press printed the monthly publication. In quick succession came Tun Hapta Chanchinbu (1939), Nitin Chanchinbu (1939), Mizo Chanchinbu (1946), and Zoram Thupuan (1947). With connections to the Mizo

Union at the time, Mizo Chanchinbu was the state's first political party newspaper.

The church has a long history in the print media of Mizoram. The first media project by a church in Mizoram was Kristian Tlangau. The Presbyterian Church published it in 1911. The newspaper Sipai Tlangau was started by the Salvation Army, and Pu Laldela served as its first editor. Tlawmngaihna (1934), Mizo Chanchin (1905), and Kohhran Beng (1946) are published by the Baptist Mission. The Catholic Kantu started in 1960 (Varte, 2012). At present, there are 146 accredited journalists in Mizoram. Of the 141 journalists, 55 are from Aizawl district, 18 from Lunglei district, 11 from Champhai district, 11 from Siaha district, 13 from Kolasib district, 12 from Serchhip district, 8 from Lawngtlai district, 9 from Mamit district, 6 from Hnahthial district, and 3 from Khawzawl district (Government of Mizoram, 2023).

1.6 Research Gap

There are only a few studies done on traditional journalism in Mizoram. Two studies mapped media in two other districts of Mizoram, i.e., Lawngtlai and Siaha. The study that attempted to map traditional journalism in Mizoram is very limited as it discussed only two newspapers from Aizawl. It has not focused much on other available media in the whole of Mizoram. Some research articles are also only on Aizawl media. There are also almost no studies on citizen journalism in Mizoram at present. So, the researcher will mainly focus on mapping the existing traditional journalism and citizen journalism to add more literature, which will fill a gap as there are no in-depth studies of both traditional and citizen journalism in Mizoram as a whole.

1.7 Theoretical Framework

The Democratic Participant Theory, put forth by Dennis McQuail in 1987, serves as the theoretical basis for this study. According to Democratic Participant Theory, the media's tasks include providing local information, soliciting input, and promoting social action at the local level. It opposes a homogenous, monopolized, and profit-driven media culture. Instead, it favours local, non-institutionalized media outlets disseminating pertinent information to targeted populations. The concept facilitates

feedback, which is only possible in small groups and communities, and contact between the media and the audience. It encourages equality between different racial groups, classes, castes, genders, and other group-controlled groups (Bajracharya, 2018). Since this theory promotes participatory media, it can be used to understand citizen journalism as well as traditional journalism in Mizoram within the context of this study. This theory highlights the significance of citizens as engaged participants in Mizoram's media landscape while also shedding light on the challenges and limitations.

1.8 Scope of the study

An analysis of the state of traditional media as well as the state of working journalists is critical in order to determine the exact state of their work and its effects. With the emergence of digital media, many people now have access to smartphones and high-speed internet, causing them to share stories and photos about exciting events on numerous media outlets, including social media. This allows facts to spread further than most reputable media outlets, whether they are true or false. As a result, it's critical to investigate the true meaning, status, and influence of citizen journalism and its journalists, as well as the positive and negative effects they're having. As a result, the aim of this study is to provide information on traditional and citizen journalism in Mizoram, as well as how the two forms of journalism are currently intertwined. It is also crucial to learn how citizen journalists respond to journalism's ethics and culture, as well as what sort of reactions they get from the public.

1.9 Research objectives

- i. To map the status of working journalists in traditional media in Mizoram
- ii. To map the status of traditional journalism in Mizoram
- iii. To map the status of citizen journalism and citizen journalists in Mizoram.
- iv. To examine how citizen journalists respond to the values and ethics of journalism.

- v. To analyse how audiences consume news and how they respond to traditional journalism versus citizen journalism.

1.10 Research Methodology

In order to gather the desired results and objectives of the study, a triangulation research methodology that integrates both qualitative and quantitative techniques is used. Triangulation is the practise of utilising multiple data sources or methods of data analysis to increase a research study's credibility. Triangulation is especially related to qualitative research methods; it usually entails reviewing information from written archives, focus groups, interviews, and other sources. Triangulation is often used in studies that combine both quantitative and qualitative research methods (Salkind, 2010). Content analysis is also employed in the study. A research technique known as content analysis was developed from analyses of texts that have been preserved, including magazines, newspaper articles, and speech transcripts. By identifying and examining the frequency of particular themes or categories in the data, content analysis enables researchers to derive significant conclusions and make sensible decisions (Tunison, 2023). The survey method is also employed. A cross-sectional study which is an observational study in which the exposure and the outcome are determined at the same time point for each study participant is also employed. Cross-sectional studies comprise the simplest individual-level observational study design and are usually An observational study with a cross-sectional design is also used, in which each study participant's exposure and outcome are ascertained at the same time point. relatively inexpensive and easy to conduct compared with case-control or cohort studies (Pandis, 2014). Multistage sampling is used as it is in most content research in the media. This procedure is divided into three stages: content source sampling, date selection, and content selection (Wimmer and Dominick, 2003).

1.10.1 Methods of Data Collection

i) Objectives 1 and 2 will be studied using a triangulation design. Under this, the working traditional journalist will be identified, and after identifying the required subjects, field observation and surveys using questionnaires along with contentanalysis will be employed. Different newspapers and citizen journalism platforms will be thoroughly analysed using this method. For print media, five newspapers from Aizawl, namely Vanglaini, The Zozam Times, The Aizawl Post, Mizoram Post, and Newslink, will be chosen as purposive samples based on their circulation, along with one leading newspaper from each of the other districts of Mizoram.

ii) For Objectives 3 and 4, triangulation design and content analysis will be used. To get the complete status of citizen journalists and citizen journalism in Mizoram, surveys using questionnaires and analysis of the content are employed. For citizen journalism platforms, the Facebook group Mizoram Special Report, Instagram account Explore Mizoram, and YouTube channel Mizo Official Channel are chosen for studying the content of citizen journalism.

iii) For objective 5, a survey method is employed to get the desired result, and a cross-sectional population survey is employed by taking simple random samples. At least 25 samples from each of the districts will be taken as respondents from each district of Mizoram, with more respondents from the capital district, that is, Aizawl, since it is significantly more populated.

1.11 Chapterisation

The research will be organised into six (6) chapters, as follows:

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: Review of Literature

Chapter 3: Mapping Traditional Journalism and Traditional Journalists in Mizoram

Chapter 4: Mapping Citizen Journalism and Citizen Journalists in Mizoram

Chapter 5: News Consumption and Preferences of Audiences in Mizoram

Chapter 6: Findings, Conclusions, and Recommendations Bibliography

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.1 Introduction

Through a comprehensive review of relevant literature from available sources, this chapter discusses the relevant information related to the history of print journalism and citizen journalism, as well as the present condition, challenges, and necessary gaps of traditional journalism and citizen journalism. This literature review will follow the narrative approach to gain insight into the topic of this research, 'An Evaluative Study of Citizen Journalism in Mizoram'.

2.2 History of print media

Three communication revolutions in human history are mentioned by scholars. Writing was the first to emerge. The second was the invention of printing. The convergence of telecommunication, computers, and digitization is widely hailed as the third (Gunaratne, 2001a; Stevenson, 1994, as cited in Gunaratne, 2001). When it came to the invention of paper and printing, China was a pioneer. Paper was invented in the second century A.D., and Wang Chieh wrote the first book printed from blocks in 868 A.D. A Buddhist scripture known as the Diamond Sutra, dated 868 A.D., is the earliest record of Chinese printing. Many individuals have been credited as pioneers of printing technologies throughout history. Gutenberg of Mainz, Laurens Janszoon Coster of Haarlem, Johannes Brito of Bruges, and Pamfilo Castaldi of Feltre in Italy are only a handful of them. Scholars from all over the world have done extensive historical research. Johann Gutenberg, a German, invented movable cast metal type printing machines in Mainz around 1440–50 (Parthasarathy, 1989). Johannes Gutenberg, who spent his formative years travelling and learning by doing, is credited as the inventor of the printing press. Despite facing technological challenges in developing the printing press, Gutenberg eventually succeeded in building a device that could publish books rapidly and effectively. When Gutenberg eventually made it back to Mainz, he was up against unfair competition from other printers and found it difficult to benefit from his invention. Gutenberg's printing

activities were hampered by the Mainz archbishops' war, yet he persisted in developing his invention until his passing. Despite suffering many difficulties throughout his lifetime, Gutenberg is regarded as one of history's most significant inventors because of his invention of the printing press, which had a significant impact on the world (Kapr & Martin, 1996).

Eisenstein (1979) also focuses on the early days of printing, particularly between 1460 and 1480. She illustrates a novel method of knowledge protection by printing as well as the significant consequences that led to a crucial moment in Western history. According to Eisenstein, the introduction of printing altered people's views toward literacy. McLuhan (1962) also investigates the impact of mass media, especially the printing press, on European culture and consciousness. It popularized the word "economic village," which refers to the belief that mass media causes a village mentality to spread across the globe. McLuhan explores the development of what he refers to as Gutenberg Man, a topic spawned by the shift in consciousness brought on by the printing press. According to him, innovations are the means by which humans are re-invented, rather than merely inventions that people use. He also said that the invention of the printing press resulted in the rise of colonialism, dualism, rationalism's dominance, scientific research's automation, cultural uniformity and standardization, and human isolation. The processes that gave rise to these communities, such as the territorialization of religious beliefs, the decline of ancient kingship, the interaction between capitalism and print, the development of vernacular languages of state, and shifting concepts of time, are examined by Anderson (1983) in his analysis of the origins and global spread of the "imagined communities" of nationality. He mentions the interaction of capitalism and print as one of the mechanisms that aided in the formation and diffusion of imagined national communities and explains how the spread of vernacular languages of state was made possible by the development of print technology and how this contributed to the development of a sense of shared identity among speakers of the same language.

2.2.1 History of Indian Journalism

Through the efforts of Jesuit missionaries, the first printing press arrived in India in 1556. It was brought from Portugal and installed at St. Paul's College in Goa. It was primarily used for printing religious literature such as tracts and hymn books. Hicky's Bengal Gazette was India's first printed newspaper, and it was published in English. It was edited and published by James Augustus Hicky, a former East India Company employee. This newspaper's first issue, published in 1780, featured only classified advertisements on its front page. It was a weekly newspaper that covered the arrival and departure of Europeans, steamer schedules, fashionable news from London, Paris, and Vienna, and personal news. It catered to the needs of Calcutta's small European community. Many other Anglo-Indian newspapers followed Hicky's lead, including the John Bull, Calcutta Journal, and Bengal Harkaru. Hicky's Bengal Gazette was forced to close in 1781 after publishing a scandalous story about Warren Hastings, the then-Governor-General of India. Later, a new type of newspaper appeared: Indo-Anglian papers. They were English newspapers run by Indians for English-educated Indian elites. The Bengal Gazette, founded in 1816 by Gangadhar Bhattacharya, a disciple of Raja Rammohan Roy, was the first of its kind. Rammohan Roy also launched his well-known Brahmanical magazine every two weeks in English. The early Indo-Anglian papers focused on drawing the British's attention to India's cultural and philosophical history. They did not openly criticise society's social and political ills (Narayanrao, 2012). From 1857 to 1859, the country's first war of independence was fought in various parts of the country. Between 1860 and 1899, hundreds of newspapers appeared, demanding freedom of expression and criticising the British repressive measures. Journalism played a critical role in educating educated Indians about their rights. The Hindu of Madras and Amrit Bazaar Patrika of Calcutta are two newspapers from this time period. Another significant factor was the proliferation of colleges offering science and liberal arts education in India's major cities during this time period. Digdarshan (World Vision) was the first Indian-language newspaper, a Bengali religious weekly founded by Christian missionaries in Schrampur. Raja Rammohan Roy launched Bengali and Urdu weeklies like Bangadoota and Mirat-ul-Akhbar based on the

Digdarshan model. The oldest newspaper in India is the first Gujarati newspaper, Mumbai Samachar, which was founded in 1822. Oodunt Martand, Banaras Akhbar, Shimla Akhbar, and Samayadant Martand, the first Hindi daily, were among the early Hindi publications. The Times of India (Bombay) and the Statesman were the major English newspapers in India in 1947. (Calcutta). Amrita Hazaar Patrika, Hindu (Madras), Hindustan Times (New Delhi), Indian Express (Bombay & Madras) (Calcutta) The Times of India, Statesman, and Pioneer were all owned by the British until 1964, when they were taken over by an Indian business group. During India's long freedom struggle, the major English newspapers that served the national cause were the Hindu (1878), Amrita Bazaar Patrika (1868), and Hindustan Times (1924). Among the prominent Indian language newspapers were Ananda Bazaar Patrika (1922), Sakal (1931), Mumbai Samachar (1822), Malayala Manorama (1890), and Mathrubhumi (1930) (Narayanrao, 2012). Jeffrey (2000) examines the emergence of the modern Indian-language press in the late 20th century and its role in shaping Indian politics and society and gives an analysis of the social, economic, and political factors that contributed to the growth of the Indian-language press, as well as its impact on the Indian public sphere. Literacy and newspapers organise people for political change, as well as why politicisation causes people to become newspaper subscribers and to what degree media wait for industrial capitalism to break into the countryside to become genuinely mass media, as they have in India over the last thirty years. These issues are considered first from the standpoint of Kerala, which is often a forerunner of developments elsewhere, and then on a national basis (Jeffrey, 2012).

Stahlberg (2013) uses the metaphor of 'cartography of news' to explain the study of newsroom history, schedules, beat processes, and the macrostructure of news layout in the context of the Lucknow edition of Dainik Jagran. He demonstrates how lawmakers in Lucknow were more interested in contacting reporters from Indian-language newspapers and how advertisers were aware of the Hindi press's increasing presence in north India. This is a turning point in South Asian media studies, as it attempts to consider and clarify the socio-cultural context. Udupa (2015), in her book "Making News in Global India: Media, Publics, and Politics,"

through the ethnography of English and Kannada print news media in Bangalore, shows how the expanding private news culture played a critical role in shaping urban transition in India, as the ostensibly public profession of journalism became both an object and an agent of global urbanization. The public sphere in India has been reinvented as a result of the development and growth of Hindi journalism. This reinvention has been influenced by local news sources, media and business, journalists and politicians, caste and communalism, and the development discourse. The public sphere has been reconfigured in large part as a result of change and attrition (Ninan, 2007)

2.3 Changes and Challenges In Traditional Journalism Due To Rise In Technology

The current condition of journalism in the world is a complex and multifaceted issue with a number of challenges and opportunities for the industry. Research suggests that trust in journalism has declined in recent years, particularly in the United States. According to a Pew Research Centre study, only 18% of Americans believe they can trust the news they receive from major news outlets. This decline in trust is thought to be driven in part by the proliferation of fake news and misinformation (The Pew Research Center, 2019). Many news organisations are facing economic challenges due to declining revenues from traditional sources, such as print advertising. A report from the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism found that the COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated these economic challenges, with many news outlets experiencing significant drops in revenue and cuts to staff (The Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, 2020). There is evidence to suggest that media outlets are becoming more polarised and more likely to cater to specific partisan audiences. A study by the Knight Foundation found that a majority of Americans believe that the media is more interested in supporting an ideology or political position than in reporting the news (The Knight Foundation, 2019). In many parts of the world, press freedom is also in jeopardy because journalists are subject to intimidation, violence, and legal threats. Press freedom is also in danger in many parts of the world due to threats, violence, and intimidation directed towards journalists.

The Committee to Protect Journalists reports that 32 journalists were killed in 2020, and many more were imprisoned or harassed (The Committee to Protect Journalists, 2020). Despite the challenges facing the industry, there are also innovative solutions being developed to improve journalism. For example, some news outlets are experimenting with new business models, such as membership programmes or paywalls, while others are exploring new ways to deliver news through digital platforms (Pew Research Center, 2018). New methods and techniques are changing journalism, which could result in more independent journalists and better news. The way journalism is produced, disseminated, and used is changing as a result of these new techniques and instruments. The negative effects of these developments on the standard of journalism and the viability of journalists' careers are a source of concern (Haak, Parks, & Castells, 2012). The biggest challenge facing journalism in the digital age is the competition between conventional media and modern media, in this instance, internet media. The existence of internet media had a significant impact on journalism, which, of course, also had a new channel for conveying news and reporting. However, it is claimed that traditional newspapers will eventually need to follow the lead of online media if they don't want their readers to stop reading them. During the time of their founding, traditional newspapers did not employ internet platforms in the practise of news output. Despite the fact that few traditional media outlets are receptive to new ideas, the advent of a modern type of journalism, specifically internet journalism, which was preceded by the rise of citizen journalism, has caused the mass media to be concerned about its presence. The information supplied must continue to be credible and trustworthy for conventional media to exist (Saragih & Harahap, 2020). Traditional mainstream media, especially newspapers, are facing a real-time crisis as there is an increasing number of citizens actively participating in information dissemination (Karun, 2011).

The profession of journalism has been significantly impacted by the quick development of new communication technologies. When it comes to keeping up with the latest communication technology, journalism education falls short. Due to the advent of amateur journalists and information producers via social media, the role of the journalist has come under dispute (Ercan, 2018). According to Anderson (2014),

in the last ten years, new technologies, approaches, presumptions, and expectations have changed the news industry. Journalists must change with the times by utilising new tools and methods as well as locating innovative sources of funding and distribution for their job. In a similar way to how we comprehend, say, medicine, Waisbord (2014) tries to explain the dispute surrounding media as a profession and why it has never been recognised as such. According to Waisbord, the idea of "professional journalism" is still debatable and imprecise. He points out that American journalists have generally exhibited greater professionalism than their counterparts anywhere else on the globe, while British journalists have historically had more conflicting opinions. In fact, many journalists are happy with vaguely or ambiguously established ground rules that they might choose to follow or disregard.

2.3.1 Status of Journalists

The cultural, political, and economic environments in which journalism is practised influence it. In a globalised world, recognising these many journalistic cultures can help advance intercultural understanding and raise the standard of journalism globally (Hanitzsch et al., 2019). According to Artus (1929), there was a widespread effort to standardise and organise the journalistic industry, and everyone wanted stability and control. A key aspect of this progressive organisation of the profession was considered to be the growth of increasingly disciplined and cohesive groups among journalists. Because of their financial struggles, journalists' groups began to take on an increasingly strong trade union identity.

There are no clear patterns of such competency among the journalists included in this analysis, based on surveys conducted between 1996 and 2011 of over 29,000 journalists working in 31 countries or territories that take into account factors like journalists' age and educational background, working conditions, professional values or orientations, opinions about how important various job duties are, and attitudes towards new reporting skills required to succeed in a multimedia news environment. Some countries, however, have a tendency to have younger, less seasoned, and less officially educated journalists who place less weight on the interpretive or analytical role of journalism, are less content with their jobs, have less

independence, and are less inclined to employ novel reporting techniques (Willnat et al., 2013). Gollmitzer (2019) addresses the evolving working conditions for journalists, including the development of atypical and casual employment, the decline in media company earnings, and the lowering of pay for journalists. The perceived level of autonomy over the work process is decreasing, and female journalists, freelancers, and online journalists are paid less than male workers. As they take on the responsibilities of terminated coworkers, staff journalists in newsrooms experience greater workloads. If new forms of organising and supporting journalism, such as journalism cooperatives, news start-ups, and crowdfunding, occur, it is still not clear if they will provide viable alternatives to the paradigm of the lone freelancer or to the declining employment chances in major news organizations.

The Worlds of Journalism Study (WJS) conducted a pilot study between 2012 and 2016 that brought together researchers from 67 different countries. Through their joint efforts, the researchers interviewed over 27,500 journalists based on a shared methodological framework. The questionnaire for the study asked journalists about a range of subjects, such as the function of journalism in society, ethics, newsgathering independence from external influences, journalistic trust in public institutions, and the evolution of journalism in its broadest sense. This provides a thorough understanding of the state of journalists worldwide (<https://worldsofjournalism.org/country-reports/>).

The recent global COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on journalists' working conditions all around the world. In times of crisis, journalists were important in giving people accurate information. To ensure accurate reporting and efficient communication during those challenging pandemic times, there is an obvious need for coordination between journalists, scientists, and politicians. During the pandemic, journalists encountered numerous difficulties in acquiring and disseminating accurate information because this was one of their most crucial responsibilities in an environment where there was an increase in misinformation (Perreault & Perreault, 2021). In the face of a complex crisis, there are weaknesses in mainstream journalism. A crisis is the confluence of four developments: significant

shifts in the economic underpinnings of the commercial news industry, precarious employment, an upsurge in anti-democratic forces, and violence against the press. These forces are not equally powerful across nations, and different resources can be mobilised to support journalism. Despite opportunities for hybrid funding models being very different across nations, journalism's economic foundation is being diversified in these turbulent times (Waisbord, 2018).

Herman & Chomsky (1988) reveal how propaganda is used by the mainstream media in democracies to stifle opposition and inconvenient facts while advancing the agendas of corporate elites. Five editorially skewed filters are described by them in the propaganda model for the fabrication of public consent. These filters are supposed to affect how news is reported in the mass media. First, ownership is a factor. Large corporations own mass media companies. They usually belong to much bigger corporations. Thus, it is in their best interests to advocate for any policy that ensures that profit. The true purpose of advertising is revealed by the second filter. More money is spent on media than will ever be paid by consumers. So, the advertisers are stepping in to fill the void. The media elite is the third filter. As a check on power, journalism is unable to function because the system itself promotes cooperation. Large organizations, companies, and governments provide the media with official narratives, media scoops, and interviews with "experts." They establish themselves as essential to the journalism process. Therefore, those who report on the powerful and those in power are sleeping with each other. Journalists, sources, and whistleblowers who deviate from the consensus are labelled as "flak." The fourth filter is this one. A target, an enemy, and consent must be created. The fifth filter is "common enemy." Common enemies, such as communism, terrorism, immigrants, etc., serve as a source of fear and influence public opinion.

An ethnographic examination of a Hindi daily newspaper and how it uses the media to influence society is presented by Stahlberg (2013). He looks at the newspaper's many facets, such as editorial principles, news selection, and presentation, as well as the influence of journalists and readers on the information presented. He discovered that the media is a key factor in influencing society and the general public. To

encourage transparency and accountability in society, responsible journalism and the need for the media to serve as watchdogs are essential. Media must also be sensitive to the various needs and viewpoints of its readers and work to foster an open and informed public discourse. When 145 journalists in New Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, and Pune were interviewed in 2015, the result presents a profile of Indian journalists, including their opinions on professional development, organizational dynamics, and the economic-political-technological forces influencing journalism. The majority of Indian journalists are passionate about their work and they are also conscious of the rise in female journalists. Also from the interview, it is found that the mainstream media ecology is being impacted by corporatization, political elite infiltration, and rising use of new communication technologies. Although journalists vehemently oppose government control of the news media and mobile devices, they could make exceptions in cases involving terrorism, pornography, community relations, and national security (Ramaprasad et al., 2015).

Ramaprasad (2016) also provided a good insight on the state of Indian journalists in her work for the Worlds of Journalism Study as a country report. She interviewed 527 journalists in India, where the majority were reporters working full time. The majority of them think the journalistic role is extremely important in educating audiences and agree that they should always adhere to the code of professional ethics. According to them, there is an immense transition in journalism, according to the study, in terms of an increase in aspects of work and skills, and other than this, journalists' work does not deteriorate.

2.3.2 The advent of fake news

The term "fake news" is frequently used in the media to refer to made-up information or rumours. The phrase is used by academia to represent the contemporary type of online misinformation, despite its vagueness and bad meaning (Vziatysheva, 2020). Fake news can take many forms on the Internet. This term was defined in six different ways in studies conducted between 2003 and 2017, like news satire, news parody, fabrication, manipulation, propaganda, and advertising, which are all forms of news satire (Tandoc, Lim, & Ling, 2017). Fake news has a long history dating

back to the Byzantine Empire. However, the true origins of fake news can be found in newspaper journalism in the 18th century in London and Paris (Adams & Darnton, 2017). False information spreads quickly and widely on social media platforms, and people are more likely to spread false information that supports their political biases and beliefs. False news stories were 70% more likely to be retweeted than true stories, according to a study of how news spread on Twitter between 2006 and 2017. There is a need for social media platforms to take action to stop the spread of false information (Vziatysheva, 2020).

The 2016 US presidential election is one good example to study the prevalence and consumption of fake news. During the 2016 US Presidential Election, only 14% of Americans cited social media as their "most important" source of election news, making it a significant but not overwhelmingly dominant source. Facebook users posted more false news reports in favour of Trump than in favour of Hillary. During the election season, the typical American adult saw one or more fake news stories, with pro-Trump articles receiving more exposure than pro-Clinton articles. Especially if they have social media networks that are ideologically divided, people are more inclined to believe news that supports the candidate they are rooting for (Alcott & Gentzkow, 2017). Bovet & Makse (2019) also examined tweets that linked to news sources during the 2016 US presidential election and labelled them as either traditional, fact-based journalism or containing misinformation. They discovered that 25% of tweets with links to news sources convey false or blatantly biased information. They also identified the most influential spreaders of fake and traditional news and utilised causal modelling to understand how fake news influenced the election. They observed that the activity of Trump supporters drove the dynamics of the top fake news spreaders, while top influencers propagating traditional centre and left-leaning news primarily influenced the activity of Clinton supporters. During the COVID-19 response, Patel et al. (2020) reviewed reports of misinformation regarding health crisis communication in Ukraine. The analysis found 715 documents that discussed COVID-19-related misinformation campaigns in Ukraine that were published between January and May 2020. 35 documents, including policy briefs, news articles, technical reports, and peer-reviewed

publications, were chosen from this group for the review. It is shown that disinformation tactics targeting health crisis communication during the COVID-19 pandemic seek to undermine the medical response to the novel coronavirus and instrumentalize the pandemic for political goals. Particularly in the case of racial hoaxes and media hypes, fake news can have major real-world repercussions, including violence, discrimination, and political polarization. Media outlets and social media platforms have a responsibility to fact-check and verify material before sharing it with the public, and media literacy and critical thinking are extremely important in preventing the spread of fake news and its negative impacts (Cerase & Santoro, 2018).

2.3.3 Journalism in northeast India and Mizoram

Kaisii (2008) focuses on the print media sector in northeast India. The Assam Tribune and The Sentinel, which are largely centered in Guwahati, Assam, are the exceptions to the rule that there are no pan-regional daily newspapers in the North-East, according to the findings. Since many of the newspapers in northeast India are owned and edited by a single person, the industry's true picture is still not fully understood. There isn't much room for accommodating other viewpoints and beliefs to provide readers a wider perspective. Roluahpuia (2017) examines how the media in the northeastern state of Manipur interacts with the problem of framing movements. It explains the problem of media framing within the socio-political context of the state using frame analysis. According to the study, Manipur's local media plays a significant role in local politics and is heavily impacted by it. In Northeast India, the media is crucial to peace efforts and conflict settlement. Women have suffered the most in times of war because they are the most vulnerable. Six newspapers from three states in Northeast India's content analysis showed that the print media is actively participating in peace and conflict settlement efforts (Kabi & Nayak, 2019).

Sonwalkar (2004) looks at how the sociocultural setting influences journalism practise and, in turn, the way minorities and remote areas are covered or not. He examines how the seven states that make up the northeastern part of the country are

covered by the national English-language press. The Northeast region receives minimal attention from India's English-language press, which has a negative impact on public knowledge and puts pressure on the government to address its problems. The sociocultural context and journalists' ideas of "us" and "them" have a significant impact on news. In terms of culture and ethnicity, the Northeast is more similar to Southeast Asia than to South Asia, and India's official discourse acknowledges this. Lalrosangi (2016) gives a better understanding of journalism and journalistic procedure in Aizawl and finds that there are not many notable female journalists in Aizawl, the capital of Mizoram. It is also found that freedom to choose what news comes on the front page and on what topic to write is largely given to the news reporters, and some journalists multitask by acting as reporters, editors, translators, proofreaders, readers, and sometimes photographers. There is no connection between news agencies and newspapers in Mizoram. Some other findings, like religious influence, lack of competition due to the non-existence of bylines, undesirable infrastructure, irregular publication of some newspapers, and political economy of newspapers, are found in this study of Mizoram newspapers (Ratnamala & Vanlalruata, 2018). The communitarian news value, which is a desire to preserve and advance the regional cultural identity, has an impact on news values in Mizoram. The introduction of the Roman script for the Duhlian language by Christian missionaries and the Church is the origin of modern media in Mizoram. While Mizoram is a small community with a large percentage of scheduled tribes, civil society is crucial in framing and priming news (Ratnamala & Malsawmzuala, 2021).

2.4 Emergence of Citizen Journalism

In the days before the Internet, the only sources of news were traditional media like television, radio, and newspapers. That circumstance is altering. The main media corporations' news websites are now competing news sources. They coexist with alternative news sources on the Internet, including blogs, social networking sites, websites with user-generated material, and wikis that are gaining popularity. These websites provide a wide range of news, just like traditional media. The news pieces differ since they are written by viewers or users. The stories cover a wide spectrum,

from original reporting on regional tragedies and events to analysis of entertainment and news topics that have appeared in other mainstream media. User-generated content, sometimes known as "citizen journalism," or public participation in the media, is becoming more and more prevalent. The advantages are that those watching situations can email a report and pictures to the media or immediately post eyewitness reports online. Citizen journalism also spends a lot of time analysing and debating stories and issues that are reported in the media. In contrast to journalists in the major media, citizen journalists are free to contribute anonymously and without any formal journalism education (The Open Newsroom, 2008).

Since citizen journalism is a shift from traditional journalism to journalism conducted by members of the public, especially online, it can be considered a kind of revolution. The public's dissatisfaction with traditional journalism, both in terms of quantity and quality, is thought to have contributed to the emergence of citizen journalism. The emergence of citizen journalism was caused by the public's dissatisfaction with the way traditional journalism was distributed. Traditional journalism poses a number of questions that may cause audiences and journalists to disagree, especially when it comes to complex but newsworthy topics. One of the main reasons why citizen journalism has emerged is the conflict between traditional journalism and frustrated audiences (Obama, 2023). With the help of volunteer citizens, citizen journalism can be viewed as a low-cost or free means to provide news and marketing opportunities (Deuze, 2009). The word "citizen journalism" is recent, but the tradition of citizen journalism has a long history. Citizens have been involved in the creation of news since the dawn of digital journalism, long before the Internet and Web 2.0. In its activist stances and use of audience reporters, the common progressive press in England in the late 18th and early 19th centuries included elements of citizen journalism (Gagnon & Anderson, 2015). Citizen journalism existed in the United States in the 1740s as citizen-distributed political pamphlets in New York, Philadelphia, and Boston. Unauthorized group members and political and cultural rebels broadcasting offshore in areas of mainland Europe or the United Kingdom became interested in free radio stations or pirate radio in the 1920s. (Curran and Seaton, 2010, as cited in Gagnon, 2015). It is still uncertain as to where

the term —citizen journalism came from (Gillmor, 2008). Since 2008, citizen journalism has expanded significantly, in large part due to the use of social media for crisis reporting, according to Allen & Thorsen (2008). They offer new case studies on citizen journalism in a variety of national contexts, including the US, UK, China, India, Iran, Algeria, Columbia, Egypt, Haiti, Indonesia, West Papua, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Myanmar/Burma, New Zealand, Norway, Puerto Rico, Russia, and so on. It also evaluates current academic and journalistic debates regarding its growing significance for globalising news cultures. According to Xin (2010), it is harder for political parties in China to manage internet information flows when mainstream journalists turn to citizen journalism as a news source and a substitute avenue for disseminating politically sensitive information. Nationalistic emotions are increasingly being expressed through citizen journalism. It's unlikely that citizen journalism will be the only thing pushing for social change in China.

Rajesh (2009) argues that citizen journalism has been a central feature of the Internet since its inception. He sees thriving communities as a hybrid type of culture for news and conversations, with interpersonal contact taking place through email, talk, message boards, and forums. He also states that mainstream media reporters and producers are not the exclusive centres of knowledge on a subject, as the audience knows more collectively than the reporter alone. OhMyNews, a South Korean online news outlet founded in 2000 under the slogan "Every Citizen is a Reporter," is the most notable success story in citizen journalism. Articles submitted by readers are accepted, edited, and published as part of the newspaper's open-source business model. While the South Korean version of the OhMyNews model has been successful, OhMyNews Japan has not and was forced to close in 2007 (The Open Newsroom, 2008).

Mythen (2010) discusses the impact of citizen journalism on the reporting of risk. He lays out the spectrum of impacts, such as how much it broadens the plurality of risk discourses, democratises news flows, and establishes alternative news values. He also examines the limitations of citizen journalism, such as the issue of distortion, problems with unequal access, and the incorporation of populist news presentation

techniques. Lewis, Kaufhold and Lasorsa (2009) learn how community newspaper editors deal with the professional challenges faced by citizen journalists. It has been discovered that some editors support or disfavour citizen journalism primarily on ethical grounds, while others favour it primarily on realistic grounds. This paper provides a blueprint for visualising the competing emotions at the core of a broader professional controversy about the role and intent of user-generated content in the news production process. Noor (2017) found that citizen journalism faces few threats to conventional journalism, regardless of their journalistic background. It is agreed that the mass media has a higher level of legitimacy and prestige among the public and that citizen journalism should be promoted in the future. The majority of those polled agree that citizen journalism is significant. Social media is the main tool used by citizen journalists. Social media are embedded within interactive digital networks (Nicholas, 2015). Most of the time, citizen journalists draw attention to situations that the mainstream media frequently overlooks. Mainstream journalists cannot be everywhere at once and hence cannot report on or record everything that is newsworthy (Noor, 2013). Choubey (2020) argues that citizen journalism has emerged as a powerful contrast to the mainstream media. Millions of social media users are sharing COVID-19-related news and updates to create awareness, counter fake news, hate speech, and block misleading information. However, citizen journalism is still facing significant obstacles, and communal forces, administration, judiciary, and anti-social factors are continuing to pose a threat to their lives.

Neyazi, Kalogeropoulos, and Nielsen (2021) aim to identify factors that influence citizens' concerns about online misinformation, as well as how the rise of misinformation affects online news engagement. It was discovered that WhatsApp use, party identity, and news confidence are all positively correlated with concerns about misinformation after controlling for gender, age, schooling, and income. This study states that partisans are also more likely to communicate with news on the internet. Although the use of Facebook and Twitter is positively correlated with online news sharing, WhatsApp use is not important. According to Kim & Lowry (2015), connecting to learn new ideas and experiences, or "bridging capital," is a strong predictor of citizen journalism activities on Facebook, whereas connecting

with close, dependable friends, or "bonding capital," is a strong predictor of less citizen journalism engagement. The most effective predictors of citizen journalism activities on Twitter include personal characteristics like social media use and individual civic skills. Those with civic knowledge prefer Twitter over Facebook as a platform for citizen journalism, and Twitter use generally encourages active citizen journalism practices. The rising use of mobile phones and mobile internet connections has led to an increase in citizen journalism in sub-Saharan Africa, particularly in Zimbabwe. Professional media, which are frequently restrained or controlled by national governments, can be effectively countered by citizen journalism. The majority of citizen journalists are middle-class, educated, and dwell in urban areas, yet concerns about media literacy and economic privilege continue to be important. Citizen journalism is conducted in opposition to, alongside, and in connection with traditional journalism. Depending on the circumstances, it may also replace or enhance mass media narratives (Mutsvairo & Columbus, 2012).

Citizen journalism is also becoming a useful tool in times of crisis. Citizen journalism is becoming a more significant factor in promoting public participation throughout the Arab world. Alternative forms of online citizen-based reporting in the OPTs face few formalised restrictions, in stark contrast to those Arab countries where mainstream journalism is state-censored and journalists and their editors regularly face harassment, if not outright jail, for criticising the government. The terms of debate surrounding the Middle East crisis are changing due to Palestinian citizen journalism. By taking on the role of journalists, common people are testifying and sharing their own accounts of daily life during times of crisis through their blogs. These blogs provide incredibly intimate insights into lives lived under incredibly trying conditions and how people who are deprived of state authority suffer the repercussions of decisions made in politics elsewhere. Blogging about the everyday, with all of its heartbreaking struggles, Heba Zayyan's and similar blogs are significant political interventions in and of themselves. They represent a modest hope: that by drawing attention to the breadth and depth of suffering, political leaders everywhere will be under pressure to contribute to its abolition (Zayyan & Carter, 2009). Thorsen (2009) investigates the use of blogging as a direct public

communication tool by scientists studying the climate change threat in Antarctica. He contends that citizen journalism can serve as a vehicle for educational outreach, providing us with what appears to be direct access to scientists who are documenting the consequences of climate change as they happen. It is demonstrated that this new genre of science reporting offers a significant contrast to more established styles of journalism, where the news agendas of traditional, event-driven outlets struggle to make sense of the climate change process. According to Ali (2013), the efforts of citizen journalists during the revolutions in Iran, Egypt, and Libya gave the rest of the world access to a potent stream of news.

The future of journalism as a discipline and a field is unquestionably always changing. Because citizen journalism offers an "authentic," first-hand perspective, many news professionals in traditional media argue that it is disrupting the field's core paradigm. It also gave traditional media, which could select stories based on how well they met their organizations' schedules, a useful resource (Ali, 2013).

2.4.1 Citizen Journalism in India

With the establishment of Samachar.com and Rediff.com by businessmen Rajesh Jain and Ajit Balakrishnan in the middle of the 1990s, the Internet has developed into a potent platform for citizen journalism in India. Since then, hundreds of thousands of Indians have started their own personal blogs, where they discuss a variety of subjects. Citizen journalism has impacted how crises are reported, interfered in social and human rights issues, exposed political corruption, called attention to errors in the mainstream media, and raised concerns for women in a culture where men predominate. The Mumbai rains in July 2005 were a high point, with websites publishing firsthand accounts of the nonstop downpours and Rediff.com serving as a vital conduit for rescue operations. Instead of the radio, television, or press, a web portal served as the primary news source for the rain. The first news website in India solely focused on citizen journalism is called MeriNews. MeriNews translates to "my news" in Hindi. It was established in 2006 under the motto "Power to the People" by its creator and editor, Upadhyay. He referred to his website as a "product with a goal" and described it as a "people's news platform of the people, by the people, for

the people, bringing power to the people and empowering democracy" (Sonwalker, 2009, as cited in Noor, 2013). Cable News Network-Indian Broadcasting Network (CNN-IBN), an English-language Indian television news channel, pioneered the idea of television citizen journalism in India. India's residents were given a forum in 2005 by the news channel to discuss subjects including corruption, politics, education, health, society, and much more. Several more media outlets later continued the trend. The Citizen Journalist Awards were launched by CNN-IBN and Idea, an Indian mobile service provider, in 2007. IBN Network created the award as a way to honour those who had the courage to combat corruption and seek the truth. Several other news outlets have also tried out their own citizen journalism programmes (Noor, 2013). The motivations of Indian citizen journalists to create online news content are examined by Paul (2018). His study examines the function of traditional media experience among citizen journalists' reporting techniques through a web-based survey of contributors to the top news portals in India. One of the main conclusions of this study is that, in contrast to citizen journalists in the United States, Indian citizen journalists who have not worked in traditional media are less likely to collaborate than those who have.

Indian common people are vocalising the voiceless and exposing topics that are often overlooked by mainstream media. They are actively contributing to the democratic and inclusive development of the Indian media landscape and are no longer merely passive observers. The country's oppressed and impoverished populace can now access media resources and privileges thanks to citizen journalism, which gives marginalised people a forum to voice their opinions and empowers them (Kumar, 2019). GGNet Swara is a significant example of citizen journalism initiatives in India. CGNet Swara is a voice-based site that anyone can use to report and listen to local interest stories. It is openly available via mobile phone. The 80 million or so people who make up India's tribal communities have limited access to the country's major media sources. Because they frequently do not express their complaints about economic exploitation and political negligence, this frequently creates significant impediments to their socioeconomic progress. However, some groups (like the Maoist insurgency) can use these people's feelings of dissatisfaction and isolation to

further their violent intentions. In order to solve this significant issue, CGNet Swara was developed and put into operation. It is a voice portal that allows regular people to report and talk about local issues of interest. Any mobile (or fixed- line) phone can be used to dial a number in order to use it. professional, trained journalists who use a web-based interface to access the system review and verify the report after it has been received from the field. Thereafter, reports that have been approved can be played back over the phone. The CGNet Swara website also offers access to the reports. The portal has undergone many developments, and giving voice to the region's millions of tribal community members has helped to successfully develop community resilience and peace through their impact-driven journalism strategy. With the aid of socially conscious and caring urban residents, Mobile Satyagraha, their flagship programme, experiments with developing a model to address governance issues that are reported on the platform. It has aided a great deal of needy migrant workers, farm workers, and rural villagers while leading the fight against the economic sufferings brought on by COVID-19. The central Indian region's unique culture and languages have been prioritised by CGNet over the course of its existence. Together with Microsoft Research India and IIT-Raipur, CGNet is working on an ongoing project to create a machine translation tool for Gondi, a vulnerable, low-resource language spoken by 2.3 million tribal people in south and central India. This effort makes a novel attempt at data collection by utilising micro-contributions from local tribal community members. The Knight International Journalism Fellowships, a programme of the International Center for Journalists, included the development of CGNet Swara. Although interactive voice response (IVR) technology has been around for a while, CGNet Swara stands out because it allows callers to add information to the system. On CGNet Swara, callers can record their own messages to be heard by others in addition to listening to messages on most IVR platforms, which are designed for callers to listen to. Prior to making the videos public, the platform features a moderator's interface that allows authorised users to evaluate and, at their option, alter or annotate them. For the goal of covering and disseminating news of public interest, CGNet Swara has received financial support from the Independent and Public-Spirited Media Foundation (IPSMF) (<http://cgnetswara.org/about.html>).

The influence of the reporters' efforts in promoting social justice in their communities on CGNet Swara is examined by Mudliar et al. (2012), an Indian citizen journalism website. They discovered that citizen journalists in India are driven by the possibility of achieving social justice in their communities and that citizen journalists in India see their involvement in social transformation as an opportunity to do good and make a real difference. Saha (2012) also draws attention to CGNet Swara's ability to give voice to underrepresented groups and promote communication of thoughts and ideas. He also talks about the difficulties and limitations of the CGNet Swara platform, such as issues with access to technology, language barriers, and the demand for ongoing community assistance. With the objective of analysing how the Video Volunteers and CGNET Swara train citizens to produce news, a study by Pain (2017) used a content analysis of 400 news stories posted in 2015–2016, qualitative interviews with 30 participants, and a focus group with 15 participants. It also looked at the kinds of frames that are used to mobilise audiences and encourage them to express outrage against the numerous human rights atrocities that occur in these areas. Results demonstrate that the adoption of culturally relevant frames and successful frame alignment that appeal to their target viewers and producers is what makes citizen journalism successful. Created and distributed news activates social networks to enable audiences and communities—who previously lacked resources or methods to deal with these kinds of problems—to take collective action. Participants are encouraged to get together offline to advocate for their demands and improve their communities by taking part in this collective action. The implementation of a WhatsApp chatbot for citizen journalism in rural India is showcased by Verma et al. (2021). This chatbot enhances the features of regular WhatsApp groups and is more affordable than Interactive Voice Response (IVR) systems. Users can submit stories through the chatbot in the form of voice, images, and videos, which are subsequently moderated and posted on a website and social media platforms. In the first nine weeks of operation, 218 tales from 27 people were published by the bot, demonstrating its strong usability and acceptance.

There are very few studies regarding citizen journalism in northeast India and even specifically within Mizoram. There is one study by Lalmuankimi (2018) about

emerging citizen journalism in Mizoram with a case study on a Mizo Facebook group named Mizo Special Report. She finds out that ordinary citizens are exercising their right to freedom of speech and expression rendered to them by the Indian constitution under Article 19(1)(a) of the Indian constitution. The main focus is given to Mizoram news, and it was also found that there were a number of citizens engaging in political issues.

2.5 Case Studies of Citizen Journalism

Citizen journalism on social media platforms has been seen as a means whereby the ordinary citizen can obtain and disseminate information and exchange views with a certain degree of freedom (Almutarie, 2021).

Albostangy (2020) studies the function of citizen journalists in the Arab revolution, with particular reference to the revolution in Syria. Because of limitations on traditional media following the Arab Spring, social media became the primary means of communication and information sharing. This underscored the significance of citizen journalism. A survey of 300 Jordanian media elites was employed in this study to gather information on factors such as citizen journalism's credibility, professionalism, caliber, and contributions. Although media elites acknowledged citizen journalism, the study indicated that they did not view it as legitimate or expert as traditional media sources. The ability of citizen journalists to close the information gap created by official deception was viewed with skepticism. Foreign journalists were forced out of Syria by the government, which made people look for other ways to get information. As a result, citizen journalism—using cellphones to record and share events online—rose to prominence. Overall, the paper makes the argument that although citizen journalism was crucial to the Arab revolution, questions remain regarding its professionalism, credibility, and capacity to supplant traditional media sources.

Almutarie (2021) asserts that censorship, including self-censorship by citizen journalists, gatewatching, populism, and censorship all have a major impact on how citizen journalism is practiced in the Arab world.

Zeng et al. (2019) offers a sophisticated investigation on citizen journalism in China from a number of angles. It starts off by highlighting the legitimacy of citizen journalism, which was especially clear during important occasions like the explosions in Tianjin, where it offered more reliable information than official sources. Studies on WeChat highlight the platform's function as a regulated but significant forum for users to discuss politics and consume news. Examinations of user-generated videos on sites such as Xinhua, Kwai, and Pear Video indicate that they are primarily meant for entertainment purposes and have little bearing on the media agendas of governments. Professional journalists in Hong Kong are confronted with the emergence of citizen journalism in the context of declining press freedoms, underscoring continuous discussions regarding credibility and professional limits. According to this study, the roles and effects of citizen journalism are changing, and this collection calls for more academic research on the subject in the media environments of mainland China and Hong Kong.

Mncina (2023) explores the impact of citizen journalism on traditional journalism in Lesotho, focusing on the challenges and implications of this evolving media landscape. Qualitative methodology, including in-depth interviews with journalists, was used to investigate the depth and breadth of citizen journalism's influence on traditional media. Findings revealed that citizen journalism poses a threat to traditional journalism by playing a complementary role, leading to competition and compromising content quality. Mainstream media professionals face challenges such as decreased readership, circulation, and advertising revenue due to the rise of citizen journalism, impacting the business side of the media. Recommendations include the need for platforms where citizen journalists can submit content for quality control and ethical considerations to maintain the integrity of news produced by traditional media.

Suknomo and Junaedi (2019) explores pwtu.co, an online community media platform managed by the Regional Office of Muhammadiyah East Java, focusing on how it applies citizen journalism principles in media management. Using a case study approach, the study involves in-depth interviews with pwtu.co editors and

observations in the editorial room to uncover how the platform operates. At *pwmu.co*, there is a strong emphasis on citizen journalism and voluntary contributions in news gathering. Journalists and reporters undergo training workshops organized by the editors, and editorial policies prioritize upholding rigorous journalistic standards, ensuring that only press releases meeting these criteria are published as news articles. Despite experiencing a growth in viewership, with a notable increase from 9,039 daily viewers in 2017 to 480,031 in January 2018, *pwmu.co* has not yet reached the editors' target of 30,000 viewers annually. The paper also highlights how the Regional Office of Muhammadiyah East Java has adapted to using online media for communication, while continuing to publish the 'Matan' magazine to cater to the preferences of older audiences.

Maritha & Charmaine (2022) analyzes citizen journalists' blog posts about the Gautrain Project in South Africa, focusing on its readiness for the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup. Citizen journalism involves readers and viewers in news reporting and dissemination, often without professional training, yet performing similar gatekeeping functions to professional journalists. This study adopts Rosen's definition, where news consumers act as news providers, blending traditional and citizen journalism. Globally, blogs have become a mainstream medium with significant readership, challenging traditional media. Their findings are based on blog posts from the Gautrain Project's launch on June 8, 2010. Seven categories of citizen journalist actions as editorial gatekeepers were identified, with "Advancing an issue" being the most frequent and "Suggesting alternative information sources" the least. Only English-language blog posts meeting specific criteria were analyzed, excluding spam and marketing posts. The research shows how citizen journalists influenced public debate on the Gautrain Project's readiness, highlighting their role in shaping newsworthiness criteria and contributing to public discourse.

Joyce (2007) explores the impact of the participatory media website OhmyNews during the 2002 South Korean Presidential election, focusing on citizen journalism and its significance for democracy. She discusses the motivation behind the creation of OhmyNews by Oh Yon Ho and explains the model used by the platform for

producing and editing news content. According to the study, real-world activism may have influenced online activism, leading to OhmyNews' involvement in the Presidential election, showcasing a narrative of the platform's activities during that time. The study concludes by examining the feasibility of OhmyNews' business model, highlighting the challenges the site faced in maintaining profitability. It also mentions the organization's unsuccessful attempts to expand into other markets, notably Japan. OhmyNews received a significant investment from Softbank in 2006 to start a Japanese version of the platform, but the expansion efforts into foreign markets have not been successful so far. The paper underscores the role of online platforms like OhmyNews in shaping political landscapes and engaging citizens in the democratic process, emphasizing the evolving nature of media and its impact on elections and activism.

Bruns (2010) examines the impact of citizen journalism on traditional journalism and its significance in the evolving media landscape, particularly amidst global challenges faced by news organizations. While existing research often focuses on political news, this study explores Myheimat.de in Germany to understand citizen journalism's role in everyday life. The analysis reveals that platforms like Myheimat.de foster community engagement, enabling individuals to share diverse stories and experiences. The findings suggest that citizen journalism democratizes the news media landscape by empowering ordinary people to create and disseminate content, emphasizing the need to broaden the scope of citizen journalism studies beyond politics.

Correa-Cabrera et al. (2016) delve into the rise of citizen journalism in Reynosa, Tamaulipas, Mexico, amidst escalating violence from drug cartel clashes. With traditional media silenced by cartels, ordinary citizens began using the #ReynosaFollow hashtag on Twitter in 2010 to provide real-time updates and warnings. Acting as modern-day "underground presses," these citizen journalists offered anonymous and secure dissemination of crucial information about ongoing violence. The study highlights the essential role of citizen journalism on platforms like Twitter in areas where mainstream media fear reporting due to safety threats. It

underscores how citizen journalists fill the information gap, providing firsthand accounts of critical events and ensuring public awareness in conflict-ridden regions. The paper demonstrates the power of ordinary individuals to shape the news narrative and keep communities informed amidst censorship and violence.

2.5.1 Case Studies of Citizen Journalism in India

Thomas (2011) explores the five pivotal areas of movement in India, focusing on movements like Right to Information, Free and Open Source Software, Women and Media, and Community Radio and Citizen Journalism. It analyzes women's rights, citizen activism, and media roles within a broader theoretical context, emphasizing the importance of access to information and the democratization of media. The author advocates for localizing communication rights struggles in areas with significant deficits. The paper highlights the need to empower individuals through information access, emphasizing citizen activism's role in promoting transparency and accountability. Showcasing diverse advocacy for communication rights, the paper underscores their critical role in fostering an inclusive and participatory democracy in India, where information access and freedom of expression are fundamental.

A case study by Mishra and Krishnaswami (2014) is about the famous Nirbhaya case in Delhi in 2012. During those times, the whole mainstream media was captivated by the Nirbhaya news, but they also noticed a new trend, one in which the power of citizens through citizen journalism was actively being utilized. Some mainstream media added a section titled "Citizen news & Views" in their news bulletin and programs, and there were numerous citizens on the ground reporting the developments as they happened. These citizens also posted videos and comments on Twitter, as well as on YouTube and other social media platforms. The gang rape in Delhi served as an example of how citizen journalism has truly gained prominence.

With an emphasis on the Indian context, Vaijappa (2019) examines the function of citizen journalism in the advancement of democratic society. He explores the value of citizen journalism in promoting democratic development, particularly in the Indian

context, and talks about the impact of citizen journalists in Assam and their efforts to report news from remote areas. The impact of citizen journalists in Assam is highlighted, along with their efforts to report news from isolated areas. Citizen journalism plays a critical role in advancing diversity and inclusivity in the media landscape by enabling people to share information and stories from underrepresented areas, ultimately advancing democratic principles in society.

Pande (2017) focuses on ethical concerns in citizen journalism by analyzing 1,402 comments on two YouTube videos showing the molestation of a teenage girl in India. The findings revealed a diverse range of reactions, illustrating the complexity of ethical considerations in cyberspace. Some viewers criticized the morality of the cameraperson and bystanders, while others praised their actions as courageous and quick-witted. Responses towards the victim varied significantly, with some comments blaming her and others advocating for compassion and responsibility. This disparity underscores the emergence of multiple, conflicting public perspectives facilitated by new media technologies like the internet. The results challenge the traditional notion of a unified public sphere by demonstrating the existence of diverse and intersecting publics with differing ethical viewpoints. This suggests the need to reevaluate ethical frameworks in cyberspace to accommodate the complexities arising from new communication technologies. The study highlights the importance of further research into social agency and the underlying politics involved in transitioning from local to global contexts. Although focused on a specific incident in India, the findings have broader implications for understanding the evolving dynamics of public discourse in the digital age. It emphasizes the necessity of developing ethical guidelines that reflect the diverse perspectives and complex nature of online interactions.

Sambasivam et al. (2019) studies the role of social media in citizen journalism during the Jallikattu protest in Tamil Nadu. They underscore the widespread use of smartphone technology for sharing information and its transformative impact on society, particularly among youth. Platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and WhatsApp played a crucial role in organizing and broadcasting the protest. By disseminating

narratives, images, and videos, citizen journalists effectively shaped public perception and garnered support. The study underscores social media's ability to sway opinions, engage a global audience, and influence decision-making processes. Overall, it highlights how social media fosters activism and enhances public participation, thus reshaping societal dynamics.

Chadha & Steiner (2015) looks at how the citizen journalism program CGNet Swara has affected Chhattisgarh, India, emphasizing how it has helped communities living in rural and tribal areas share news and viewpoints. Mobile phone users can access CGNet Swara, which fills the news gap in areas with little media coverage, especially when it comes to rural issues. However, professional journalists' objections make it difficult to integrate citizen journalism with mainstream news sources. The study acknowledges the difficulties and obstacles to cooperation between citizen journalists and established media, while also highlighting the ways in which citizen journalism may democratize news production and distribution.

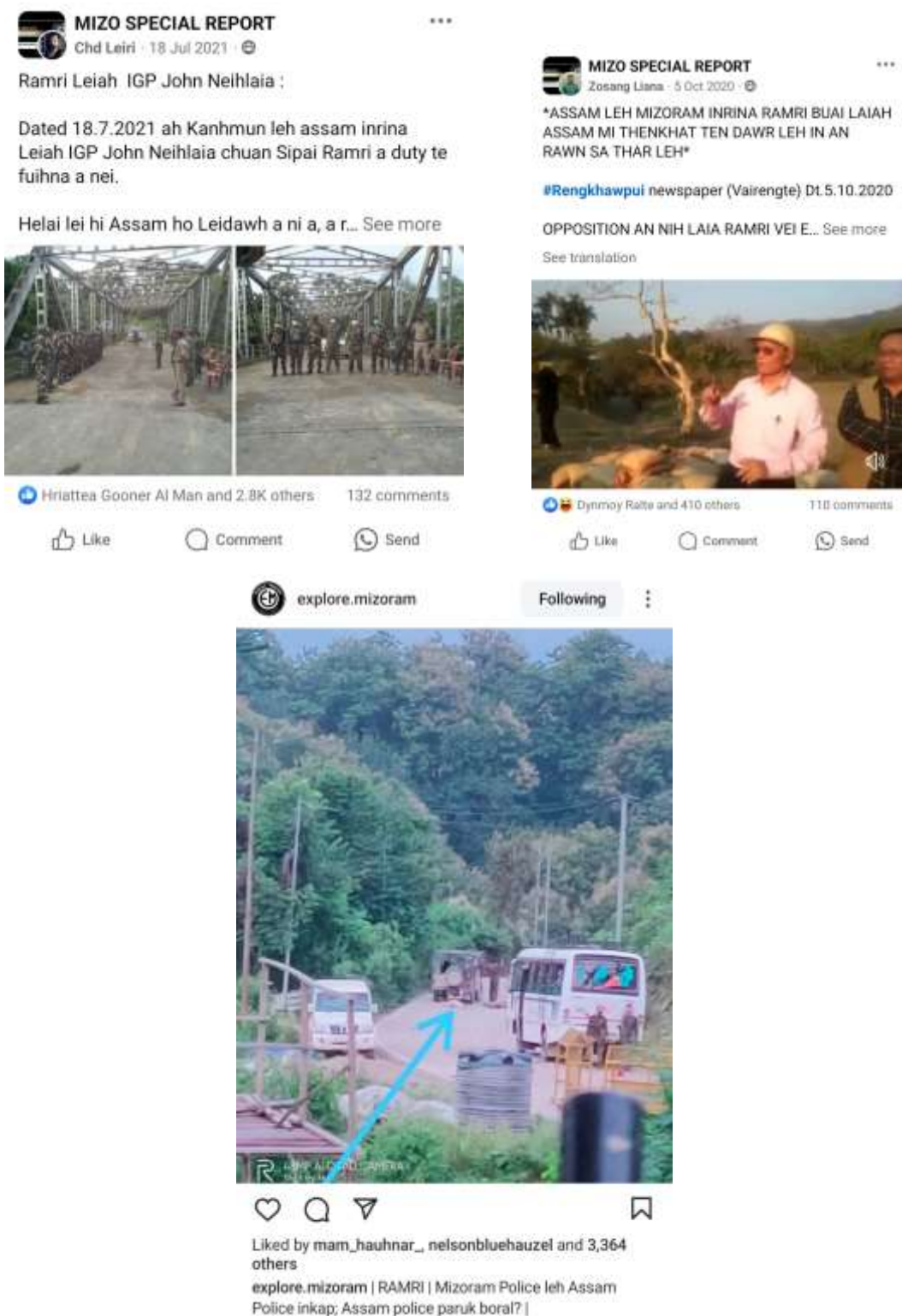


Fig. 2.1 Screenshots of citizen journalists reporting Mizoram-Assam border dispute in 2020 and 2021

As seen in the above screenshots of citizen journalism platforms on social media, during the 2020 and 2021 Assam-Mizoram border dispute, citizen journalists garnered the highest amount of attention from the people of Mizoram, which is a noteworthy instance in Mizoram. The citizen journalists swiftly and efficiently supplied important information that was unavailable on traditional media platforms by covering numerous in-depth stories on the conflict from a variety of angles. Even citizen reporters provided live coverage of the event on Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram, gaining a large following and providing real-time information about the event. This is also one significant case about citizen journalism in Mizoram.

To sum up, the goal of this assessment of the literature is to identify the literature that can help direct and assist the study. The literature study makes it abundantly evident that traditional journalism has a long history in Mizoram and a steady place in the Mizo community. In Mizoram, citizen journalism is still in its early stages, but it is growing rapidly with the popularity of social media. However, it is clear that there is a significant research gap in Mizoram with regard to citizen journalism.

CHAPTER III

MAPPING OF TRADITIONAL JOURNALISTS AND TRADITIONAL JOURNALISM IN MIZORAM

Introduction

At present, there are 146 accredited journalists in Mizoram. Of the 141 journalists, 55 are from Aizawl district, 18 from Lunglei district, 11 from Champhai district, 11 from Siaha district, 13 from Kolasib district, 12 from Serchhip district, 8 from Lawngtlai district, 9 from Mamit district, 6 from Hnahthial district, and 3 from Khawzawl district (Government of Mizoram, 2023). But most of the journalists are not active, and even their newspapers and media firms are not regular. There are also several working journalists in Mizoram who are not given press accreditation by the government of Mizoram.

This chapter will present the present condition of traditional journalists and their perceptions of the rapid rise of citizen journalism on social media among the Mizos. This chapter will also map the print media of Mizoram, taking samples from all the districts of Mizoram. This chapter will address objectives 1 and 2. 75 journalists from different parts of Mizoram, with the majority from the state capital, Aizawl, were examined using questionnaires.

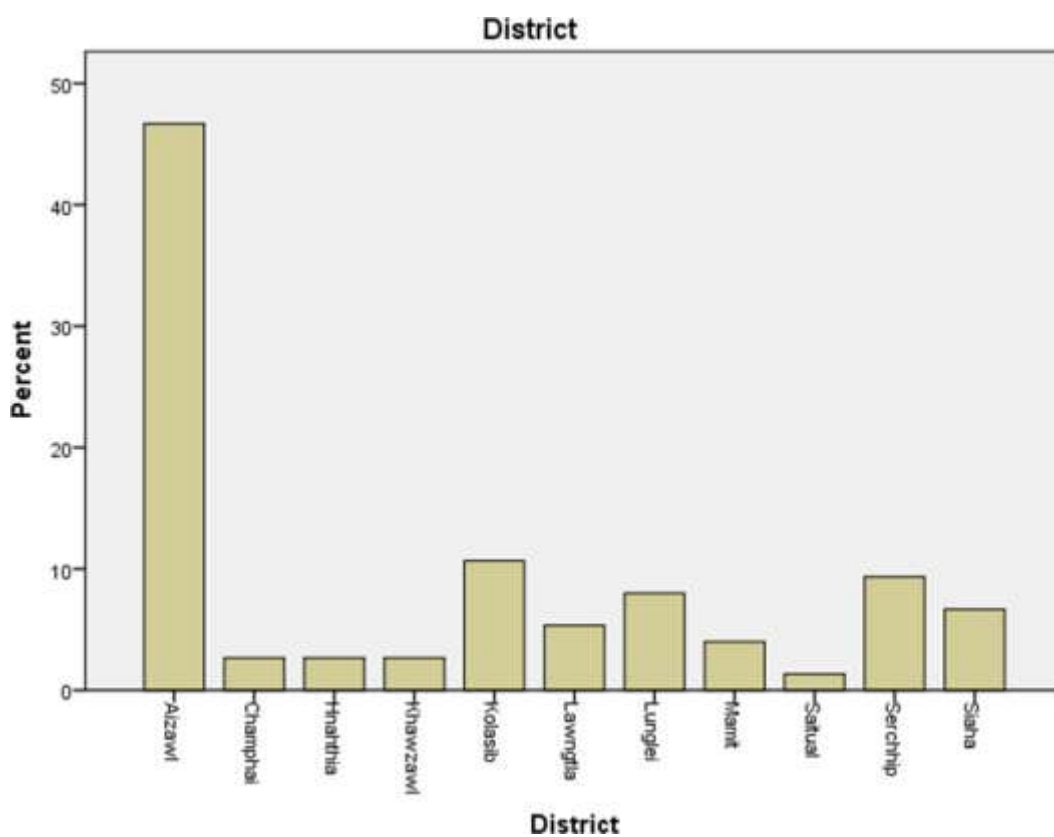
3.1 Mapping of traditional journalists in Mizoram

3.1.1 District where the respondents live

The respondents are from all 11 districts of Mizoram. As shown in table 3.1, 35 respondents (46.7%) are from Aizawl district, 8 respondents (10.7%) are from Kolasib district, 7 respondents (9.3%) are from Serchhip district, 6 respondents (8%) are from Lunglei district, 5 respondents (6.7%) are from Siaha district, 4 respondents (5.3%) are from Lawngtlai district, 3 respondents (4%) from Mamit district, 2 respondents (2.7% each) from Champhai, Hnahthial, and Khawzawl districts, and 1 respondent (1.3%) from Saitual district.

Table 3.1 District where the respondents live

Sl. No.	<i>District</i>	Frequency	Percent
1	Aizawl	35	46.7
2	Kolasib	8	10.7
3	Serchhip	7	9.3
4	Lunglei	6	8
5	Siaha	5	6.7
6	Lawngtlai	4	5.3
7	Mamit	3	4
8	Champhai	2	2.7
9	Hnahthial	2	2.7
10	Khawzawl	2	2.7
11	Saitual	1	1.3
	Total	75	100

Fig. 3.1 District of the respondents

3.1.2 Position of the respondents in their firm

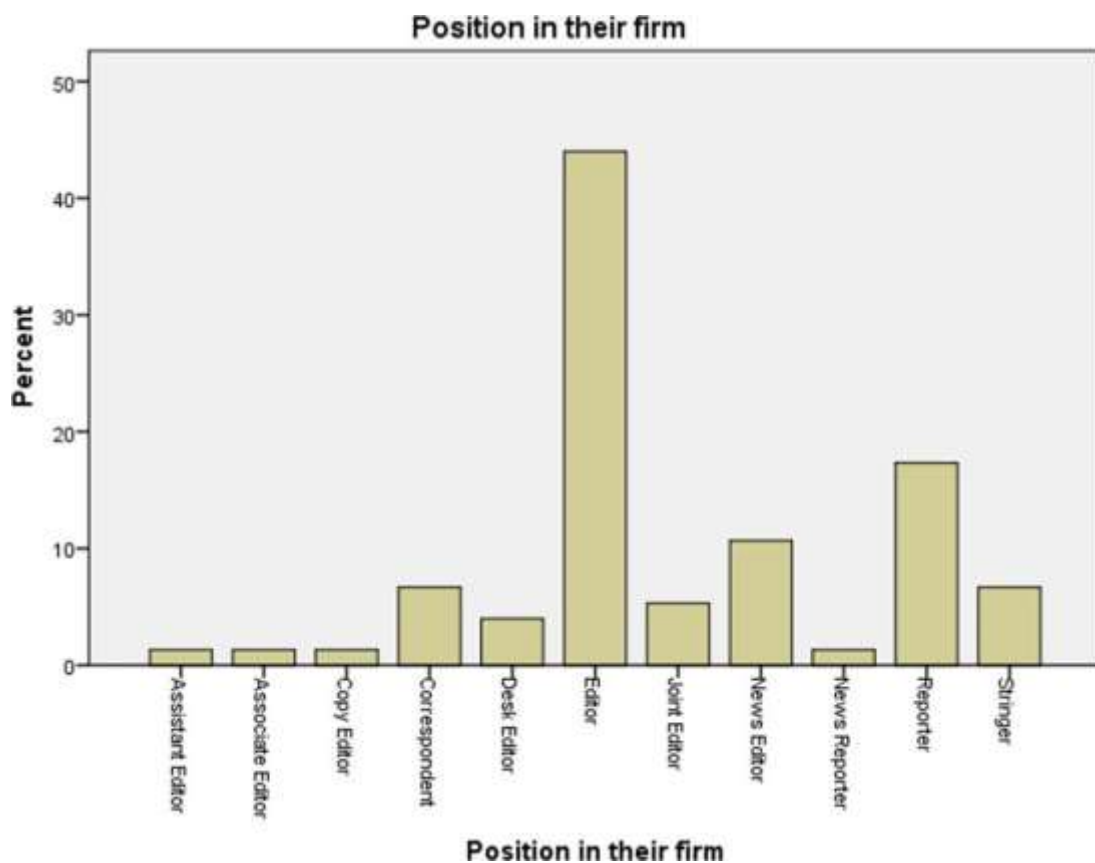
The respondents hold different kinds of positions in their firms. As shown in Table 3.2, 33 of the respondents, or 44%, are editors; 13 of the respondents, or 17.3%, are reporters; and eight of the respondents, or 10.7%, are news editors. Five each of the respondents, that is 6.7% each, are correspondence and stringers; four of the respondents, that is 5.3%, are joint editors; three of the respondents, that is 4%, are desk editors; one each of the respondents, that is 1.3% each, is an assistant news editor, an associate editor, a copy editor, and a news reporter. The respondents hold different kinds of positions in their firms. As shown in Table 3.2, 33 of the respondents, or 44%, are editors; 13 of the respondents, or 17.3%, are reporters; and eight of the respondents, or 10.7%, are news editors. Five each of the respondents, that is 6.7% each, are correspondence and stringers; four of the respondents, that is

5.3%, are joint editors; three of the respondents, that is 4%, are desk editors; one each of the respondents, that is 1.3% each, is an assistant news editor, an associate editor, a copy editor, and a news reporter.

Table 3.2 Position of the respondents in their firm

Sl. No.	Position	Frequency	Percent
1	Editor	33	44
2	Reporter	13	17.3
3	News Editor	8	10.7
4	Correspondent	5	6.7
5	Stringer	5	6.7
6	Joint Editor	4	5.3
7	Desk Editor	3	4
8	Assistant News Editor	1	1.3
9	Associate Editor	1	1.3
10	Copy Editor	1	1.3
11	News Reporter	1	1.3
	Total	75	100

Fig. 3.2 Position of the respondents in their firm



3.1.3 Experience of the respondents

Each of the respondents was asked about the number of experiences they had. As shown in Table 3.3, the minimum number of years of experience of the respondents is one, and the maximum number of years of experience is 49. The mean of the experience of the respondents is 16.21, and the standard deviation is 10.445.

Table 3.3 Experience of the respondents

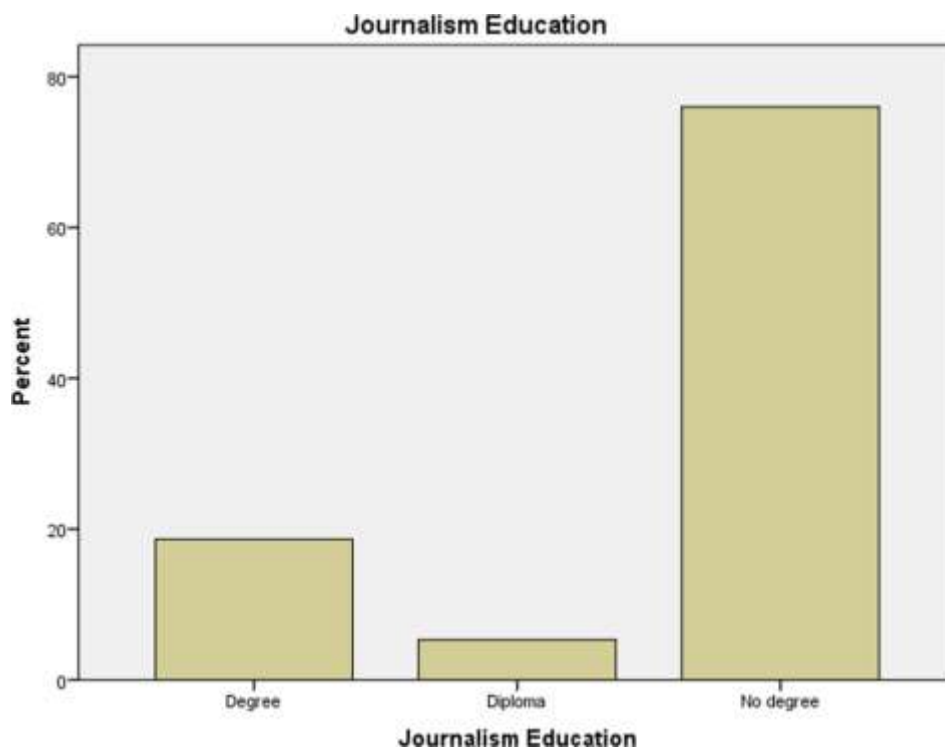
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Experience in years	75	1	49	16.21	10.445

3.1.4 Journalism Education of the respondents

The respondents were asked if they had journalism education or not. As shown in Table 3.4, 57 of the respondents, or 76%, do not have any education in journalism. 14 of the respondents, or 18.7%, have a degree in journalism, and four of the respondents, or 5.3%, have a diploma in journalism.

Table 3.4 Journalism Education of the respondents

Sl. No.	Journalism Education	Frequency	Percent
1	No degree	57	76
2	Degree	14	18.7
3	Diploma	4	5.3
	Total	75	100

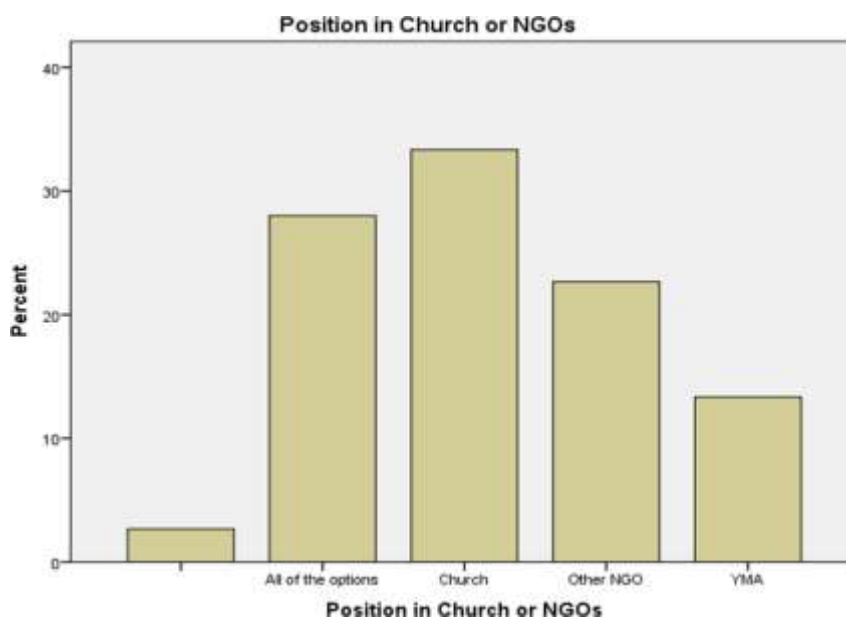
Fig 3.3 Journalism Education of the respondents

3.1.5 Position of the respondents in Church or NGOs

The respondents were asked if they had any positions in charge or any other non-governmental organizations. As shown in Table 3.5, 25 of the respondents, or 33.3%, hold a position in the church. 10 of the respondents, or 13.3%, have a position in the Young Mizo Association; 17 of the respondents hold positions in other NGOs; and 21 of the respondents, or 28%, hold positions in all church, YMA, and other non-governmental organizations. Two of the respondents did not answer this question.

Table 3.5 Position of the respondents in Church or NGOs

Sl. No.	Position	Frequency	Percent
1	Church	25	33.3
2	All Church, NGO & YMA	21	28
3	Other NGO	17	22.7
4	YMA	10	13.3
5	None	2	2.7
	Total	75	100

Fig 3.4 Position of the respondents in Church or NGOs

If Journalism is their first job

The respondents were asked if journalism was their first job or not. As shown in Table 3.6, 38 of the respondents, or 50.7%, said journalism was not their first job, and 37 of the respondents, or 49.3%, said that journalism was their first job. This shows that more of the respondents had another job before getting into journalism.

Table 3.6 If Journalism is their first job

Sl. No.	Response	Frequency	Percent
1	No	38	50.7
2	Yes	37	49.3
	Total	75	100

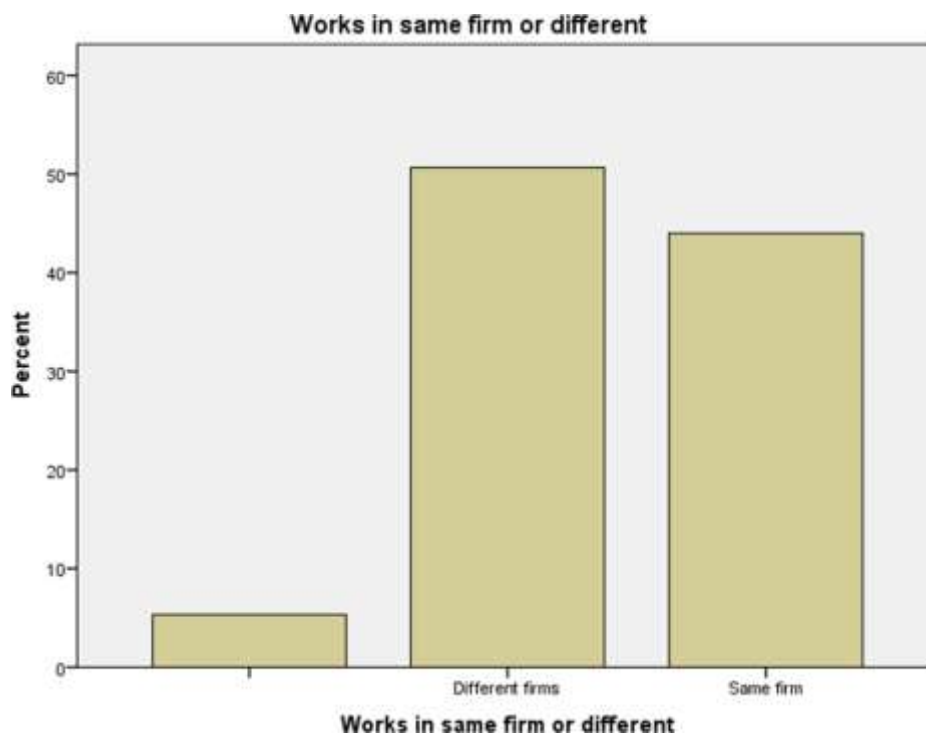
3.1.6 If the respondents work in same firm or different firm

The respondents were asked if they're working only at the same firm or at several different firms in their journalism career. 38 of the respondents, or 50.7%, said that they work in different firms, and 33 of the respondents, or 44%, said that they were only in the same firm. Four of the respondents did not answer this question.

Table 3.7 If the respondents work in same firm or different firm

Sl. No.	Response	Frequency	Percent
1	Different	38	50.7
2	Same firm	33	44
3	No Response	4	5.3
	Total	75	100

Fig. 3.5 If the respondents work in same firm or different firm

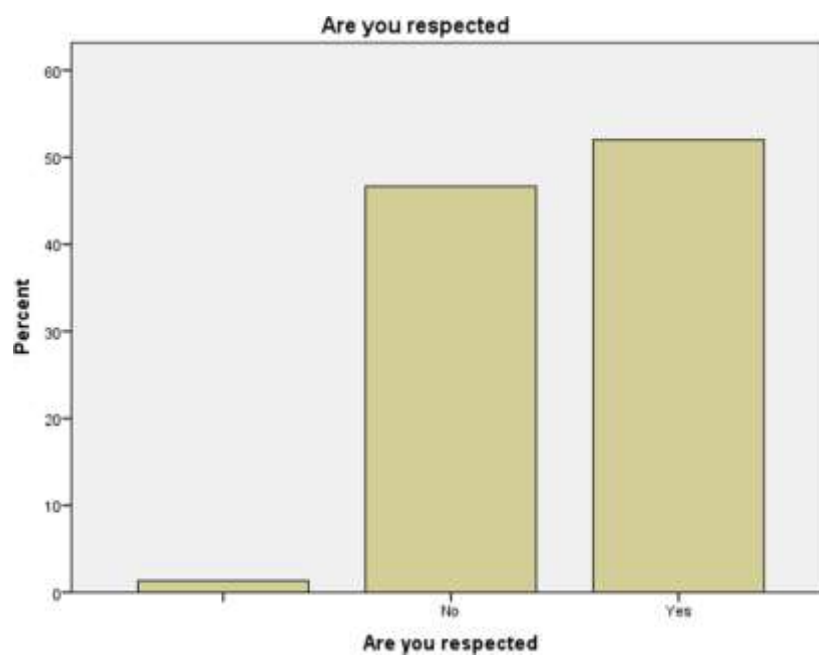


3.1.7 Respect and recognition the respondents receive

The respondents were asked if they think they are receiving the respect and recognition they deserve. As shown in Table 3.8, 39 of the respondents—that is, 52%—received respect and recognition. 35 of the respondents, or 46.7%, said they are not receiving the respect and recognition they deserve. One of the respondents did not answer this question.

Table 3.8 Respect and recognition the respondents received

Sl. No.	Response	Frequency	Percent
1	Yes	39	52
2	No	35	46.7
3	No Response	1	1.3
	Total	75	100

Fig 3.6 Respect and recognition the respondents received

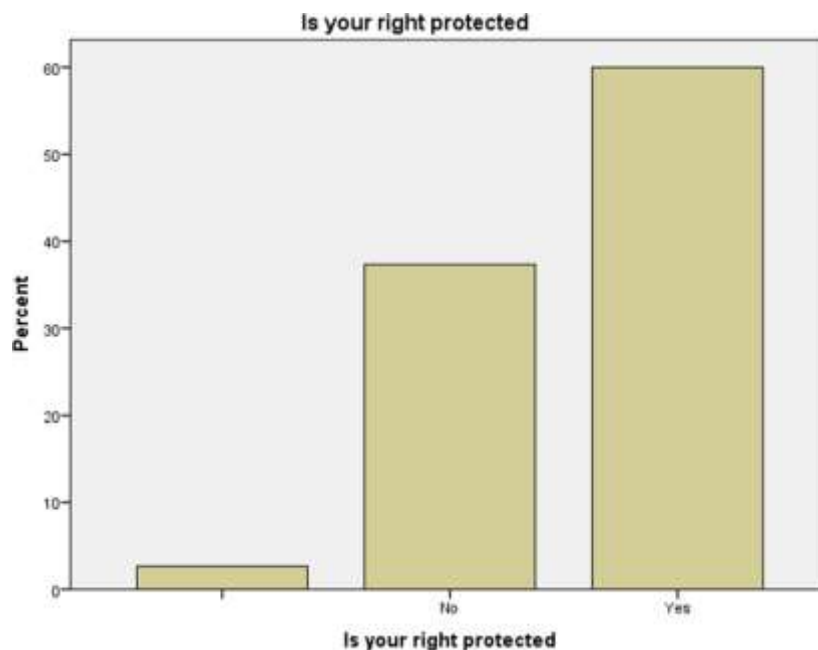
3.1.8 Do you think your right is protected?

The respondents were asked if they think they're right that a journalist is protected or not. As seen in Table 3.9, 45 of the respondents, or 60%, think their rights are protected; 28 of the respondents, or 37.3%, think their rights are not protected. Two of the respondents did not respond to this question.

Table 3.9 Do you think your right is protected?

Sl. No.	Response	Frequency	Percent
1	Yes	45	60
2	No	28	37.3
3	No Response	2	2.7
	Total	75	100

Fig. 3.7 Do you think your right is protected?

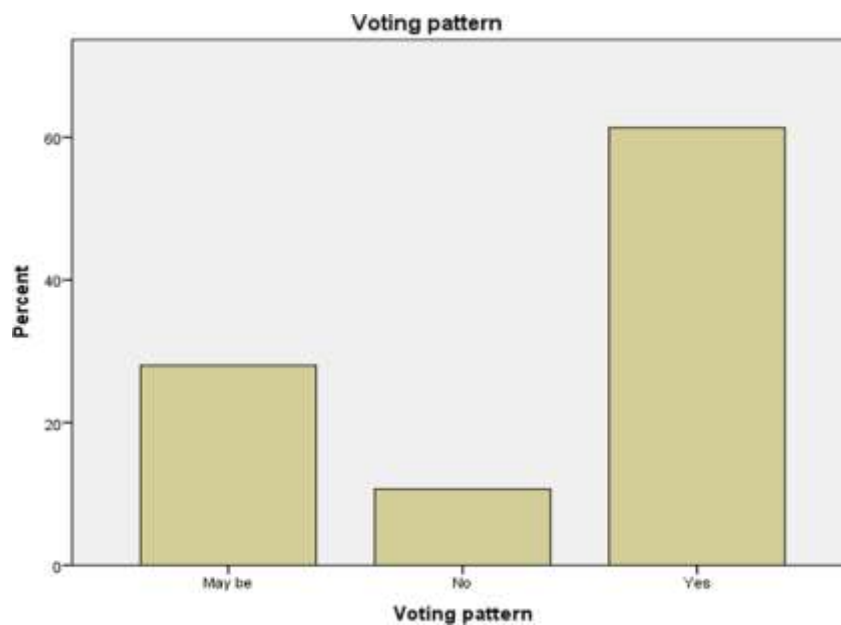


3.1.9 Voting pattern

The respondents were asked if they, as journalists, had an influence on the voting pattern within the state of Mizoram. In table 3.10, 46 of the respondents, or 61.3%, think that their work as journalists has an influence on the voting pattern. 21 of the respondents, that is 28%, think maybe it has an influence on the voting pattern, and eight of the respondents, that is 10.7%, said there is no influence on the voting pattern.

Table 3.10 Voting pattern

Sl. No.	Response	Frequency	Percent
1	Yes	46	61.3
2	May be	21	28
3	No	8	10.7
	Total	75	100

Fig 3.8 Voting pattern

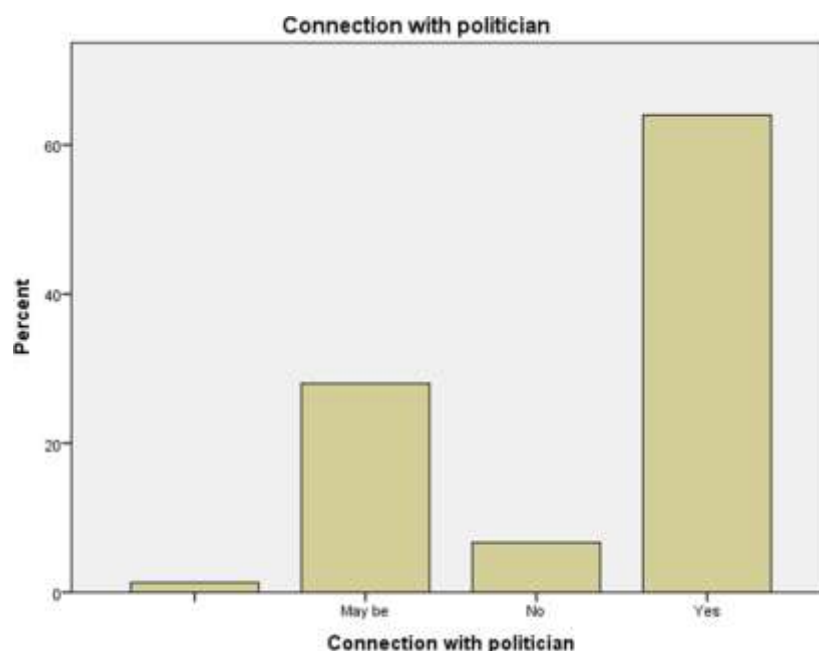
3.1.10 Opinion on relationship between politicians of the state and the journalists

The respondents were asked if they think there is too much relationship between the politicians of the state and the journalists. As shown in Table 3.11, 48 of the respondents, or 64%, said there is a relationship between politicians in the state and journalists. 21 of the respondents, or 28%, said maybe there is a relationship between politicians and journalists. Five of the respondents, 6.7%, said there is no relationship between politicians of the state and journalists. One of the respondents did not answer this question. The respondents were asked if they think there is too much relationship between the politicians of the state and the journalists. As shown in Table 3.11, 48 of the respondents, or 64%, said there is a relationship between politicians in the state and journalists. 21 of the respondents, or 28%, said maybe there is a relationship between politicians and journalists. Five of the respondents, 6.7%, said there is no relationship between politicians of the state and journalists. One of the respondents did not answer this question.

Table 3.11 Opinion on relationship between politicians of the state and the journalists

Sl. No.	Response	Frequency	Percent
1	Yes	48	64
2	May be	21	28
3	No	5	6.7
4	No Response	1	1.3
	Total	75	100

Fig 3.9 Opinion on relationship between politicians of the state and the journalists



3.2 Opinion of Traditional Journalists on Citizen Journalism in Mizoram

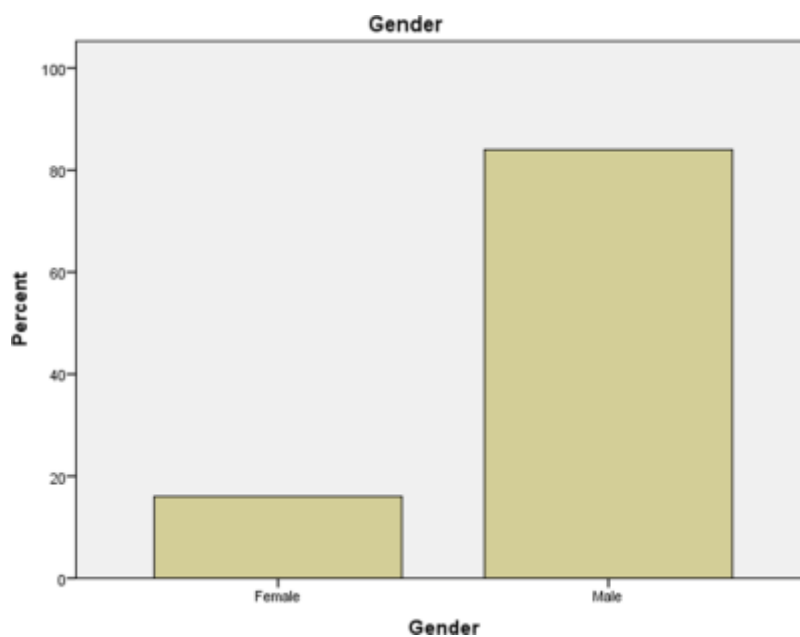
With the emerging citizen journalism practise on social media in Mizoram and also with the rising popularity of smartphones and social media platforms, there are many people who are not professional journalists who are involved in news writing on various social media platforms. Section 3.2 presents the perceptions of the traditional journalists on citizen journalism and the citizen journalists in Mizoram..

3.2.1 Gender of the respondents

Table 3.12 shows the genders of the respondents. 63 of the respondents, that is, 84%, are male, and 12 of the respondents, that is, 16%, are female.

Table 3.12 Gender of the respondents

Sl. No.	Gender	Frequency	Percent
1	Male	63	84
2	Female	12	16
	Total	75	100

Fig 3.10 Gender of the respondents

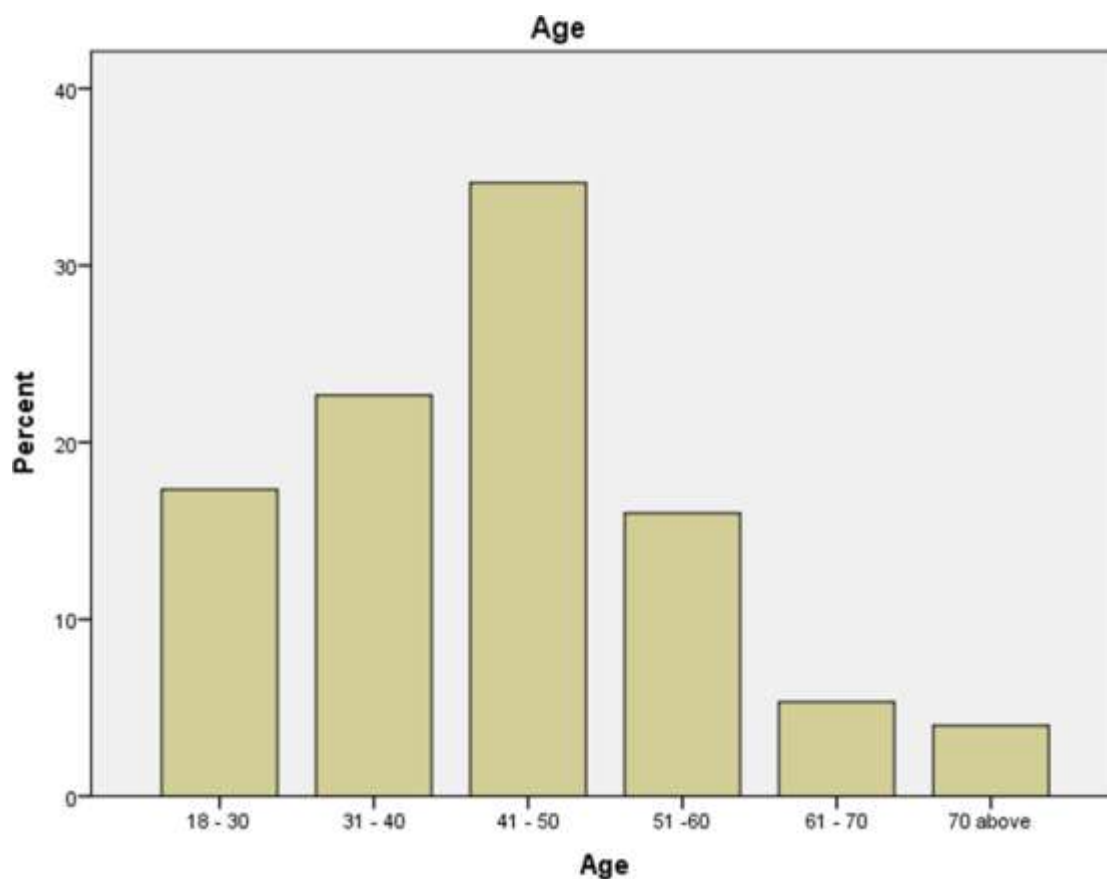
3.2.2 Age of the respondents

Table 3.13 shows the age range of the respondents. 13 of the respondents, that is, 17.3%, are within the age range of 18 to 30, 17 of the respondents, that is, 22.7%, are within the range of 31 to 40, and 26 of the respondents, that is, 34.7%, are within the age range of 41 to 50. 12 of the respondents, that is, 16%, are between 51

and 60; four of the respondents, that is, 5.3%, are between 61 and 70; and three of the respondents, that is, 4%, are 70 and above.

Table 3.13 Age of the respondents

Sl. No.	Age	Frequency	Percent
1	18 - 30	13	17.3
2	31 - 40	17	22.7
3	41 - 50	26	34.7
4	51 -60	12	16
5	61 - 70	4	5.3
6	70 above	3	4
	Total	75	100

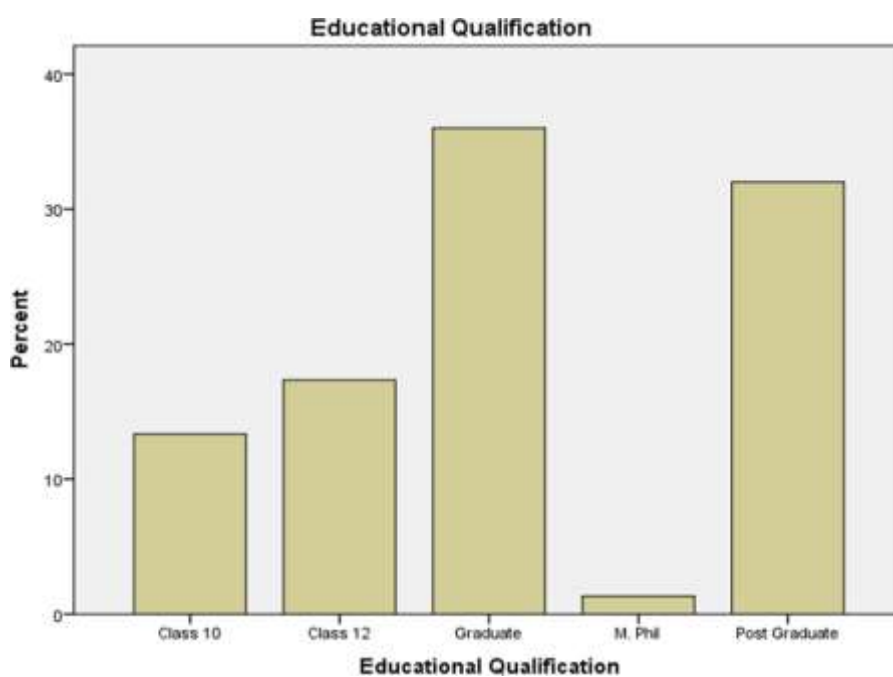
Fig 3.11 Age of the respondents

3.2.3 Qualification of the respondents

Table 3.14 shows the qualifications of the respondents. 27 of the respondents, that is, 36%, are graduates; 24 of the respondents, that is, 32%, are postgraduates; 13 of the respondents, that is, 17.3%, passed class 12; 10 of the respondents, that is, 13.3%, passed class 10, and one of the respondents finished M.Phil.

Table 3.14 Qualification of the respondents

Sl. No.	Qualification	Frequency	Percent
1	Graduate	27	36
2	Post Graduate	24	32
3	Class 12	13	17.3
4	Class 10	10	13.3
5	M. Phil	1	1.3
	Total	75	100

Fig 3.12 Qualification of the respondents

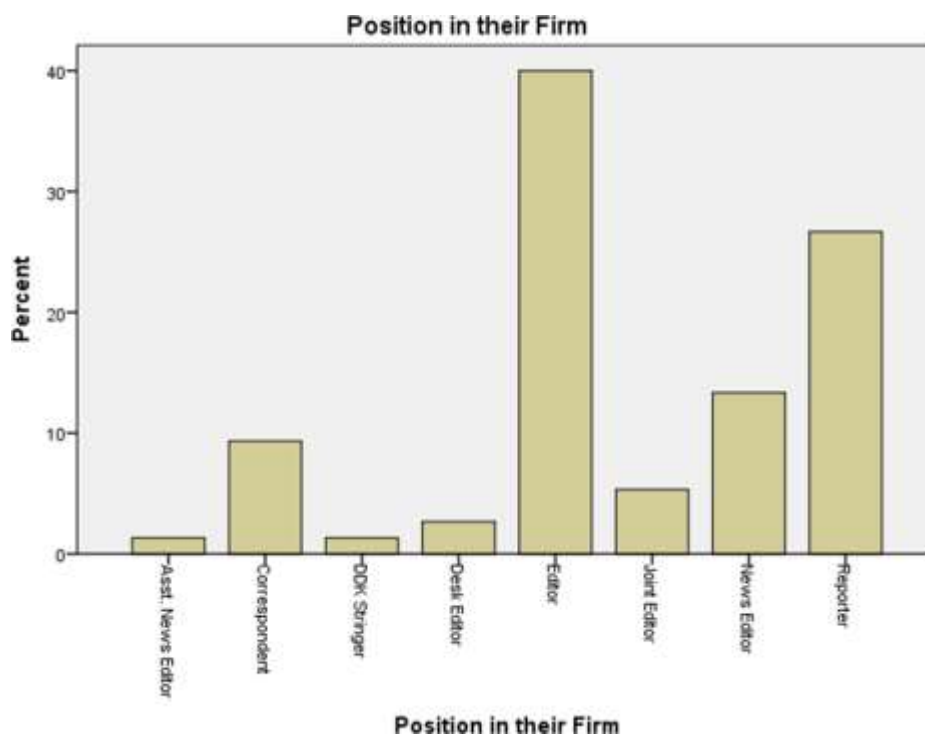
3.2.4 Position in their firm

The respondents were asked about their position in their firm. As shown in Table 3.15, 30 of the respondents, that is, 40%, are editors, 20 of the respondents, that is, 26.7%, are reporters, 10 of the respondents, that is, 13.3%, are news editors, 7 of the respondents are correspondents, four of the respondents are joint editors, two of the respondents are desk editors, and one each of the respondents is an assistant news editor and a stringer.

Table 3.15 Position in their firm

Sl. No.	Position	Frequency	Percent
1	Editor	30	40
2	Reporter	20	26.7
3	News Editor	10	13.3
4	Correspondent	7	9.3
5	Joint Editor	4	5.3
6	Desk Editor	2	2.7
7	Asst. News Editor	1	1.3
8	DDK Stringer	1	1.3
	Total	75	100

Fig 3.13 Position in their firm

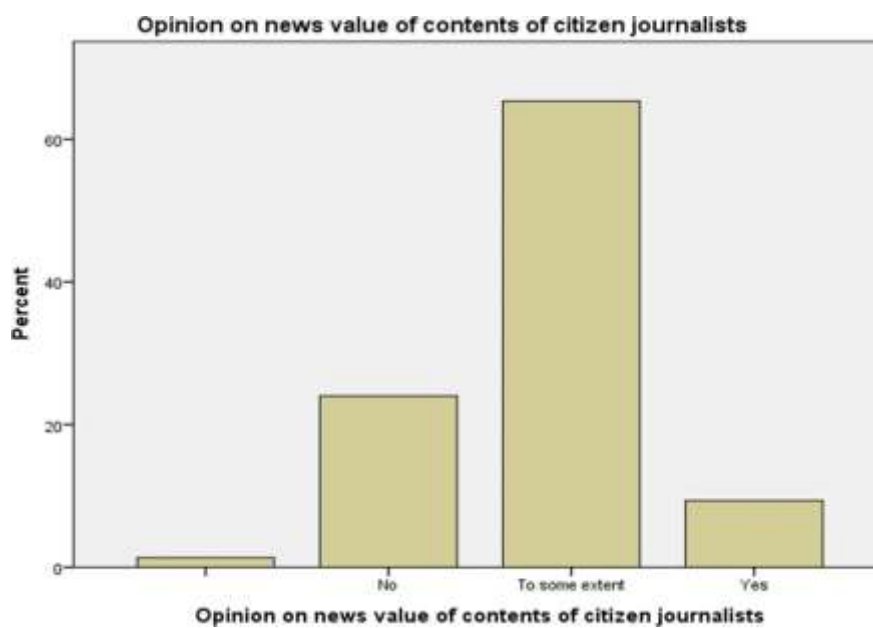


3.2.5 News value of the contents of citizen journalists

The respondents were asked if they think the contents of citizen journalists have news value or not. 49 of the respondents, or 65.3%, think it has news value to some extent. 18 of the respondents, or 24%, think the content of citizen journalists has no news value, and seven of the respondents, or 9.3%, say there is a new value to the contents of citizen journalists. One of the respondents did not answer this question.

Table 3.16 News value of the contents of citizen journalists

Sl. No.	Response	Frequency	Percent
1	To some extent	49	65.3
2	No	18	24
3	Yes	7	9.3
4	No response	1	1.3
	Total	75	100

Fig 3.14 News value of the contents of citizen journalists

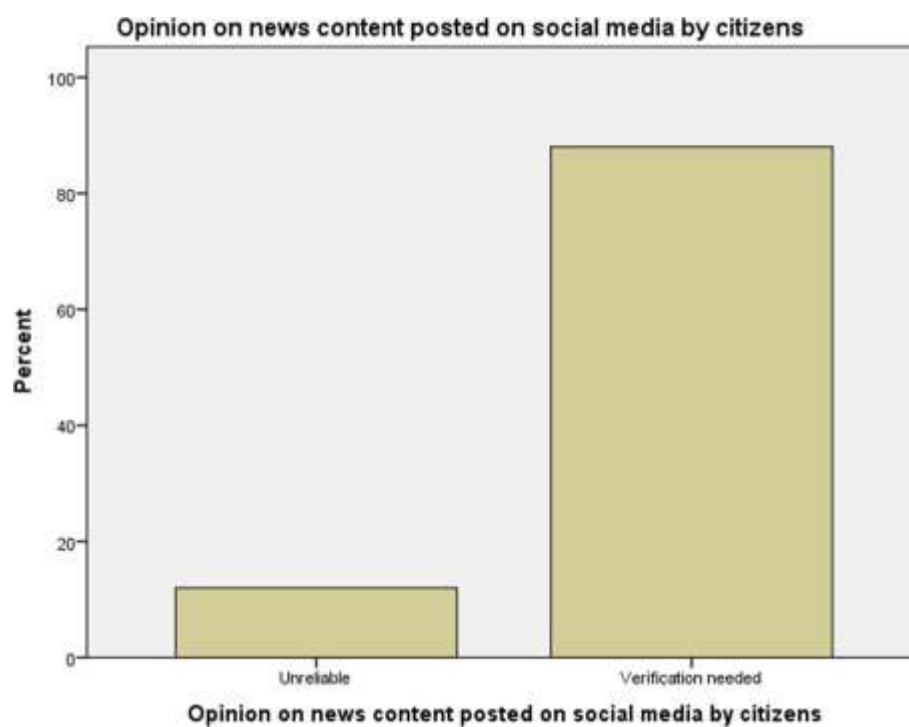
3.2.6 Reliability on the news content posted on social media by citizen journalists

The respondents were asked if they think the news content posted on social media by citizen journalists is reliable or not. According to Table 3.17, 66 of the respondents, or 88%, think verification is needed, and nine of the respondents, or 12%, think they are unreliable.

Table 3.17 Reliability on the news content posted on social media by citizen journalists

Sl. No.	Opinion	Frequency	Percent
1	Unreliable	9	12
2	Verification needed	66	88
	Total	75	100

Fig 3.15 Reliability on the news content posted on social media by citizen journalists

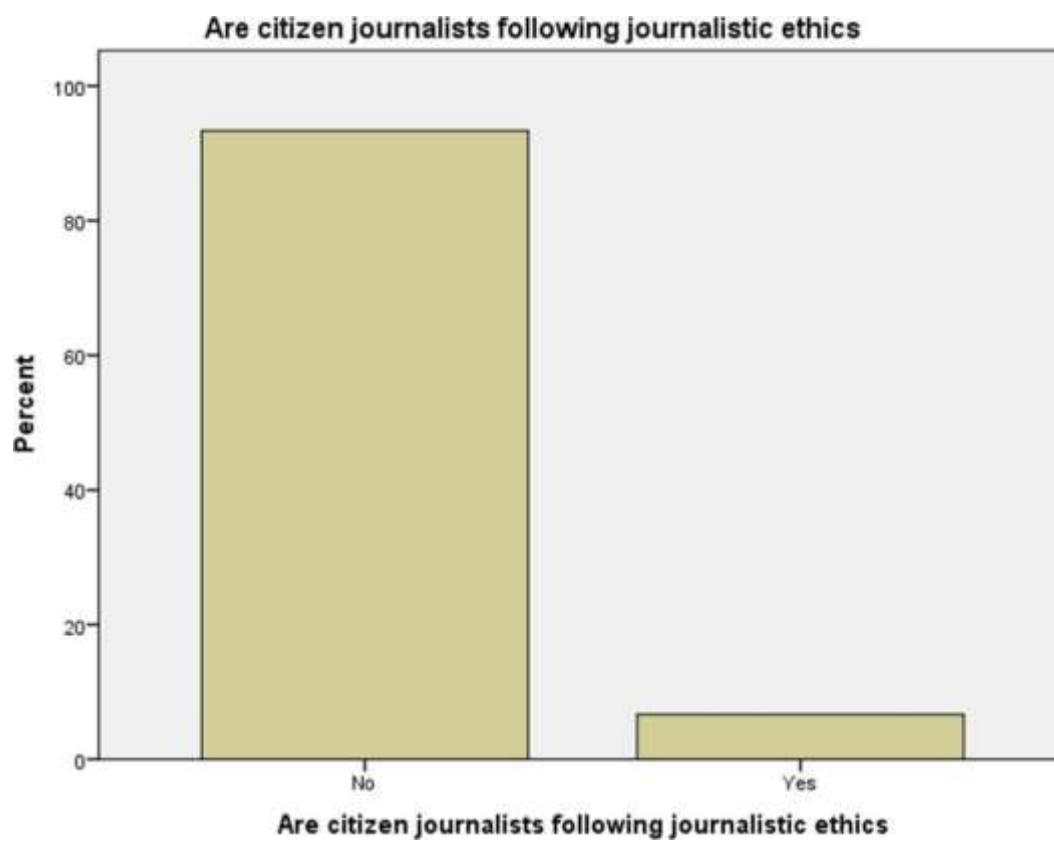


3.2.7 If citizen journalists follow journalism ethics

The respondents were asked if they think citizen journalists are following journalism ethics. 70 of the respondents, or 93.3%, said citizen journalists are not following journalism ethics. Five of the respondents, or 6.7%, said the citizen journalists are following journalism ethics.

Table 3.18 If citizen journalists follow journalism ethics

Sl. No.	Response	Frequency	Percent
1	No	70	93.3
2	Yes	5	6.7
	Total	75	100

Fig 3.16 If citizen journalists follow journalism ethics

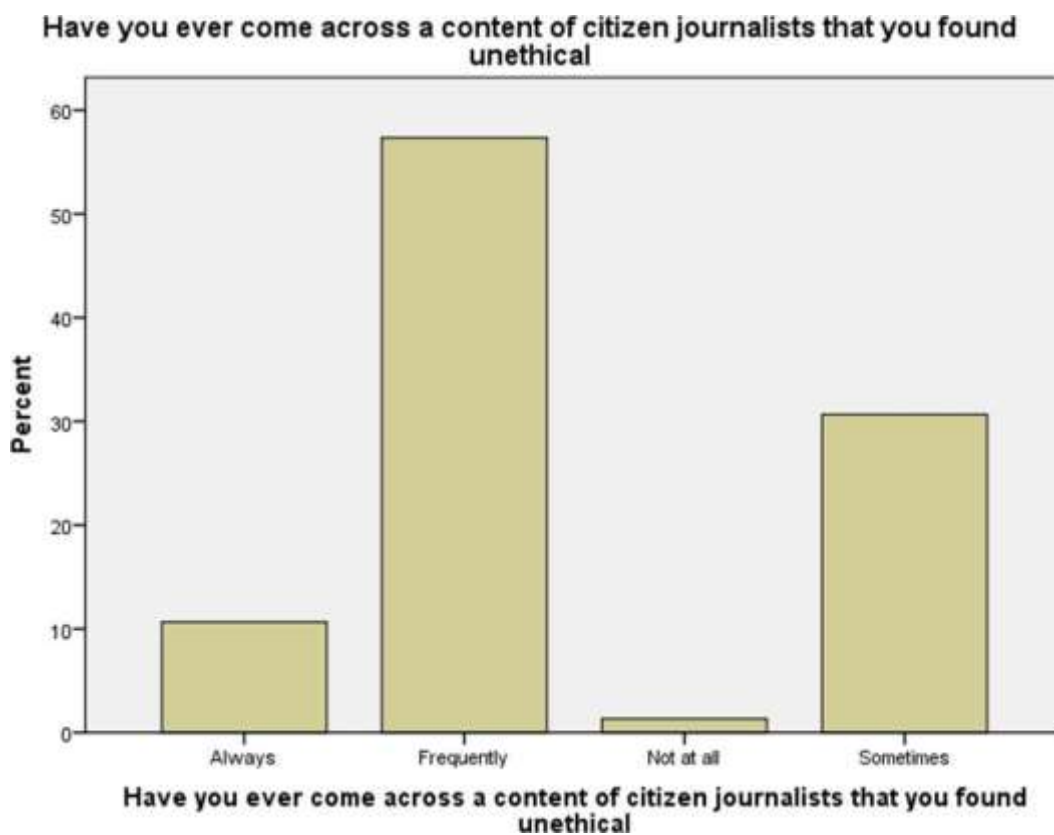
3.2.8 If they ever come across a content of citizen journalists that they found unethical

The respondents were asked if they ever came across content by Citizen journalists that they found unethical. 43 of the respondents, or 57.3%, said they frequently come across unethical content from citizen journalists. 23 of the respondents, or 30.7%, said they sometimes come across unethical contents. Eight of the respondents said they always come across unethical contents of citizen journalists, and one of the respondents said they never come across any unethical contents of citizen journalists.

Table 3.19 If they ever come across a content of citizen journalists that they found unethical

Sl. No.	Response	Frequency	Percent
1	Frequently	43	57.3
2	Sometimes	23	30.7
3	Always	8	10.7
4	Not at all	1	1.3
	Total	75	100

Fig. 3.17 If they ever come across a content of citizen journalists that they found unethical

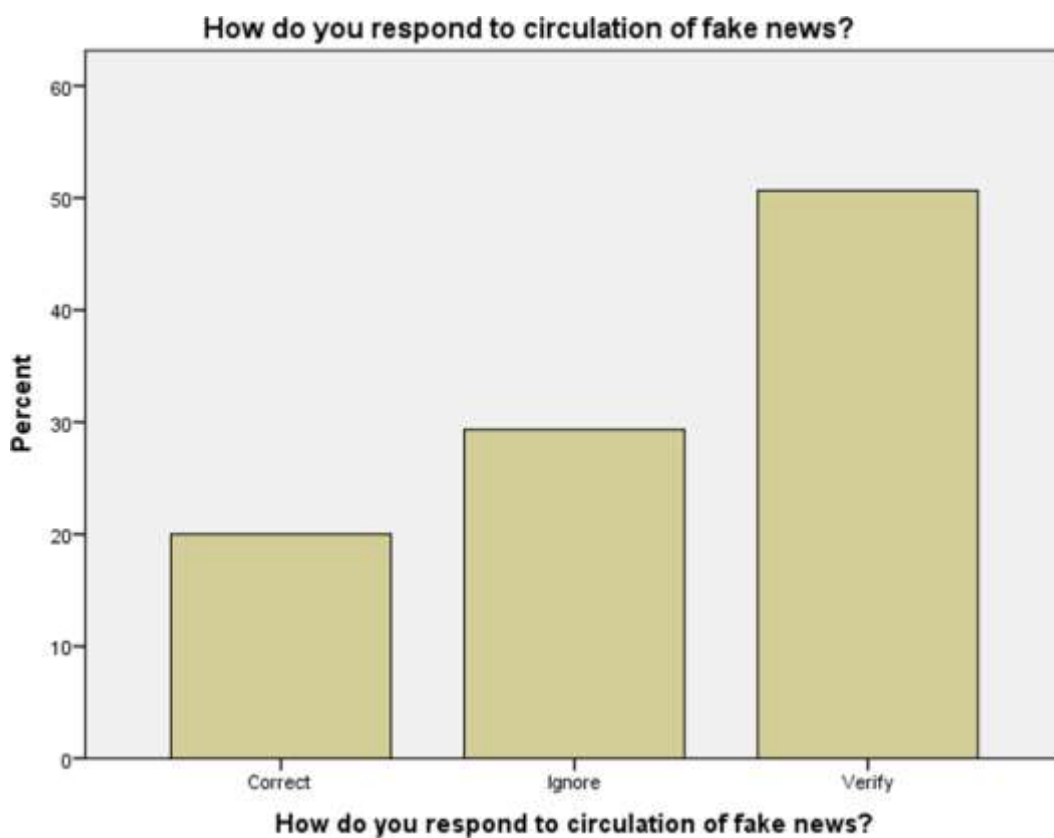


3.2.9 Response on circulation of fake news on social media

The respondents were asked how they respond to the circulation of fake news on social media. 38 of the respondents, that is 50.7% said they verify the news, 22 of the respondents, that is 29.3% said they ignore the news, 15 of the respondents, that is 20% said they correct the news.

Table 3.20 Response on circulation of fake news on social media

Sl. No.	Response	Frequency	Percent
1	Verify	38	50.7
2	Ignore	22	29.3
3	Correct	15	20
	Total	75	100

Fig. 3.18 Response on circulation of fake news on social media

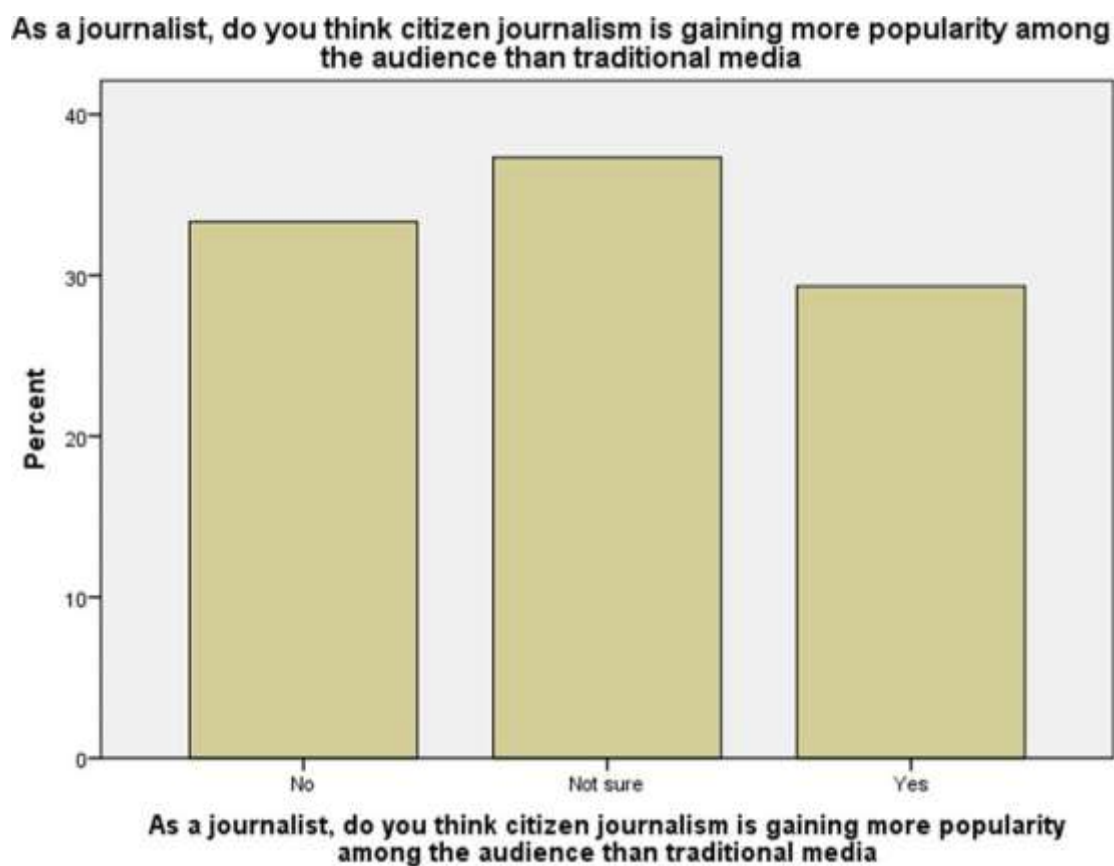
3.2.10 Opinion on if citizen journalism is gaining more popularity among the audience than traditional media

The respondents were asked if they think citizen journalism is gaining more popularity among audiences than traditional journalism. According to Table 3.21, 28 of the respondents, or 37.3%, are not sure about this. 25 of the respondents, or 33.3%, think citizen journalism is not gaining more popularity than traditional journalism, and 22 of the respondents, or 29.3%, think citizen journalism is gaining more popularity than traditional journalism.

Table 3.21 Opinion on if citizen journalism is gaining more popularity among the audience than traditional media

Sl. No.	Response	Frequency	Percent
1	Not sure	28	37.3
2	No	25	33.3
3	Yes	22	29.3
	Total	75	100

Fig 3.19 Opinion on if citizen journalism is gaining more popularity among the audience than traditional media



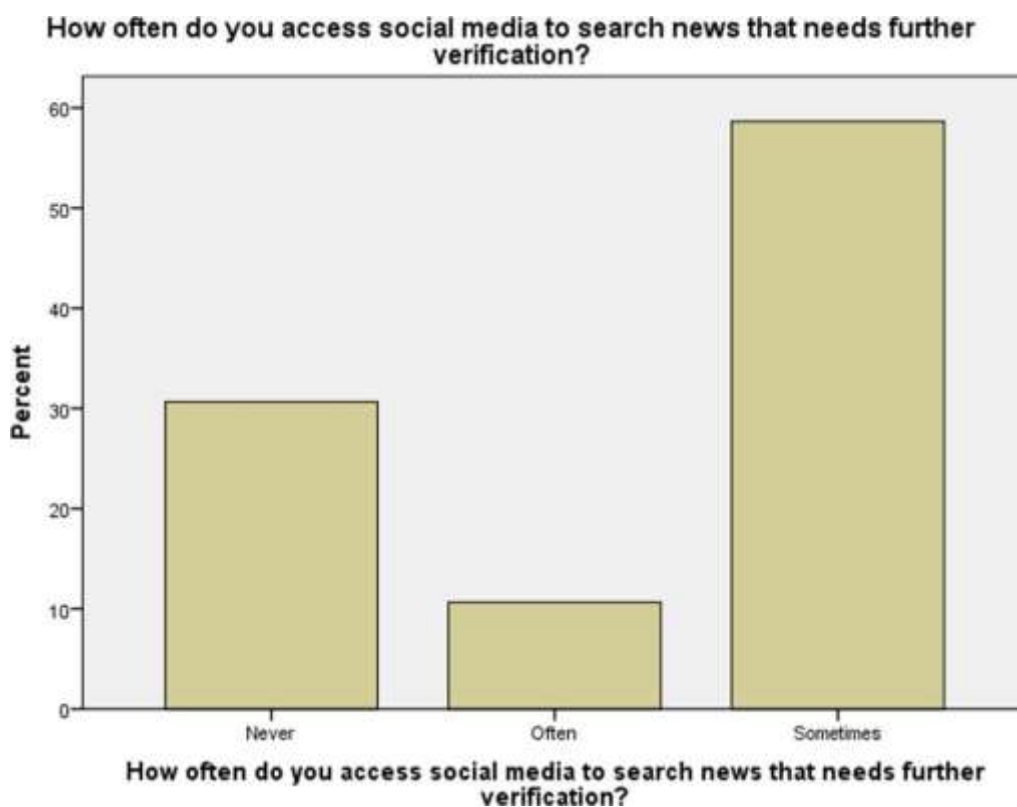
3.2.11 How often they access social media to search news that needs further verification

Respondents were asked how often they access social media to search for news or use it as a new source, even if it needs further verification. 44 of the respondents, or 58.7%, said they sometimes use social media to search for news. 23 of the respondents, or 30.7%, said they never use social media to search for news, and eight of the respondents, or 10.7%, said they often use social media to search for news.

Table 3.22 How often they access social media to search news that needs further verification

Sl. No.	Response	Frequency	Percent
1	Sometimes	44	58.7
2	Never	23	30.7
3	Often	8	10.7
	Total	75	100

Fig. 3.20 How often they access social media to search news that needs further verification



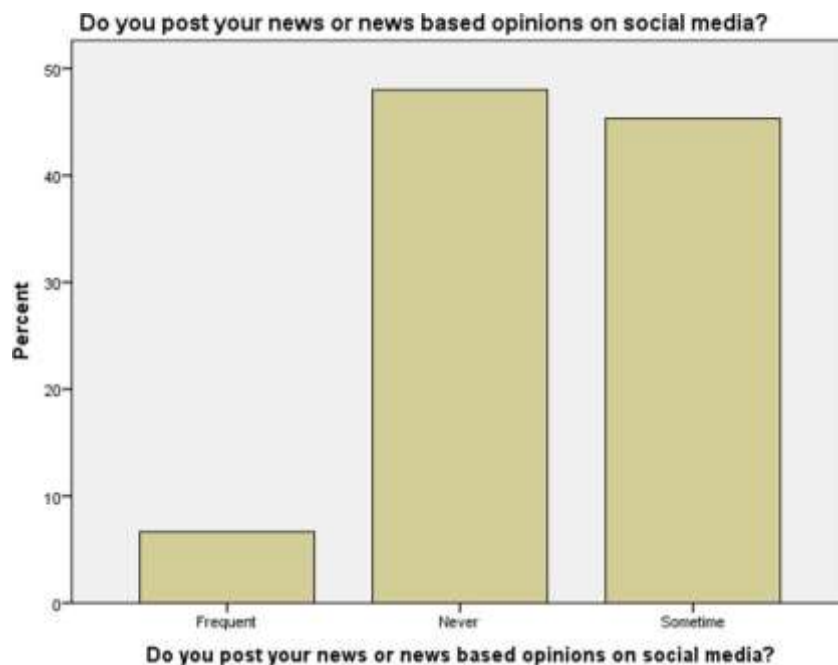
3.2.12 If they post their news or news-based opinions on social media

How frequently do the respondents share news or opinions based on news on social media was asked. 36 of the respondents, or 48%, said they never post the news on social media. 34 of the respondents, or 45.3%, said they sometimes post their news on social media, while five of the respondents, or 6.7%, said they frequently post their news on social media.

Table 3.23 If they post their news or news-based opinions on social media

Sl. No.	Response	Frequency	Percent
1	Never	36	48
2	Sometime	34	45.3
3	Frequent	5	6.7
	Total	75	100

Fig. 3.21 If they post their news or news-based opinions on social media



3.3 Mapping of newspapers

To determine the complete status of print journalism and citizen journalism, analysis of the content is a crucial method. Different newspapers and citizen journalism platforms were thoroughly analysed using this method. For print media, five newspapers from Aizawl, namely Vanglaini, The Zozam Times, The Aizawl Post, Mizoram Post, and Newslink, are chosen as purposive samples based on their circulation, along with one leading newspaper from each of the other districts of Mizoram.

3.3.1 Newspapers from Aizawl

1. The Mizoram Post

Name of Editor : Haran Dey
 Number of Pages 10
 Language of newspaper : English
 RNI Registration : MIZENG/2002/10461

The Mizoram Post is a daily newspaper mainly circulated in Aizawl, Mizoram. There are eight pages, four of which are coloured and the content of the newspaper is different from that of other local newspapers in Aizawl. This is because it has a separate business column, Life Style, and a ‘career post’ section. The Mizoram Post is printed in Silchar, Assam, and is published from its office in Dawrpui, Aizawl. It is published by CVL Ruata.

The first page of the newspaper consists of local news in Aizawl or relevant news from the whole Mizoram area, as well as breaking news in India. Advertisements are also on the first page, and sometimes half of the whole first page is filled with advertisements. These advertisements are all coloured. The second page of the newspaper is an editorial page with an editorial column and an opinion column. The first page of the newspaper consists of local news in Aizawl or relevant news from the whole Mizoram area, as well as breaking news in India. Advertisements are also on the first page, and sometimes half of the whole first page is filled with advertisements. These advertisements are all coloured. The second page of the newspaper is an editorial page with an editorial column and an opinion column.

Northeast news including Mizoram are in the third page with few advertisements. The page is coloured. The fourth page of *The Mizoram Post* is for national news and the fifth page is for International News. Page six contains Career Post column filled with current affairs for competitive exams along with question and answer series, success stories and news in different workplaces

The whole page seven contains Employment Post, and all the news here is related to employment, like job recruitment news and about competitive exams in India. Page eight contains a global column and is a continuation of international news. Page nine is a 'Life Style', and here news contents related to lifestyle (local and national) fill the page. Page ten contains sports news.

2. **Newslink**

Name of Editor : K. Zabiaka

Number of Pages 4

Language of newspaper : English

RNI Registration No. : 69023/98

Newslink is a daily newspaper owned and published by the editor K. Zabiaka. It is printed at the Tawrh Press in Khatla, Aizawl. Its office is in Tuikual South, Aizawl near Congress Bhavan.

The newspaper was started in 1992 but registration could not be done due to some difficulties and then after registration was done, the official year of the establishment of *Newslink* is 1997. There are five office staff and none of them including the editor have a journalism degree or diploma.

The problem faced by the newspaper is that there is low readership and only few people are writing articles in the newspaper. Press releases and local government advertisements are never received from the government to be published in English.

The newspaper copies are sent in government offices, schools etc in different parts of Mizoram. National and international news are taken from the internet. The circulation is 2000 copies.

The first page of *Newslink* is filled with local Mizoram news. On page two, there is an opinion section and three different columns like 'Science Watch', 'health tips' 'Relationships etc.'. There is also a small daily quote column.

On the third page there is national, northeast and international news. The last page is

for local, national and international sports news. There is one big section called Football Gossip and short football news is written there. Advertisements are less in this newspaper and the whole four pages of *Newslink* are not coloured.

3. The Zozam Times

Name of Editor : Tuikhuahtanga

Number of Pages 8

Language of newspaper : Mizo

RNI Registration No. : MIZ MIZ/2006/16849

The Zozam Times is a daily newspaper published by Tuikhuahtanga and printed on JP offset printers. The office is in Treasury Square, Aizawl. The Zozam Times was started in 2006 by Sangzela Tlau. It is the first coloured newspaper in Mizoram. There are nine office staff in the office. Two of the staff have diplomas in journalism, while others do not. Their circulation is about 6,000–8,000 copies. The copies are also circulated in Kolasib and Serchhip. They do not work with any news agencies but with some advertising agencies. The website and e-paper are under construction.

The first page is occupied by local news. Local news is also on the second page, along with the editorial column. There is a small quote column on the second page. The third page is for classified advertisements. The fourth page of the newspaper is for national and international news. National and international news are taken from the internet. The opinion column is on the fifth page, written by different contributors.

There are different columns on the sixth page, like sports, GADtech times, auto times, THE ZOZAM TIMES crossword, and OKIDS word search for children. A part of page six and the whole of page seven are occupied by local, national, and international sports news.

The eighth page, which is the last page, is named THALAI TIMES, which can be translated as youth times. Here, most of the contents are entertainment news. Page one and page eight of The Zozam Times are colored.

4. Vanglaini

Name of Editor : K. Sapdanga

Number of Pages 12

Language of newspaper : Mizo

RNI Registration No. : 34227/79

Postal Registration No. : MZR/67/2012-2014

Vanglaini is a daily newspaper published and edited by K. Sapdanga. The office is situated in Zarkawt, Aizawl, and the newsroom is in Aizawl, Venglai. The printing press is in Durtlang, Aizawl. Vanglaini was established in 1984 and is the first daily newspaper in Mizoram. In the year of establishment, 700 copies were printed, and after 3–4 years, it was increased to 3000 copies. In the year 2005, they began to use colour printers and consequently increased their production to 30,000 copies. According to the latest information, Vanglaini has now sold 46,000 copies. (Vanlalzara, A Visit to Vanglaini)

Local news is on the first page. There is also a small weather column, and one main programme of Zonet Cable TV for the night is highlighted in every issue on the first page. Page two is also for local news, and advertisements are also included in most of the issues. Page three is occupied by entertainment news and games like crossword and Sudoku. Translated ‘Ripley’s Believe it or not’ is also on the third page.

The fourth page of the newspaper is for national and international news. The whole page five is occupied by advertisements. Page six is an editorial/opinion page. A small quote column is also at the top of the sixth page. The whole page seven is also for advertisements. On page eight, there are two columns, which are the northeast news column and a column for paid columnists. These columnists are six in number, and each of them writes every day from Monday to Saturday.

Page nine is filled with advertisements. From page ten to the last page, twelve are

occupied by local, national, and international sports news. The first, third, tenth, and twelfth pages are colored, and the remaining pages are black and white.

5. The Aizawl Post

Name of Editor : C. Lalrambuatsaiha

Number of Pages 8

Language of newspaper : Mizo

RNI Registration No. : MIZMIZ/2003/12043

Postal Registration No. : MZR/56/2015-2017

The Aizawl Post is a daily newspaper owned by Editor C. Lalrambuatsaiha. The office is situated in Chanmari, Aizawl. It is printed at LCM Press in Luangmual, Aizawl.

The first page of the newspaper is occupied by local Mizoram news, a small weather column, and feature news at the bottom called ‘_Post News Service’. The second page consists of a continuation of local news, advertisements, and national news placed at the bottom.

The third page is occupied by classified advertisements from the central government, state government, local business firms, schools, book authors and publishers, etc. The fourth page is filled with different news content and games. The page is occupied by international news, Aizawl Post Crossword, Sudoku, interesting facts about the world, gadget news, relationship tips, and health news.

The fifth page is an editorial/opinion page, and there is a small quote column from the Bible. The sixth and seventh pages of the newspaper are occupied by local, national, and international sports news. On page seven, there is a column called "Football Titi." Here, different quotes and sayings from different famous magazines and newspapers around the world are written.

The last page of the newspaper is called "Thalaite Huang," which means a space for the youth. There is entertainment news, the Pet Corner Column by C. Luri, and a small column for celebrities whose birthdays are on each issue's dates.

The first and last pages of the newspaper are colored, and the remaining pages are all black and white.

3.3.2 Newspapers from other 10 districts of Mizoram

1. Kailawn (Hnahthial district)

Name of Editor : VL Liansanga

Number of Pages 2

Language of newspaper : Mizo

RNI Registration No. :

Postal Registration No. :

Kailawn is a daily newspaper in Hnahthial district, Mizoram, owned and edited by VL Liansanga. It is printed at the FC Digital Duplicator in Peniel Veng, Hnahthial. It is a two-page newspaper, and the first page is occupied by leading local Mizoram news and the local news within Hnahthial district. There is one column for daily Bible verses at the top left corner and one advertisement column at the top right corner of the first page. There is a one-column section in the middle of the first page named ‘Thuthar Tawi’ which means short news, and here, brief one-line news is put.

In the second page, there is one small column for the ‘abouts’ of the newspaper like the name, the subscription fees, address and email. In the left section, one column is reserved for the editorial column. The second column contains the continuation of top local Mizoram news and in the bottom, there is a sports section. Here local Hnahthial district sports news and Mizoram, national and international sports news are put in a brief manner. There is a one column section in the lower left corner of the second page under the editorial column named ‘Football titi thenkhat’. This is a column for interesting football news and sayings. Whenever there is an advertisement, it is placed in both the two pages of the newspaper.

2. Vulmawi (Lunglei district)

Name of Editor : K. Lalrinpuia
 Number of Pages 2
 Language of newspaper : Mizo
 Pro. Permit : No. 16 of 2003, MNC 16017/1/89 Judl/213

Vulmawi is a daily newspaper in Lunglei district, published, owned, and edited by K. Lalrinpuia. It is printed at Vulmawi Press in Ramthar, Lunglei, and Mizoram. The first page consists of local Mizoram news along with the leading news in Lunglei district. There is one small advertisement column in the upper left corner and an "about" column in the upper right corner of the first page.

On the second page, there is an editorial column on the left side (1 column) and a three-column opinion section in the middle. On the right, there is a two-column sports section, and the lower part of the second page consists of advertisements. When there are no advertisements, it is mostly filled with sports news and opinion articles.

3. The Tipa Express (Siaha district)

Name of Editor : T. Lalrosiama
 Number of Pages 2
 Language of newspaper : Mizo
 RNI Registration No. : N.E. No. 1097 (MZ)

The Tipa Express is a daily newspaper in Siaha district, published and edited by T. Lalrosiama. It is printed at TE Computerized in Tipa V, Siaha, Mizoram. The name of the editor and his contact number are written in the upper left corner of the first page, and on the right side, the registration number and the address details of the newspaper are listed. The first page of the newspaper mainly consists of local Mizoram news, and there is one column on the left side of the first page for very brief news. The second page consists of local news as well, along with national news on the right side (two columns). There is an editorial column on the left side (one column). Advertisements are also placed on both pages of the newspaper when there

is one, but they do not receive advertisements every day.

4. Kumtluang Daily (Saitual district)

Name of Editor : C. Rammawizuala

Number of Pages 4

Language of newspaper : Mizo

RNI Registration No. : MIZMIZ01081

Kumtluang Daily is the only active daily newspaper in Saitual district and is edited and published by C. Rammawizuala. It is printed at Kumtluang Press in Saitual, Mizoram. The first page is filled with local Mizoram news, and small columns for the Saitual Town Transport Service and the status of fuel filling stations are placed on the right side of the front page. There is an editorial section on the left side of the second page, and an opinion column fills the majority of the second page

There is a small column for weather forecasts and currency exchange rates at the top left corner of the second page.

The third page is filled with advertisements and a continuation of local Mizoram news along with national and international news. The fourth page is filled with "Infiamna/Thalai Huang,|| which is a combination of both sports and entertainment news. The newspaper is black and white and is also circulated in coloured pdfs.

5. Mamit Times (Mamit district)

Name of Editor : C. Lalramdinzela

Number of Pages 2

Language of newspaper : Mizo

RNI Registration No. : No. 408/1999

Postal Registration : MZR 150//2021-2023

Mamit Times is a daily newspaper in Mamit district, edited by C. Lalramdinzela. It is printed at HL Press, Mizo Veng, Mamit, and is the first daily newspaper published in Mamit. There is an advertisement column on the top right corner of the first page, and the first page is filled with top local Mizoram news. On the second page, there is

a column for the editorial section on the left side (two columns), and the rest is filled with national and sports news along with advertisements. The abouts and details of the newspapers are highlighted on the bottom of the second page. The newspaper is very simple, is filled with merely news contents, and is published in black and white.

6. Khawzawl Times (Khawzawl district)

Name of Editor : Lalrotluanga Ralte
 Number of Pages : 2
 Language of newspaper : Mizo

Khawzawl Times is a daily newspaper in Khawzawl district, Mizoram, owned and edited by Lalrotluanga Ralte. It is printed by Khawzawl Times Press in Khawzawl, Mizoram. The first page consists of local Mizoram news and also top local news from Khawzawl district. The second page is for advertisements and sports news, along with the continuation of local Mizoram news. There is an editorial column on the left corner of the second page (one column), and there is a small column for daily inspirational quotes on the top left corner of the second page. The second page is filled with large-sized advertisements received from the government.

7. The Laisuih Daily (Serchhip district)

Name of Editor : C. Lalramdinzela
 Number of Pages : 2
 Language of newspaper : Mizo
 Postal Registration : No. NE 45

The Laisuih Daily is a daily newspaper in Serchhip district, Mizoram, and is owned and edited by C. Lalhminghlua. It is printed at Laisuih Press in Serchhip. The first page consists of local Mizoram news, and there is a small (one-column) column for brief one-liner news on the left side of the first page. There is a small column at the top right corner of the first page for advertisements. Emergency service numbers like the contact numbers of police, fire departments, power, hospitals, and child protection are placed on the left side of the first page in a one-column box. The upper half of the second page consists of local Mizoram news and local news from the

district. There is an editorial column on the left side of the second page (one column). The lower half of the second page is for sports news. There is a one-column section named ‘Football Titi’ where short football news is written. Advertisements are placed anywhere on both pages when received.

Pasaltha (Champhai district)

Name of Editor	: Lalhmingmawia Pachuau
Number of Pages	2
Language of newspaper	: Mizo
RNI Registration No.	: No. 53830/92
Postal Registration	: NE-342 (MZ)

Pasaltha is a daily newspaper in Champhai district, Mizoram. It is owned and edited by Lalhmingmawia Pachuau and printed at Pasaltha Offset Printer in Champhai Vengthlang, Mizoram. The details of the newspaper, like registration and contact information, are given at the top right corner. There is a Fire & Emergency Department contact number in the top left corner. The first page consists of local Champhai district and local Mizoram news. There is a ‘one column’ section for brief local news on the left corner of the first page.

The editorial board members are highlighted on the top left corner of the second page. There is an editorial column on the left side of the second page, and the second page is filled with the continuation of local Mizoram news. Advertisements are placed anywhere on both pages when received. There is a small section for sports news on the lower right corner of the second page.

8. Duhlai (Kolasib district)

Name of Editor	: Johny C. Lalmuanpuia
Number of Pages	4
Language of newspaper	: Mizo
RNI Registration No.	: MIZMIZ/2010/33801

Duhlai is a daily newspaper in Kolasib district, Mizoram. It is owned and edited by

Johny C. Lalmuanpuia and printed at their office in Banglakawn, Kolasib, Mizoram. The address and contact details are put in the top left corner of the newspaper. The first page is filled with local Kolasib and Mizoram news. There is a one-liner section on the left side of the first page for short local news. There is an editorial column on the left side of the second page and an opinion section on the other parts of the second page. If opinion articles are short, they are filled with local Mizoram news. There is a small section in the lower left corner called ‘Tuisemnat’ where the schedules for public water distribution by the Public Health Engineering department are highlighted.

The third page is for northeastern, national, and international news. Advertisements are also placed on the third page. The fourth and last page is for sports news. The fourth page is separated by three columns of news and two columns of sports news.

9. The Lawngtlai Post (Lawngtlai district)

Name of Editor	: Lalngheta Ralte
Number of Pages	2
Language of newspaper	: Mizo
RNI Registration No.	: MIZMIZ-01077

The Lawngtlai Post is a daily newspaper owned and edited by Lalngheta Ralte and is printed at The Lawngtlai Post Compugraphic in Electric Veng, Lawngtlai, Mizoram.

The first page is filled with local Mizoram news and local Lawngtlai news. There is a QR code that can lead to the newspaper's website at the top left corner of the first page. There is one small column at the top right corner for advertisements. On the second page, there is an editorial column on the left side, and a sports news section is also placed on the second page. Advertisements are also placed on the second page whenever they receive one. National and international news are also placed on the second page.

This chapter, named ‘Mapping of Traditional Journalists and Traditional Journalism in Mizoram’, gives the true state of the traditional journalists, their working

conditions, and also their opinion on the emerging citizen journalism in Mizoram. This chapter also gives the content structures and styles of newspapers in Mizoram

CHAPTER IV

MAPPING OF CITIZEN JOURNALISM AND JOURNALISTS IN MIZORAM

4.1 Introduction

In a rapidly evolving media landscape, citizen journalism has become more and more important. Social media is a very powerful platform for citizen journalists nowadays, and this chapter will also focus on citizen journalism practises on social media. Many people who do not have journalism as their profession are becoming very involved in creating news content on every online platform possible. The majority of this practise is seen on social media sites like Instagram, WhatsApp, YouTube, Twitter, Facebook, etc.

This chapter focuses on citizen journalists and their contents, especially on social media. Both qualitative and quantitative studies are employed using surveys and the researcher's observation. This chapter sheds light on the condition of citizen journalism and citizen journalists in Mizoram.

4.2 Mapping of Citizen Journalists in Mizoram

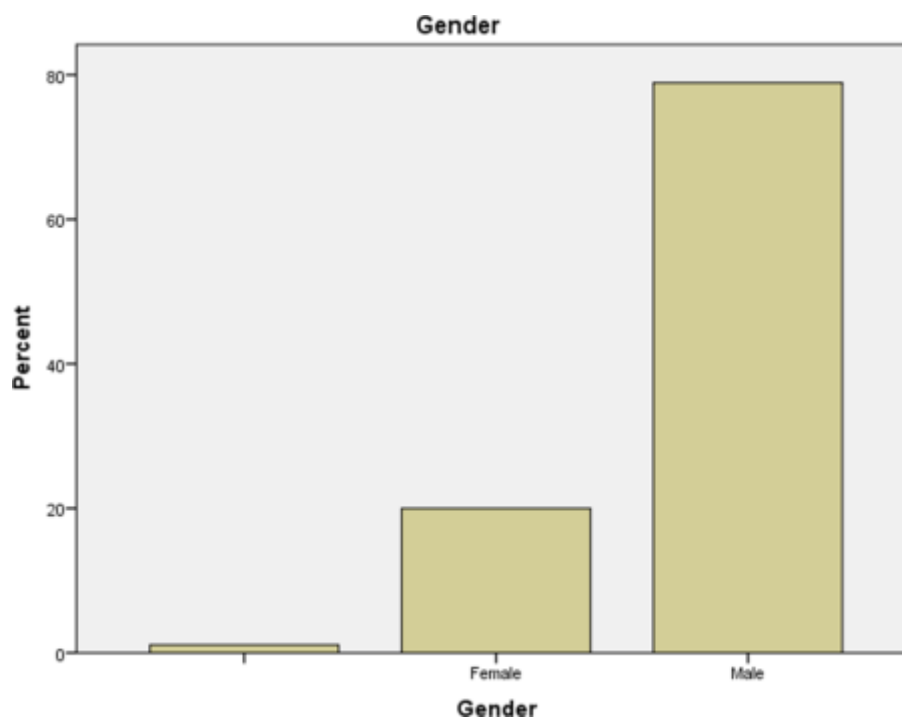
4.2.1 Background of Citizen Journalists in Mizoram

The following table 4.1 shows the gender of the respondents, of which 71 (78.9%) are male and 18 (20%) are female. 1 person (1.1%) prefers not to answer the question.

Table 4.1 Gender of the respondents

Sl. No.	Gender	Frequency	Percent
1	Male	71	78.9
2	Female	18	20
3	No response	1	1.1
	Total	90	100

Source: Primary Data (computed)

Fig. 4.1 Gender of the respondents

4.2.2 Educational Qualification of the respondents

Table 4.2 shows the educational qualification of the respondents, with the highest number of respondents (30%) being graduates, followed by 18 respondents studying up to Class 12 (20%), 14 respondents (15.6%) studying below Class 10, 14

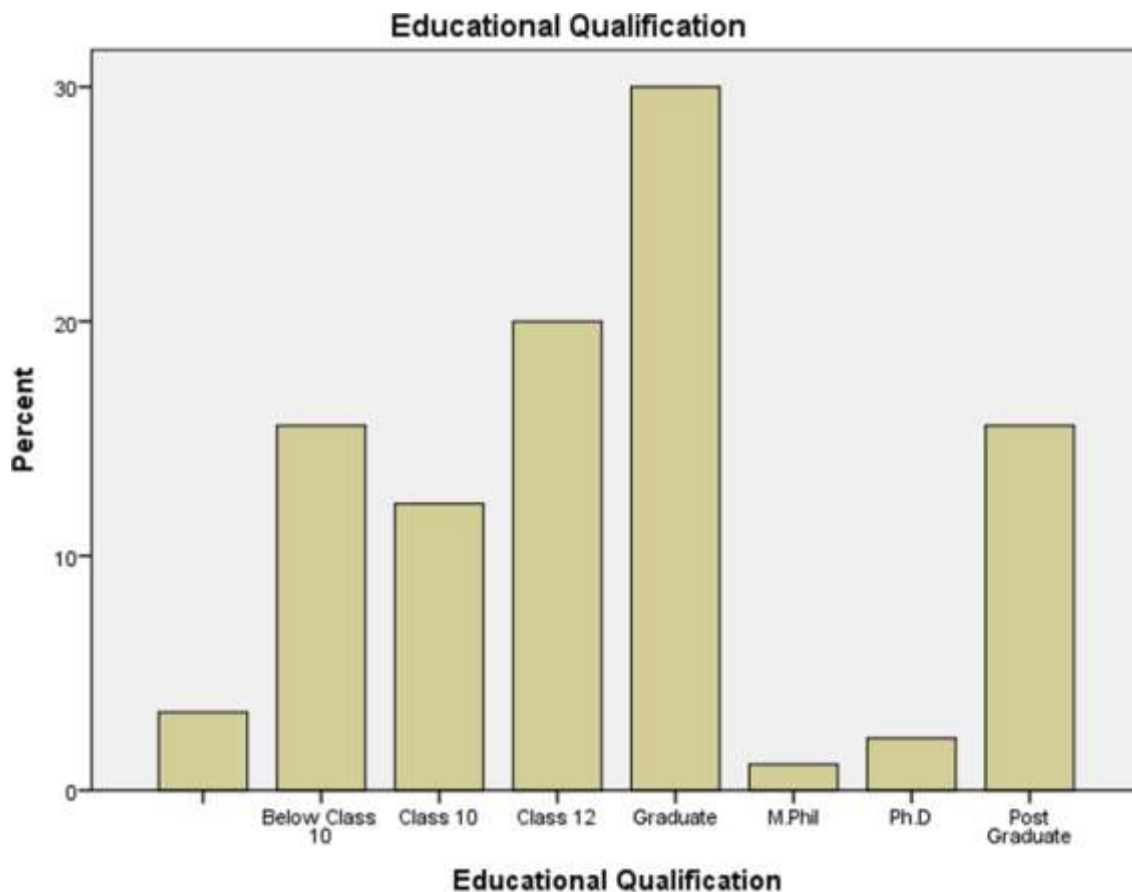
respondents (15.6%) studying up to post-graduation, 11 respondents (12.2%) studying up to Class 10, 2 (2.2%) studying up to PhD, and 1 (1.1%) studying up to M.Phil. Three respondents (3.3%) chose not to answer the question.

Table 4.2 Educational Qualification of the respondents

Sl. No.	Educational Qualification	Frequency	Percent
1	Graduate	27	30
2	Class 12	18	20
3	Below Class 10	14	15.6
4	Post Graduate	14	15.6
5	Class 10	11	12.2
6	No response	3	3.3
7	Ph. D	2	2.2
8	M. Phil	1	1.1
9	Total	90	100

Source: Primary Data (computed)

Fig. 4.2 Educational Qualification of the respondents



4.2.3 Job of the respondents

The respondents, that is, the citizen journalists who contribute news on social media platforms who are not using journalism as their profession, hold different kinds of jobs in their daily lives. According to the jobs listed by them during the survey, these citizen journalists are: ex-servicemen, gardener, shopkeeper, lecturer, teacher, junior engineer, government servant, therapist, technician, businessmen, child counselor, housewife, community newspaper editor, assistant professor, farmer, construction worker, politician, apiarist, local cable TV channel producer, and YouTuber. There are also a number of respondents who are unemployed.

4.3 Media Habits, News Consumption and Online Behaviour

4.3.1 Main Source of News and Information

The respondents are asked what their main source for news and information is. More than half, that is, 52 respondents (57.8%), answered social media as their main source of news and information, followed by 35 respondents (38.9%) giving

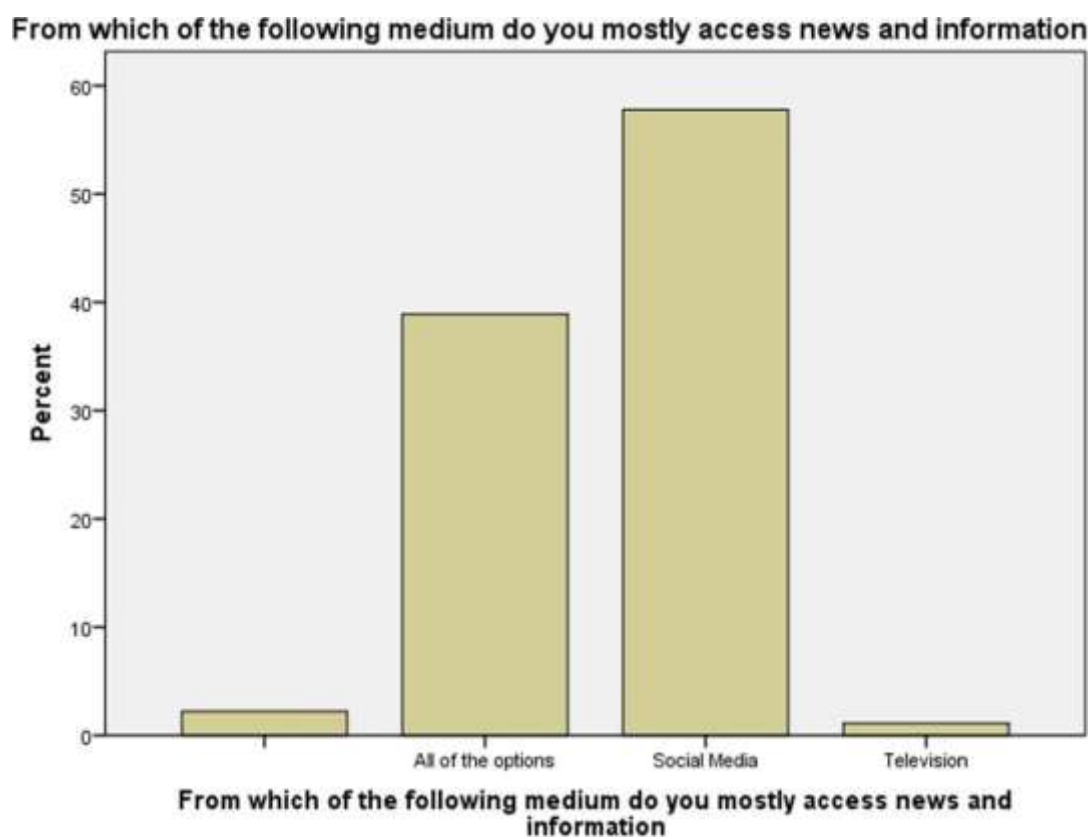
‘All of the options’ as their answer, which include all the options: social media, television, newspapers, and magazines. Television alone was chosen by one respondent, and newspapers and magazines alone were not chosen by any of the respondents.

Table 4.3 Main Source of News and Information

Sl. No.	News Source	Frequency	Percent
1	Social Media	52	57.8
2	All of the options	35	38.9
3	No response	2	2.2
4	Television	1	1.1
5	Newspaper	0	0
6	Magazine	0	0
	Total	90	100

Source: Primary Data (computed)

Fig. 4.3 Main Source of News and Information



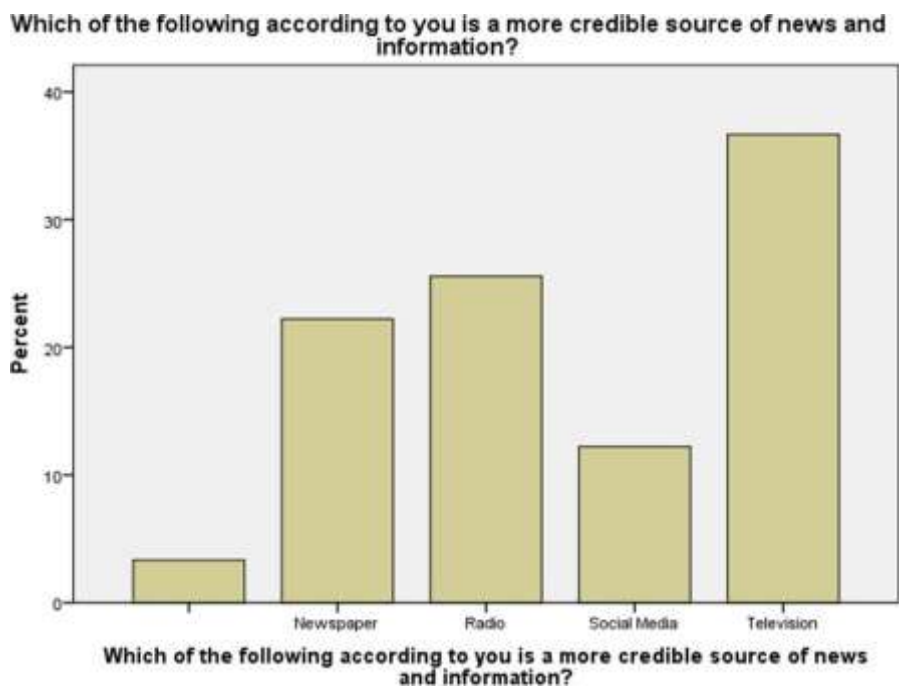
4.3.2 Most credible source of news and information

The respondents were asked what they think are the most credible sources of news and information. As shown in table 4.4, Television was chosen by 33 respondents (36.7%) followed by radio (25.6%), Newspaper (22.2%), Social Media (12.2%) and 3 (3.3%) chose not to answer the question.

Table 4.4 Most credible source of news and information

Sl. No.	Response	Frequency	Percent
1	Television	33	36.7
2	Radio	23	25.6
3	Newspaper	20	22.2
4	Social Media	11	12.2
5	No response	3	3.3
	Total	90	100

Source: Primary Data (computed)

Fig. 4.4 Most credible source of news and information

4.3.3 Average time spent on social media

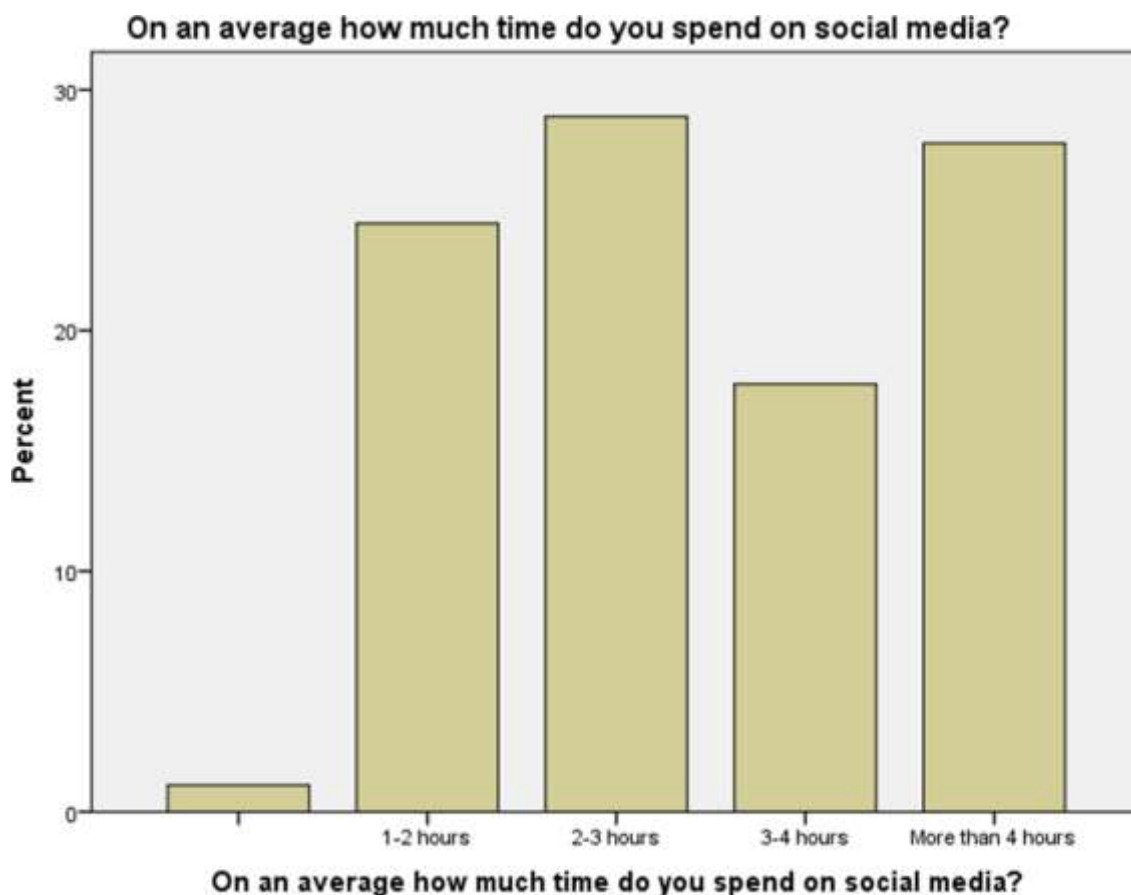
The average time spent on social media by respondents was asked, and as shown in Table 4.5, 2 to 3 hours were answered by 26 respondents (28.9%), followed by more than 4 hours (27.8%), 1 to 2 hours (24.4%), 3 to 4 hours (17.8%), and 1 respondent preferred not to answer the question.

Table 4.5 Average time spent on social media

Sl. No.	Average Time	Frequency	Percent
1	2-3 hours	26	28.9
2	More than 4 hours	25	27.8
3	1-2 hours	22	24.4
4	3-4 hours	16	17.8
5	No Response	1	1.1
	Total	90	100

Source: Primary Data (computed)

Fig. 4.5 Average time spent on social media



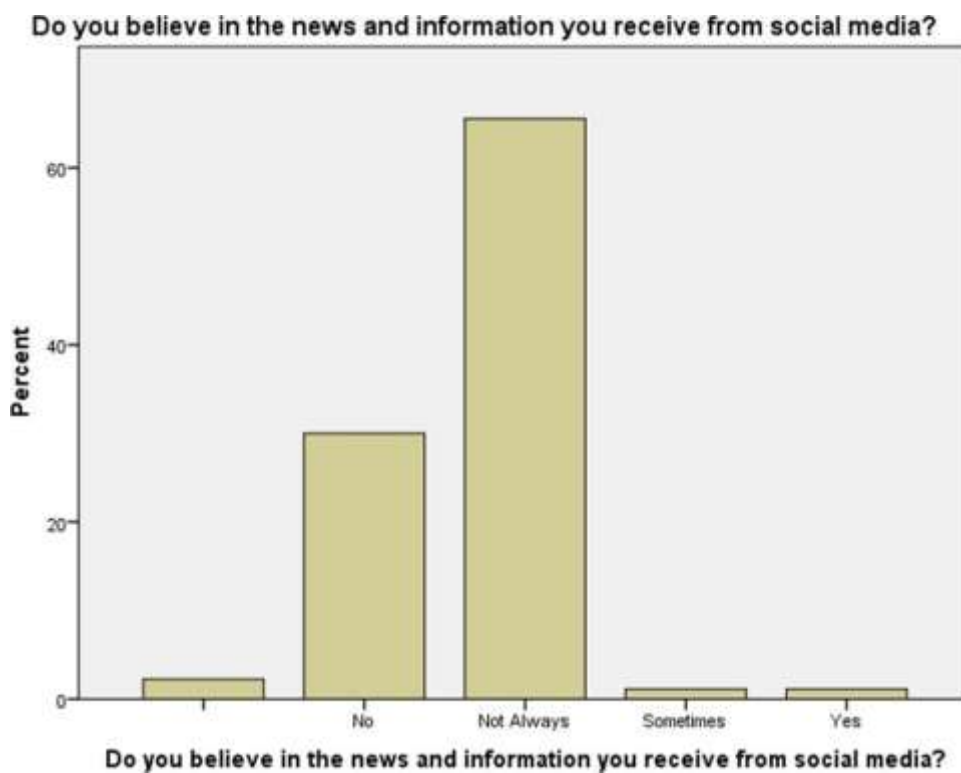
4.3.4 Belief in the news and information received from social media

The respondents were asked if they believed in the news and information they received from social media or not. As shown in Table 4.6, the option Not Always was chosen by the majority of the respondents, that is, 59 respondents (65.6%), followed by No answered by 27 respondents (30%). The number of respondents who chose Sometimes and Yes was the same, that is, 1 each (1.1% each). Two respondents prefer not to answer the question.

Table 4.6 Belief in the news and information received from social media

Sl. No.	Response	Frequency	Percent
1	Not Always	59	65.6
2	No	27	30
3	No response	2	2.2
4	Sometimes	1	1.1
5	Yes	1	1.1
	Total	90	100

Source: Primary Data (computed)

Fig. 4.6 Belief in the news and information received from social media

4.3.5 How often comments and additional information are posted by the respondents on social media platforms

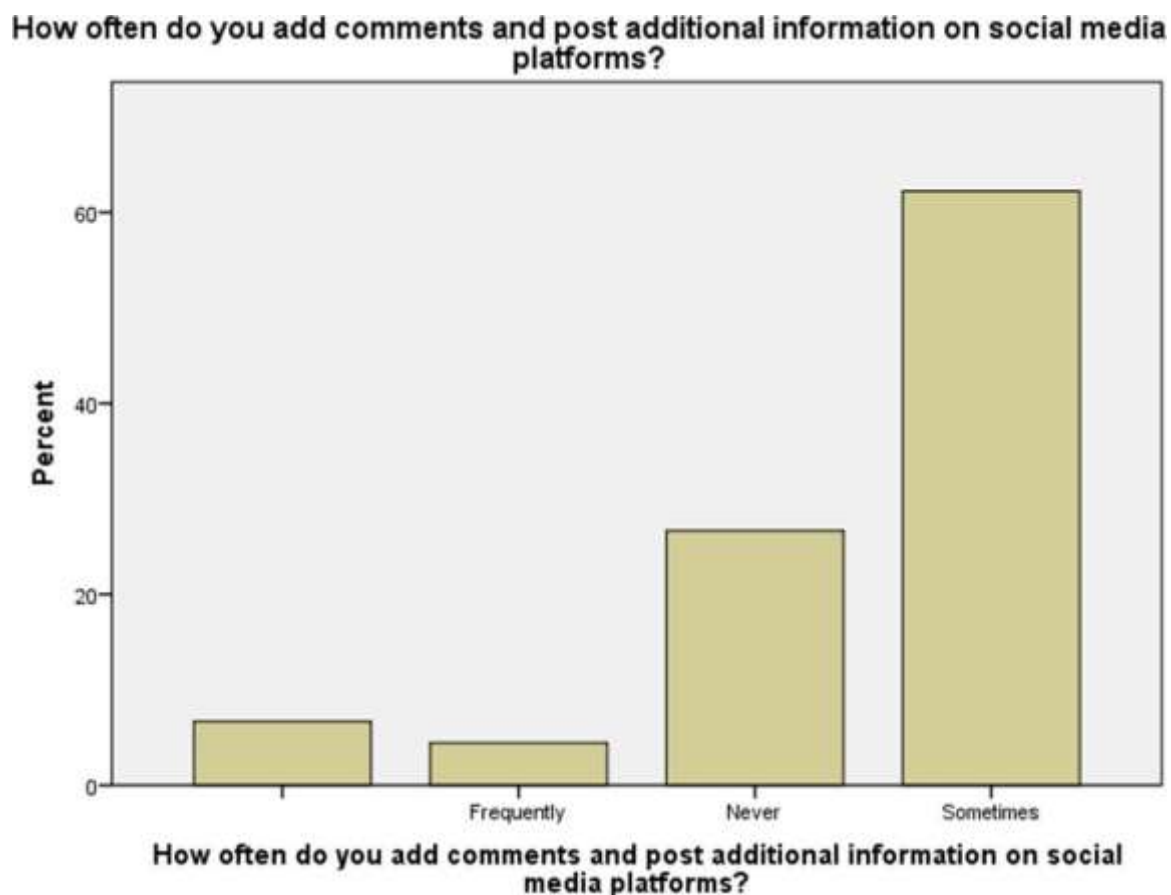
The respondents were asked how often they add comments and additional information on social media platforms. As shown in Table 4.7, 56 respondents (62.2%) chose ‘Sometimes’, followed by 26.7% choosing ‘Never’ and 4.4% choosing ‘Frequently’. 6.7% of the respondents chose not to answer this question.

Table 4.7 How often comments and additional information are posted by the respondents on social media platforms.

Sl. No.	Response	Frequency	Percent
1	Sometimes	56	62.2
2	Never	24	26.7
3	No response	6	6.7
4	Frequently	4	4.4
	Total	90	100

Source: Primary Data (computed)

Fig. 4.7 How often comments and additional information are posted by the respondents on social media platforms



4.3.6 How often they get into fight on social media platforms

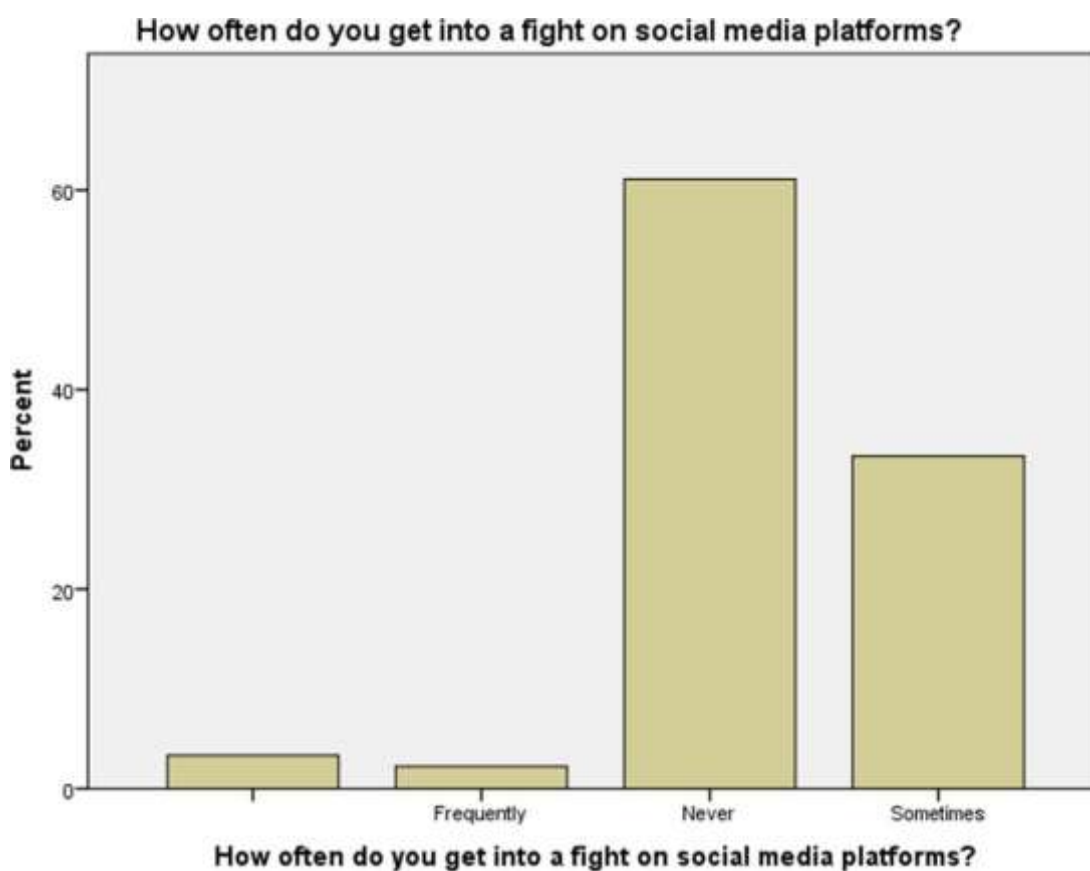
The respondents were asked how often they get into fights on social media platforms. As shown in table 4.8 below, 55 of the respondents (61.1%) chose

'Never', 30 of the respondents (33.3%) chose 'Sometimes', 2 of the respondents (2.2%) chose 'Frequently', and 3 of the respondents (3.3%) didn't answer the question.

Table 4.8 How often they get into fight on social media platforms

Sl. No.	Response	Frequency	Percent
1	Never	55	61.1
2	Sometimes	30	33.3
3	No response	3	3.3
4	Frequently	2	2.2
	Total	90	100

Source: Primary Data (computed)

Fig. 4.8 How often they get into fight on social media platforms

4.3.7 Have you ever scolded someone on social media platforms?

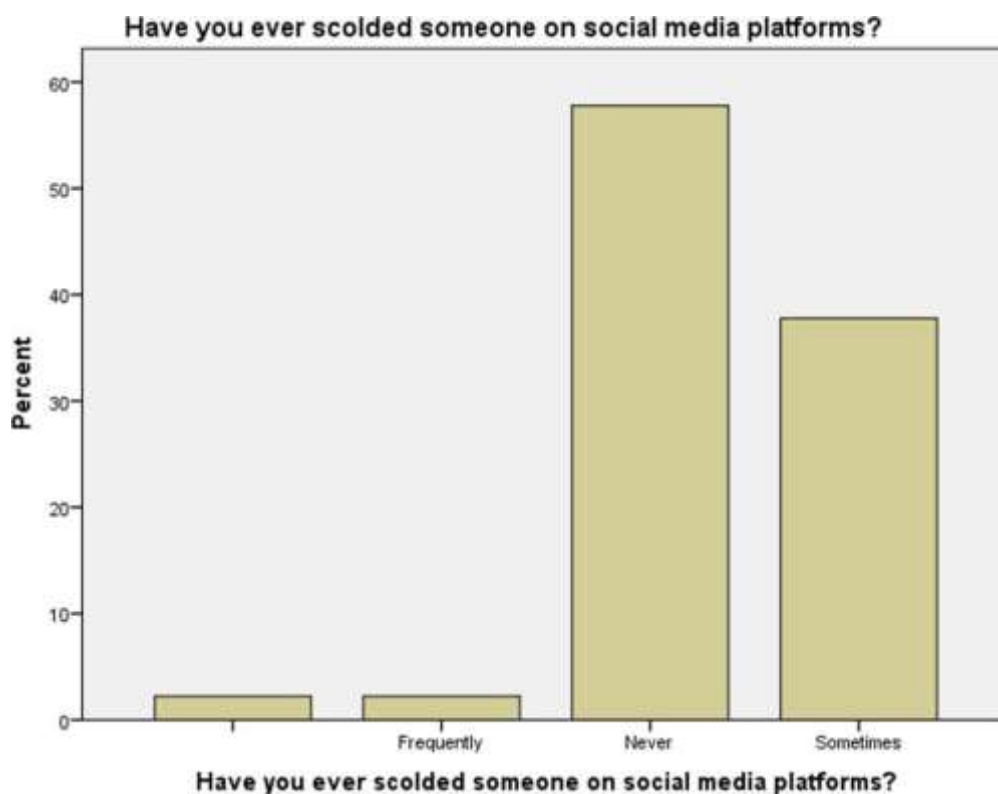
The respondents were asked if they had scolded someone on social media platforms. According to the response shown in Table 4.9, 52 of the respondents (57.8%) never scolded anyone on social media. 34 of the respondents (37.8%) sometimes scolded someone on social media, and 2 of the respondents (2.2%) frequently scolded someone on social media. However, two of the respondents prefer not to answer the question.

Table 4.9 Have you ever scolded someone on social media platforms?

Sl. No.	Response	Frequency	Percent
1	Never	52	57.8
2	Sometimes	34	37.8
3	No response	2	2.2
4	Frequently	2	2.2
	Total	90	100

Source: Primary Data (computed)

Fig. 4.9 Have you ever scolded someone on social media platforms?



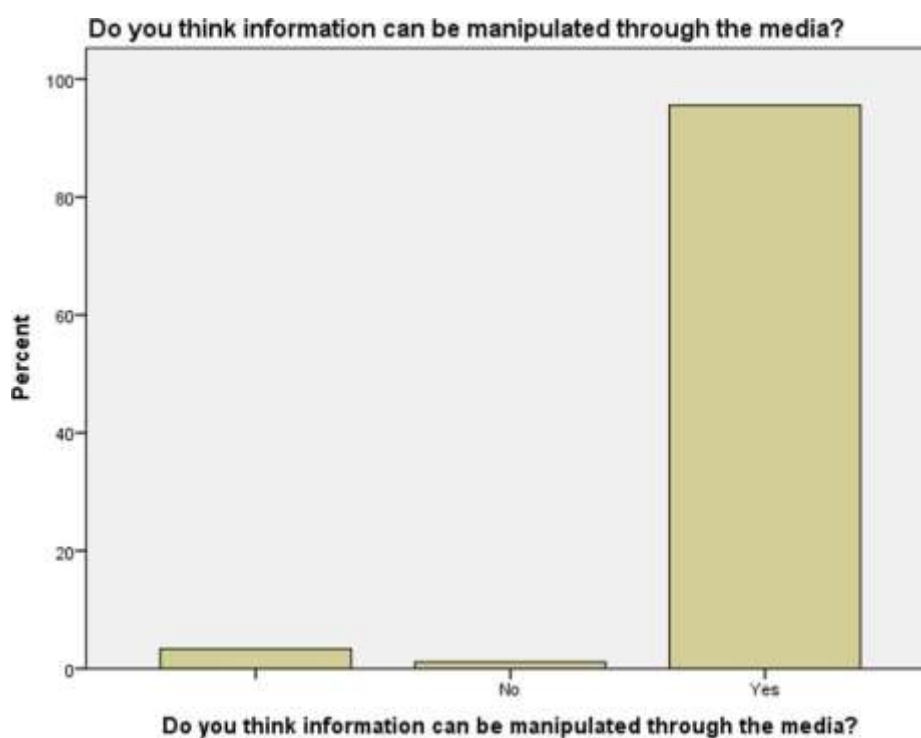
4.3.8 Opinion on if information can be manipulated through the media

The respondents were asked if they think information can be manipulated through the media. As shown in Table 4.10, 86 of the respondents (95.6%) answered 'Yes', 1 of the respondents (1.1%) said 'No', and 3 of the respondents (3.3%) preferred not to answer.

Table 4.10 Opinion on if information can be manipulated through the media

Sl. No.	Response	Frequency	Percent
1	Yes	86	95.6
2	No response	3	3.3
3	No	1	1.1
	Total	90	100

Source: Primary Data (computed)

Fig 4.10 Opinion on if information can be manipulated through the media

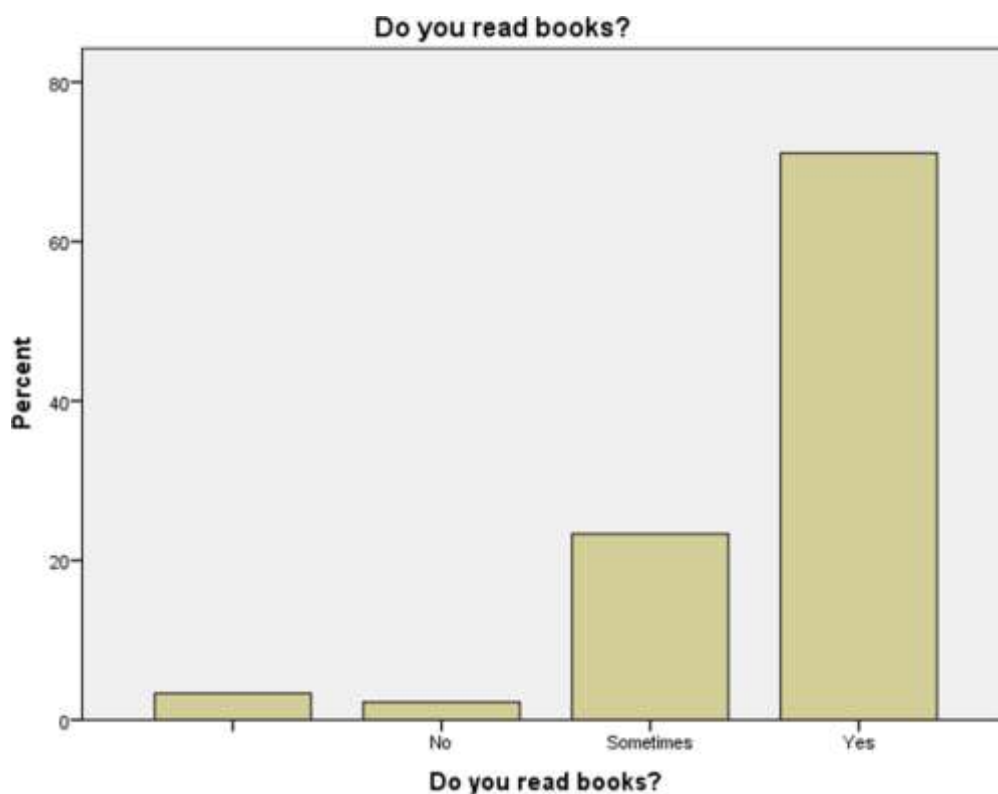
4.3.9 Book Reading

The respondents were asked if they used to read books or not. According to Table 4.11, 64 of the respondents (71.1%) answered 'Yes', 21 of the respondents answered 'Sometimes', and 2 of the respondents answered 'No'. Three of the respondents (3.3%) prefer not to answer this question.

Table 4.11 Book Reading

Sl. No.	Response	Frequency	Percent
1	Yes	64	71.1
2	Sometimes	21	23.3
3	No response	3	3.3
4	No	2	2.2
	Total	90	100

Source: Primary Data (computed)

Fig. 4.11 Book Reading

4.4 Citizen Journalism practices

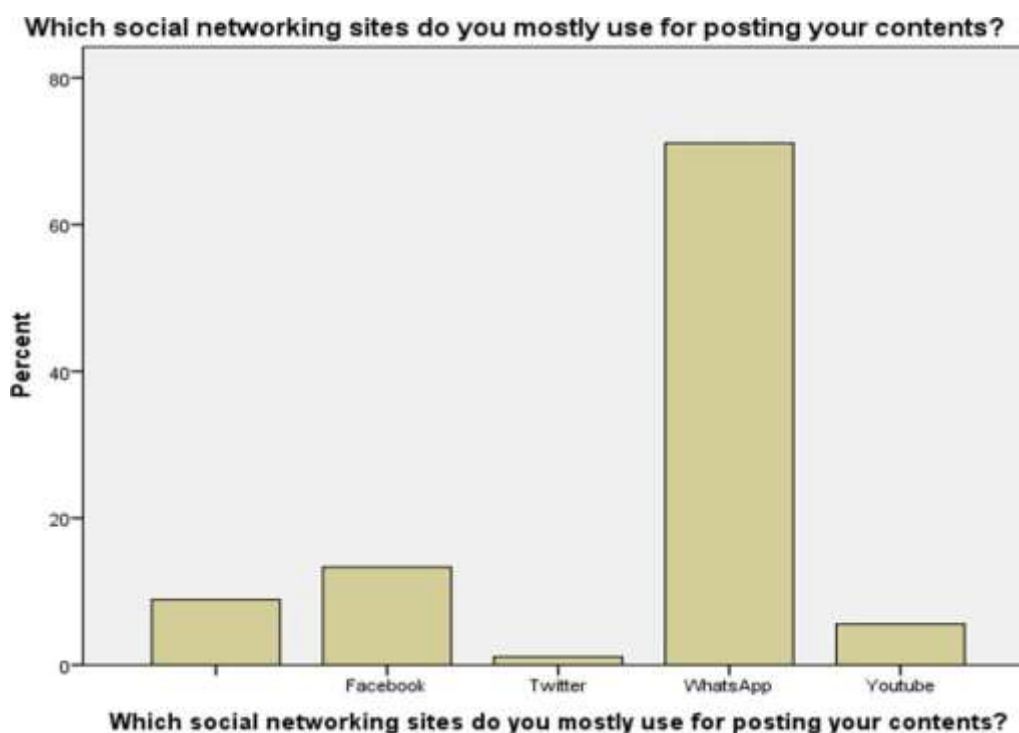
4.4.1 Most used social media for posting content

The respondents were asked what their most used social media platform was to post content. As shown by table 4.12, the majority of the respondents, that is, 64 of the respondents (71.1%) answered WhatsApp, 12 of the respondents (13.3%) answered Facebook, 5 of the respondents (5.6%) answered YouTube, and 1 of the respondents (1.1%) answered Twitter. 8 of the respondents (8.9%) did not answer this question.

Table 4.12 Most used social media for posting content

Sl. No.	Social Media	Frequency	Percent
1	WhatsApp	64	71.1
2	Facebook	12	13.3
3	No response	8	8.9
4	YouTube	5	5.6
5	Twitter	1	1.1
	Total	90	100

Source: Primary Data (computed)

Fig. 4.12 Most Used Social Media for posting content used media format for posting content

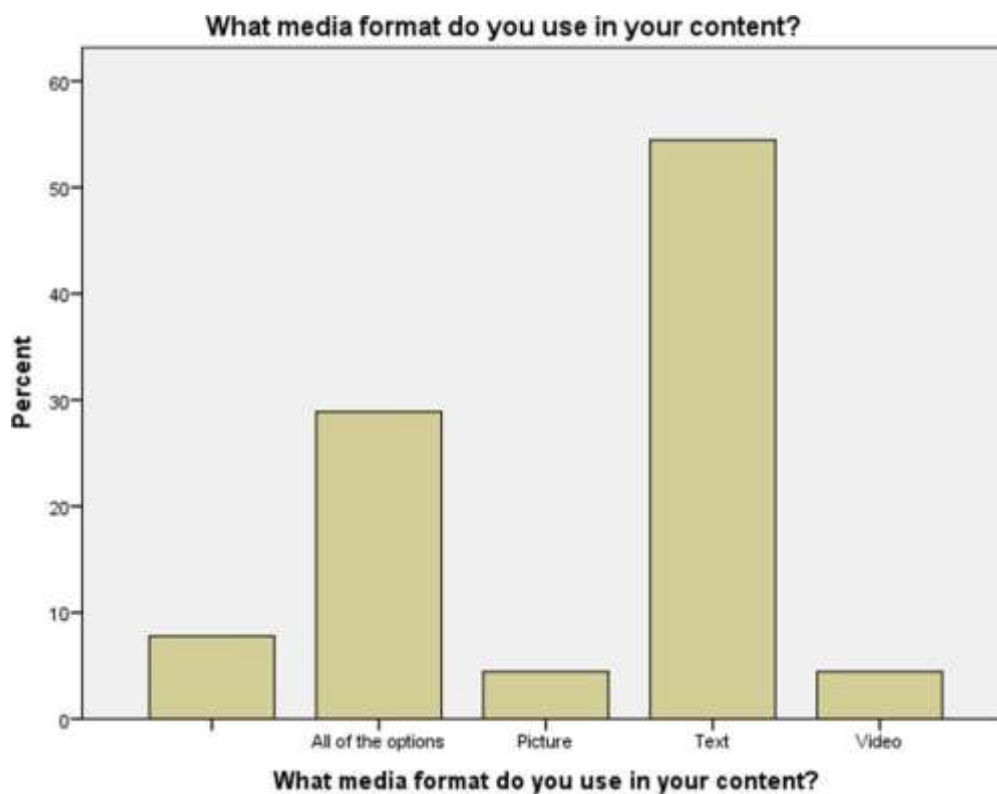
The respondents were asked what their most common format for posting content on social media was. As seen in Table 4.13, 49 of the respondents (54.4%) use text the most, and 26 of the respondents (28.9%) use all of the options given, that is, text, picture, and video. 4 of the respondents (4.4%) use pictures the most, while 4 of the respondents (4.4%) use video the most. 7 of the respondents (7.8%) didn't answer the question.

Table 4.13 Most used media format for posting content

Sl. No.	Media Format	Frequency	Percent
1	Text	49	54.4
2	All of the options	26	28.9
3	No response	7	7.8
4	Picture	4	4.4
5	Video	4	4.4
	Total	90	100

Source: Primary Data (computed)

Fig. 4.13 Most used media format for posting content



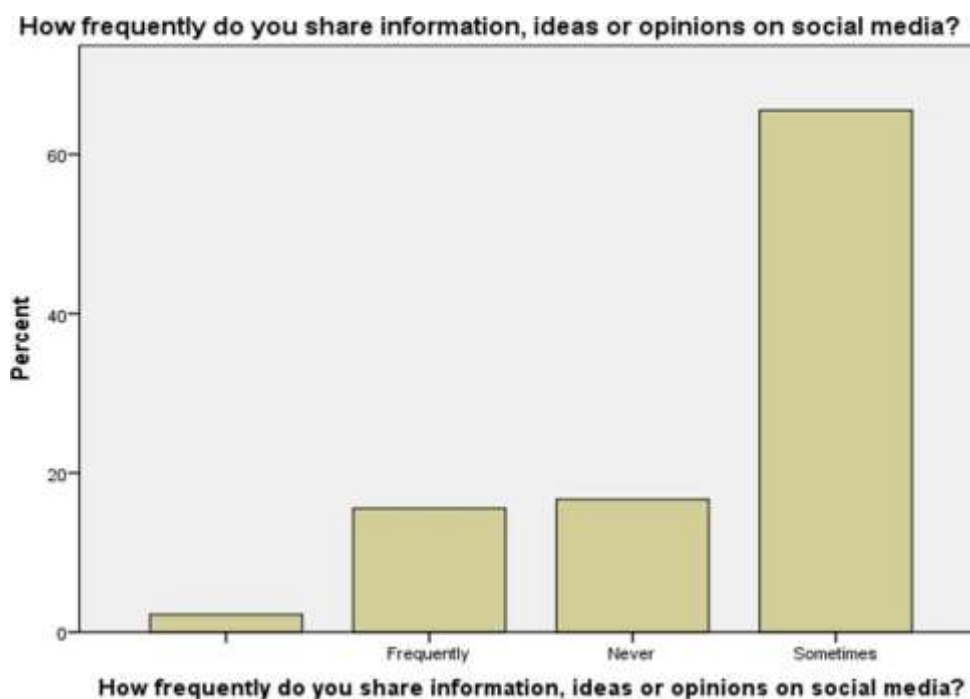
4.4.2 Sharing on social media

The respondents are asked how frequently information, ideas, or opinions are shared on social media by them. As shown by table 4.14, 59 of the respondents (65.6%) answered 'Sometimes', 15 of the respondents (16.7%) answered 'Never', and 14 of the respondents (15.6%) answered 'Frequently'. Two of the respondents did not answer the question.

Table 4.14 Sharing on Social Media

Sl. No.	Response	Frequency	Percent
1	Sometimes	59	65.6
2	Never	15	16.7
3	Frequently	14	15.6
4	No response	2	2.2
	Total	90	100

Source: Primary Data (computed)

Fig. 4.14 Sharing on Social Media

4.4.3 Whether prior verification is done before posting content or not

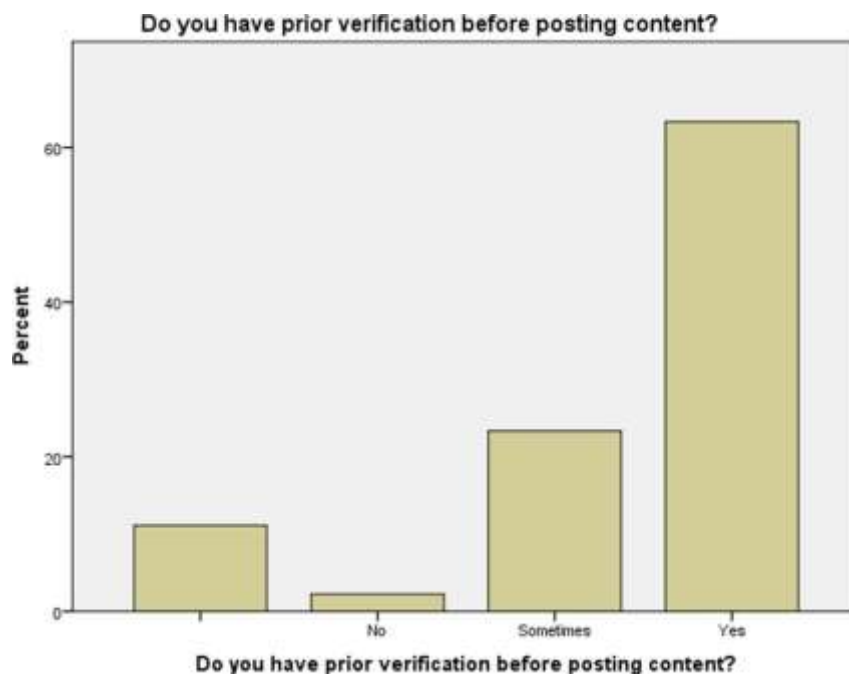
The respondents are asked whether prior verification is done before posting content or not. 57 of the respondents (63.3%) answered ‘Yes’, followed by 21 of the respondents (23.3%) who answered ‘Sometimes’ and 2 of the respondents (2.2%) who answered ‘No’. 10 respondents did not answer the question.

Table 4.15 Whether prior verification is done before posting content or not

Sl. No.	Response	Frequency	Percent
1	Yes	57	63.3
2	Sometimes	21	23.3
3	No response	10	11.1
4	No	2	2.2
	Total	90	100

Source: Primary Data (computed)

Fig. 4.15 Whether prior verification is done before posting content or not



4.4.4 If the respondents are willing to have professional training on journalism

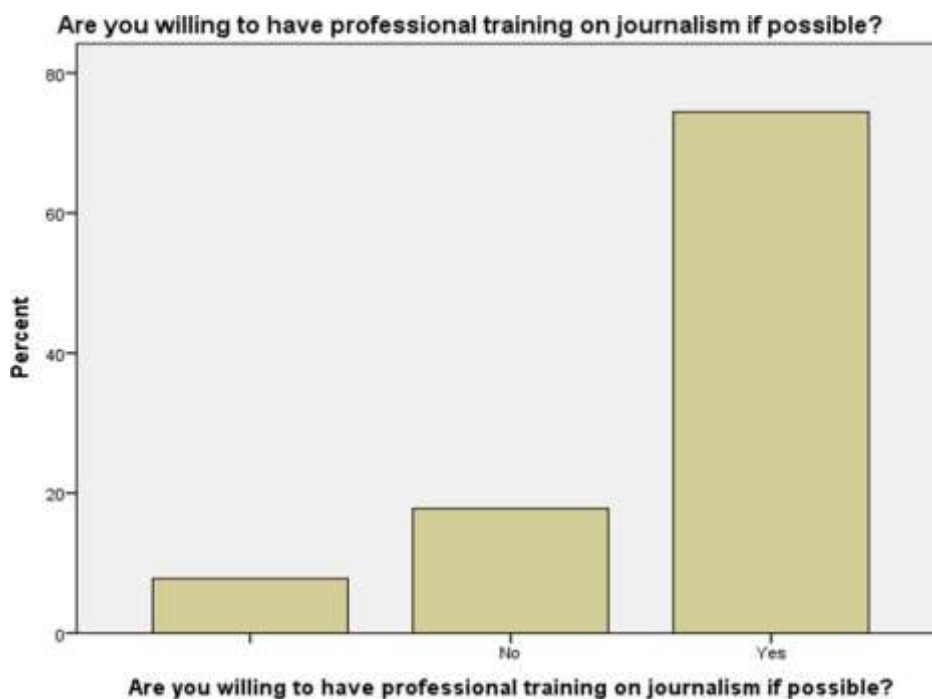
The respondents were asked if they were willing to have professional training in journalism if possible. As seen in Table 4.16, 67 of the respondents (74.4%) said 'Yes', 16 of the respondents (17.8%) said 'No', and 7 of the respondents preferred not to answer the question.

Table 4.16 If the respondents are willing to have professional training on journalism

Sl. No.	Response	Frequency	Percent
1	Yes	67	74.4
2	No	16	17.8
3	No response	7	7.8
	Total	90	100

Source: Primary Data (computed)

Fig. 4.16 If the respondents are willing to have professional training on journalism



4.4.5 Whether they are active in posting news on social media on socio-political issues

The respondents were asked if they were active in posting news on social media during socio-political issues like, for example, Mizoram and Assam border issues. As shown in Table 4.17, 39 of the respondents (43.3%) answered

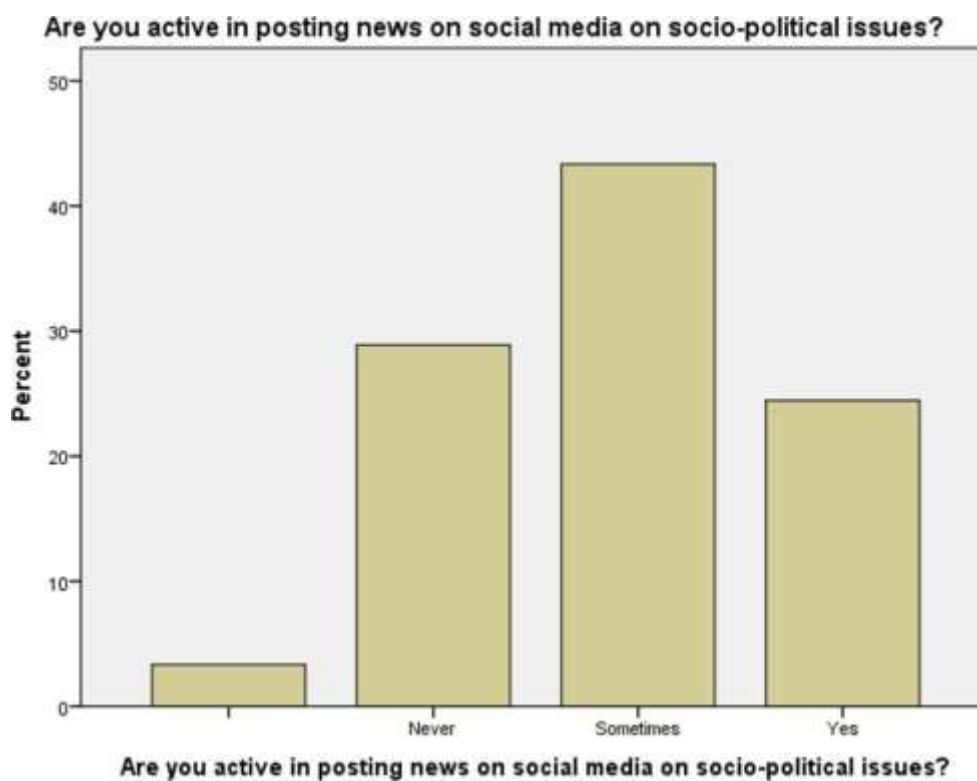
'Sometimes', 26 of the respondents (28.9%) answered 'Never', 22 of the respondents (24.4%) answered 'Yes', and 3 of the respondents did not answer the question.

Table 4.17 Whether they are active in posting news on social media on socio-political issues

Sl. No.	Response	Frequency	Percent
1	Sometimes	39	43.3
2	Never	26	28.9
3	Yes	22	24.4
4	No response	3	3.3
	Total	90	100

Source: Primary Data (computed)

Fig. 4.17 Whether they are active in posting news on social media on socio-political issues



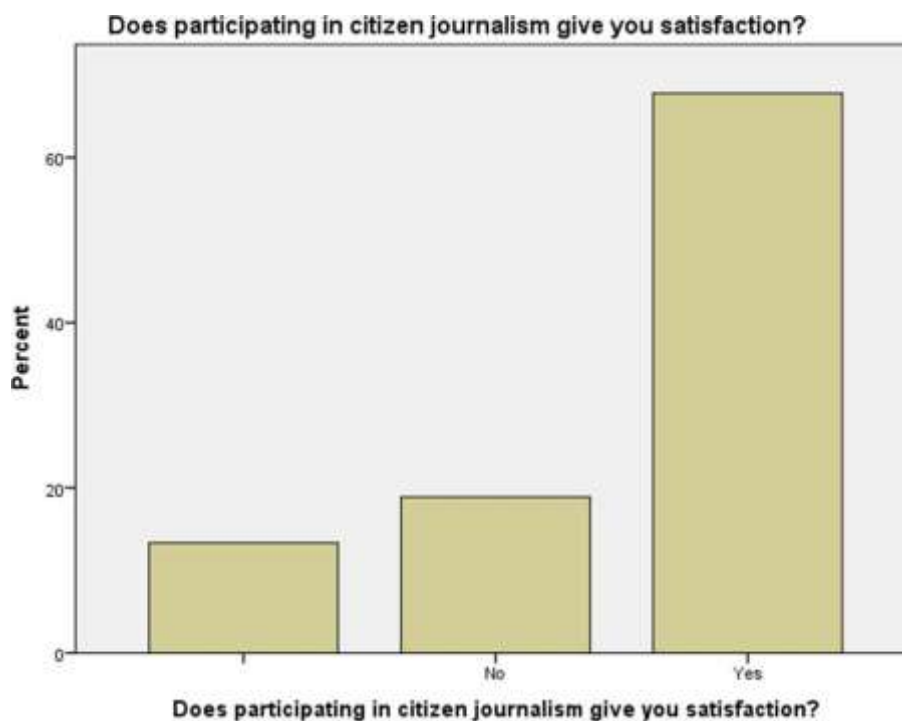
4.4.6 Does participating in citizen journalism give you satisfaction?

The respondents were asked if participating in citizen journalism gives them satisfaction or not. According to Table 4.18, 61 of the respondents (67.8%) said 'Yes', 17 of the respondents (18.9%) said 'No', and 12 of the respondents (13.3%) did not answer the question.

Table 4.18 Does participating in citizen journalism give you satisfaction?

Sl. No.	Response	Frequency	Percent
1	Yes	61	67.8
2	No	17	18.9
3	No response	12	13.3
	Total	90	100

Source: Primary Data (computed)

Fig. 4.18 Does participating in citizen journalism give you satisfaction?

4.4.7 What makes citizen journalists post news

The respondents are asked to answer open-ended questions on how they decide the news they are about to post is newsworthy. One of the biggest reasons they mentioned is to educate people and improve their knowledge; they also stated that they do not post news if they believe it is of little importance to the public. They also stated that they want others to benefit from what they write. They stated that they wanted to post the truth and that they frequently verified their stories as needed. Some of them stated that if they are unsure whether the news they are receiving is accurate, they do not post it.

Some of them also stated that because journalism is not their profession, they do not undertake fact-checking and that the reason for this is a lack of resources. Some of them stated that they used Google to confirm and research the topic they were writing about. They stated that they do not write about stuff they find on the internet if they are not confident in it. Some claim that they solely post articles found in newspapers.

Some others stated that they only get reliable news from social media. Some of them stated that they used to only submit articles of opinion since they believed that reporting hard news required too much verification. Some of them stated that they seek to influence people based on their ideology and beliefs. Some of them stated that it is a fantastic chance and a fantastic platform for spreading the gospel, and that their content is primarily religious, specifically related to Christianity.

Some respondents stated that they develop confidence by putting things on social media on a regular basis. Some citizen journalists claim that they only post things or themes that they find entertaining, rather than news. Some said that they were just forwarding contents they found from other sources without having their own exclusive content. Some of them stated that TV and radio were their primary sources. A few individuals stated that they read more on social media than they post. A few stated that they wish to promote both soft news culture and popular culture on social media. Some claimed that because they had discovered so many inaccurate and false

news stories in the mainstream media outside Mizoram, particularly in socio-religious matters, they wanted to let the people outside Mizoram know the truth.

4.5 Fake news and misinformation

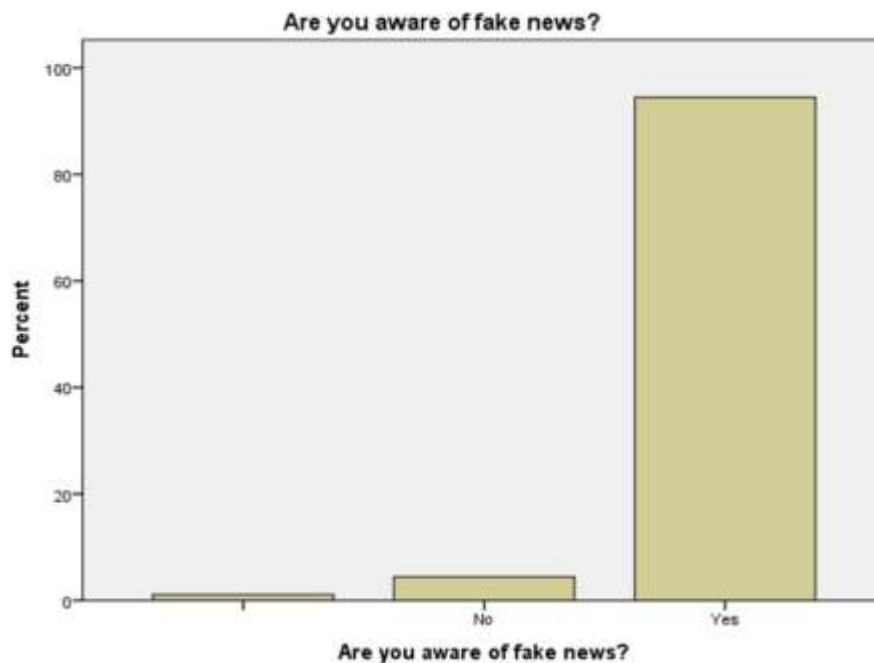
4.5.1 Fake News Awareness

The respondents were asked if they were aware of fake news or not. As shown in table 4.19, 85 of the respondents (94.4%) said ‘_Yes’ and 4 of the respondents (4.4%) said ‘_No’. One of the respondents did not answer.

Table 4.19 Fake News Awareness of the respondents

Sl. No.	Response	Frequency	Percent
1	Yes	85	94.4
2	No	4	4.4
3	No response	1	1.1
	Total	90	100

Source: Primary Data (computed)

Fig. 4.19 Fake News Awareness of the respondents

4.5.2 Whether they share fake news as real news and later realize it is fake news

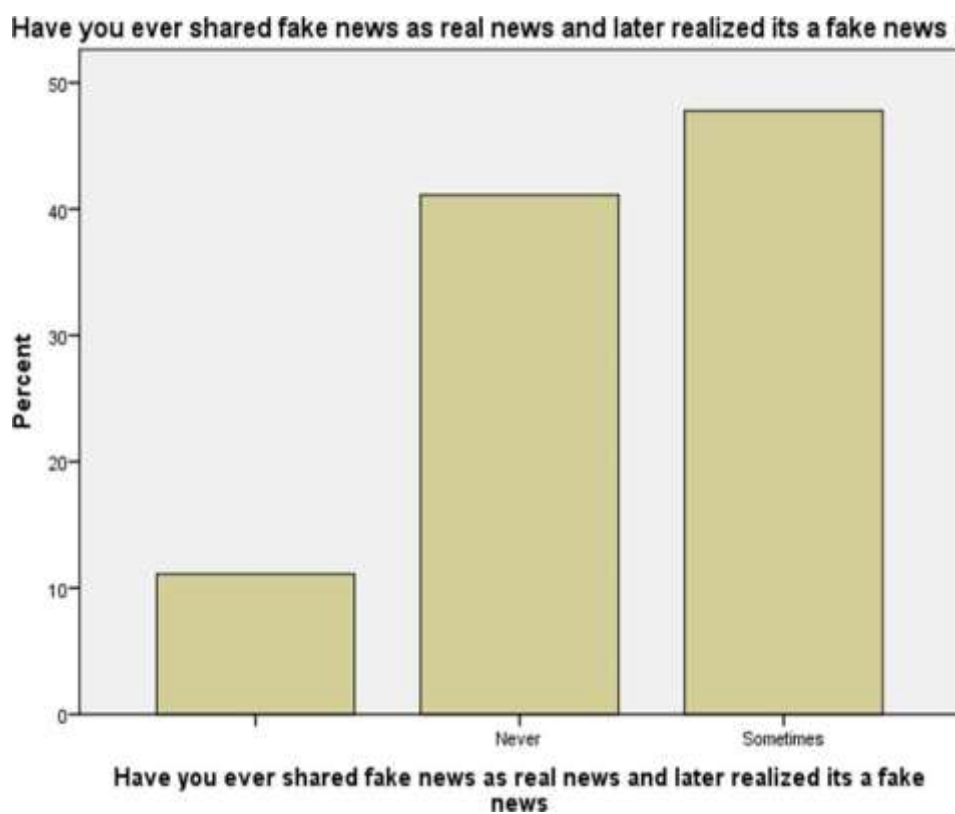
The respondents were asked if they ever shared fake news as real news and later realise it is fake news. As shown in table 4.20, 43 of the respondents (47.8%) said ‘Sometimes’, 37 of the respondents (41.1%) said ‘Never’, and 10 of the respondents did not answer.

Table 4.20 Whether they fake news as real news and later realized it is fake news

Sl. No.	Response	Frequency	Percent
1	Sometimes	43	47.8
2	Never	37	41.1
3	No answer	10	11.1
4	Frequently	0	0
	Total	90	100

Source: Primary Data (computed)

Fig. 4.20 Whether they fake news as real news and later realized it is fake news



4.5.3 Whether they remove any post after finding out it is fake news

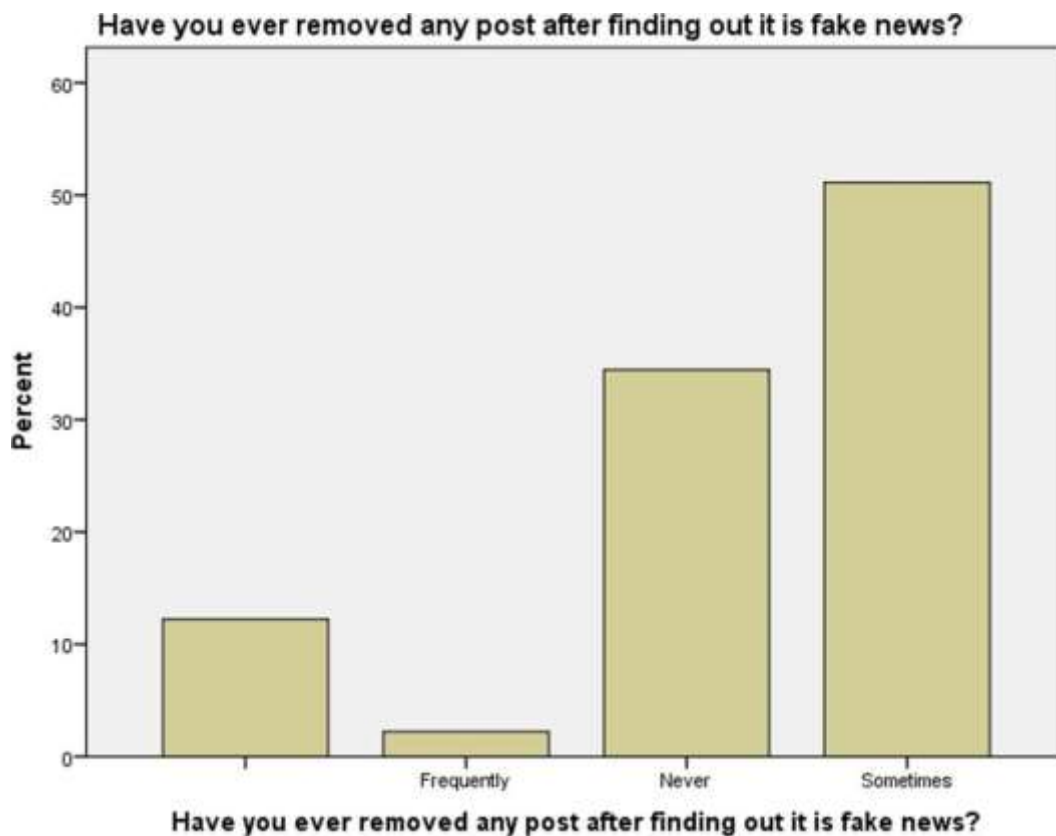
The respondents were asked whether they used to remove any post after finding out it was fake news. As shown in Table 4.21, 46 respondents (51.1%) answered ‘Sometimes’ while 31 of the respondents (34.4%) answered ‘Never’. 2 of the respondents (2.2%) answered ‘Frequently’. 11 of the respondents (12.2%) did not answer the question.

Table 4.21 Whether they remove any post after finding out it is fake news

Sl. No.	Response	Frequency	Percent
1	Sometimes	46	51.1
2	Never	31	34.4
3	No response	11	12.2
4	Frequently	2	2.2
	Total	90	100

Source: Primary Data (computed)

Fig. 4.21 Whether they remove any post after finding out it is fake news



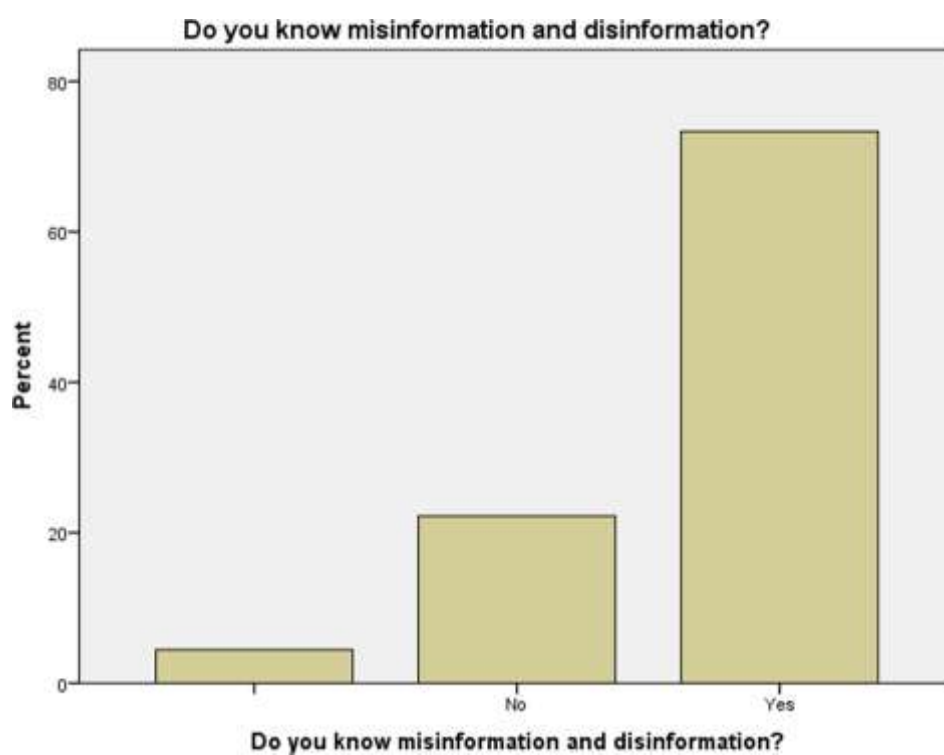
4.5.4 Knowledge of misinformation and disinformation

The respondents were asked whether they knew misinformation and disinformation. As shown in table 4.22, 66 of the respondents (73.3%) answered ‘Yes’ while 20 of the respondents (22.2%) answered ‘No’. 4 of the respondents did not answer the question.

Table 4.22 Knowledge of misinformation and disinformation

Sl. No.	Response	Frequency	Percent
1	Yes	66	73.3
2	No	20	22.2
3	No response	4	4.4
	Total	90	100

Source: Primary Data (computed)

Fig. 4.22 Knowledge of misinformation and disinformation

4.5.5 Knowledge of fake news debunking technique

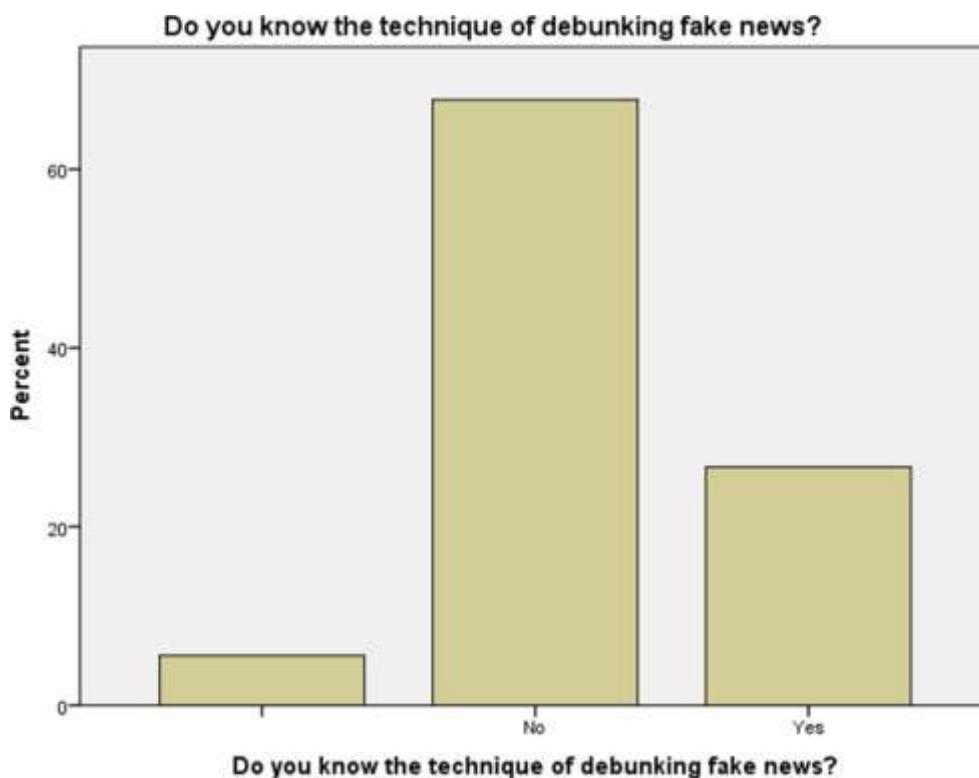
The respondents were asked whether they knew the technique of debunking fake news. As shown in Table 4.23, 61 of the respondents (67.8%) answered 'no', while 24 of the respondents (26.7%) responded 'yes'. 5 of the respondents did not answer the question.

Table 4.23 Knowledge of fake news debunking technique

Sl. No.	Response	Frequency	Percent
1	No	61	67.8
2	Yes	24	26.7
3	No response	5	5.6
	Total	90	100

Source: Primary Data (computed)

Fig. 4.23 Knowledge of fake news debunking technique



4.5.6 Perception if traditional mediums are becoming irrelevant with the emergence of online journalism

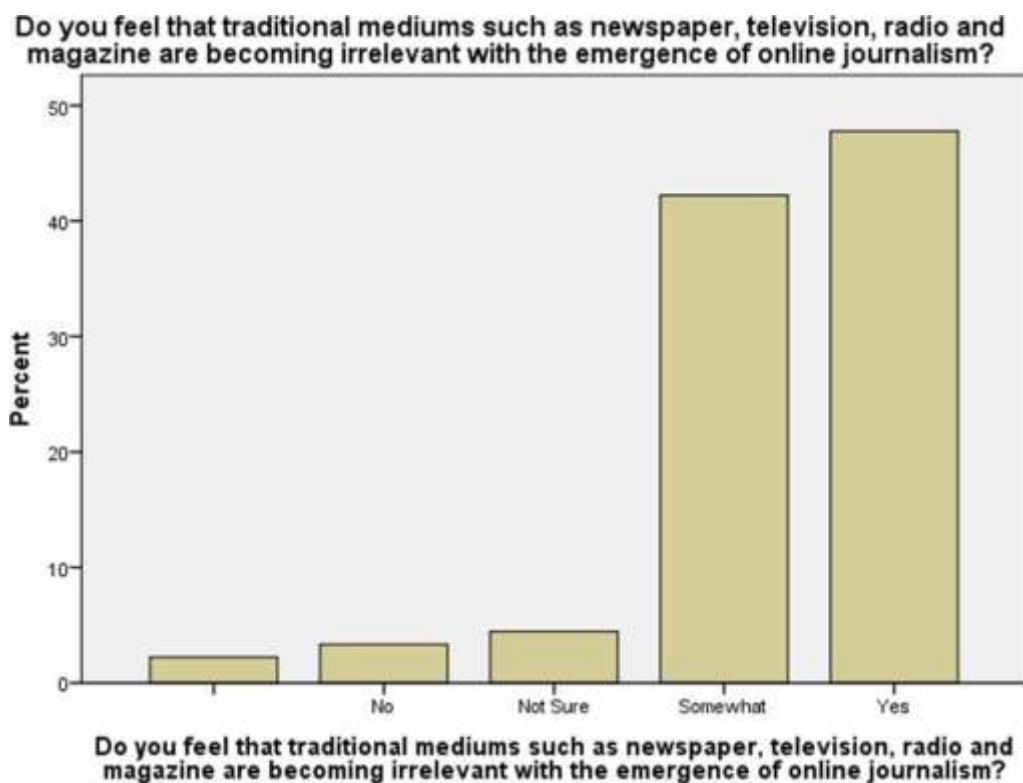
The respondents were asked whether they think traditional media like newspapers, television, radio, and magazines are becoming irrelevant with the emergence of online journalism. 43 of the respondents (47.8%) answered 'Yes' while 38 of the respondents (42.2%) answered 'Somewhat'. 4 of the respondents answered 'Not Sure' while 3 respondents (3.3%) answered 'No'. Two of the respondents did not answer the question.

Table 4.24 Perception if traditional mediums are becoming irrelevant with the emergence of online journalism

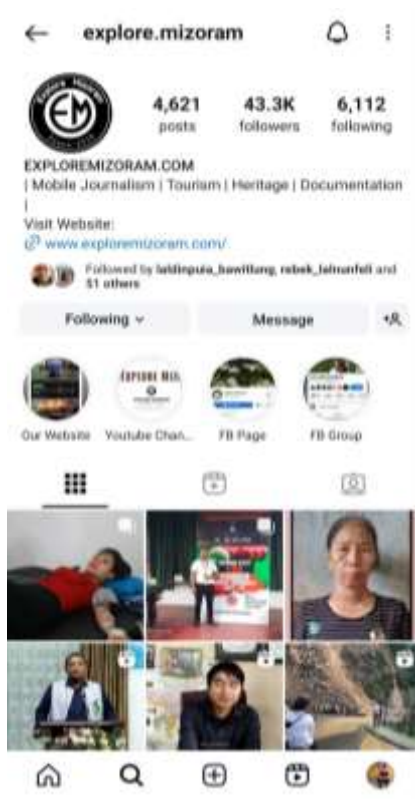
Sl. No.	Response	Frequency	Percent
1	Yes	43	47.8
2	Somewhat	38	42.2
3	Not Sure	4	4.4
4	No	3	3.3
5	No response	2	2.2
	Total	90	100

Source: Primary Data (computed)

Fig. 4.24 Perception if traditional mediums are becoming irrelevant with the emergence of online journalism



4.6 Mapping of Contents of Citizen Journalists in Mizoram



4.6.1 Instagram

For Instagram, an account named Explore Mizoram is selected for content analysis. Content posted during one week, that is, seven days, was collected as shown in Table 4.25.

Table 4.25 Data of Instagram

Sl. No	Caption	Type	likes count	comments count	Format
1	CYMA in Tripura a awm Bru te Mizoram Electoral Roll atanga paih hna chak taka kalpui turin ECI ngem	News	124	0	Picture
2	Aizawl video by @sunny_cck_nutei	Street View	929	0	Reel
3	Central YMA in dawr kharsak zinga 26 te hawn phalsak tawh!	News	158	0	Picture
4	IIRF Ranking 2023: Central University tha 13-naah Mizoram University	News	274	0	Picture
5	Union Minister of State Meenakshi Lekhi- in Mamit tlawh	News	260	0	Picture
6	Treasury Bus Stand, Aizawl	Street View	680	0	Reel
7	Sawrkarin raltlan zirlaite sikul-ah admit turin ngen	News	381	0	Picture
8	MZP-in raltlan zirlaite'n zirna an chhonzawm theih nan thuneitu sawipui	News	237	0	Picture
9	Contact of Nursing Institute - Mizoram Admission	Advertisement	4395	19	Picture
10	PHOTO Photo Shoot with Tluangtluangi	Model Photo	1027	5	Picture

	Hrahsel				
11	Ka tan hian aw i hlu a ni	Viral video/picture	1246	1	Reel
12	Mizoram MMA Team fehchhuak an hlawhtling	News	318	0	Picture
13	MPCC Treasurer bang ta Zodintluang General Secretary atan ruat!	News	1015	6	Picture
14	He thlalak hi thlalak hlu tak a ni tawh ang em?	Viral video/picture	7239	82	Picture
15	NEICCYA Conference vawi 19-na Durtlang-a neih mek zaninah tiak dawn	News	425	0	Picture
16	CM-in HSLC 2023 Topper lawmpuina hlan; Raltlante an awmnaah tlawh	News	4989	13	Picture
17	Hmeichhiate dinhmun chawisan, remna leh muanna atana Thirsakawr hmanga India ram fan chhuah tumin sorkar hotute hmu	News	541	1	Picture
18	Central YMA in dan lova hnam dang nena sumdawwna kalpui - Iron rod & cement dawrte khar tir!	News	625	2	Picture
19	She's a 10 but keep it 100!	Model Photo	16783	159	Picture
20	Kan vul dun dawn nia...@youngfella_felfela @wpa.su_official @womenpolytechnic_aizawl	Viral video/picture	2582	10	Reel
21	It's a love story baby, just say yes @lalruatpui.i	Viral video/picture	1879	7	Reel

22	Miss WPA 2022 Final Walk	Viral video/picture	938	2	Reel
23	MBSE in HSSLC 2023 result tichhuak; Vanlaldika'n mark hmu sang ber	News	863	0	Picture
24	Nimin May 18 khan zaithiam PC Vanlalhriati chuan pasal a nei	News	5596	85	Reel
25	Tualthattua puh inpuang tawh!	News	1016	8	Picture
26	Vawiihah pawl 12 result chhuak dawn! Result en theihna leh en dan kan dah tel e	News	879	3	Picture
27	Zawlnuam, Mamit district	Street View	763	4	Reel
28	YMA Mission Vengthlang branch in tualthattu demna pungkhawm huaihawt	News	2876	14	Picture

29	Miss Mizoram Thanthanin khiang a awi ta e	News	10462	23	Picture
30	MZP in HSLC top 10-a Mizo tlingte chawimawi	News	1367	1	Picture
31	NGO hruaituten Manipur buaina avanga Zofate tawrhna chungchangah sorkar laipui dawr	News	382	0	Picture
32	May ni 19-ah HSSLC result tichhuak dawn	News	1300	6	Picture
33	Dengue Day 2023 - Dengue lakah hian a inven theih	News	201	0	Picture

(Source : Primary data)

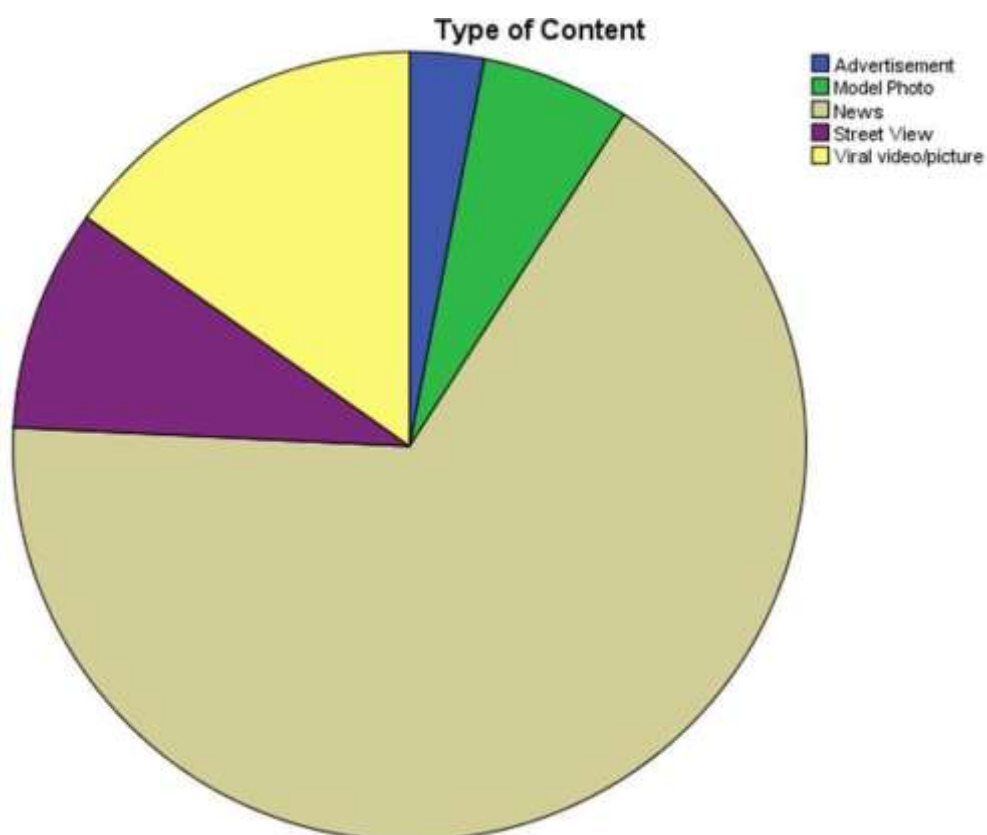
4.6.1.2 Types of Instagram Content

All 33 contents analysed during one week can be divided into five types or categories of content. As shown in Table 4.26, the majority of the content, that is, 22 of the contents (66.7%) fall under 'News', 5 of the contents (15.2%) fall under 'Viral video/picture', 3 of the contents (9.1%) fall under 'Street View', 2 of the contents (6.1%) fall under 'Model Photo', and 1 content (3%) is an advertisement. Figure 1 also shows the distribution of the content types.

Table 4.26 Types of Instagram content

Sl No.	Content Type	Frequency	Percent
1	News	22	66.7
2	Viral video/picture	5	15.2
3	Street View	3	9.1
4	Model Photo	2	6.1
5	Advertisement	1	3
	Total	33	100

Source: Primary Data (computed)

Fig 4.25. Types of Instagram content

4.6.1.3 Types of Instagram content format

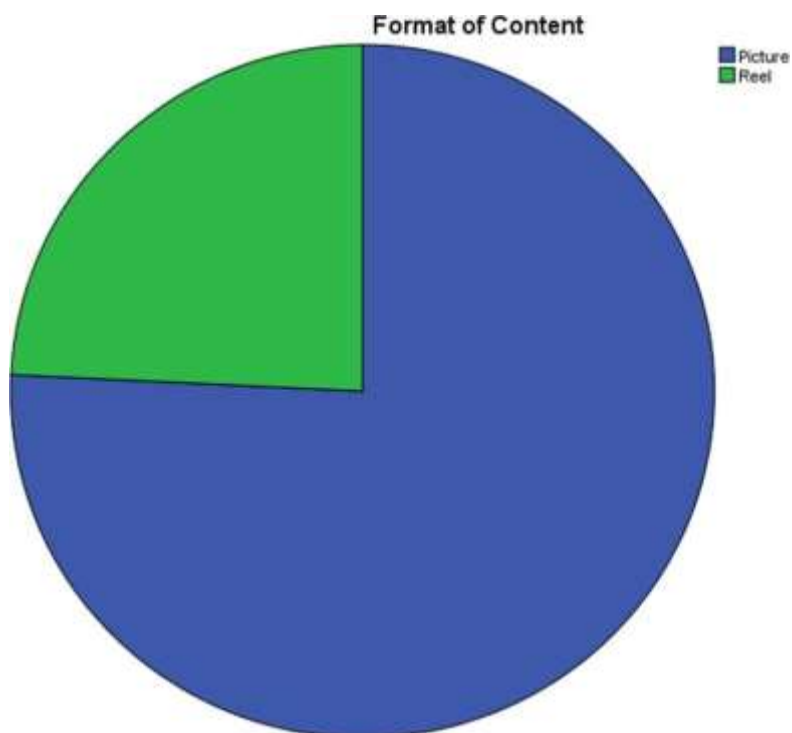
There are two types of content formats on the Instagram account studied. As shown in Table 4.27, 25 of the 33 contents (75.8%) are pictures, and 8 of the contents (24.2%) are reels (video). The distribution of the two content formats is also highlighted in Figure 2.

Table 4.27 Types of Instagram content format

SI No.	Format	Frequency	Percent
1	Picture	25	75.8
2	Reel	8	24.2
	Total	33	100

Source: Primary Data (computed)

Fig. 4.26 Types of Instagram content format



4.6.1.4 Statistics of reactions on Instagram

As shown in Table 4.28, the average number of likes is 2204.55, and the average number of comments is 13.67.

Table 4.28 Statistics of reactions on Instagram

		Reaction - Likes	Reaction - Comments
N	Valid	33	33
	Missing	0	0
Mean		2204.55	13.67
Std. Deviation		3496.44	32.91

Source: Primary Data (computed)

4.6.2 Youtube

Table 4.29 shows the one-week content studied for Instagram. The Instagram account studied is Mizo Official Channel, and this account has 4,53,000 subscribers. The channel was started on May 15, 2020, and it has 1200 videos. The number of views since they started is 9,42,97,270.

Table 4.29 YouTube Data

Sl. No	Date	Caption	Type of Content	Number of views	Number of Likes	Number of dislikes	Number of Comments	Length of Video (in mins)
1	07-05-2023	Joseph kan va hrethiam love, i fate mawlh hi, Naktuk i Programme neih tur hi engtin nge ni ta ang?	Entertainment	103115	6100	0	366	51:49:00
2	07-05-2023	T. Upa Tihpalh thilthuini piang lo!	Religious	14381	813	0	40	31:01:00
3	06-05-2023	Manupur Imphal lam Zofate dinhmun atha lo hle mai! Ei/Intur an tlachham. Chhantusorkar an au	News	50680	2900	0	264	13:30
4	06-05-2023	Manipur News Update : Manipur	News	108242	6600	0	713	30:47:00

5	05-05-2023	Mizoram mipuite tan chuan thu lungchhiat thlak a va ni si em! Court in PIL a hnawl tlat mai!	News	32180	1900	0	160	20:09
6	05-05-2023	Heile! Manipur buaina rapthlak tuar mek Zofate tan Mizoram a che chhuak dawn ta! News Update!	News	142149	8900	0	690	17:40
7	04-05-2023	Manipur Biak In tak ngial pawh an zuah ta lo!	News	83057	5000	0	433	14:31
8	04-05-2023	Pu Duhoma'n a bial a enkawl chungchang ah MNF in	News	24948	1500	0	1000	3:25
		thuruk an rawn puang chhuak ta rap mai!						
9	03-05-2023	ZPM-in an sawm sual chiah em? Video cut tawi phena thu dik zawk, full video chu hei le!	News	69444	2800	0	537	50:47:00

10	02-05-2023	T.Upa Lallungmua na thusawi frank tak mai hi! By-Election dawn a thil thleng kha! Tho rawh, etc	Religious	46996	2100	0	110	40:05:00
11	01-05-2023	ZPM a luh hnuah Tetea Hmar kan kawm e! A luh chhan zep a nei lem lo! Engtin zel?	Interview	94238	5800	0	735	42:13:00
12	01-05-2023	Tetea Hmar, ZPM-ah a lut ta! Pu Duhoma'n Tetea Hmar an lak luh vat loh chhan a sawi! + Tetea thusawi	Politics	67034	4800	0	540	20:11

Source: Primary Data

4.6.2.1 Types of content

Table 4.30 shows the types of content on the Mizoram Official Channel. 7 of the videos (58.3%) are news, followed by 2 religious videos (16.7%), one each (8.3%) for entertainment, interviews, and politics. This shows that the majority of the content is under News.

Table 4.30 Types of Content

Sl No.	Type of Content	Frequency	Percent
1	News	7	58.3
2	Religious	2	16.7
3	Entertainment	1	8.3
4	Interview	1	8.3
5	Politics	1	8.3
	Total	12	100.0

Source: Primary Data (computed)

4.6.2.2 Reactions

Table 4.31 shows the statistics of reactions to the YouTube content studied. The minimum number of views is 14,381, whereas the maximum number of views is 1,42,149. The mean (average) number of views is 69705.33, and the standard deviation is 38122.431. The minimum number of likes is 813, whereas the maximum number of likes is 8900. The mean (average) number of likes is 4101.08, and the standard deviation is 2468.241. There are no dislikes in all the videos studied. The minimum number of comments is 40, whereas the maximum number of comments is 1000. The mean (average) number of comments is 465.67, and the standard deviation is 291.229.

Table 4.31 Reactions

Sl. No.	Variable	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	SD
1	Number of Views	12	14381	142149	69705.33	38122.431
2	Number of 'Likes'	12	813	8900	4101.08	2468.241
3	Number of 'Dislikes'	12	0	0	0.00	0.000
4	Number of Comments	12	40	1000	465.67	291.229

Source: Primary Data (computed)

4.6.2.3 Sentiment Analysis

Comments on 10 YouTube videos from the Mizo Official Channel are generated using a tool called Netvizz. These comments, which are mostly in Mizoram, are translated using Google Translate, and the inaccurate translations were corrected manually. The comments for each of the ten videos were then saved in a csv file separately, and the sentiment scores of the text data (.csv) were analysed using a data mining tool called Orange. The following table shows the sentiment scores found in all these CSV files.

Table 4.32 Sentiment Scores

Sl. No.	Name	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Compound
1	CSV1	0.238	0.095	0.667	1
2	CSV2	0.219	0.129	0.652	1
3	CSV3	0.208	0.084	0.708	0.9998
4	CSV4	0.163	0.083	0.753	1
5	CSV5	0.124	0.128	0.748	0.9998
6	CSV6	0.134	0.125	0.742	0.9995
7	CSV7	0.102	0.115	0.783	-0.9972
8	CSV8	0.132	0.109	0.759	0.9991
9	CSV9	0.106	0.111	0.783	0.9937
10	CSV10	0.095	0.112	0.793	-0.9869

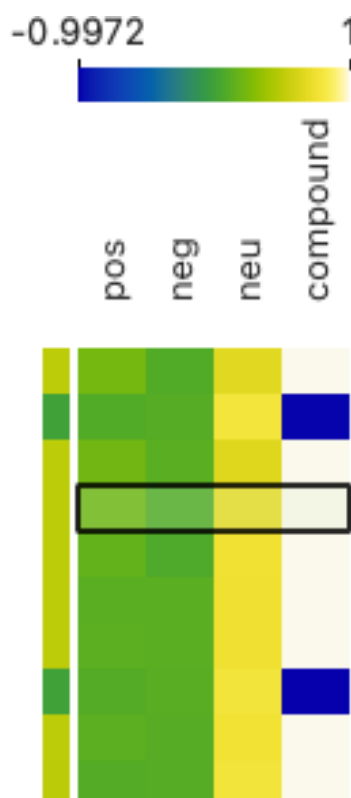
Source: Primary Data (computed)

The above scores show the emotional tone of the textual data and show the positive, negative, neutral, and compound sentiment scores. The compound score gives the overall score by combining the positive, negative, and neutral sentiments. If the value is close to 1, then this indicates positive content, while values close to -1 show that it is very negative content. Values around 0 show that it has mixed sentiments. The compound scores show that CSV files such as CSV1, CSV2, CSV3,

CSV4, CSV5, CSV6, CSV8, and CSV9 have high compound scores close to or equal to 1.

This shows that the comments in these particular files are highly positive. CSV7 and CSV10 with a compound score significantly below 0 also show that the comments in these two files are highly negative. There are no files that have a compound score close to 0.5, which indicates that there is a balanced mix of positive and negative sentiments. From these analyses, it is found that most of the comments have positive sentiments. This is also shown in the heat map generated from the Orange Data Mining Tool in the figure.

Figure 4.27 Sentiment Heat Map of Youtube comments



4.6.3 Facebook

One-week content is studied for Facebook. The Facebook account studied is Mizo Special Report, which was created on January 21, 2015, with the goal of educating the Mizo people and offering news-based and other important content for the Mizo society. The majority of the contents are written in Mizo. With 3,73,000 members as of now, the Facebook group is public to all users, but its creators and contents are restricted to group members only because it is configured as a private group.

4.6.3.1 Types of Facebook Content

Table 4.33 shows the type of Facebook contents. According to this table, there are 35 news contents, that is 38.9%; 34 opinion content, that is 37.8%; 6 feature

contents, that is 6.7%; 6 sermons, that is 6.7%; 5 lost and found, that is 5.6%; 2 advertisements, that is 2.2%; one content each for charity and notification for group members, that is 1.1% for both.

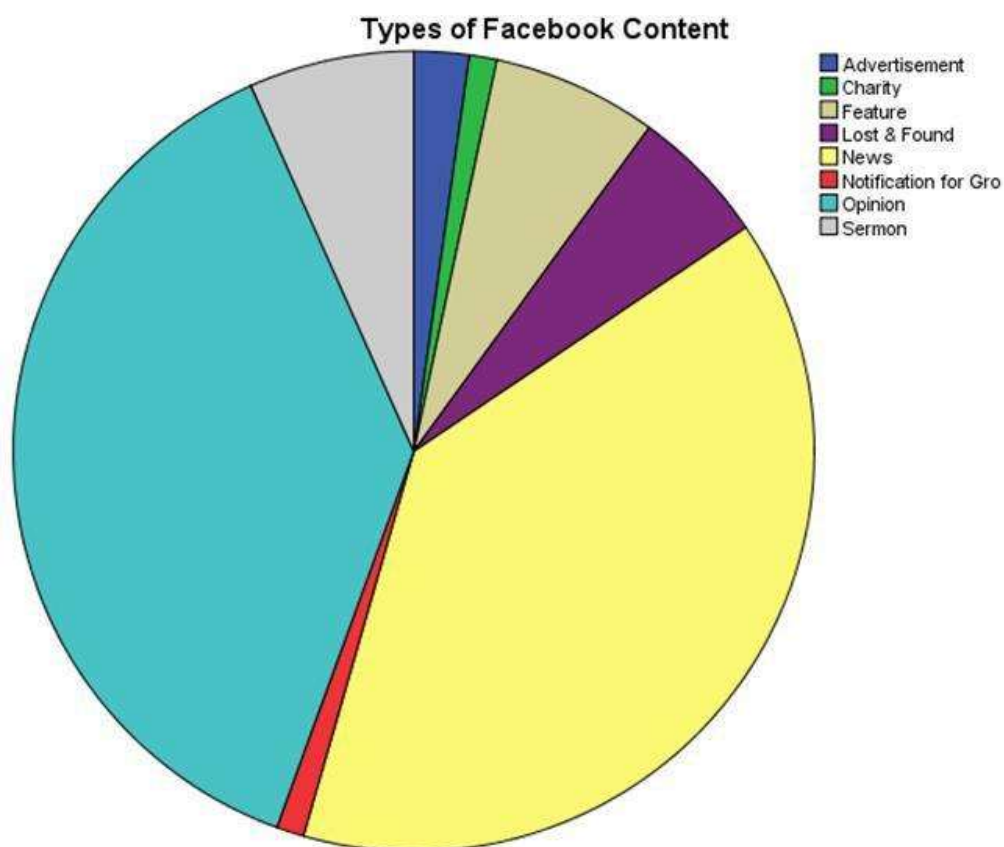
Table 4.33 Types of Facebook Content

Sl. No.	Types	Frequency	Percent
1	News	35	38.9
2	Opinion	34	37.8
3	Feature	6	6.7
4	Sermon	6	6.7
5	Lost & Found	5	5.6
6	Advertisement	2	2.2

7	Charity	1	1.1
8	Notification for Group Members	1	1.1
	Total	90	100.0

Source: Primary Data (computed)

Fig. 4.28. Types of Facebook Content



4.6.3.2 Format of Facebook Contents

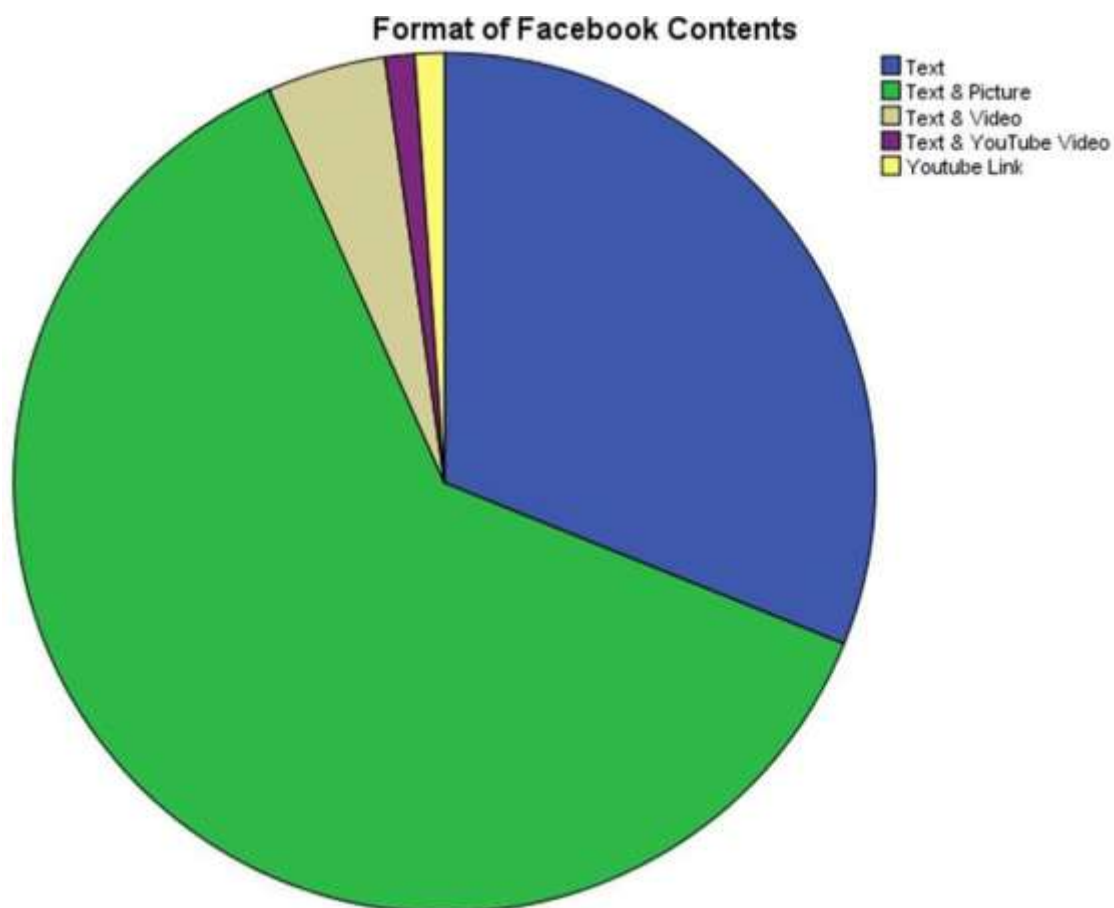
Table 4.34 shows the format of Facebook contents. There are 56 'Text & Picture', that is 62.2%; 28 'Text', that is 31.1%; 4 'Text and Video', that is 4.4%; one each for 'Text and YouTube Link' and 'YouTube Link', that is 1.1% each. The following figure also shows the format of Facebook contents.

Table 4.34 Format of Facebook Contents

Sl. No.	Format	Frequency	Percent
1	Text & Picture	56	62.2
2	Text	28	31.1
3	Text & Video	4	4.4
4	Text & YouTube Link	1	1.1
5	Youtube Link	1	1.1
	Total	90	100.0

Source: Primary Data (computed)

Fig. 4.29 Format of Facebook Contents



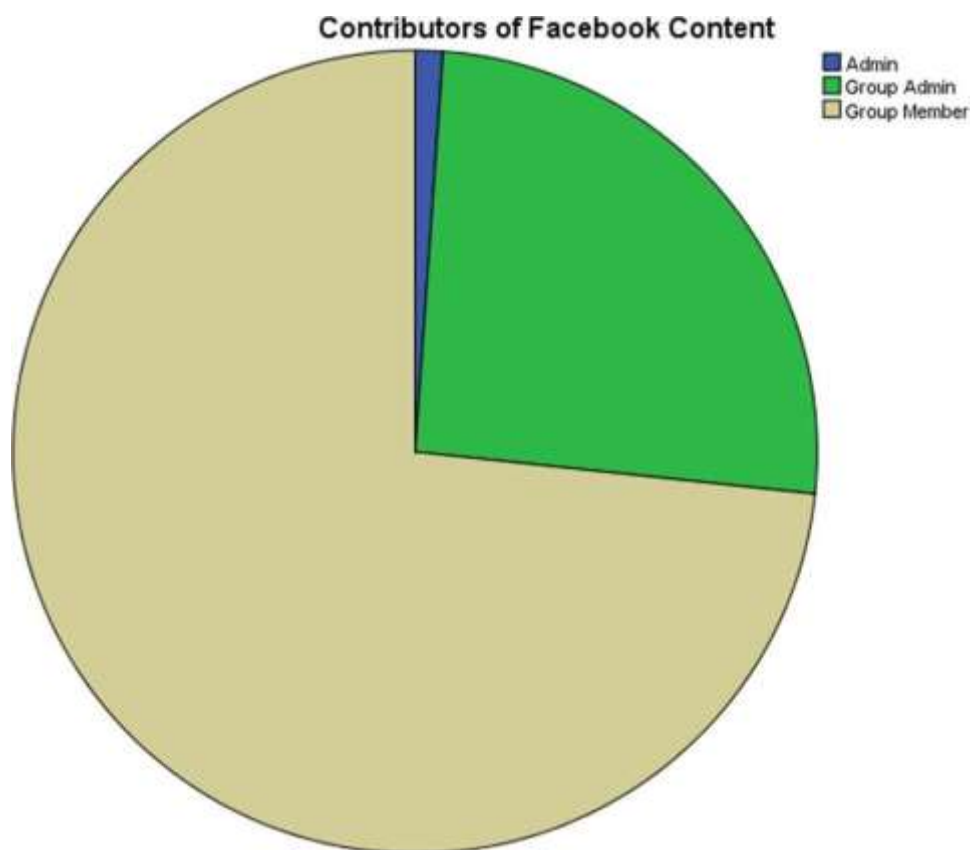
4.6.3.3 Contributors of Facebook Content

Table 4.35 shows the contributors to Facebook content. From all the 90 posts studied during one week, 66 were contributed by group members, or 73.3% of the contents. 24 contents were contributed by group admin, or 26.7%. The following figure also shows the contributors to Facebook content.

Table 4.35 Contributors of Facebook Content

Sl. No.	Contributor	Frequency	Percent
1	Group Member	66	73.3
2	Group Admin	24	26.7
	Total	90	100.0

Source: Primary Data (computed)

Fig. 4.30 Contributors of Facebook Content

4.6.3.4 Descriptive Statistics of Likes and Comments

The following table 4.3.6 shows the descriptive statistics of likes and comments on the Facebook account. The minimum number of likes is 10, and the maximum number of likes is 6,700. The mean of the scores is 1015.87, and the standard deviation is 1426.520.

The minimum number of comments is 0, and the maximum number of comments is 1200. The mean of the comments is 129.54, and the standard deviation of the comments is 196.749.

Table 4.36 Descriptive Statistics of Likes and Comments

Sl. No.	Variables	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	SD
1	Likes Count of Facebook Contents	90	10	6700	1015.87	1426.520
2	Comments Count of Facebook Contents	90	0	1200	129.54	196.749

4.6.3.5 Descriptive Statistics of Daily Posts

The following table 4.37 shows the descriptive statistics of daily posts during the 7 days on the Facebook account studied. The minimum post in a day during these 7 days is 8, and the maximum is 17. The mean of the daily posts is 12.86, and the standard deviation is 3.185.

Table 4.37 Descriptive Statistics of Daily Posts

Sl. No.	Variable	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
1	Number of Daily Posts	7	8	17	12.86	3.185

In conclusion, this chapter shows the present state of citizen journalists in Mizoram and also finds out the status of citizen journalism by analysing the contents.

CHAPTER V

**NEWS CONSUMPTION AND PREFERENCES OF AUDIENCES IN
MIZORAM**

5.1 Introduction

The media habits and media-using behavior of the people of Mizoram are explored in this chapter. The news consumption habits of Mizoram residents, as well as their preferred news sources, are studied here. With the rise of cellphones and social media, it is clear that citizen journalism is becoming more and more popular, and by sharing news and information on various social media platforms, there are a large number of people who are engaged in citizen journalism.

There are people who regularly post news and information on social media sites like Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, YouTube, and others, even in Mizoram. It turns out that for those who carry smartphones in the palm of their hands, these social media sites are among the major news sources. For the public, traditional media continues to be one of the most trustworthy sources of news. This chapter discusses how Mizoram residents from all 11 districts consume news and what platforms they prefer as a news source.

Both traditional and citizen journalism coexist, and this chapter will provide a genuine understanding of the news aspects that Mizoram residents like as well as the platforms that they utilise most frequently for news sources by analysing their news consumption patterns. The data is collected using closed-ended questionnaires to provide more in-depth quantitative data. This chapter addresses objective 5, that is, to analyse how audiences consume news and how they respond to traditional print journalism versus citizen journalism.

5.2 Background of the respondents

5.2.1. Gender classification of the respondents

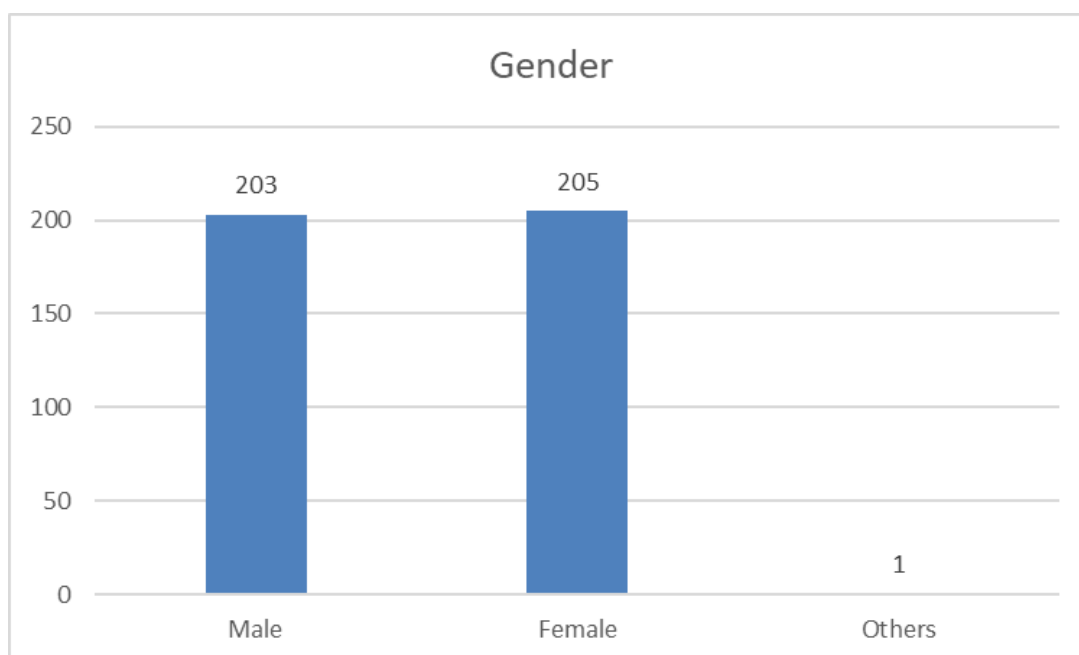
The following Table 1 shows the genders of the respondents. Of the 409 respondents, 203 are male, 205 are female, and 1 is other. The percentages of males, females, and others are 49.6%, 50.1%, and 0.2%, respectively.

Table 5.1 Gender classification of the respondents

Sl. No.	Gender	Frequency	Percent
1	Male	203	49.6
2	Female	205	50.1
3	Others	1	0.2
	Total	409	100

Source: Primary data (computed)

Figure 5.1 Gender Classification of the respondents



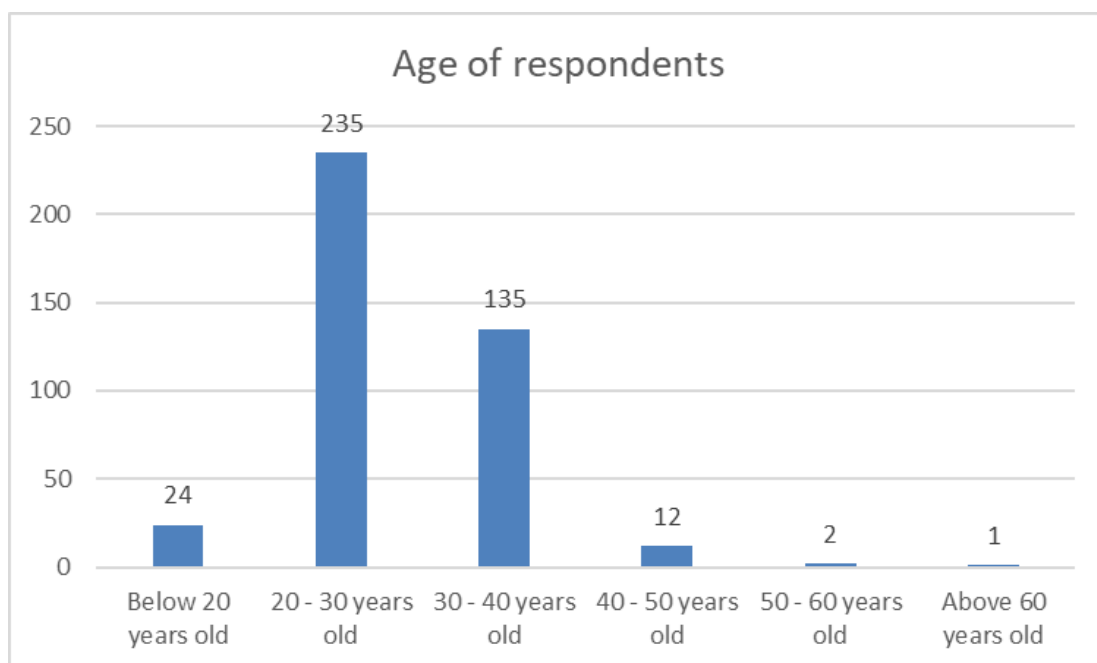
5.2.2 Age of the respondents

As shown in table 5.2, among the 409 respondents, 24 (5.9%) are below 20 years old, 235 (57.5%) are between 20 and 30 years old, 135 (33%) are between 30 and 40 years old, 12 (2.9%) are between 40 and 50 years old, 2 (0.5%) are between 50 and 60 years old and 1 (0.2%) is above 60 years old. The age category '20 to 30 years old' has the highest respondents while the age category 'Above 60 years old' has the least respondents.

Table 5.2 Age of the respondents

Sl. No.	Age	Frequency	Percent
1	Below 20 years old	24	5.9
2	20 - 30 years old	235	57.5
3	30 - 40 years old	135	33.0
4	40 - 50 years old	12	2.9
5	50 - 60 years old	2	0.5
6	Above 60 years old	1	0.2
	Total	409	100.0

Source: Primary data (computed)

Figure 5.2 Age of Respondents

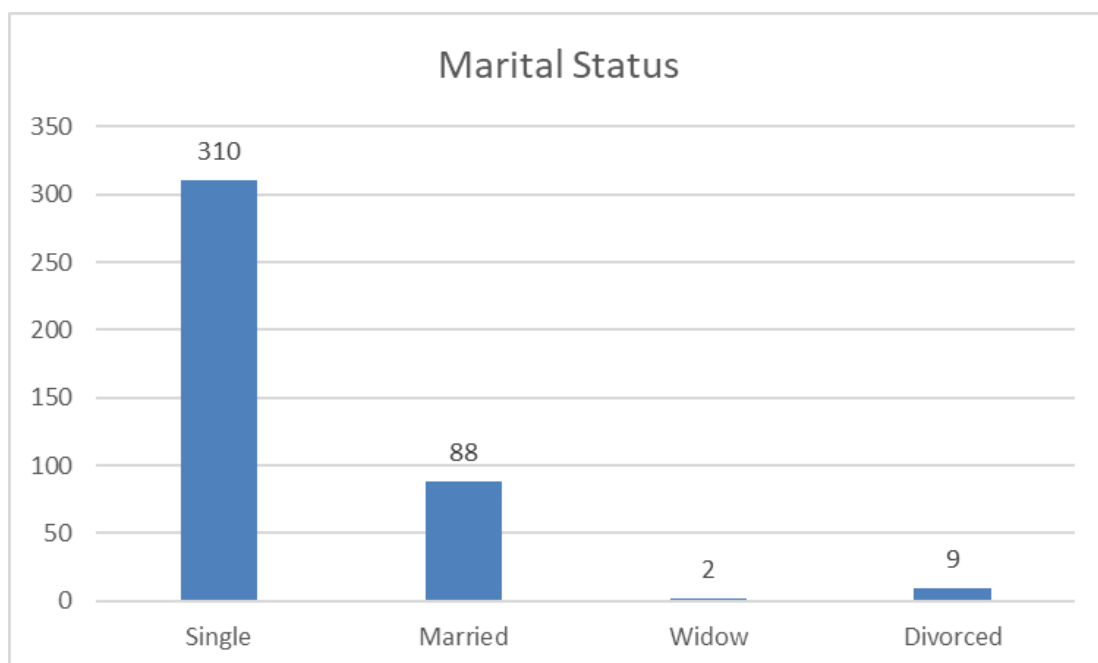
5.2.3 Marital status of the respondents

As shown in table 5.3, in terms of marital status, 310 of the respondents (75.8%) are single, 88 (21.5%) are married, 2 (0.5%) are widows and 9 (2.2%) are divorced. The data shows that the majority of the respondents are single and the least being widows.

Table 5.3 Marital Status of the respondents

Sl. No.	Marital Status	Frequency	Percent
1	Single	310	75.8
2	Married	88	21.5
3	Widow	2	.5
4	Divorced	9	2.2
	Total	409	100.0

Source: Primary data (computed)

Figure 5.3 Marital Status of the respondents

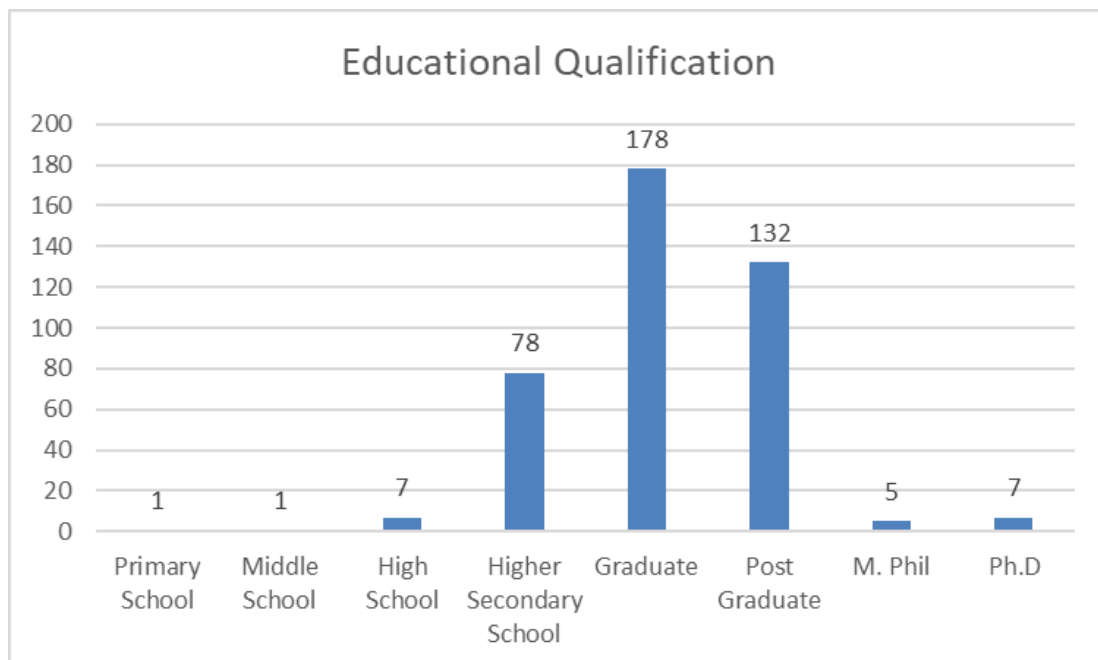
5.2.4 Educational Qualification of the respondents

Table 5.4 shows the respondents' educational backgrounds, with graduates having the greatest frequency (178 out of 43.5%). The respondents' other qualifications include 132 post-graduates (32.3%), 7 high school graduates (1.7%), 7 Ph.D. holders (1.7%), 5 M.Phil. holders, 1 finishing primary school, and 1 finishing middle school graduate.

Table 5.4 Educational Qualification of the respondents

Sl. No.	Educational Qualification	Frequency	Percent
1	Primary School	1	0.2
2	Middle School	1	0.2
3	High School	7	1.7
4	Higher Secondary School	78	19.1
5	Graduate	178	43.5
6	Post Graduate	132	32.3
7	M. Phil	5	1.2
8	Ph.D	7	1.7
	Total	409	100.0

Source: Primary data (computed)

Figure 5.4 Educational Qualification of the respondents

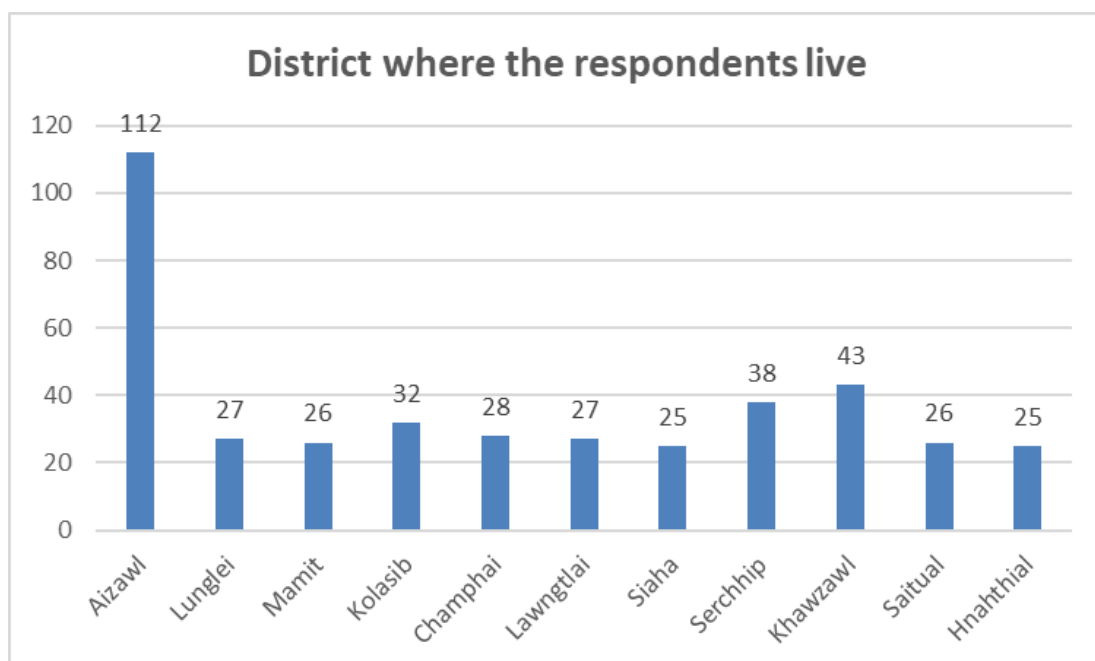
5.2.5 District in Mizoram where the respondents live

Table 5.5 shows that there are respondents from all 11 districts of Mizoram, where 112 (27.4%) are from Aizawl, 27 (6.6%) from Lunglei, 26 (6.4%) from Mamit, 32 (7.8%) from Kolasib, 28 (6.8%) from Champhai, 27 (6.6%) from Lawngtlai, 25 (6.1%) from Siahia, 38 (9.3%) from Serchhip, 43 (10.5%) from Khawzawl, 26 (6.4%) from Saitual, and 25 (6.1%) from Hnahthial. Aizawl has the most number of respondents, while Siahia and Hnahthial have the least number of respondents, with 25 each.

Table 5.5 District where the respondents live

Sl. No.	District	Frequency	Percent
1	Aizawl	112	27.4
2	Lunglei	27	6.6
3	Mamit	26	6.4
4	Kolasib	32	7.8
5	Champhai	28	6.8
6	Lawngtlai	27	6.6
7	Siaha	25	6.1
8	Serchhip	38	9.3
9	Khawzawl	43	10.5
10	Saitual	26	6.4
11	Hnahthial	25	6.1
	Total	409	100.0

Source: Primary data (computed)

Figure 5.5 District where the respondents live

5.3 Preferences and Media Habits

5.3.1 Time Spent on Media

The time spent by the respondents varies on a scale as follows: Never: 1, Less than 1 hour: 2, 1 to 2 hours: 3, 2 to 3 hours: 4, 3 to 4 hours: 5, and More than 4 hours:6. As shown in Table 5.6, from the mean calculated for each of the media, the respondents spend their time most on social media (mean 3.9) and the least on radio (mean 1.1). However, their time spent on newspapers and television is equal (mean = 1.3). The respondents spend around 4 hours on average every day on social media, around 1 hour on newspapers and television, and on average, almost never listen to radio.

Table 5.6 Time Spent on Media

Sl.No	Media	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	S.D
3	Newspaper	409	1	6	1.3	0.8
4	Radio	409	1	6	1.1	0.5
1	Social Media	409	1	6	3.9	1.3
2	Television	409	1	6	1.3	0.9

Source: Primary data (computed)

5.3.2 Perceived Importance of Media as a Source of News

The respondents are asked how important the following media, shown in Table 5.7, are as news sources. The scales are: 1 for not important, 2 for somewhat important, 3 for neutral, 4 for important, and 5 for very important. According to the mean calculated on each of the news sources as shown in Table 5.7, social media is given the most importance (mean - 3.9) and radio is the least important (2.5). It is clear that social media is given priority and importance as a news source by the people of Mizoram, with newspapers as the second, television as the third, and radio as the least important.

Table 5.7 Perceived Importance of Media as a Source News

Sl.No	Media	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	S.D
1	Social Media	409	1	5	3.9	1.2
2	Newspaper	409	1	5	3.8	1.1
3	Television	409	1	5	3.4	1.1
4	Radio	409	1	5	2.5	1.2

Source: Primary data (computed)

5.3.3 Perceived Credibility of Media

The respondents are asked how credible they think the following media shown in Table 5.8 are. The scale is 1 to 5, and the higher the number, the more credible it is. According to the calculated mean of the responses shown in Table 5.8, the respondents find newspapers the most credible (mean = 3.3), followed by television and social media equally (mean = 3.1), and radio (mean = 2.4) as the least credible.

Table 5.8 Perceived Credibility of Media

Sl. No.	Media	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	S.D
1	Newspaper	409	1	5	3.3	1.2
4	Radio	409	1	5	2.4	1.4
2	Social Media	409	1	5	3.1	1.2
3	Television	409	1	5	3.1	1.2

Source: Primary data (computed)

5.3.4 Perceived purpose for consumption of news by the respondents

The respondents are asked the most important purpose for their consumption of news from the sources given in Table 5.9. From table 5.9 below, they use TV the most for entertainment (46.2%), social media the most for entertainment (53.1%), radio the most to get current affairs updates (31.5%), and newspapers the most for current affairs (58.4%). The second most used television is for sports news (26.7%), while the second most used social media is for current affairs (21.5%). The second most common use of radio is for entertainment (27.4%), and the second most common use of newspapers is for sports and education (both 12.2%). The response to

the purpose option None is the highest for radio (Freq-101), and the purpose option Fashion is the least chosen purpose in all the media listed.

Table 5.9 Perceived purpose for consumption of news by the respondents

Sl. No.	Purpose	TV		Social Media		Radio		Newspaper	
		Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
1	Entertainment	189	46.2	217	53.1	112	27.4	46	11.2
2	Current Affairs	70	17.1	88	21.5	129	31.5	239	58.4
3	Sports	109	26.7	37	9.0	29	7.1	50	12.2
4	None	24	5.9	3	0.7	101	24.7	22	5.4
5	Education	12	2.9	46	11.2	36	8.8	50	12.2
6	Fashion	5	1.2	18	4.4	2	0.5	2	0.5
	Total	409	100	409	100	409	100	409	100

Source: Primary data (computed)

4	12pm-3pm	10	2	34	8	16	4	53	13
5	3pm-6pm	3	1	25	6	16	4	6	1
6	6pm-9pm	13	3	91	22	7	2	67	16
7	9pm-12am	1	0	17	4	1	0	133	33
8	12am-3am	1	0	2	0	2	0	16	4
	Total	409	100	409	100	409	100	409	100

Source: Primary data (computed)

5.3.6 Preferred Format of News Consumption

The respondents are told to rate the media format in which they consume news the most. The scale is 1 to 5, and the higher the number, the more they prefer the news format shown in Table 5.11. So, from Table 5.11 given below, video is the most preferred media format for news (mean: 3.4), textual stands second (mean: 3.2), picture stands third (mean: 3.0), and audio is the least preferred (mean: 2.6).

Table 5.11 Preferred Format of News Consumption

Sl.No	Format	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	SD
1	Video	409	1	5	3.4	1.1
2	Textual	409	1	5	3.2	1.3
3	Picture	409	1	5	3.0	1.1
4	Audio	409	1	5	2.6	1.2

Source: Primary data (computed)

5.3.7 Preferred Language of News Consumption

The respondents are asked to rate the language they prefer the most to consume news in. The scale is 1 to 5, and the higher the number, the more they prefer the language shown in Table 5.12. From the table 5.12 given below, the most preferred languages are Mizo and English (mean - 3.7 on both), followed by Hindi and others equally, with a low average rating of 1.4 (mean - 1.4).

Table 5.12 Preferred Language of News Consumption

Sl.No	Language	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	SD
1	Mizo	409	1	5	3.7	1.2
2	English	409	1	5	3.7	1.1
3	Hindi	409	1	5	1.4	0.9
4	Others	409	1	5	1.4	0.9

Source: Primary data (computed)

5.3.8 News Source Preference on Television

The respondents are asked to rate the television news source they watch the most. The scale is 1 to 5, and the higher the number, the more they watch that television news source or channel, as shown in Table 5.13. According to the data, the respondents watch local news on local cable TV the most (mean = 3.2), followed by DDK News (mean = 2.7), International News (mean = 2.6), and the National News Channel (mean = 2.5).

Table 5.13 News Source Preference on Television

Sl.No	TV News Source	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	SD
1	Local News in Local Cable TV	409	1	5	3.2	1.3
2	DDK News	409	1	5	2.7	1.4
3	International News Channel	409	1	5	2.6	1.3
4	National News Channel	409	1	5	2.5	1.2

Source: Primary data (computed)

5.3.9 Newspaper Subscription

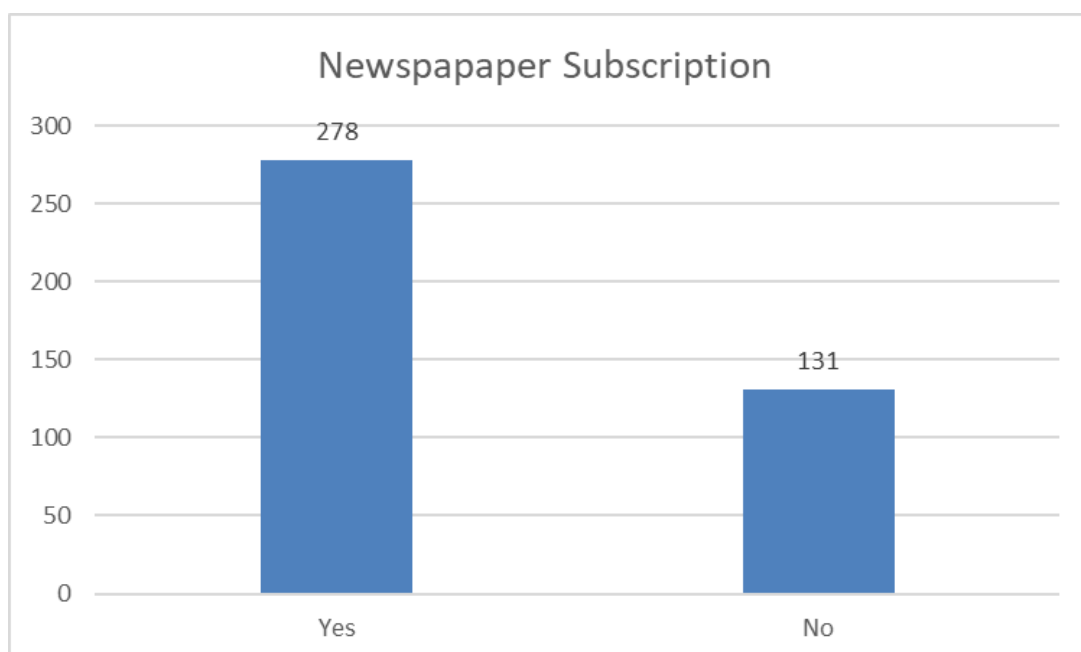
68% of the respondents subscribe to newspapers, while 32% don't subscribe to newspapers anymore, as seen in Table 5.14.

Table 5.14 Newspaper Subscription

Sl.No	Subscribe newspaper	Frequency	Percent
1	Yes	278	68.0
2	No	131	32.0
	Total	409	100.0

Source: Primary data (computed)

Fig. 5.6 Newspaper Subscription



5.3.10 Local Cable Subscription/Connection

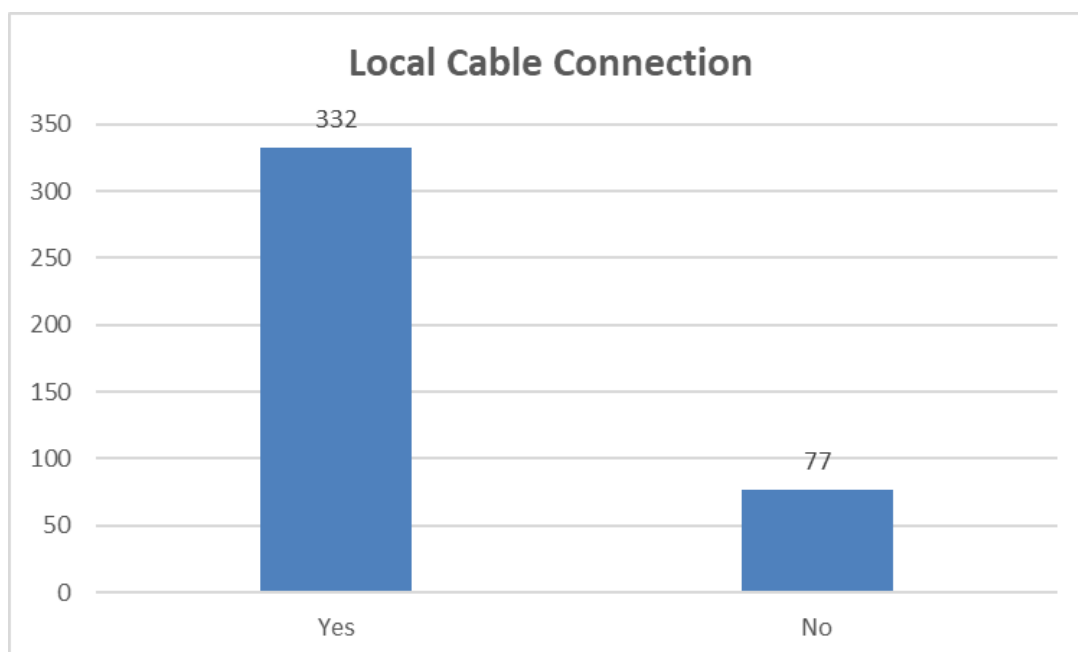
The respondents are asked if they subscribe to local cable television, and the data from table 5.15 shows that 81.2% subscribe to or have a connection to local cable television, while 18.8% don't have a local cable TV connection.

Table 5.15 Local Cable Subscription/Connection

Sl. No.	Local Cable Connection	Frequency	Percent
1	Yes	332	81.2
2	No	77	18.8
	Total	409	100.0

Source: Primary data (computed)

Fig 5.7 Local Cable Subscription/Connection



5.3.11 Following Status of Social Media accounts of Traditional Media

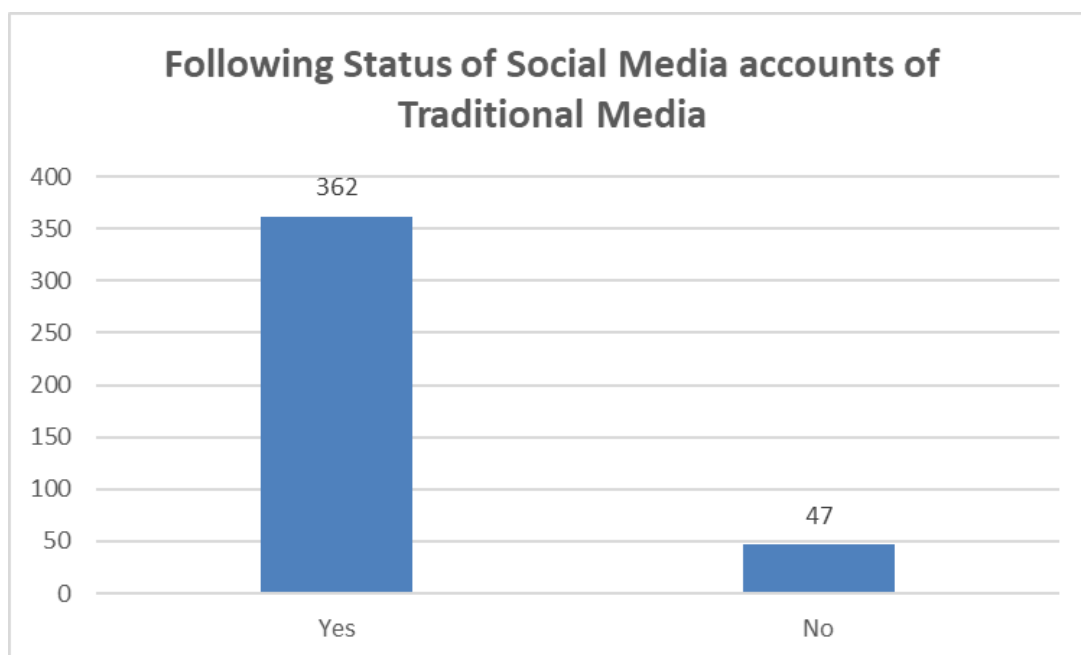
The respondents are asked if they follow traditional media accounts on social media. From table 5.17 below, 88.5% of the respondents follow social media accounts of traditional media, while 11.5% do not follow them.

Table 5.16 Following Status of Social Media accounts of Traditional Media

Sl. No	Response	Frequency	Percent
1	Yes	362	88.5
2	No	47	11.5
	Total	409	100.0

Source: Primary data (computed)

Table 5.8 Following Status of Social Media accounts of Traditional Media



5.4 Perceptions to Fake News and Ethical Concerns on Social Media

The following table 5.14 shows the ratings of the respondents on different perceptions. The scales for the following perceptions are 1 for never, 2 for rarely, 3 for sometimes, and 4 for frequently. In the first one, the respondents are asked how often they see fake news on social media, and the mean rating is 3.2. In the second perception, the respondents are asked to rate how often they are fooled by fake news, thinking it is real, and the mean rating is 2.4. In the third perception, the respondents are asked if they forward news on social media without reading, and the mean response is 1.3. The respondents are also asked if they often react (like, react, comment, etc.) to news on social media in the fourth perception, and the mean response is 2.5. In the fifth perception, the respondents are asked how frequently they share information, ideas, or opinions on social media, and the mean response is 2.3. In the sixth perception, the respondents are asked to rate how often they see unethical contents from citizen journalists, and the mean response is 2.5.

Table 5.17 Perceptions to Fake News and Ethical Concerns

Sl. No.	Perceptions	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	SD
1	Fake News sight	409	1	4	3.2	0.7
2	Fooled by fake news	409	1	4	2.4	0.7
3	Forward without reading	409	1	4	1.3	0.7
4	Reaction to social media news	409	1	4	2.5	0.9
5	Sharing Information on Social Media	409	1	4	2.3	0.8
6	Unethical Content of Citizen Journalists	409	1	4	2.5	0.8

Source: Primary data (computed)

5.4.1 Fake News Knowledge

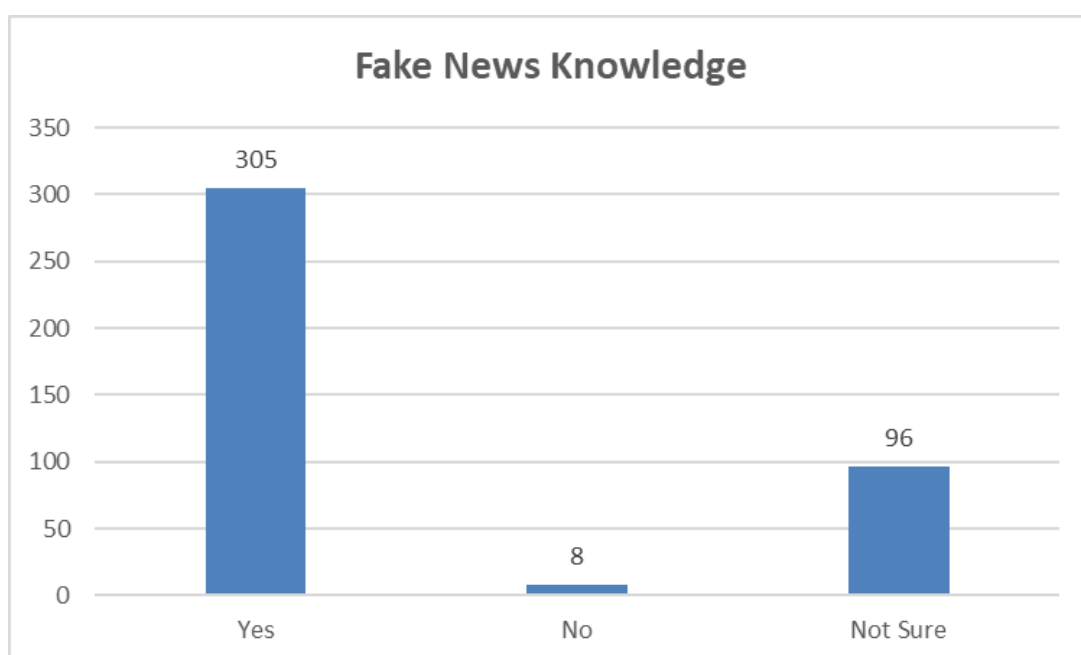
The respondents are asked if they know what fake news is or not. From the table below, 74.6% of the respondents know fake news, 2% of the respondents do not know what fake news is, and 23.5% of the respondents are not sure what fake news is.

Table 5.18 Fake News Knowledge

SI No	Fake News Knowledge	Frequency	Percent
1	Yes	305	74.6
2	No	8	2.0
3	Not Sure	96	23.5
	Total	409	100.0

Source: Primary data (computed)

Fig. 5.9 Fake News Knowledge



5.4.2 Citizen journalists on journalism ethics

The respondents are asked if they think the citizen journalists are following journalism ethics or not. From the table below, 23.2% of the respondents think citizen journalists are following journalism ethics, while 24.4% of the respondents don't think they are. More than half of the respondents (52.3%) think citizen journalists are somewhat following journalism ethics.

Table 5.19 Citizen journalists on journalism ethics

Sl No.	Citizen journalists on journalism ethics	Freq	%
1	Yes	95	23.2
2	No	100	24.4
3	Somewhat	214	52.3
	Total	409	100.0

Source: Primary data (computed)

5.5 Preferences on Citizen Journalism

5.5.1 Status of Following Contents of Citizen Journalists

The following table 5.14 shows the ratings of the respondents on whether they follow the news of citizen journalists on social media like Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, etc. The scales are 1 for never, 2 for rarely, 3 for sometimes, and 4 for frequently. The mean response is 2.7, which is close to saying that they sometimes follow the news of citizen journalists.

Table 5.20 Status of Following Contents of Citizen Journalists

Sl. No.	Status	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	SD
1	Follow News of Citizen Journalists	409	1	4	2.7	0.8

Source: Primary data (computed)

5.5.2 Source of Contents of Citizen Journalists

The respondents are asked to rate, on a scale of 1 to 5, what source they follow or consume the most to get the content of citizen journalists. As shown in Table 5.16, YouTube channels are the most followed to consume the contents of citizen journalists (mean: 3.1), followed by Instagram and WhatsApp groups (mean: 2.9 on both), Facebook groups and pages (mean: 2.5), and others (mean: 2.0).

Table 5.21 Source of Contents of Citizen Journalism Journalists

Sl.No	Source of Citizen Journalism	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	SD
1	Youtube channels	409	1	5	3.1	1.3
2	Instagram	409	1	5	2.9	1.3
3	WhatsApp Groups	409	1	5	2.9	1.3
4	Facebook Groups/Pages	409	1	5	2.5	1.3
5	Others	409	1	5	2.0	1.2

Source: Primary data (computed)

5.5.3 Most used media to update information on socio-political issues

The respondents are asked to rate, on a scale of 1 to 5, which media source they use the most to update information on socio-political issues. They use social media the most (mean - 3.94) to get updated information on socio-political issues, followed by newspapers (mean - 2.80), television (mean - 2.76) and radio (1.40) with the lowest rated media.

Table 5.22 Most used media to update information on socio-political issues

Sl.No	News Source	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	SD
1	Social Media	409	1	5	3.94	1.157
2	Newspaper	409	1	5	2.80	1.225
3	Television	409	1	5	2.76	1.291
4	Radio	409	1	5	1.40	.852

Source: Primary data (computed)

5.5.4 Fastest media to update information on socio-political issues

The respondents are asked to rate, on a scale of 1 to 5, which media source they think is the fastest to update information on socio-political issues. They believe that social media is the fastest way to update news on socio-political issues (mean: 4.1), followed by television (mean: 2.9), newspapers (mean: 2.8), and radio (mean: 1.8).

Table 5.23 Fastest media to update information on socio-political issues

Sl.No	Channel	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	SD
1	Social Media	409	1	5	4.1	1.1
2	Television	409	1	5	2.9	1.2
3	Newspaper	409	1	5	2.8	1.1
4	Radio	409	1	5	1.8	1.0

Source: Primary data (computed)

5.5.5 Most credible media to update information on socio-political issues

The respondents are asked to rate, on a scale of 1 to 5, which media source they think is the most credible to update information on socio-political issues. The respondents answered that social media, newspapers, and television are equally credible (mean 3.2 each), followed by radio (mean 2.4).

Table 5.24 Most credible media to update information on socio-political issues

Sl.No	Media	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	SD
1	Social Media	409	1	5	3.2	1.2
2	Newspaper	409	1	5	3.2	1.2
3	Television	409	1	5	3.2	1.2
4	Radio	409	1	5	2.4	1.4

Source: Primary data (computed)

5.5.6 Ratings on different statements concerning citizen journalism as compared with traditional journalism

The respondents are asked to rate different statements according to their own experiences concerning citizen journalism and also traditional journalism in their day-to-day lives. On the scale, 1 is for strongly disagree, 2 for disagree, 3 for neutral, 4 for agree, and 5 for strongly agree. As shown in Table 5.20, the mean responses are given where the ratings don't reach 4 (agree).

Table 5.25 Ratings on different statements concerning citizen journalism as compared with traditional journalism

Sl.No.		N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	SD
1	Citizen journalists are quicker in news reporting than traditional journalists	409	1	5	3.44	1.02
2	Citizen journalists are quicker in news reporting than traditional journalists	409	1	5	3.43	1.02
3	I trust traditional/professional journalists more than citizen journalists	409	1	5	3.40	1.07
4	I trust traditional media more than social media as news source	409	1	5	3.34	1.10
5	I choose social media more than any media to get news	409	1	5	3.25	1.16
6	Every news update I am getting are from social media	409	1	5	3.18	1.2
7	I trust citizen journalists more than traditional/professional journalists	409	1	5	2.76	1.01
8	I never consume traditional media anymore	409	1	5	2.43	1.01

Source: Primary data (computed)

5.5.7 Is citizen journalism posing a challenge to traditional media?

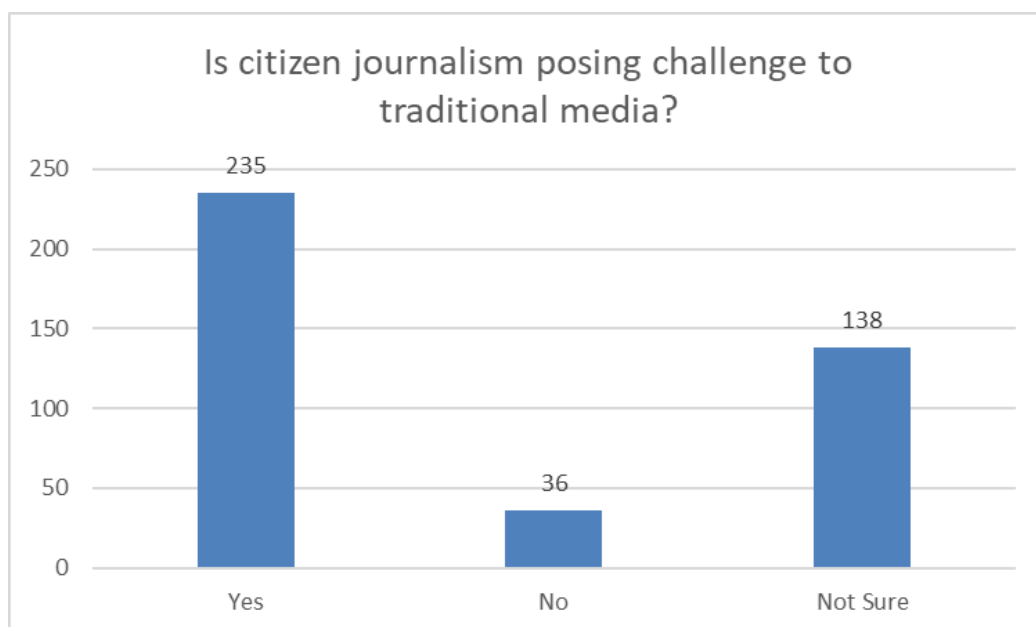
The respondents are asked if they think citizen journalism is posing a challenge to traditional journalism. As shown below in the table, 57.5% of the respondents think citizen journalism is posing a challenge to traditional journalism, while 8.8% do not think it is posing a challenge. 33.7% of the respondents are not sure if citizen journalism is posing a challenge to traditional journalism or not.

Table 5.26 Is citizen journalism posing a challenge to traditional media?

Sl. No.	Is citizen journalism posing a challenge to traditional media?	Freq	%
1	Yes	235	57.5
2	No	36	8.8
3	Not Sure	138	33.7
	Total	409	100.0

Source: Primary data (computed)

Fig. 5.10 Is citizen journalism posing a challenge to traditional media?



5.5.8 Is citizen journalism gaining more popularity than traditional media?

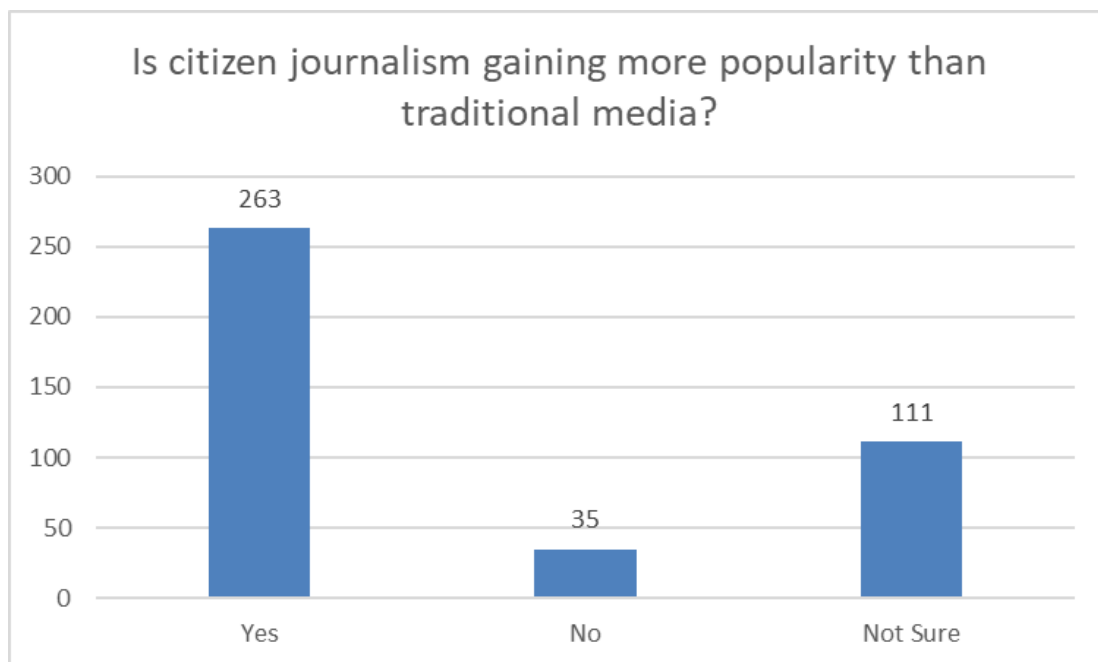
The respondents are asked if they think citizen journalism is gaining more popularity than traditional journalism. The table below shows that 64.3% of the respondents think citizen journalism is gaining more popularity than traditional journalism, while 8.6% think it is not gaining more popularity. 27.1% are not sure if citizen journalism is gaining more popularity than traditional journalism or not.

Table 5.27 Is citizen journalism gaining more popularity than traditional journalism?

Sl No	Is citizen journalism gaining more popularity than traditional media?	Frequency	Percent
1	Yes	263	64.3
2	No	35	8.6
3	Not Sure	111	27.1
	Total	409	100.0

Source: Primary data (computed)

Fig. 5.11. Is citizen journalism gaining more popularity than traditional journalism?



Chapter V has presented both the qualitative and quantitative research findings by addressing the 5th objective of the research by analysing how audiences consume news and how they respond to traditional print journalism versus citizen journalism.

CHAPTER VI

FINDINGS, CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Introduction

This chapter provides research findings from the data analyzed in chapters III, IV, and V, as well as discussions and recommendations for future research.

6.2 Findings

6.2.1 Findings for objective 1 & 2

This section will present the findings from Chapter III for Objectives 1 and 2. Objective 1 of the research is to map the status of working journalists in print media in Mizoram, and here, the perceptions of these traditional journalists on citizen journalism will also be presented. Objective 2 is to map the status of print journalism in Mizoram. The following subsections are the findings for this.

6.2.1.1 Mapping of traditional journalists

6.2.1.2 Demographic background

- i) There are respondents from all 11 districts, with the majority (46.7%) from the state capital, Aizawl.
- ii) The majority of the respondents are editors in their firm (44%), followed by reporters (17.3%).
- iii) The average years of experience of the respondents is 16.21.
- iv) The majority of the respondents (76%) do not have any education in journalism.
- v) All the respondents except 2 (2.7%) hold a position in either church, the Young Mizoram Association, or other non-governmental organizations.

6.2.1.3 Journalism as a profession

- i) 49.3% of the respondents said journalism was their first job, and 50.7% said it was not their first job.
- ii) 50.7% of the respondents said they have worked in different firms during their career, and 44% said they work only at the same firm.
- iii) 52% of the respondents said they receive the respect and recognition they deserve, while 46.7% said they do not.
- iv) 60% of the respondents think their rights are protected, while 37.3% think they are not.
- v) The majority of the respondents (61.3%) think their work has an influence on the voting patterns of the people.
- vi) 64% of the respondents think there is too much of a relationship between politicians and journalists in the state. 28% think there may be a relationship, and only 6.7% think there is no relationship between the politicians and the journalists.

6.2.1.4 Perception on Citizen Journalism

Another 75 traditional journalists were surveyed using questionnaires to know their perceptions of the rising popularity of citizen journalism in Mizoram. The following findings present their demographic background and their perceptions of citizen journalism:

- i) In this study, 84% are male and 16% are female. The highest number of respondents (34.7%) are in the range of 41 to 50 years old, and there are 3 respondents (4%) who are above 70 years old. 36% of the respondents are graduates, followed by 32% postgraduates. The highest number, which is 30 (40%), are editors, followed by reporters (26.7%).
- ii) 65.5% of the respondents think the contents of the citizen journalists have some news value, while 24% think they have no news value. Only 9.3% think

(responding straight 'Yes') that the content of citizen journalists has news value.

iii) On the reliability of the content of citizen journalists, 88% of the respondents said these contents needed verification, and 12% said they were unreliable. There are no respondents who said the content of citizen journalists is reliable.

iv) 93% of the respondents said citizen journalists do not follow journalism ethics, and only 6.7% think they do.

v) 57.3% said they frequently come across unethical content from citizen journalists, followed by 30.7% saying 'sometimes.' 10% of the respondents said they always come across unethical content from citizen journalists, and only 1.3% said they never come across it.

vi) 50.7% of the respondents said they responded to circulation of fake news by verifying while 29.3% ignored them and 20% corrected them.

vii) 37.3% of the respondents are not sure if citizen journalism is gaining more popularity than traditional media. 33.3% said it is not gaining more popularity while 29.3% said it is gaining more popularity.

viii) 58.7% of the respondents said they sometimes access social media to search news even though further verification is needed. 30.7% said they never access social media to search news while 1.7% said they often do it.

ix) 48% of the respondents said they never post news or news-based contents on social media, while 45.3% said they sometimes do it and 6.7% said they frequently do it.

6.2.2 Findings on Mapping of Print Journalism

This section focuses on objective 2, which is to map the status of print journalism in Mizoram. For this, five leading newspapers from the capital of Mizoram, that is, Aizawl district, and one leading newspaper from each of the other 10 districts are

studied using content analysis, and the following are the findings:

- i) The content differs, and there are not many similar patterns shared by these newspapers. The local news is placed on the first page of all the newspapers. All the newspapers mostly have local news, entertainment news, national and international news, north-east India news, and sports news as common content. Football news is the most covered news in sports. The Mizoram Post highly differs from the other newspapers by having different columns like Career Post, Life Style Post, and Employment Post, which the other newspapers do not have.
- ii) The media houses highly depend on the Information and Public Relations Department for news sources.
- iii) Government advertisements are their main financial support for most of the newspapers in Mizoram.
- iv) Most of the local Mizo news is based on government programmes and schedules.
- v) The top leading newspapers in Mizoram, like Vanglaini and The Zozam Times, have websites and social media accounts, but the rest do not.
- vi) Most of the newspapers from other districts are looked after by the editors alone, who work as reporters, editors, and even do page settings and printing work.
- vii) The majority of the newspapers are black and white.
- viii) Most of the national and international news from the newspapers studied is from the internet. There is no direct connection with national or international news agencies.
- ix) The Mizoram Post is printed outside Mizoram (Silchar, Assam), and the rest are printed locally.

6.3 Findings for objectives 3 & 4

This section will present the findings from chapter IV of the thesis for objectives 3 and 4. Objective 3 is to map the status of citizen journalism and citizen journalists in Mizoram. Objective 4 is to examine how citizen journalists respond to the values and ethics of journalism. The following subsections are the findings for this.

6.3.1 Mapping of citizen journalists in Mizoram

6.3.1.1 Demographic Background

- i) On gender, 78.9% of the respondents are male and 20% of the respondents are female.
- ii) On educational qualification, 30% of the respondents are graduates, 20% Class 12, 15.6% below Class 10, 15.6% post graduates, 12.2% Class 10, 2.2% PhDs and 1.1% M.Phil. Graduates (UG) have the highest number.
- iii) Citizen journalists have different kinds of daily jobs. The jobs described are retired army, government servant, business men, housewife, assistant professor and teachers, construction worker, youtuber, gardener, farmer and others. This shows that these citizen journalists are from all spheres of background.

6.3.1.2 Media Habits, News Consumption and Online Behaviour

- i) 57.8% of the respondents said social media was their main source of news and information.
- ii) 36.7% of the respondents said television is the most credible news source, followed by radio (25.6%), newspapers (22.2%), and social media (12.2%).
- iii) 28.9% of the respondents spend, on average, 2 to 3 hours on social media every day. 27.8% spend more than 4 hours, 24.4% spend 1 to 2 hours, and 17.8% spend 3 to 4 hours.
- iv) 65.6% of the respondents said they don't always believe the news and

information they receive from social media. 30% said they don't believe them at all, while 1.1% said they sometimes believe and they believe, respectively.

v) 62.2% of the respondents said they sometimes post comments and additional information on social media platforms, while 26.7% said they never post it. 4.4% said they frequently post comments and additional information.

vi) 61.1% of the respondents said they never get into fights on social media platforms, while 33.3% said they sometimes get into them. 2.2% said they frequently get into fights on social media platforms.

vii) 57.8% of the respondents said they scold anyone on social media while 37.8% said they sometimes do it and 2.2% said they frequently do it.

viii) 95.6% of the respondents believe that information can be manipulated through the media, while 1.1% said it cannot be manipulated.

ix) 71.1% of the respondents said they used to read books, while 2.2% never read books.

6.3.1.3 Citizen Journalism practices

i) 71.1% of the respondents said WhatsApp is their most used social media platform for posting their contents, followed by Facebook (13.3%), Youtube (5.6%), and Twitter (1.1%).

ii) 54.4% of the respondents said they use text format the most for posting their contents, followed by all options, that is, text, picture, and video (28.9%). 4.4% said picture is their most used format, while 4.4% said video is their most used format.

iii) On asking how frequently they share information, ideas, or opinions on social media, 65.6% responded 'sometimes', 16.7% said 'never', and 15.6% said 'frequently'.

iv) 63.3% of the respondents said they do prior verification before posting contents on social media, while 23.3% said sometimes and 2.2% said they never do prior verification.

v) 74.4% of the respondents said they are willing to have professional training if possible, while 17.8% are not willing to do so.

vi) 43.3% of the respondents said they are sometimes active in posting contents when socio-political issues happen, while 24.4% said they are very active. 24.4% said they never post content related to socio-political issues.

vii) 67.8% of the respondents said they are satisfied by participating in citizen journalism, while 18.9% said they are not.

viii) The main reason why they participate in citizen journalism according to the respondents is to educate the people and work for the benefit of the people. Some said that it is a good opportunity to influence people according to their ideology and belief. Some said it is a good opportunity to spread the gospel while some of the respondents do it to let the people know the truth amidst the many false news especially during socio-political issues.

6.3.1.4 Fake News and Misinformation

i) 94.4% of the respondents said they have the knowledge what fake news is while 4.4% do not know what fake news is.

ii) 47.8% of the respondents said they sometimes share fake news as real news and later realize they are fake while 41.1% said they are never in this kind of situation.

iii) 51.1% of the respondents said they sometimes remove their posts after finding out they are fake, while 34.4% said they never need to do this. 2.2% said they are frequently in this kind of situation.

iv) 73.3% of the respondents said they know what misinformation and disinformation are while 22.2% said they do not know them.

v) 67.8% of the respondents said they do not know the technique of debunking fake news, while 26.7% said they do know the technique.

6.3.1.5 Perception if traditional media is becoming irrelevant with the emergence of citizen journalism

47.8% of the respondents said traditional media is becoming irrelevant with the emergence of citizen journalism, while 42.2% said somewhat traditional media is becoming more irrelevant. 4.4% of the respondents are not sure about this, and 3.3% said traditional media is not becoming irrelevant with the emergence of citizen journalism.

6.3.2 Mapping of Citizen Journalism Platforms

This section presents the findings of content analysis of citizen journalism platforms, that is Instagram (Explore Mizoram), YouTube (Mizo Official Channel) and Facebook (Mizo Special Report). Contents posted during 1 week in these social media platforms are analyzed.

6.3.2.1 Instagram (Explore Mizoram)

The major findings from the content analysis of the Explore Mizoram Instagram account are as follows:

- i) There were 33 posts in this Instagram channel during the time of study.
- ii) 22 posts (66.7%) are news, followed by 5 viral videos or pictures (15.2%), 3 street views (9.1%), 2 model photos (6.1%), and 1 advertisement (3%). The majority of the content on this Instagram account is news.
- iii) 25 of the posts (75.8%) are pictures, and 8 (24.2%) are reels.

iv) The average number of likes is 2204.55, and the average number of comments is 13.67.

6.3.2.2 Youtube (Mizo Official Channel)

The major findings from content analysis of the YouTube channel studied, that is, Mizo Official Channel are as follows:

- i) There are 12 videos during the time of study.
- ii) 7 of the posts (58.3%) are news, 2 videos (16.7%) are religious videos, and 1 video (8.3%) each is for entertainment, interviews, and politics. The majority of the content on this YouTube channel is news.
- iii) The maximum number of views is 142149, and the minimum number of views is 14381. The average number of views is 69705.33.
- iv) The maximum number of likes is 8900, and the minimum number of likes is 813. The average number of likes is 4101.08.
- v) There are no dislikes in all the videos studied.
- vi) The maximum number of comments is 1000, and the minimum number of comments is 40. The average number of comments is 465.67.
- vii) According to the sentiment analysis, most of the comments have positive sentiments.

6.3.2.3 Facebook (Mizo Special Report)

The major findings from the content analysis of the Facebook group named Mizo Special Report are as follows:

- i) There were 90 posts during the time of study.

- ii) 35 of the posts (38.9%) are news, 34 of the posts (37.8%) are opinions, followed by 6 feature stories (6.7%), 6 sermons (6.7%), 5 lost and found posts (5.6%), 2 advertisements (2.2%), 1 post each for charity, and a notification for group members (1.1% each).
- iii) 62.2% of the posts are text with picture, 31.1% are text only, 4.4% are text with video, and 1.1% are text with a YouTube link.
- iv) 73.3% of the posts are contributed by the group members, and 26.7% are posted by group administrators.
- v) The minimum number of likes is 10, and the maximum number of likes is 6,700. The average number of likes is 1015.87.
- vi) The minimum number of comments is 0, and the maximum number of comments is 1200. The average number of comments is 129.54.
- vii) The minimum number of posts in a day is 8, and the maximum number in a day is 17. The average number of posts per day is 12.86.

6.4 Findings for objective 5

This section will present the findings from Chapter V of the thesis for Objective 5. Objective 5 is to analyse how audiences consume news and how they respond to traditional print journalism versus citizen journalism. There are 409 respondents from different parts of Mizoram.

6.4.1 Background of the Respondents

- i) 49.6% of the respondents are male, and 50.1% are female. 0.2% are others.
- ii) The majority of the respondents, that is, 57.5%, are between 20 and 30 years old. 33% are between 30 and 40 years old, 5.9% are below 20 years old, 0.5% are between 50 and 60 years old, and 0.2% are above 60 years old.
- iii) 75.8% of the respondents are single, followed by 21.5% married, 0.5%

widowed, and 2.2% divorced.

iv) 43.5% of the respondents are graduates, 32.3% are postgraduates, 19.1% finish higher secondary school, 1.7% finish high school, 1.2% finish M.Phil., and 0.2% each finish primary school and middle school.

v) 27.4% of the respondents live in Aizawl District, 6.6% in Lunglei, 6.4% in Mamit, 7.8% in Kolasib, 6.8% in Champhai, 6.6% in Lawngtlai, 6.1% in Siaha, 9.3% in Serchhip, 10.5% in Khawzawl, 6.4% in Saitual and 6.1% in Hnahthial district.

6.4.2 Media preferences and habits

i) The respondents spent the most on social media, with a mean of 3.9, followed by newspapers, television (mean = 1.3), and radio (mean = 1.1).

ii) The respondents chose social media as the most important source of news for them (mean = 3.9), followed by newspapers (mean = 3.8), television (mean = 3.4), and radio (mean = 2.5).

iii) The respondents chose newspapers as the most credible media (mean = 3.3), followed by social media and television (both having 3.1 as the mean) and radio (mean = 2.4).

iv) The respondents use TV the most for entertainment (46.2%), social media the most for entertainment (53.1%), radio the most to get current affairs updates (31.5%), and newspapers the most for current affairs (58.4%).

v) The most favoured time for respondents who are listening to radio is 6 a.m. to 9 a.m.; for respondents who are watching television, it is 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.; for respondents who are reading newspapers, it is 6 a.m. to 9 a.m.; and for respondents who are having access to social media, it is 9 p.m. to 12 a.m. There are 331 respondents who choose 'None' for radio, 132 respondents for television, 97 respondents for newspapers, and 14 respondents for social media, which indicates that this many respondents each never or hardly access these media.

vi) Video is the most preferred media format for news (mean = 3.4), followed by text (mean = 3.2), picture (mean = 3.0), and audio (mean = 2.6).

vii) The respondents' most preferred languages to consume news are Mizo and English (mean = 3.7 on both), followed by Hindi and others, both with a low average rating of 1.4 (mean = 1.4).

viii) For news sources on television, the respondents watched local news on local cable TV the most (mean = 3.2), followed by DDK News (mean = 2.7), International News (mean = 2.6), and the National News Channel (mean = 2.5).

ix) 68% of the respondents subscribe to newspapers, while 32% do not, and 81.2% of the respondents have connections to local cable television, while 18.8% do not.

x) 88.5% of the respondents follow traditional social media accounts, while 11.5% do not.

xi) The different perception ratings of the respondents are as follows: how often they see fake news on social media (mean = 3.2), how often they are fooled by fake news (mean = 2.40), if they forward news on social media without reading (mean = 1.3), if they often react (like, react, comment, etc.) to news on social media (mean = 2.5), how frequently they share information, ideas, or opinions on social media (mean = 2.3), and how often they see unethical contents of citizen journalists (mean = 2.5). Here, the scales are 1 for never, 2 for rarely, 3 for sometimes, and 4 for frequently.

xi) 74.6% of the respondents know fake news, 2% of the respondents do not know what fake news is, and 23.5% of the respondents are not sure what fake news is.

xii) 23.2% of the respondents think citizen journalists are following journalism ethics, while 24.4% do not. 52.3% think citizen journalists are somewhat following journalism ethics.

6.4.3 Preferences on citizen journalism

i) The mean rating if the respondents follow the news written by citizen journalists is

2.7. Here, the scale is 1 for never, 2 for rarely, 3 for sometimes, and 4 for frequently. It indicates that they sometimes follow the news of citizen journalists on social media.

ii) Youtube channels are the most followed social media platforms to consume the contents of citizen journalists by the respondents (mean = 3.1), followed by Instagram and WhatsApp groups (mean = 2.9 on both), Facebook groups and pages (mean = 2.5), and others (mean = 2.0).

iii) The respondents use social media the most (mean = 3.94) to get updated information on socio-political issues, followed by newspapers (mean = 2.80), television (mean = 2.76), and radio (mean = 1.40).

iv) According to the opinion of the respondents, social media is the fastest media to update news on socio-political issues (mean = 4.1), followed by television (mean = 2.9), newspapers (mean = 2.8), and radio (mean = 1.8).

v) The most credible media to update information on socio-political issues are social media, newspapers, and television equally (mean 3.2 each), followed by radio (mean 2.4).

vi) On statements concerning citizen journalism as compared with traditional journalism, the average ratings (mean) given by the respondents are as follows -

a. Citizen journalists are quicker at reporting news than traditional journalists (3.44).

b. Citizen journalists are quicker at reporting news than traditional journalists (3.43).

- c. I trust traditional/professional journalists more than citizen journalists (3.40).
 - d. I trust traditional media more than social media as a news source (3.34).
 - e. I choose social media more than any media to get news (3.25).
 - f. Every news update I am getting are from social media (3.18).
 - g. I trust citizen journalists more than traditional or professional journalists (2.76).
 - h. I never consume traditional media anymore (2.43).
- vii) 57.5% of the respondents think citizen journalism is posing a challenge to traditional journalism, while 8.8% do not. 33.7% of the respondents are not sure of this.
- viii) 64.3% of the respondents think citizen journalism is gaining more popularity than traditional journalism, while 8.6% think it is not. 27.1% are not sure of this.

6.3 Conclusion of the study

6.3.1 Conclusion for objectives 1 & 2

The following are the conclusions for objectives 1 and 2, and they show the condition of print journalists and print journalism in Mizoram.

1. The majority of traditional journalists live in the state capital, that is, Mizoram. The majority of traditional journalists are editors, and the main reason for this is that most of them own their own newspapers and look after their newspapers alone. Even though the majority of print journalists do not have any education in journalism, they have very good experience in the field, with an average experience of 16.21 years. Since the journalists are mostly responsible citizens within the state of Mizoram and gain the trust of the people, they hold several positions in the church, the Young Mizo Association, and other non-governmental organizations.

2. For about half of them, journalism is their first and only career in their lives, while for slightly less than half of them, it is not. But during their careers, many journalists work for several different media firms because of the availability of better opportunities. Most of them think they are receiving the respect and recognition they deserve, and the majority of them think their rights are also very well protected. They think that they have a very good influence amongst the people since most of them think their works even have influence on voting patterns during elections. It can be said that there is too much relationship between the journalists and the politicians of the state in many ways since the majority of them accept this situation from the survey.

3. Most of the traditional journalists studied do not trust citizen journalism fully. The majority of them think citizen journalism has news values to some extent but suggest prior verification on these news contents created by the citizen journalists. According to traditional journalists, most of the citizen journalists are very unethical in their work. The majority of the traditional journalists stated that they come across unethical content of citizen journalists on social media very frequently. Even though this is the case, the traditional journalists find that the works of the citizen journalists are very useful for news sources even though they mostly need further verification. Only a few traditional journalists think citizen journalism is gaining more popularity than traditional media while many of them are not sure about this. There are a good number of them who believe citizen journalism is not gaining more popularity than traditional journalism.

4. On the mapping of newspapers, it can be concluded that the contents are very diverse as well as very uniform regarding placing or arranging different columns on the pages. The newspapers in Mizoram are highly dependent on the government financially and also for news sources. The contents are also very much government-centric, with the majority of local Mizoram news being the programmes of politicians and government officials, along with the development programmes implemented by the government. It can be said that there is a high digital divide among the newspapers, with the leading newspapers having reliable and very popular

online platforms, while the other small newspapers in and out of Aizawl are nowhere to be found on online platforms. Even though this is the case, almost all newspapers are highly dependent on the internet for news sources for all other news except northeast news. The study also shows that a significant number of editors are multitasking, managing their newspapers all by themselves. The majority of the studied newspapers are still black-and-white and are printed locally in their respective districts.

6.3.2 Conclusions for objectives 3&4

The following are the conclusions for objectives 3 and 4, and they show the condition of citizen journalists and citizen journalism in Mizoram.

1. From the study, it is clear that social media is a much-preferred source of news for citizen journalists. While this is the case, most citizen journalists still think traditional media is a more credible source of news, particularly television.
2. The citizen journalists are very much engaged on social media, and this is evident from the findings that most of them spend a significant amount of time on it. This calls for more effective media literacy, especially for both the contributors and the consumers of the contents of social media, since the accuracy of information on the platform is a big concern for the audiences.
3. The citizen journalists use WhatsApp the most for sharing their contents, and their most used format is text-based.
4. Most of the citizen journalists do not have any education in journalism, and the majority are willing to undergo professional training if possible. This is a very crucial characteristic of these serious and active citizen journalists. It is evident from the study that the majority of citizen journalists do not know the technique of debunking fake news. Many of them also accept that they often share fake news or misinformation. This shows the lack of education or self- education in journalism, which is highly needed.

5. A significant number of citizen journalists think traditional media are becoming less important with the rising popularity of citizen journalism. This shows that citizen journalists believe that many people are relying on their fellow citizens for news and information, and this is a big challenge for the traditional media as well.

6. It is clear from the study that even though citizen journalism plays a very important role among the public, there is a big need for media education and awareness so as to avoid the dissemination of misinformation through the very popular and highly powerful social media.

7. From the citizen journalism platforms studied, it is clear that there is good participation and appreciation from the audiences for the contents created by the citizen journalists.

8. On Instagram, the majority of the content posted is news content. Pictures and reels are very much equally popular since Instagram is mainly a visually driven platform. The significant number of likes and comments shows a significant level of engagement with the audience. Amongst the citizen journalism platforms studied, Instagram is the least used platform by the citizen journalists and also by the audiences, as compared to the engagements of the audiences on Facebook and YouTube.

9. The studied YouTube also heavily focuses on news contents. During the study, the sentiment scores of the comments were mostly very positive, even though there were a few negative comments as well. The good number of engagements, like comments and likes, show the significant impact it has on the audience.

10. On Facebook, news and opinions are very much dominating the platform. Most of the posts are contributed by the group members, even though the group administrators often post Mizo Special Report exclusive news or feature stories. There is also a significant presence of engagement from the audiences after analysing the likes and comments of the contents during the time of study.

6.3.3. Conclusion for objective 5

The following are the conclusions for objective 5 and show the news consumption pattern and preferences of audiences in Mizoram.

1. The number of males and females is almost equal and shows a good gender balance for the sample. The respondents with an age between 20 and 30 years old are the majority, and this shows that the respondents are very youthful. With a good portion of the respondents being graduates and postgraduates, this shows that the majority of the respondents are very well-educated.
2. Since the respondents find social media to be their most important media, this indicates that it plays a very important role in the lives of people as compared to traditional media. But when it comes to credibility, traditional media are more credible to the people of Mizoram. It is also obvious that there are many people who never consume traditional media anymore, while for many, it plays a very important role in using traditional media like television and newspapers for entertainment and to stay updated on current events, respectively. It is also clear that many are still very highly dependent on traditional media since the majority of the respondents subscribe to local cable television and newspapers. This is also evident by the fact that the majority of the respondents still read books.
3. Video is the most favoured media format as compared to text, picture, and audio, which indicates a visual-centric preference for audiences to consume news.
4. The majority of them know what fake news is, but still, there are many challenges in dealing with misinformation by the people or the audiences of citizen journalists. Since only a small portion of the respondents think the citizen journalists are following journalism ethics, it is clear that the people do not fully trust the citizen journalists regarding the reporting of news in a very ethical and unbiased manner.

5. The study shows that not many of the people of Mizoram consume the contents of the citizen journalists every day. Youtube channels are becoming very popular and are the most preferred and used social media to consume the contents of citizen journalists. Social media is also the main source of news for people during socio-political issues, which shows the dominant role of social media in helping people stay informed. Social media is also accepted by the respondents as the fastest source of news when it comes to socio-political issues.

6. One important conclusion from the findings is that the people trust traditional journalists more than citizen journalists. Even though people highly consume social media content, traditional media is still the most preferred news source.

7. More than half of the respondents think citizen journalism is posing a challenge to traditional journalism, and the majority of the respondents accept that citizen journalism is becoming more and more popular than traditional journalism.

6.3.4 Political Economy of the Media

The relationship between traditional media, government and journalists gives a very complex dynamic where media can even perform as a mouthpiece for political interest. As seen in Naom Chomsky's five filters of mass media mainly ownership ties, advertising and media elite connections shape the news content in ways that it might compromise its objectivity and the trust of the public. As shown in the findings on the relationship between the journalists and politicians in Mizoram, this can create many challenges in delivering unbiased information by the media. The compromised state of news rooted in a political economy framework can result in confused audiences that find difficulties in consuming information that can be considered filtered and influenced.

6.3.5 Journalists' Affiliations and Potential Complicity

Many traditional journalists hold positions in the church, the Young Mizoram Association (YMA), and other organisations. From this arises a concern that there can be complicity by journalists in their respective organizations, and this raises the question of whether they can maintain objectivity in their reporting. The risk of not maintaining ethically unbiased reporting and the creation of content can exist due to their relationship and connection with their respective organisations when covering matters relating to these organizations. These affiliations in different organisations can also compromise journalistic independence, which is very important for the credibility and balance of news coverage.

6.3.6 Challenges in Millennial Engagement due to Compromised News and Generational Disconnect

The majority of traditional journalists are from an older demographic, and this can create challenges in capturing the attention and interest of the millennials. Their content might be interpreted as compromised; when we say "compromised news," we mean that the information they offer might not be impartial or might not align well with the viewpoints and values of the younger generations. This may cause millennials to avoid news altogether and to stop using traditional media. This may also cause them to prefer information from other sources that more closely match their beliefs and preferences.

6.3.7 Male dominated media landscape

As shown in this study, traditional and citizen journalism in Mizoram is also very much male-dominated, which can be the result of the Mizos having a patriarchal nature of society. Among the 146 accredited journalists recognized by the government of Mizoram, only 6 female accredited journalists. There is an immense gender imbalance among both traditional and citizen journalists, and more participation by women in the field of journalism is very much needed.

6.3.8 Challenges of Fake News in Journalism: Threats to Society and Democracy

As evident in the study, there is a frequent occurrence of fake news and misinformation in the contents of citizen journalists in Mizoram. It is found from this study that most citizen journalists are not able to debunk fake news or do not know the technique of debunking fake news and misinformation. This frequent occurrence of misinformation and a lack of knowledge to counter it can have harmful effects by misleading the public, which can further be a huge threat to society and can also pose risks to the basis of democracy. The prevalence of fake news during socio-political issues on social media is one good example.

6.3.9 Traditional vs. Social Media Communication Styles

Traditional media, which is a one-way communication channel, is a kind of media that disseminates information from the source to the audience without any immediate responses or interaction. This is the opposite in the case of social media, where it is a two-way communication that involves disseminating content and also creating platforms and opportunities for audiences' responses and interactions like likes, comments, etc. This participatory nature is transforming the media landscape and turning people into content creators and contributors, especially on social media, which is one of the most popular platforms used by the citizen journalists of Mizoram.

6.3.10 Oral Culture Impact on Mizoram's Media Scene, Emphasizing YouTube

Traditional oral communication, like Tlangau, remains influential in Mizoram despite print media existing for over a century. In Mizoram, the influence of oral culture may still persist on social media usage, where many prefer to listen to the audio of YouTube content, reflecting the ongoing impact of traditional communication in the digital age. YouTube channels are the most followed social media platforms to consume the contents of citizen journalists from this study.

6.3.11 Social Media Filling News Flow Gaps

The representation of Mizoram in the national media is very minimal, and there is a huge gap in the news flow between the state and the national level. Here, social media is a very significant platform that bridges these gaps. It gives rapid information about the state and has become the primary source for many audiences to receive information about the state and the things happening in and around the state. The quick accessibility in the palm of the audience's hands using mobile devices is also one of the most crucial reasons to choose social media as the primary source of information. Filling of the huge void left by the traditional media is one of the most significant roles played by citizen journalism.

6.3.12 Citizen Journalism Bridging Communitarian Gaps Left by Traditional Media

Citizen journalism is playing a crucial role in disseminating information in each and every corner of Mizoram where traditional media cannot reach. Any place in Mizoram, be it remote rural areas or not that has access to the internet, is getting almost all the information that can be accessed by people living in the urban areas using the internet. Since most of the contents of citizen journalism are found on social media, this makes citizen journalism bridging communitarian gaps left by traditional media since traditional media like cable TV connections, newspapers etc cannot reach each and every part of remote rural areas.

6.3.13 Citizen Journalism as 'Fifth Estate' in Mizoram

Citizen journalism is serving as an alternative information source beyond traditional media, as found in the study. It covers issues and subjects that are overlooked by traditional media and provides a very vast amount of information that is not seen in traditional mainstream media. So, it can be said that citizen journalism is acting as a "fifth estate" in filling the void left by traditional media.

As highlighted in the theoretical foundation, citizen journalism counters the monopolization and commercialization seen in many privately held media outlets by

providing news content driven by them. Additionally, it also opposes the centralization and dominance that characterize public broadcasting media. Traditional media often adapts to the interests of corporations or state governments as a way to operate within a political economic framework. Since citizen journalism operates directly at the community level and is very open, it deviates greatly from this pattern.

6.5 Recommendations from the study

The recommendations from the study are:

1. There is a need for journalism training or formal education on journalism among journalists and also among citizen journalists.
2. Collaborations between traditional and citizen journalism are highly recommended, like, for example, mutual training on journalism ethics.
3. More online presence in traditional media is highly recommended as internet technology is rapidly growing. Media engagement with youth needs to be strengthened, especially for traditional journalism.
4. The news content of newspapers needs to be diversified beyond the dominant government-centric news.
5. Most media research needs to be promoted in Mizoram.

6.6 Limitations of the Study

1. **Limited Comparative Analysis:** This study is exclusively focused on Mizoram, thereby restricting its ability to compare findings with other states or nations. As a result, the broader applicability and uniqueness of Mizoram's context within a global or national framework may not be fully explored. Comparative studies with other regions could provide valuable insights into regional variations and enhance the understanding of the studied phenomena in a broader context.

2. **Emphasis on Quantitative Data:** The study primarily relies on quantitative data analysis, potentially overlooking nuanced qualitative insights. By not incorporating qualitative methods such as interviews or case studies, the study might miss deeper understanding, contextual richness, and the subjective experiences of participants. Qualitative data could offer complementary perspectives that quantitative analysis alone may not capture, thereby limiting the comprehensive exploration of the research topic.

3. **Neglect of Technological Advancements:** The study does not examine the influence of technological advancements on citizen journalism practices. In today's rapidly evolving digital landscape, emerging technologies such as AI-driven news curation algorithms, social media platforms, and mobile journalism tools significantly impact how information is disseminated and consumed. The absence of this exploration could overlook crucial factors shaping the contemporary landscape of citizen journalism, potentially limiting the relevance and timeliness of the study's findings in understanding current trends and future developments in the field.

6.7 Further Scope of the Study

1. **Comparative Analysis with Other Regions:** Future research could broaden the scope by conducting a comparative study between Mizoram's citizen journalism practices and those in other Indian states or global regions. Such a comparative analysis could highlight regional variations in citizen journalism approaches, the impact of cultural and socio-political factors, and lessons that can be learned from diverse contexts to enrich practices in Mizoram.

2. **Impact of Citizen Journalism on Politics and Society:** It is essential to delve deeper into how citizen journalism has influenced Mizoram's political landscape and societal dynamics. This includes examining its role in shaping public opinion, influencing policy-making processes, and fostering civic engagement. Understanding these dynamics can provide insights into the broader implications of citizen journalism for democracy and governance in Mizoram.

3. **Participation of Marginalized Communities:** A critical area for exploration is the involvement of marginalized communities in citizen journalism initiatives in Mizoram. Investigating how these communities utilize citizen journalism platforms to amplify their voices, address social injustices, and advocate for their rights can shed light on the democratizing potential of these platforms and their impact on inclusive participation in public discourse.

4. **Role in Enhancing Digital Literacy:** There is a need to assess the role of citizen journalism in enhancing the digital literacy levels among the Mizo population. This involves examining how engagement with citizen journalism platforms contributes to digital skills development, media literacy, and critical thinking abilities among users. Understanding these aspects can underscore the educational benefits of citizen journalism and its implications for empowering individuals in Mizoram's digital age.

ANNEXURE I**MAPPING OF TRADITIONAL JOURNALISTS IN MIZORAM****Survey Questionnaire For Respondents**

1. Name
2. Firm/Organisation where you are working
3. Position or Post in your Organisation
4. Town/City where you are working?
5. District
6. Number of years in the field of journalism
7. Educational Background
 - i) Class X
 - ii) Class XII
 - iii) Graduate
 - iv) Post-Graduate
8. Educational background in journalism subject
 - i) Degree
 - ii) Diploma
 - iii) No degree or diploma in Journalism subject

9. Why do you choose journalism as a career?
10. Challenges and limitations in your job
11. Any position in YMA, Church or any other NGO?
 - i) Church
 - ii) YMA
 - iii) Other NGOs
 - iv) All of the above
12. Was this your first job?
 - i) Yes
 - ii) No
13. Were you working in the same firm or different firms?
 - i) Same firm
 - ii) Different firms
14. What are the things you are depending on for news making?
15. Do you think journalists are given the respect and recognition they deserve?
 - i) Yes
 - ii) No
16. Are the rights of journalists protected?
 - i) Yes
 - ii) No

17. Do you think journalists or the media plays a role in shaping the voting pattern in the state?
- i) Yes
 - ii) No
 - iii) May be
18. As a journalist, do you think there is too much of a relationship between politicians of the state and the journalists?
- i) Yes
 - ii) No
 - iii) May be

ANNEXURE II**OPINION OF TRADITIONAL JOURNALISTS ON CITIZEN JOURNALISM
IN MIZORAM****Survey Questionnaire for Respondents**

1. Name:
2. Gender:
 - i) Male
 - ii) Female
 - iii) Others
3. Age
 - i) 18-25yrs
 - ii) 26-30yrs
 - iii) 31-35yrs
 - iv) 36 and more
4. Educational Qualification:
 - i) 10th Standard
 - ii) 10+2 Standard
 - iii) Graduate
 - iv) Post Graduate
 - v) M.Phil
 - vi) Ph.D
5. Education in Journalism
 - i) Graduate
 - ii) Post Graduate

iii) Diploma

iv) None

6. Do you feel that the contents of citizen journalists have news value?

i) Yes

ii) No

iii) To some extent

7. What is your opinion on the news content posted on social media by citizens?

i) Fake

ii) Reliable

iii) Unreliable

iv) Verification needed

8. Do you think citizen journalists follow journalistic ethics?

i) Yes

ii) No

9. Have you ever come across a content of a citizen journalist that you found unethical?

i) Maybe

ii) Sometimes

iii) Always

iv) Not at all

10. As a journalist, how do you respond to the circulation of false news?
- i) Ignore
 - ii) Correct
 - iii) Verify
11. As a journalist, do you think citizen journalism is gaining more popularity among the audience than traditional media?
- i) Yes
 - ii) No
 - iii) Not sure
12. How often do you access social media to search news that needs further verification?
- i) Sometimes
 - ii) Often
 - iii) Not at all
13. Do you post your news or news based opinions on social media?
- i) Frequently
 - ii) Sometimes
 - iii) Never

14. Do you react or give comments on news posted by citizen journalists on social media?

- i) Frequently
- ii) Sometimes
- iii) Never

15. Do you feel citizen journalism is posing a challenge to traditional media? If yes, what according to you are the challenges?

ANNEXURE III**MAPPING OF CITIZEN JOURNALISTS IN MIZORAM****Survey Questionnaire For Respondents**

1. Name:
2. Sex: i) Male ii) Female iii) Others
3. Age:
 - i) 18-25yrs
 - ii) 26-30yrs
 - iii) 31-35yrs
 - iv) 36 and more
4. Educational Qualification:
 - i) Below Class X
 - ii) 10th Standard
 - iii) 10+2 Standard
 - iv) Graduate
 - v) Post Graduate
 - vi) M.Phil
 - vii) Ph.D
5. Designation/Occupation:

6. From which of the following medium do you mostly access news and information?

- i) Newspaper
- ii) Magazine
- iii) Television
- iv) Social Media
- v) `All of the above

7. On an average how much time do you spend on social media?

- i) 1-2 hours
- ii) 2-3 hours
- iii) 3-4 hours
- iv) More than four hours

8. Are you aware of fake news?

- i) Yes
- ii) No

9. Which social networking sites do you mostly use for posting your contents?

- i) Facebook
- ii) Instagram
- iii) Twitter
- iv) WhatsApp
- v) All of the above

10. What media format do you use in your content?
- i) Picture
 - ii) Text
 - iii) Video
 - iv) All of the above
11. Do you think information can be manipulated through the media?
- i) Yes
 - ii) No
12. Do you believe in the news and information you receive from social media?
- i) Yes
 - ii) No
 - iii) Not Always
 - iv) Sometimes
13. Which of the following according to you is a more credible source of news and information?
- i) Newspaper
 - ii) Radio
 - iii) Television
 - iv) Social Media

14. How frequently do you share information, ideas or opinions on social media?

- i) Frequently
- ii) Sometimes
- iii) Never

15. Do you have prior verification before posting content?

- i) Yes
- ii) No
- iii) Sometimes

16. Have you ever shared fake news as real news and later realized its a fake news

- i) Frequently
- ii) Sometimes
- iii) Never

17. Have you ever removed any post after finding out it is fake news?

- i) Frequently
- ii) Sometimes
- iii) Never

18. How often do you add comments and post additional information on social media platforms?

- i) Frequently
- ii) Sometimes
- iii) Never

19. Do you feel that traditional mediums such as newspaper, television, radio and magazine are becoming irrelevant with the emergence of online journalism?

- i) Yes
- ii) No
- iii) Not Sure

20. Are you willing to have professional training on journalism if possible?

- i) Yes
- ii) No

21. Do you know misinformation and disinformation?

- i) Yes
- ii) No

22. Do you know the technique of debunking fake news?

- i) Yes
- ii) No

23. How often do you get into a fight on social media platforms?

- i) Frequently
- ii) Sometimes
- iii) Never

24. Have you ever scolded someone on social media platforms?

- i) Frequently
- ii) Sometimes
- iii) Never

25. Do you read books?

- i) Frequently
- ii) Sometimes
- iii) Never

26. Were you active in posting news on social media during Mizoram and Assam border issues?

- i) Yes
- ii) No
- iii) Sometimes

27. Does participating in citizen journalism give you satisfaction?

- i) Yes
- ii) No

ANNEXURE IV**NEWS CONSUMPTION & PREFERENCES OF AUDIENCES IN MIZORAM****Survey Questionnaire for Respondents**

1. Gender
 - i) Male
 - ii) Female
 - iii) Others

2. Age
 - i) Below 20 years old
 - ii) 20-30 years old
 - iii) 30-40 years old
 - iv) 40-50 years old
 - v) 50-60 years old
 - vi) Above 60 years old

3. Marital status
 - i) Single
 - ii) Married
 - iii) Widow
 - iv) Divorced

4. Educational Qualification
 - i) Primary School
 - ii) Middle School
 - iii) High School
 - iv) Higher Secondary School
 - v) Graduate

- vi) Post Graduate
- vii) M.Phil
- viii) PhD ix)

5. District where you live

- i) Aizawl
- ii) Lunglei
- iii) Mamit
- iv) Kolasib
- v) Champhai
- vi) Lawngtlai
- vii) Siaha
- viii) Serchhip
- ix) Khawzawl
- x) Saitual
- xi) Hnahthial

6. How much time do you spend on these media everyday?

	Never	Less than 1 hour	1-2 hour	2-3 hour	3-4 hour	More than 4 hours
Radio						
Television						
Newspaper						
Social Media						

9. How important do you think the following media are as news source? Please rate the following

	Not Important	Somewhat Important	Neutral	Important	Very Important
Radio					
Television					
Newspaper					
Social Media					

10. Rate how credible do you find the news from the following sources are (the more the number, the more you find credible)

	1	2	3	4	5
Radio					
Television					
Newspaper					
Social Media					

11. Rate on what format do you consume news the most. (The more the number, the more you consume news in that format)

	1	2	3	4	5
Textual					
Video					
Picture					
Audio					

12. What language news content do you consume the most? Please rate

	1	2	3	4	5
Mizo					
English					
Hindi					
Others					

13. Which news do you watch the most on television? Please rate

	1	2	3	4	5
DDK News					
Local News in Local Cable TV					
National News Channels					
International News channels					

14. Do you subscribe newspaper

- i) Yes
- ii) No

15. Do you subscribe or have connection to local cable TV?

- i) Yes
- ii) No

16. Do you follow pages or accounts of traditional media on social media?

- i) Yes
- ii) No

17. Do you know what fake news is?

- i) Yes
- ii) No
- iii) Not sure

18. How often do you see fake news on social media

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Frequently
Levels				

19. Have you ever been fooled by fake news thinking it is real news?

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Frequently
Levels				

20. Do you forward news on social media without reading?

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Frequently
Levels				

21. Do you know how to debunk fake news or do you know the technique of debunking fake news?

- i) Yes
- ii) No

22. Do you respond (like, react, comment etc.) to news on social media?

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Frequently
Levels				

23. How frequently do you share information, ideas or opinions on social media?

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Frequently
Levels				

24. Do you think people who write news on social media (citizen journalism) are following journalism ethics.

- i) Yes
- ii) No
- iii) Somewhat

25. Have you ever come across a content of a citizen journalist that you found unethical?

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Frequently
Levels				

26. Do you follow any news from citizen journalists on social media like Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp etc?

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Frequently
Levels				

27. Where do you follow the content of citizen journalists the most? Please rate (The more the number, the more you consume from that source)

	1	2	3	4	5
Facebook Group/Pages					
WhatsApp groups					
YouTube channels					
Instagram					
Others					

28. Do you feel citizen journalism is posing a challenge to traditional media?
- i) Yes
 - ii) No
 - iii) Not Sure

29. Do you think citizen journalism is gaining more popularity than traditional media among the audiences?

- i) Yes
- ii) No
- iii) Not Sure

30. Which media do you the most to update yourself on socio-political issues

	1	2	3	4	5
Radio					
Television					
Newspaper					
Social Media					

31. Rate how fast you think the following media are in updating news on socio- political issues

	1	2	3	4	5
Radio					
Television					
Newspaper					
Social Media					

32. Rate how credible you think the following media are in updating news on socio-political issues.

	1	2	3	4	5
Radio					
Television					
Newspaper					
Social Media					

33. Please respond to the following statements

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
I choose social media more than any media to get news					
I never consume traditional media anymore					
Every news update I am getting from social media are from social media					
I still consume traditional media					

I trust traditional media more than social media as news source					
I trust traditional/professional journalists more than citizen journalists					
I trust citizen journalists more than traditional/professional journalists					
Citizen journalists are quicker in news reporting than traditional journalists					

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Class XII	2009	Mizoram Board of School Education	Science	49%	III
Bachelor of Arts	2014	Mizoram University	English	52.20%	II
Master of Journalism & Mass Communication	2016	Mizoram University	Journalism & Mass Communication	65.5%	I

Research Publications

Lalzawmtluangi, K., Vanlalruata, & Ratnamala, V. (2021). Mapping Online Reading Behaviour of University Students: A Case Study of Mizoram University, Aizawl. Library Philosophy and Practice (e-Journal). <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/5884>

Lalmuankimi, M., Ratnamala, V., & Vanlalruata. (2022). Exploring the Use of Social Media Platforms among Political Leaders in Mizoram. Communicator, ISSN:0588-8093, LVII(4), 51-64

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Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)

Libraries at University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Fall 6-15-2021

Mapping Online Reading Behaviour of University Students: A Case Study of Mizoram University, Aizawl

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Lalzawmtluangi, K. , Former Student, Department of Mass Communication; Vanlalruata, , Ph.D Scholar, Department of Mass Communication; and Ratnamala, V. , Associate Professor, Department of Mass Communication, "Mapping Online Reading Behaviour of University Students: A Case Study of Mizoram University, Aizawl" (2021). *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*. 5884.
<https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/5884>



Exploring the Use of Social Media Platforms among Political Leaders in Mizoram

MARIA LALMUANKIMI¹, V. RATNAMALA² & VANLALRUATA³

ABSTRACT

Politicians around the world have used social media as a tool of political campaigns to attract and influence the behaviour of voters. Politicians often hire and seek professional advice from media experts. The current research aims to investigate the usage of social media by political leaders of Mizoram, India. The paper attempts to study the pattern of social media usage and to identify the motivations of using social media platforms by political leaders. The data collection was done using a self-administered questionnaire during 2018–2019. A sample of 250 political leaders from five different political parties was chosen. The findings of the study show that the main motivation for using *Facebook* was to seek political and general information and also to see what others are up to. Motivation for using *Instagram* was to pass time and to see what others are up to. For using *YouTube*, it was entertainment, while the motivation for using *WhatsApp* was for personal messaging, to express thoughts and feelings, for internal communication, and to take part in discussions.

Keywords: Mizoram, Political leaders, Politics, Politicians, Social media platforms

Introduction

Using social media as a tool of political communication is becoming a phenomenon all over the world, especially in democratic countries like India. The most notable who effectively used social media was Barack Obama in his 2008 presidential election campaign (Smith, 2011). In Indian context, the review of the literature reveals that there are many studies regarding the use of social media platforms for political communication. Pathak (2014), in his study titled "A study on the use of social networking sites during Lok Sabha Elections-2014 by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)," reveals that the BJP party successfully used social media platforms in promoting their party and the party president Narendra Modi. For persuading the youth, BJP and other political parties copied strategies used by US President Barack Obama's 2012 presidential campaign, through Thunderclap, an online platform which facilitates to create viral content. After conducting an online survey, the author discovered that the BJP had more positive momentum on social networking sites. BJP leaders keep them up to date by using the internet to browse, post status updates, and express their personal opinions on global online forums. Social networking sites have grown to be

one of the biggest online platforms for sharing real-time information in the world today.

Studies have been done on how political parties and leaders are using or abusing social media effectively for political communication and to propagate their propaganda internationally and nationally. It is important to research and analyse how political leaders in Mizoram, India, use social media platforms because a thorough study on how they operate has not yet been concluded. This study will examine the use of social media platforms by political leaders in Mizoram. The study attempts to dissect how political leaders in Mizoram are using various social media platforms. It also focuses on the usage pattern of social media platforms by political leaders.

Social Media—Definition

Social media is the latest form of information technology which man has created. It has revolutionized the way we share information within a society. The term social media can be defined as "wide range of Internet-based and mobile services that allow users to take part in online exchanges and contribute user-created content" (Dewing, 2012). Another definition of social media is "internet-based

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CITIZEN JOURNALISM ON SOCIAL MEDIA IN MIZORAM: AN ANALYSIS OF 'MIZO SPECIAL REPORT' FACEBOOK GROUP

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Abstract

People are increasingly turning to social media as a source of information and a means of expressing themselves. This paper gives a detailed analysis of a Facebook group called 'Mizo Special Report' which is one of the most active citizen journalism platforms in Mizoram, India with approximately more than 20 posts a day and more than 500 posts in a month containing mostly news based content, political criticism and opinion based feature articles. This study focussed on the posts published during January, 2022. The study is a qualitative study and employs a content analysis method. There are very few studies of this kind from the state of Mizoram and the findings of this study will show people's reactions to the phenomenon of citizen journalism on social media, as well as the importance of social media platforms in influencing the evolution of citizen journalism. It will also reveal the true state of citizen journalism in Mizoram.

Keywords: citizen journalism, Mizoram, Facebook, social media

INTRODUCTION

Despite the fact that conventional journalism still exists, there is a new trend in journalism known as citizen journalism. Citizen journalism plays an important part in the shaping of public opinion and is an important platform for exercising the right to freedom of speech guaranteed by the Indian Constitution. Citizen journalism, according to Noor (2016), is a term used in the media to denote investigative acts carried out by ordinary people. It ensures that individuals report on the problems that they face. Miller (2011) says that Citizen journalism, also known as participatory journalism, is most often carried out by online services such as Facebook, Twitter, and personal web blogs.

Mizoram is a mountainous region that joined the Indian Union as the 23rd state in February 1987. According to Census of India, 2011, Mizoram's population is 10,91,014 with 5,52,339 being male and 5,38,675 being female. The sex ratio is 975 female per 1000 males. Mizoram has the largest concentration of Scheduled Tribe residents in all of India, with 95 percent of the total population listed as Scheduled Tribe. Mizoram has a literacy rate of 91.33 percent, and the majority (83.18 percent) of the population are Christians. According to the Department of Information and Public Relations under the Government of Mizoram, there are 157 accredited journalists in Mizoram at present. The Mizos are more and more involved in citizen journalism using various online platforms. At present there are different citizen journalism related social media pages and accounts administered by normal people who do not use journalism as their professional career. This study will significantly help in finding out the present condition of citizen journalism in Mizoram.

MIZO SPECIAL REPORT

A Facebook group named 'Mizo Special Report', which is the main subject of this study, was created 7 years ago on 21st January, 2015 with an intention to provide news based content and other content having importance for Mizo society and also to educate the Mizo people. Mizo language is used in almost all of the contents. It has 3,53,740 members at present and the Facebook group is made visible to anyone while the contents and its makers can only be seen by the group members since it is set as a private group.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

According to Bélair-Gagnon & Anderson (2015), the word 'citizen journalism' is recent, but the tradition of citizen journalism has a long history and citizens have been involved in the creation of news since the dawn of digital journalism, long before the Internet and web 2.0.

A Comparative Study on News Flow in Mizoram Regional Dailies and Major Indian dailies

Vanlalruataⁱ & Dr. V. Ratnamalaⁱⁱ

Abstract: The purpose of the study is to examine the news flow in the dailies. Northeast India can be considered as regional minorities within the mainstream media. The study will be done in the light of the Macbride commission report and Shoemaker's concept of comparing media patterns with demographic and geographic patterns. There are numerous studies on Northeast and media, moreover it reveals the misrepresentation and the stereotyping of Northeast as a violent prone area in the national media. But to the researcher's knowledge, there are few comprehensive explanations of the coverage of the Northeast in the national Press and vice versa the nature of coverage in Mizoram dailies. The present study attempts this and content analysis will be employed as methodology. For this study, two Mizo newspapers i.e. Vanlainei and Newlink and two national newspapers i.e. The Hindu & The Times of India are selected. The sampling period is January - June 2022 and six composite week samples will be chosen for this study. This study will fill a huge gap in media research for the state of Mizoram.

Keywords: News flow, Mizoram dailies, Major Indian dailies, geographical indicators, Content analysis

Introduction

India's Northeast could be considered as cultural and regional minorities in the Indian context. Northeast India rarely comes up in the mainstream media coverage. A study by Akoijam (2013) on the coverage of the North East in the Delhi edition of four English dailies revealed that the coverage declines. In 2012 the North East made more news than usual on the front pages of national dailies and on prime time news. But this was not sustained. Also 60 per cent of the January coverage was in the form of briefs. It should be noted that particularly only 2 news items on Mizoram were published during the study period in 2012 and 2013. Assam got more space because of the riots.

The lack of coverage of the region in the national English-language press means its events and issues rarely figure in the public agenda and little pressure is put on the government to 'do something' to address its myriad problems. It is argued that news is mainly influenced by the socio-cultural environment and journalists' notions of 'us' and 'them'—a key binary present in all societies. The dumbing down and 'Murdochization' of the Indian press since the early 1990s only has intensified the symbolic annihilation of life in the Northeast, which, instead, should be reported as a central component in the Indian public sphere (Sonwalkar, 2004).

The media usually covers only the bomb blasts, the massacres, the shootouts – threats posed by the region to the sanctity of the Indian state. Instances of mixing up names and accompanying visuals abound in television and the print media (Hasan, 2004). There are a number of instances of mixing up Mizoram with the neighboring states.

In 2010 India Today mixed Mizoram with Manipur. It may be mentioned that, the Mizoram figures in their cover story about "Traffic Jam" in India and Mizoram was in news then when Mizoram government has made it mandatory to have parking space before buying a car. In its editorial, Aroon Purie wrote, "In Manipur, the state has banned citizens from buying a car unless they have residential parking", while Ravi Shankar wrote

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Papers Presented in Conferences/Seminars

1. Presented paper titled, —Status of Journalism as a Profession in Mizoram in International Web-Convention Hundred Years of Media Education Decoding the south Asian Mystique, on 19 to 20 December, 2020.
2. —Citizen Journalism on Social Media in Mizoram: An Analysis of ‘Mizo Special Report’ Facebook Group in the international conference on Digital Culture and Politics organized by department of visual communication, SRM Institute of Science Technology, Tamil Nādu on 21 to 25 March 2022.
3. —Influence of Citizen Journalism on Traditional Media: A Study on Traditional Journalists and Citizen Journalists in Mizoram in the Two Days Virtual Seminar on Realities of Marginalisation and Marginality in Media organized by Department of Mass Communication, Mizoram University on 21 to 22 April, 2022.

No.IWC/ARMT/P/1023



International Web-Convention
Hundred Years of Media Education
Decoding the South Asian Mystique
December 19 and 20, 2020

Certificate of Participation

We have the pleasure in presenting this certificate to
Mr. Vanlalruata & Dr. V.Ratnamala

Mizoram University
who has participated/presented a paper titled
Status of Journalism as a Profession in Mizoram

K.V.Nagaraj
Prof. K V Nagaraj
Conference Chair,
Former Pro-Vice Chancellor, Assam University,
Retired Professor, Universities of Mangalore, Mizoram,
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Status of Journalism as a Profession in Mizoram

Vanlalruata & V.Ratnamala

Abstract

Mizoram is one of the states of Northeast India with Aizawl as its capital city. The media scenario in Mizoram is very unique and divergent from the other parts of India. According to RNI (Registrar of Newspapers in India), there are **204** registered publications in Mizoram. Among them **108** includes 36 daily,

43 weekly, 29 monthly newspapers and magazines. The remaining publications are from Church and community based organizations. The small state like Mizoram is talented with a vibrant media industry. All the newspapers from Mizoram fall under the small newspapers category and their circulation is not exceeding 50,000. At present, Mizoram state government has given press accreditation to 141 journalists and beyond that, numbers of non- accredited staffs are working in the field of journalism. But there are hardly any in-depth studies on the status of journalists and the journalism as a profession in Mizoram. The main objective of the study is to analyze the status of journalists in Mizoram. The main research questions of the study are

1. to study the professional status of journalists
2. the challenges and limitations of the journalists of Mizoram
3. to study the nature and style of news making and news reporting in Mizoram
3. To analyze the job satisfaction of the journalists
4. The impact of COVID-19 on the journalists. A survey will be conducted to collect quantitative data and intensive interviews will be conducted with various journalists, Editors, and Publishers of various Media houses. This study will enlighten the true scenario of journalists in Mizoram and add more literature on Journalism Profession in Northeast India.

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PRESENTATION



5th International Conference on
DIGITAL CULTURE & POLITICS
 (Beyond Identity and Power)

Department of Visual Communication
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SRM

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that Dr/Mr/Ms **VANLALRUATA**
PhD Research Scholar, Mizoram University has presented a paper
 titled "**Citizen Journalism on Social Media in Mizoram: An
 Analysis of 'Mizo Special Report' Facebook Group**" in the
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(Beyond Identity and Power) organised by the Department of
 Visual Communication during 21st March to 25th March 2022.

CONFERENCE SECRETARIES

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Citizen Journalism on Social Media in Mizoram: An Analysis of ‘Mizo Special Report’ Facebook Group

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Abstract

People are increasingly turning to social media as a source of information and a means of expressing themselves. This paper gives a detailed analysis of a Facebook group called ‘_Mizo Special Report’ which is one of the most active citizen journalism platforms in Mizoram, India with approximately more than 20 posts a day and more than 500 posts in a month containing mostly news based content, political criticism and opinion based feature articles. This study focussed on the posts published during January, 2022. The study is a qualitative study and employs a content analysis method. There are very few studies of this kind from the state of Mizoram and the findings of this study will show people's reactions to the phenomenon of citizen journalism on social media, as well as the importance of social media platforms in influencing the evolution of citizen journalism. It will also reveal the true state of citizen journalism in Mizoram.

Keywords: citizen journalism, Mizoram, Facebook, social media

**Two Days Virtual National Seminar on
Realities of Marginalisation and Marginality in Media**

Certificate of Participation

This is to certify that

MR.VANLALRUATA

RESEARCH SCHOLAR, MIZORAM UNIVERSITY

has presented a paper titled

INFLUENCE OF CITIZEN JOURNALISM ON TRADITIONAL MEDIA :

A STUDY ON TRADITIONAL JOURNALISTS AND CITIZEN JOURNALISTS IN MIZORAM

**in the Two Days Virtual National Seminar on
Realities of Marginalisation and Marginality in Media organised by
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Influence of Citizen Journalism on Traditional Media: A Study on Traditional Journalists and Citizen Journalists in Mizoram

Vanlalruata & Dr. V. Ratnamala

Abstract

Citizen Journalism is allowing normal people to report on important events in their own community and with the fast growth of the internet, citizen journalists are having more and more platforms with no limitation. This led to the dependence of the internet and social media as sources of information by people besides the mainstream media. The study aims to assess the influence of citizen journalism on traditional media in Mizoram. A survey will be conducted among the working journalists in Mizoram and also among the Mizo citizen journalists from different platforms on the internet. 100 samples of traditional and citizen journalists will be selected using simple random sampling. The data will be collected using an online questionnaire. The study will fill a huge research gap since there are almost no studies of this kind within the state.

Keywords: Citizen journalism, traditional journalists, citizen journalists, Mizoram

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NAME OF THE CANDIDATE	: VANLALRUATA
DEGREE	: DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
DEPARTMENT	: MASS COMMUNICATION
TITLE OF THE THESIS	: AN EVALUATIVE STUDY OF CITIZEN JOURNALISM IN MIZORAM
DATE OF ADMISSION	: 04.11.2020
APPROVAL OF RESEARCH PROPOSAL	
DRC	: 20.04.2021
BOS	: 28.04.2021
SCHOOL BOARD	: 07.05.2021
MZU REGISTRATION NO.	: 3102 of 2011
REGISTRATION NO. & DATE	: MZU/Ph.D./1593 of 04.11.2020
EXTENSION	: nil

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ABSTRACT

**AN EVALUATIVE STUDY OF CITIZEN JOURNALISM IN
MIZORAM**

**AN ABSTRACT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF
THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF
PHILOSOPHY**

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MZU REGISTRATION NO.: 3102 OF 2011

Ph.D. REGISTRATION NO.: MZU/Ph.D./1593 OF 04.11.2020



**DEPARTMENT OF MASS COMMUNICATION
SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS, MANAGEMENT
AND INFORMATION SCIENCE**

MARCH, 2024

AN EVALUATIVE STUDY OF CITIZEN JOURNALISM IN MIZORAM

BY

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Submitted

**In partial fulfillment of the requirement of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy
in Mass Communication, Mizoram University, Aizawl**

An Evaluative Study of Citizen Journalism in Mizoram

1. Introduction

Journalism, in all its varieties, is the constant background and accompaniment to everyday life (McNair, 2005). Mouton (2018), in his work *Journalism*, says that journalism is an amazingly rich field of study, generating interest from a variety of perspectives and disciplines. The author of this book explored how the modern digital era is undermining the hegemony in publishing held by established young journalists. He also spoke about how, as the amount of content and contributors grows, there is more competition for readers and for understanding media as a cultural discipline.

Even though traditional journalism exists at present, there is a new trend in journalism, which is called citizen journalism in the state, and with it, citizen journalists. Citizen journalism plays a big role in the formation of public opinion and is a crucial platform to exercise freedom of expression under the Constitution of India. This study attempts to examine traditional journalism versus citizen journalism in Mizoram.

1.1 Traditional Journalism

According to Parthasarathy (1989), China was a forerunner in the development of paper and printing. Paper was invented in the second century A.D., and Wang Chieh wrote the first book printed from blocks in 868 A.D. A Buddhist scripture known as the Diamond Sutra, dated 868 A.D., is the earliest record of Chinese printing. Many individuals have been credited as pioneers of printing technologies throughout history. Gutenberg of Mainz, Laurens Janszoon Coster of Haarlem, Johannes Brito of Bruges, and Pamfilo Castaldi of Feltre (Italy) are only a handful of them. Scholars from all over the world have done extensive historical research. Johann Gutenberg, a German, invented movable cast metal type printing machines in Mainz around 1440–50.

Eisenstein (1979) focuses on the early days of printing, particularly between 1460 and 1480. It illustrates a novel method of knowledge protection by printing as

well as significant consequences that led to a crucial moment in Western history. According to Eisenstein, the introduction of printing altered people's views toward literacy.

Edmund Burke first applied the term "fourth estate" to the press gallery in the late eighteenth century, contrasting it with the three estates of the realm in France, which are the Clergy, Aristocracy, and Commoners (Carlyle, 1840). The idea of the Fourth Estate signifies that, whatever the formal constitution, genuine political power lives in the informal role of the press, which derives from the relationship between the press and its readers (Hampton, 2010).

Gangadhar Bhattacharjee launched the Bengal Gazette, the nation's first English newspaper owned by Indians, in Calcutta in 1816. Raja Rammohan Roy started Brahmanical Magazine in 1820, Sambad Kaumudi in 1821, Mrat ul Akhbar in 1822, a Persian weekly, he also started journals called Reformer, the Inquirer and the Gyan Auneshun. Between 1831 and 1833 there were 19 new journals published in Bengal. In Bombay Bal Gangadhar Tilak started Kesari (Marathi) and Mahratta (English) in January 1881 (Pernau & Jafery, 2009).

Bayly (1996) said that after the invention of printing technologies, the Indian public communication system underwent a significant transformation. Following the 1850s, Indian journalism reached its pinnacle, coinciding with the rise of the independence movement. As a result, several printing presses emerged as one of British India's modern institutions. Early information networks started to deteriorate by the 1870s. The intelligence agent, spy, informer, or runner, who were so important in the early stages of British rule, became less important. The unified early correspondence networks of the postal system, the electric telegraph, and printing presses took their place (newspapers, printed books, and pamphlets).

1.2 Citizen Journalism

According to Noor (2016), citizen journalism is a term used in the media to describe investigative actions carried out by everyday citizens. It ensures that people themselves report on the problems they face. Participatory and democratic journalism are other terms for citizen journalism.

Miller (2011) says that citizen journalism, also known as participatory journalism, is most often carried out by online services such as Facebook, Twitter, and personal web blogs. Internet-based social media channels have been an integral part of people's daily lives, whether at work, in their recreation, or in their social and political lives. Kiran (2009) says that, given that the media is the fourth cornerstone of democracy, citizen journalism today offers an answer to the ancient issue of *quis custodiet ipos custodies*, or "who watches the watchers," whose freedom and objectivity are challenged and compromised by political and commercial intervention.

1.3 Mizoram at a glance

In February 1987, the hilly area of Mizoram was accepted as the 23rd state of the Indian Union. Mizoram is located in the northeastern region of India, sandwiched between Bangladesh to the west and Myanmar to the east and south. This region is extremely strategically significant. It has a 722-kilometer boundary with Myanmar and Bangladesh (Bhatt & Bhargava, 2006). There is confusion about the Mizo's origins and their migration to their current home.. Historians believe that the Mizos were a part of the great wave of the Mongolian race spilling over into eastern and southern India centuries ago (Gajrani, 2004).

According to Sailo (2006), Mizoram's population comprises ethnic tribes that are culturally and linguistically related. Mizos (Mi means people, Zo means the name of a progenitor); thus, six major tribes inhabited the Mizo Land. They are Lusei, Ralte, Hmar, Paite, Pawi (Lai), and Lakher (Mara). Besides these, there are many sub-tribes.

The majority of Mizos are now Christians as a result of British missionaries' influence over them in the 19th century. There is no unique script for the Mizo language. The missionaries introduced the Roman script for the Mizo language and formal education (Bhatt & Bhargava, 2006). Mizoram was formally brought under British administration on September 6, 1895 (McCall, 1980). According to Chatterjee (1985), in 1898, the north and south hills were merged into the Lushai Hills district, which was headquartered in Aizawl. When the Lushai Hills and a few other hill districts were classified as "backward tracts" by the Government of India Act of 1919, the consolidation of British rule in Assam's tribal-dominated areas started in 1919. Known as the 'Mautam Famine' in Mizo history, it was a severe famine that struck the Mizo Hills in 1959 (Indian Express, 2012). Jagdish (2008) states that the famine was caused by the flowering of bamboo, which resulted in an increase in the rat population. It resulted in a widespread loss of food supplies and crops. A lot of people died as a result of hunger. Mizo Cultural Society was established in 1955, Pu Laldenga serving as its secretary. To combat the famine, the Mizo Cultural Society's name was changed to "Mautam Front" in March 1960. The society changed its name to the Mizo National Famine Front (MNFF) in September 1960. The MNFF gained popularity as many Mizo youth helped carry rice and other necessities to interior communities. According to Lalchungnunga (1994), on October 22, 1961, the Mizo National Famine Front was renamed the Mizo National Front (MNF) after its rebound from the catastrophe. Greater Mizoram's sovereign freedom was the stated aim. With the rebellion against the government on February 28, 1966, it resorted to armed insurgency, targeting government installations in Aizawl, Lunglei, Chawngte, Chhimluang, and other locations. On March 5 and 6, 1966, the Indian government bombed Aizawl with Toofani and Hunter jet fighters.

According to Baruah (2007), in May 1971, a delegation from the Mizo District Council met with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and requested absolute statehood for Mizoram. In July 1971, the Indian government offered to make the Mizo Hills a Union Territory. On the 21st of January 1972, Mizoram was officially declared as a UT. Mizoram holds two seats in Parliament: one in the Rajya Sabha and one in the Lok Sabha.

Chatterjee (1994) states that, on June 30, 1986, the Mizo National Front and the Union Government signed the Mizoram Peace Accord (officially known as the Mizoram Accord, 1986, Memorandum of Settlement). Mizoram became a federal state of India on February 20, 1987, after achieving statehood as a condition of the agreement. The 2011 Indian Census shows that there are 10,91,014 people living in Mizoram, 5,52,339 of whom are men and 5,38,675 of whom are women. The sex ratio is 975 females per 1000 males. Mizoram has the largest concentration of Scheduled Tribe residents in all of India, with 95 percent of the total population listed as Scheduled Tribe. Mizoram has a literacy rate of 91.33 percent, and the majority (83.18 percent) of the population are Christians. At present, there are 11 districts in Mizoram.

1.4 Traditional Media in Mizoram

The history of print journalism in Mizoram dates back to British colonialism in India. Along with the rest of India, Mizoram was under British rule. The motives of the English missionaries to convert the tribal people into Christians set the groundwork for educating and changing the lifestyle from headhunters to gentlemen. They introduced the Mizo alphabet and taught the people how to read and write. As a result, the first handwritten Mizo newspaper was born. Published in 1898, Mizo Chanchin Laisuih became the first newspaper in the Mizo dialect. It was started by the most powerful colonial official, J. Shakespear, in the Lushai Hills District. Four issues of this newspaper appeared over two years, from 1898 to 1899. The newspapers were handwritten, and they were multiplied by carbon copies. The purpose of producing and circulating these artefacts was not to enlighten the masses. It is possible that this newspaper was published four times in two years, from 1898 to 1899. The newspapers were written by hand and printed out on carbon copies. newspapers were consumed by the local bureaucracy and the native elites (Lalrozami, 2012). In 1902, J. Shakespeare also started Mizo leh Vai Chanchin, another newspaper. Sylhet Dinna Nath Press printed the monthly publication. In quick succession came Tun Hapta Chanchinbu (1939), Nitin Chanchinbu (1939), Mizo Chanchinbu (1946), and Zoram Thupuan (1947). With connections to the Mizo Union at the time, Mizo Chanchinbu was the state's first political party newspaper.

The church has a long history in the print media of Mizoram. The first media project by a church in Mizoram was Kristian Tlangau. The Presbyterian Church published it in 1911. The newspaper Sipai Tlangau was started by the Salvation Army, and Pu Laldela served as its first editor. Tlawmngaihna (1934), Mizo Chanchin (1905), and Kohhran Beng (1946) are published by the Baptist Mission. The Catholic Kantu started in 1960 (Varte, 2012). At present, there are 146 accredited journalists in Mizoram. Of the 141 journalists, 55 are from Aizawl district, 18 from Lunglei district, 11 from Champhai district, 11 from Siaha district, 13 from Kolasib district, 12 from Serchhip district, 8 from Lawngtlai district, 9 from Mamit district, 6 from Hnahthial district, and 3 from Khawzawl district (Government of Mizoram, 2023).

1.5 Review of Literature

Three communication revolutions in human history are mentioned by scholars. Writing was the first to emerge. The second was the invention of printing. When it came to the invention of paper and printing, China was a pioneer. Paper was invented in the second century A.D., and Wang Chieh wrote the first book printed from blocks in 868 A.D. A Buddhist scripture known as the Diamond Sutra, dated 868 A.D., is the earliest record of Chinese printing. Many individuals have been credited as pioneers of printing technologies throughout history. Gutenberg of Mainz, Laurens Janszoon Coster of Haarlem, Johannes Brito of Bruges, and Pamfilo Castaldi of Feltre in Italy are only a handful of them. Scholars from all over the world have done extensive historical research. Johann Gutenberg, a German, invented movable cast metal type printing machines in Mainz around 1440–50 (Parthasarathy, 1989). Eisenstein (1979) also focuses on the early days of printing, particularly between 1460 and 1480. She illustrates a novel method of knowledge protection by printing as well as the significant consequences that led to a crucial moment in Western history.

Through the efforts of Jesuit missionaries, the first printing press arrived in India in 1556. It was brought from Portugal and installed at St. Paul's College in Goa. It was primarily used for printing religious literature such as tracts and hymn books.

Hicky's Bengal Gazette was India's first printed newspaper, and it was published in English. It was edited and published by James Augustus Hicky, a former East India Company employee (Narayanrao, 2012)

Stahlberg (2013) uses the metaphor of 'cartography of news' to explain the study of newsroom history, schedules, beat processes, and the macrostructure of news layout in the context of the Lucknow edition of Dainik Jagran. He demonstrates how lawmakers in Lucknow were more interested in contacting reporters from Indian-language newspapers and how advertisers were aware of the Hindi press's increasing presence in north India. The current condition of journalism in the world is a complex and multifaceted issue with a number of challenges and opportunities for the industry. Research suggests that trust in journalism has declined in recent years, particularly in the United States. According to a Pew Research Centre study, only 18% of Americans believe they can trust the news they receive from major news outlets. This decline in trust is thought to be driven in part by the proliferation of fake news and misinformation (The Pew Research Center, 2019).

The Committee to Protect Journalists reports that 32 journalists were killed in 2020, and many more were imprisoned or harassed (The Committee to Protect Journalists, 2020). The biggest challenge facing journalism in the digital age is the competition between conventional media and modern media, in this instance, internet media (Saragih & Harahap, 2020). Traditional mainstream media, especially newspapers, are facing a real-time crisis as there is an increasing number of citizens actively participating in information dissemination (Karun, 2011).

The cultural, political, and economic environments in which journalism is practised influence it. In a globalised world, recognising these many journalistic cultures can help advance intercultural understanding and raise the standard of journalism globally (Hanitzsch et al., 2019). According to Artus (1929), there was a widespread effort to standardise and organise the journalistic industry, and everyone wanted stability and control. A key aspect of this progressive organisation of the profession was considered to be the growth of increasingly disciplined and cohesive

groups among journalists. Because of their financial struggles, journalists' groups began to take on an increasingly strong trade union identity.

The Worlds of Journalism Study (WJS) conducted a pilot study between 2012 and 2016 that brought together researchers from 67 different countries. Through their joint efforts, the researchers interviewed over 27,500 journalists based on a shared methodological framework. The questionnaire for the study asked journalists about a range of subjects, such as the function of journalism in society, ethics, newsgathering independence from external influences, journalistic trust in public institutions, and the evolution of journalism in its broadest sense. This provides a thorough understanding of the state of journalists worldwide (<https://worldsofjournalism.org/country-reports/>).

Herman & Chomsky (1988) reveal how propaganda is used by the mainstream media in democracies to stifle opposition and inconvenient facts while advancing the agendas of corporate elites. Five editorially skewed filters are described by them in the propaganda model for the fabrication of public consent. These filters are supposed to affect how news is reported in the mass media. First, ownership is a factor. Large corporations own mass media companies. They usually belong to much bigger corporations. Thus, it is in their best interests to advocate for any policy that ensures that profit. The true purpose of advertising is revealed by the second filter. More money is spent on media than will ever be paid by consumers. So, the advertisers are stepping in to fill the void. The media elite is the third filter. As a check on power, journalism is unable to function because the system itself promotes cooperation. Large organizations, companies, and governments provide the media with official narratives, media scoops, and interviews with "experts." They establish themselves as essential to the journalism process. Therefore, those who report on the powerful and those in power are sleeping with each other. Journalists, sources, and whistleblowers who deviate from the consensus are labelled as "flak." The fourth filter is this one. A target, an enemy, and consent must be created. The fifth filter is "common enemy." Common enemies, such as communism, terrorism, immigrants, etc., serve as a source of fear and influence public opinion.

Ramaprasad (2016) also provided a good insight on the state of Indian journalists in her work for the Worlds of Journalism Study as a country report. She interviewed 527 journalists in India, where the majority were reporters working full time. The majority of them think the journalistic role is extremely important in educating audiences and agree that they should always adhere to the code of professional ethics. According to them, there is an immense transition in journalism, according to the study, in terms of an increase in aspects of work and skills, and other than this, journalists' work does not deteriorate.

In the days before the Internet, the only sources of news were traditional media like television, radio, and newspapers. That circumstance is altering. The main media corporations' news websites are now competing news sources. They coexist with alternative news sources on the Internet, including blogs, social networking sites, websites with user-generated material, and wikis that are gaining popularity. These websites provide a wide range of news, just like traditional media. The news pieces differ since they are written by viewers or users. The stories cover a wide spectrum, from original reporting on regional tragedies and events to analysis of entertainment and news topics that have appeared in other mainstream media. User-generated content, sometimes known as "citizen journalism," or public participation in the media, is becoming more and more prevalent. The advantages are that those watching situations can email a report and pictures to the media or immediately post eyewitness reports online. Citizen journalism also spends a lot of time analysing and debating stories and issues that are reported in the media. In contrast to journalists in the major media, citizen journalists are free to contribute anonymously and without any formal journalism education (The Open Newsroom, 2008).

Since citizen journalism is a shift from traditional journalism to journalism conducted by members of the public, especially online, it can be considered a kind of revolution. The public's dissatisfaction with traditional journalism, both in terms of quantity and quality, is thought to have contributed to the emergence of citizen journalism. The emergence of citizen journalism was caused by the public's dissatisfaction with the way traditional journalism was distributed. Traditional journalism poses a number of questions that may cause audiences and journalists to

disagree, especially when it comes to complex but newsworthy topics. One of the main reasons why citizen journalism has emerged is the conflict between traditional journalism and frustrated audiences (Obama, 2023).

Rajesh (2009) argues that citizen journalism has been a central feature of the Internet since its inception. OhMyNews, a South Korean online news outlet founded in 2000 under the slogan "Every Citizen is a Reporter," is the most notable success story in citizen journalism. Articles submitted by readers are accepted, edited, and published as part of the newspaper's open-source business model (The Open Newsroom, 2008). Mythen (2010) discusses the impact of citizen journalism on the reporting of risk. He lays out the spectrum of impacts, such as how much it broadens the plurality of risk discourses, democratizes news flows, and establishes alternative news values. He also examines the limitations of citizen journalism, such as the issue of distortion, problems with unequal access, and the incorporation of populist news presentation techniques. Most of the time, citizen journalists draw attention to situations that the mainstream media frequently overlooks. Mainstream journalists cannot be everywhere at once and hence cannot report on or record everything that is newsworthy (Noor, 2013). Choubey (2020) argues that citizen journalism has emerged as a powerful contrast to the mainstream media. Millions of social media users are sharing COVID-19-related news and updates to create awareness, counter fake news, hate speech, and block misleading information. However, citizen journalism is still facing significant obstacles, and communal forces, administration, judiciary, and anti-social factors are continuing to pose a threat to their lives.

The future of journalism as a discipline and a field is unquestionably always changing. Because citizen journalism offers an "authentic," first-hand perspective, many news professionals in traditional media argue that it is disrupting the field's core paradigm. It also gave traditional media, which could select stories based on how well they met their organizations' schedules, a useful resource (Ali, 2013).

With the establishment of Samachar.com and Rediff.com by businessmen Rajesh Jain and Ajit Balakrishnan in the middle of the 1990s, the Internet has developed into a potent platform for citizen journalism in India (Sonwalker, 2009, as

cited in Noor, 2013). Cable News Network-Indian Broadcasting Network (CNN-IBN), an English-language Indian television news channel, pioneered the idea of television citizen journalism in India. Indian common people are vocalising the voiceless and exposing topics that are often overlooked by mainstream media. They are actively contributing to the democratic and inclusive development of the Indian media landscape and are no longer merely passive observers. The country's oppressed and impoverished populace can now access media resources and privileges thanks to citizen journalism, which gives marginalised people a forum to voice their opinions and empowers them (Kumar, 2019). CGNet Swara is a significant example of citizen journalism initiatives in India. CGNet Swara is a voice-based site that anyone can use to report and listen to local interest stories. It is openly available via mobile phone (<http://cgnetswara.org/about.html>).

There are very few studies regarding citizen journalism in northeast India and even specifically within Mizoram. There is one study by Lalmuankimi (2018) about emerging citizen journalism in Mizoram with a case study on a Mizo Facebook group named Mizo Special Report. She finds out that ordinary citizens are exercising their right to freedom of speech and expression rendered to them by the Indian constitution under Article 19(1)(a) of the Indian constitution. The main focus is given to Mizoram news, and it was also found that there were a number of citizens engaging in political issues.

1.6 Research Gap

There are only a few studies done on traditional journalism in Mizoram. Two studies mapped media in two other districts of Mizoram, i.e., Lawngtlai and Siaha. The study that attempted to map traditional journalism in Mizoram is very limited as it discussed only two newspapers from Aizawl. It has not focused much on other available media in the whole of Mizoram. Some research articles are also only on Aizawl media. There are also almost no studies on citizen journalism in Mizoram at present. So, the researcher will mainly focus on mapping the existing traditional journalism and citizen journalism to add more literature, which will fill a gap as there

are no in-depth studies of both traditional and citizen journalism in Mizoram as a whole.

1.7 Scope of the study

An analysis of the state of traditional media as well as the state of working journalists is critical in order to determine the exact state of their work and its effects. With the emergence of digital media, many people now have access to smartphones and high-speed internet, causing them to share stories and photos about exciting events on numerous media outlets, including social media. This allows facts to spread further than most reputable media outlets, whether they are true or false. As a result, it's critical to investigate the true meaning, status, and influence of citizen journalism and its journalists, as well as the positive and negative effects they're having. As a result, the aim of this study is to provide information on traditional and citizen journalism in Mizoram, as well as how the two forms of journalism are currently intertwined. It is also crucial to learn how citizen journalists respond to journalism's ethics and culture, as well as what sort of reactions they get from the public.

1.8 Research objectives

- i. To map the status of working journalists in traditional media in Mizoram
- ii. To map the status of traditional journalism in Mizoram
- iii. To map the status of citizen journalism and citizen journalists in Mizoram.
- iv. To examine how citizen journalists respond to the values and ethics of journalism.
- v. To analyse how audiences consume news and how they respond to traditional journalism versus citizen journalism.

1.9 Research Methodology

In order to gather the desired results and objectives of the study, a triangulation research methodology that integrates both qualitative and quantitative techniques is used. Triangulation is the practise of utilising multiple data sources or methods of data analysis to increase a research study's credibility. Triangulation is especially related to qualitative research methods; it usually entails reviewing information from written archives, focus groups, interviews, and other sources. Triangulation is often used in studies that combine both quantitative and qualitative research methods (Salkind, 2010). Content analysis is also employed in the study. A research technique known as content analysis was developed from analyses of texts that have been preserved, including magazines, newspaper articles, and speech transcripts. By identifying and examining the frequency of particular themes or categories in the data, content analysis enables researchers to derive significant conclusions and make sensible decisions (Tunison, 2023). The survey method is also employed. A cross-sectional study which is an observational study in which the exposure and the outcome are determined at the same time point for each study participant is also employed. Cross-sectional studies comprise the simplest individual-level observational study design and are usually An observational study with a cross-sectional design is also used, in which each study participant's exposure and outcome are ascertained at the same time point. relatively inexpensive and easy to conduct compared with case-control or cohort studies (Pandis, 2014). Multistage sampling is used as it is in most content research in the media. This procedure is divided into three stages: content source sampling, date selection, and content selection (Wimmer and Dominick, 2003).

Methods of Data Collection

i) Objectives 1 and 2 will be studied using a triangulation design. Under this, the working traditional journalist will be identified, and after identifying the required subjects, field observation and surveys using questionnaires along with content analysis will be employed. Different newspapers and citizen journalism platforms will be thoroughly analysed using this method. For print media, five newspapers

from Aizawl, namely Vanglaini, The Zozam Times, The Aizawl Post, Mizoram Post, and Newslink, will be chosen as purposive samples based on their circulation, along with one leading newspaper from each of the other districts of Mizoram.

ii) For Objectives 3 and 4, triangulation design and content analysis will be used. To get the complete status of citizen journalists and citizen journalism in Mizoram, surveys using questionnaires and analysis of the content are employed. For citizen journalism platforms, the Facebook group Mizoram Special Report, Instagram account Explore Mizoram, and YouTube channel Mizo Official Channel are chosen for studying the content of citizen journalism.

iii) For objective 5, a survey method is employed to get the desired result, and a cross-sectional population survey is employed by taking simple random samples. At least 25 samples from each of the districts will be taken as respondents from each district of Mizoram, with more respondents from the capital district, that is, Aizawl, since it is significantly more populated.

1.10 Theoretical Framework

The Democratic Participant Theory, put forth by Dennis McQuail in 1987, serves as the theoretical basis for this study. According to Democratic Participant Theory, the media's tasks include providing local information, soliciting input, and promoting social action at the local level. It opposes a homogenous, monopolized, and profit-driven media culture. Instead, it favours local, non-institutionalized media outlets disseminating pertinent information to targeted populations. The concept facilitates feedback, which is only possible in small groups and communities, and contact between the media and the audience. It encourages equality between different racial groups, classes, castes, genders, and other group-controlled groups (Bajracharya, 2018). Since this theory promotes participatory media, it can be used to understand citizen journalism as well as traditional journalism in Mizoram within the context of this study. This theory highlights the significance of citizens as engaged participants in Mizoram's media landscape while also shedding light on the challenges and limitations.

1.11 Outline of the Thesis

In chapter 1, the researcher provided an explanation of the study's background, research gap, theoretical framework, scope of the study, research objectives, methodology and outline of the thesis.

In order to understand the deeper meaning of citizen journalism versus traditional journalism, the researcher has organised a literature review in Chapter 2 starting with history and present status of traditional followed by the emergence of citizen journalism and its present condition.

Traditional journalists and the traditional journalism in Mizoram are mapped by the researcher in Chapter 3 and the citizen journalists and the citizen journalism Mizoram are mapped in Chapter 4.

The news consumption and the media preferences of the audiences in Mizoram is examined in chapter 5.

The findings, conclusion and recommendations are discussed in Chapter 6.

1.12 Conclusion

1.12.1 Conclusion for objectives 1 & 2

The following are the conclusions for objectives 1 and 2, and they show the condition of print journalists and print journalism in Mizoram.

1. The majority of traditional journalists live in the state capital, that is, Mizoram. The majority of traditional journalists are editors, and the main reason for this is that most of them own their own newspapers and look after their newspapers alone. Even though the majority of print journalists do not have any education in journalism, they have very good experience in the field, with an average experience of 16.21 years. Since the journalists are mostly responsible citizens within the state of Mizoram and gain the trust of the people, they hold several positions in the church, the Young Mizo Association, and other non-governmental organizations.

2. For about half of them, journalism is their first and only career in their lives, while for slightly less than half of them, it is not. But during their careers, many journalists work for several different media firms because of the availability of better opportunities. Most of them think they are receiving the respect and recognition they deserve, and the majority of them think their rights are also very well protected. They think that they have a very good influence amongst the people since most of them think their works even have influence on voting patterns during elections. It can be said that there is too much relationship between the journalists and the politicians of the state in many ways since the majority of them accept this situation from the survey.
3. Most of the traditional journalists studied do not trust citizen journalism fully. The majority of them think citizen journalism has news values to some extent but suggest prior verification on these news contents created by the citizen journalists. According to traditional journalists, most of the citizen journalists are very unethical in their work. The majority of the traditional journalists stated that they come across unethical content of citizen journalists on social media very frequently. Even though this is the case, the traditional journalists find that the works of the citizen journalists are very useful for news sources even though they mostly need further verification. Only a few traditional journalists think citizen journalism is gaining more popularity than traditional media while many of them are not sure about this. There are a good number of them who believe citizen journalism is not gaining more popularity than traditional journalism.
4. On the mapping of newspapers, it can be concluded that the contents are very diverse as well as very uniform regarding placing or arranging different columns on the pages. The newspapers in Mizoram are highly dependent on the government financially and also for news sources. The contents are also very much government-centric, with the majority of local Mizoram news being the programmes of politicians and government officials, along with the development programmes implemented by the government. It can be said that there is a high digital divide among the newspapers, with the leading

newspapers having reliable and very popular online platforms, while the other small newspapers in and out of Aizawl are nowhere to be found on online platforms. Even though this is the case, almost all newspapers are highly dependent on the internet for news sources for all other news except northeast news. The study also shows that a significant number of editors are multitasking, managing their newspapers all by themselves. The majority of the studied newspapers are still black-and-white and are printed locally in their respective districts.

1.12.2 Conclusions for objectives 3&4

The following are the conclusions for objectives 3 and 4, and they show the condition of citizen journalists and citizen journalism in Mizoram.

1. From the study, it is clear that social media is a much-preferred source of news for citizen journalists. While this is the case, most citizen journalists still think traditional media is a more credible source of news, particularly television.
2. The citizen journalists are very much engaged on social media, and this is evident from the findings that most of them spend a significant amount of time on it. This calls for more effective media literacy, especially for both the contributors and the consumers of the contents of social media, since the accuracy of information on the platform is a big concern for the audiences.
3. The citizen journalists use WhatsApp the most for sharing their contents, and their most used format is text-based.
4. Most of the citizen journalists do not have any education in journalism, and the majority are willing to undergo professional training if possible. This is a very crucial characteristic of these serious and active citizen journalists. It is evident from the study that the majority of citizen journalists do not know the technique of debunking fake news. Many of them also accept that they often share fake news or misinformation. This shows the lack of education or self-education in journalism, which is highly needed.

5. A significant number of citizen journalists think traditional media are becoming less important with the rising popularity of citizen journalism. This shows that citizen journalists believe that many people are relying on their fellow citizens for news and information, and this is a big challenge for the traditional media as well.
6. It is clear from the study that even though citizen journalism plays a very important role among the public, there is a big need for media education and awareness so as to avoid the dissemination of misinformation through the very popular and highly powerful social media.
7. From the citizen journalism platforms studied, it is clear that there is good participation and appreciation from the audiences for the contents created by the citizen journalists.
8. On Instagram, the majority of the content posted is news content. Pictures and reels are very much equally popular since Instagram is mainly a visually driven platform. The significant number of likes and comments shows a significant level of engagement with the audience. Amongst the citizen journalism platforms studied, Instagram is the least used platform by the citizen journalists and also by the audiences, as compared to the engagements of the audiences on Facebook and YouTube.
9. The studied YouTube also heavily focuses on news contents. During the study, the sentiment scores of the comments were mostly very positive, even though there were a few negative comments as well. The good number of engagements, like comments and likes, show the significant impact it has on the audience.
10. On Facebook, news and opinions are very much dominating the platform. Most of the posts are contributed by the group members, even though the group administrators often post Mizo Special Report exclusive news or feature stories. There is also a significant presence of engagement from the audiences after analysing the likes and comments of the contents during the time of study.

1.12.3 Conclusion for objective 5

The following are the conclusions for objective 5 and show the news consumption pattern and preferences of audiences in Mizoram.

1. The number of males and females is almost equal and shows a good gender balance for the sample. The respondents with an age between 20 and 30 years old are the majority, and this shows that the respondents are very youthful. With a good portion of the respondents being graduates and postgraduates, this shows that the majority of the respondents are very well-educated.
2. Since the respondents find social media to be their most important media, this indicates that it plays a very important role in the lives of people as compared to traditional media. But when it comes to credibility, traditional media are more credible to the people of Mizoram. It is also obvious that there are many people who never consume traditional media anymore, while for many, it plays a very important role in using traditional media like television and newspapers for entertainment and to stay updated on current events, respectively. It is also clear that many are still very highly dependent on traditional media since the majority of the respondents subscribe to local cable television and newspapers. This is also evident by the fact that the majority of the respondents still read books.
3. Video is the most favoured media format as compared to text, picture, and audio, which indicates a visual-centric preference for audiences to consume news.
4. The majority of them know what fake news is, but still, there are many challenges in dealing with misinformation by the people or the audiences of citizen journalists. Since only a small portion of the respondents think the citizen journalists are following journalism ethics, it is clear that the people do not fully trust the citizen journalists regarding the reporting of news in a very ethical and unbiased manner.

5. The study shows that not many of the people of Mizoram consume the contents of the citizen journalists every day. Youtube channels are becoming very popular and are the most preferred and used social media to consume the contents of citizen journalists. Social media is also the main source of news for people during socio-political issues, which shows the dominant role of social media in helping people stay informed. Social media is also accepted by the respondents as the fastest source of news when it comes to socio-political issues.
6. One important conclusion from the findings is that the people trust traditional journalists more than citizen journalists. Even though people highly consume social media content, traditional media is still the most preferred news source.
7. More than half of the respondents think citizen journalism is posing a challenge to traditional journalism, and the majority of the respondents accept that citizen journalism is becoming more and more popular than traditional journalism.

1.12.4 Political Economy of the Media

The relationship between traditional media, government and journalists gives a very complex dynamic where media can even perform as a mouthpiece for political interest. As seen in Naom Chomsky's five filters of mass media mainly ownership ties, advertising and media elite connections shape the news content in ways that it might compromise its objectivity and the trust of the public. As shown in the findings on the relationship between the journalists and politicians in Mizoram, this can create many challenges in delivering unbiased information by the media. The compromised state of news rooted in a political economy framework can result in confused audiences that find difficulties in consuming information that can be considered filtered and influenced.

1.12.5 Journalists' Affiliations and Potential Complicity

Many traditional journalists hold positions in the church, the Young Mizoram Association (YMA), and other organisations. From this arises a concern that there can be complicity by journalists in their respective organizations, and this raises the question of whether they can maintain objectivity in their reporting. The risk of not maintaining ethically unbiased reporting and the creation of content can exist due to their relationship and connection with their respective organisations when covering matters relating to these organizations. These affiliations in different organisations can also compromise journalistic independence, which is very important for the credibility and balance of news coverage.

1.12.6 Challenges in Millennial Engagement due to Compromised News and Generational Disconnect

The majority of traditional journalists are from an older demographic, and this can create challenges in capturing the attention and interest of the millennials. Their content might be interpreted as compromised; when we say "compromised news," we mean that the information they offer might not be impartial or might not align well with the viewpoints and values of the younger generations. This may cause millennials to avoid news altogether and to stop using traditional media. This may also cause them to prefer information from other sources that more closely match their beliefs and preferences.

1.12.7 Male dominated media landscape

As shown in this study, traditional and citizen journalism in Mizoram is also very much male-dominated, which can be the result of the Mizos having a patriarchal nature of society. Among the 146 accredited journalists recognized by the government of Mizoram, only 6 female accredited journalists. There is an immense gender imbalance among both traditional and citizen journalists, and more participation by women in the field of journalism is very much needed.

1.12.8 Challenges of Fake News in Journalism: Threats to Society and Democracy

As evident in the study, there is a frequent occurrence of fake news and misinformation in the contents of citizen journalists in Mizoram. It is found from this study that most citizen journalists are not able to debunk fake news or do not know the technique of debunking fake news and misinformation. This frequent occurrence of misinformation and a lack of knowledge to counter it can have harmful effects by misleading the public, which can further be a huge threat to society and can also pose risks to the basis of democracy. The prevalence of fake news during socio-political issues on social media is one good example.

1.12.9 Traditional vs. Social Media Communication Styles

Traditional media, which is a one-way communication channel, is a kind of media that disseminates information from the source to the audience without any immediate responses or interaction. This is the opposite in the case of social media, where it is a two-way communication that involves disseminating content and also creating platforms and opportunities for audiences' responses and interactions like likes, comments, etc. This participatory nature is transforming the media landscape and turning people into content creators and contributors, especially on social media, which is one of the most popular platforms used by the citizen journalists of Mizoram.

1.12.10 Oral Culture Impact on Mizoram's Media Scene, Emphasizing YouTube

Traditional oral communication, like Tlangau, remains influential in Mizoram despite print media existing for over a century. In Mizoram, the influence of oral culture may still persist on social media usage, where many prefer to listen to the audio of YouTube content, reflecting the ongoing impact of traditional communication in the digital age. YouTube channels are the most followed social media platforms to consume the contents of citizen journalists from this study.

1.12.11 Social Media Filling News Flow Gaps

The representation of Mizoram in the national media is very minimal, and there is a huge gap in the news flow between the state and the national level. Here, social media is a very significant platform that bridges these gaps. It gives rapid information about the state and has become the primary source for many audiences to receive information about the state and the things happening in and around the state. The quick accessibility in the palm of the audience's hands using mobile devices is also one of the most crucial reasons to choose social media as the primary source of information. Filling of the huge void left by the traditional media is one of the most significant roles played by citizen journalism.

1.12.12 Citizen Journalism Bridging Communitarian Gaps Left by Traditional Media

Citizen journalism is playing a crucial role in disseminating information in each and every corner of Mizoram where traditional media cannot reach. Any place in Mizoram, be it remote rural areas or not that has access to the internet, is getting almost all the information that can be accessed by people living in the urban areas using the internet. Since most of the contents of citizen journalism are found on social media, this makes citizen journalism bridging communitarian gaps left by traditional media since traditional media like cable TV connections, newspapers etc cannot reach each and every part of remote rural areas.

1.12.13 Citizen Journalism as 'Fifth Estate' in Mizoram

Citizen journalism is serving as an alternative information source beyond traditional media, as found in the study. It covers issues and subjects that are overlooked by traditional media and provides a very vast amount of information that is not seen in traditional mainstream media. So, it can be said that citizen journalism is acting as a "fifth estate" in filling the void left by traditional media.

As highlighted in the theoretical foundation, citizen journalism counters the monopolization and commercialization seen in many privately held media outlets by providing news content driven by them. Additionally, it also opposes the

centralization and dominance that characterize public broadcasting media.

Traditional media often adapts to the interests of corporations or state governments as a way to operate within a political economic framework. Since citizen journalism operates directly at the community level and is very open, it deviates greatly from this pattern.

1.13 Recommendations from the study

1. There is a need for journalism training or formal education on journalism among journalists and also among citizen journalists.
2. Collaborations between traditional and citizen journalism are highly recommended, like, for example, mutual training on journalism ethics.
3. More online presence in traditional media is highly recommended as internet technology is rapidly growing. Media engagement with youth needs to be strengthened, especially for traditional journalism.
4. The news content of newspapers needs to be diversified beyond the dominant government-centric news.
5. Most media research needs to be promoted in Mizoram.

1.14. Limitations of the Study

1. There is no comparison study with other states or nations; the study is restricted to Mizoram alone.
2. Due to its focus solely on quantitative data analysis, the study may have overlooked important qualitative insights.
3. There is no examination of technological advancement and may miss the impact of emerging technologies on citizen journalism.

1.15. Further Scope of the Study

1. To conduct a study comparing Mizoram's citizen journalism to that of other Indian states or other regions of the world.
2. To look into how citizen journalism has affected Mizoram's politics and

society.

3. To examine how marginalized communities participate in citizen journalism and how this helps to elevate their voices.
4. To examine the significance of citizen journalism in improving the digital literacy level of the Mizo people.

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