

The Internet impact on Professional Identity and Status among women Journalists in the UAE

By

Khuloud M. Robari

College of Communication, University of Sharjah

Dr. Essam Nasr

Associate Professor, College of Communication, University of Sharjah

Abstract

The purpose of this study is to examine the impact of the Internet on the professional identity and status of women journalists in the UAE. In the UAE and worldwide, digitizing media and convergence to social networking platforms has been an exciting transformation for academics and professionals, especially those in the journalism industry. Because of the change, journalists rely more on the Internet and new technologies to do their jobs. As a result, the purpose of this thesis paper was to examine the impact of the Internet on the professional identity and status of women journalists in the UAE. The study relied on a qualitative research methodology through in-depth structured interviews with eight journalists from different media organizations in the UAE. The results of this study show that digital media has facilitated the role of journalists, as technology helps them save time and effort. The study also found that women journalists remain a supportive element in the media field, especially in cases where the presence of a woman is required to cover a feminist event. Women in journalism are valued in most parts of the UAE, as most institutions have incorporated the Gender Equality Law into their organizational structures.

Key Words: Female Journalists, Digitization of media, the impact of the Internet, Professional Identity

Introduction

With advances in information technology and telecommunications, rapid, successful, and new horizons have opened up for people worldwide regardless of culture, gender, social environment, and scientific potential, to name a few. The tremendous advances have led to modern technological systems such as the Internet, an easy means of communication for individuals and groups, and institutions in modern societies. The United Arab Emirates has a high percentage of Internet users, 16.7% (KIRAT, 2004), although the country is still very young since its establishment on December 2, 1971. The use of technology in society is becoming a significant equality factor, especially with social media supported by the Internet. For example, professionals in various fields, such as doctors, teachers, lawyers, engineers, and journalists, rely on social media to work, get information, and educate themselves, to name a few. For example, doctors use social media to deliver medical advice to their audiences. Teachers can use the Internet to gather the latest information on a particular topic to teach their students. Increasing dependency has a positive impact because online communication is easily accessible and available. Journalists in all parts of the world consider social media a core part of their professional practice. Journalists are taking online information in stride to increase their interest and awareness.

Moreover, thanks to the wide availability of social media, journalists can do their job with no or fewer obstacles. Nowadays, journalists can only do their work with the Internet, as much of their work involves interacting with various social media platforms to coordinate their activities. Access and use of the Internet have contributed to the efficiency of journalists, as they can easily access and gather information to communicate with the public and learn public opinion on specific issues. The Internet has positively affected journalists, especially female journalists in the UAE, as they can express themselves freely. At the same time, female journalists' use of the Internet has led to their exposure to online trolls and harassment. This thesis will address the impact of the Internet on the professional identity and status of women journalists in the UAE.

Literature Review

In the last two decades, the digitization of media and convergence with social networking platforms has brought about an exciting transformation for scholars and professionals, especially in journalism. In the United Arab Emirates, women journalists rely on Internet connections, intelligent devices, and digital devices to rely on and report on their work in their professional practice. In a study by Lewis and Molyneux, journalists, particularly women journalists, have continuously derived many benefits from using the Internet to create more news content for a wider audience (Lewis & Molyneux, 2018). Other researchers argue that the use of the Internet and digital technologies have led to an improvement in journalism and an upgrade in the journalistic practices of female journalists in the UAE (Thomas, 2013).

Through the use and availability of social media, journalists have greater access to information that plays an essential role in improving their reporting and writing skills. Therefore, integrating the Internet into journalism, and for women journalists in particular, continues to be a more significant investment that provides them with a more fruitful investment. Most female journalists in the UAE log on to their social media platforms to report news, despite the challenges and obstacles they face in doing so. Because of the Internet, journalists can log on to their social media networks, such as Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube, to name a few, to report their news and get feedback from their audiences. A study by Rodrigues shows that female journalists in Arabic-speaking countries use the Internet to write on various issues and raise awareness among the masses (Rodrigues, 2014). In the United Arab Emirates, female journalists believe that using the Internet in their profession is less rigorous and comparatively less respectful of traditional norms regarding reporting practices. For female journalists in the United Arab Emirates, using the Internet and digital environments means more freedom of expression and access to information, which is considered a positive aspect of integrating digital media into journalism (Lewis & Molyneux, 2018).

Female journalists prefer to use social media to report their personal stories and opinion-based articles, especially in Dubai. On the other hand, female journalists in Iraq use social media to report on the challenges they face, especially during the war, and the burden of having to take care of their families alone after the death of their husbands (Ziani et al., 2021). Women journalists' Internet use gives them a sense of belonging, but it does not mean they abandon their traditional reporting patterns. Women journalists' use of conventional media is still precious and authentic, and it remains an integral part of their profession. Even though women journalists' use of the Internet has many benefits, it can sometimes be detrimental to their reputations and careers. Sometimes, female journalists' use of social media exposes them to ridicule associated with misinformation, as reported by Ali, who confirmed the existing misinformation in social media, especially in times of crisis such as war or Covid-19 (Ali,

2020). Although their shortcomings, women journalists' Internet use has more benefits than the identified shortcomings.

Challenges faced by female journalists in UAE

All professionals, both males, and females, face various job challenges. However, female professionals, especially female journalists, face more challenges, mainly because of the nature of their profession. An Arab News article states that female journalists in Dubai face discrimination in the workplace, from unfair salary disparities to unconscious bias (Arab Journalists' Body, Facebook, Media Groups Join Forces to Empower Women Writers, 2021). The shift to using the Internet and working remotely due to the coronavirus pandemic created several challenges for women journalists as they struggled to balance their responsibilities, work, and home. In addition, women journalists must endure sexual harassment, hate speech, misogyny, and trolls, among other things, in their online work. A study by the International Center for Journalists and the Tow Center for Digital Journalism at the College of Columbia found that most female journalists in the United Arab Emirates faced attacks, threats, online abuse, and harassment, especially after the Covid-19 outbreak, as most of their work had to be conducted online (Posetti et al., 2020). In a study conducted in the United Arab Emirates region, the Arab Barometer reported a notable decline in Internet use by female journalists compared to men, as women encountered immense challenges in fully participating in the digital space as journalists, especially in engaging in reflective real-life issues.

A study by Catherine Adams found that female journalists, particularly those working in the video game industry, face harassment (Adams, 2018). The study surveyed a group of female journalists in the technology sector to understand how they are abused and violated during a typical workday and how they respond. According to participants, most were forced to change their work methods or conceal their identities to avoid abuse (Adams, 2018). From examining their comments, it appears that the normalization of sexist abuse has been embraced, resulting in an invisible type of feminism that further reveals the mood of defiance and appetite for needed change in addressing issues of identity loss and exclusion (Adams, 2018). The study's findings show that the abuse and discrimination of female journalists in the UAE affect their lives and harm journalism and society.

In addition to the above challenges, women journalists in the UAE also face prejudice, stereotypes, cultural norms, and gender roles. These obstacles mainly prevent women journalists from accessing the Internet, acquiring digital skills, and participating in the digital economy or society (Arab Journalists' Body, Facebook, Media Groups Join Forces to Empower Women Writers, 2021). The culture and religion of women journalists in the United Arab Emirates are sometimes a hindrance, as Safa & Akter (2015) reported. According to the authors, the culture in the United Arab Emirates is conservative regarding the role of women in society. According to their culture, families arrange marriages, and women must stay home and care for their families. In a study by I. Sivakumar, some people in the Sri Lankan region see female journalism as fueling tensions between different communities, which, instead of promoting unity, leads to division and enmity (Sivakumar, 2018).

According to a study conducted by Aljuaid, women journalists in Saudi Arabia have limited ability to actively participate in peace journalism because most need more decision-making power and limited opportunities in the media field (Aljuaid, 2020). Most female journalists face many challenges in their countries, mainly related to their culture and the taboos focused on men. Most of them are not allowed to express their opinions publicly due to the fear imposed on them by society. According to Aljuaid's study, Saudi Arabian women face

challenges, especially in journalism. According to the findings, female journalists encounter initial objections from their immediate family when they express their intention to pursue a career in journalism (Aljuaid, 2020). Even though Islamic laws do not provide for such objections, they are determined by cultural views and traditions. Thus, culture and religion as challenges to their professional identities and careers have become critical conditions through which women journalists in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Saudi Arabia are forced to stay home and accept their usual roles as wives, mothers, and daughters.

An additional challenge associated with female journalism in the United Arab Emirates is the perception among hiring managers that women cannot work in cold and wet environments. As Franks further reports, employers believe it would be inappropriate for women to work night shifts because their culture does not allow them to be away from their families (Franks, 2013). In addition, women who want to enter the journalism industry have limited opportunities because stereotypes say they are a threat to men, who consider women weak, soft, and therefore unable to handle significant problems and situations responsibly. A study by Tsui and Lee found that women in the journalism industry are highly likely to be harassed by childbearing from the perspective of their male colleagues and that their responsibilities as mothers and homemakers would cause them to struggle with their professional obligations (Tsui & Lee, 2012). In most cases, this notion ruins the career advancement of female journalists.

Female Journalists in UAE as targets of online abuse

Even though the many opportunities offered by the Internet, women journalists in the United Arab Emirates are subjected to intimidation and violence because of their work; this has significant implications for them as members of a profession that, while providing them with a platform for free expression, has become a target of conflict in the context of terrorism (Jamil, 2020). In most cases, women journalists in Arabic-speaking countries are defamed and attacked for what they report or their questions, offline and online (Ross et al., n.d.). In the worst cases, women reprimand for daring to speak out or express their opinions. In addition to some of the risks and threats faced by their male counterparts, women journalists also face gender-based violence and harassment in the field, in newsrooms, and online. Most of these attacks are virtual or physical and are often sexualized (Jones, 2021). For a very long period, men have dominated the journalism industry; from the editor's desk to the front page, men have held all the prestigious positions in the field, in addition to keeping all the parts of power and being highly visible in news content (Ross et al., n.d.). Women journalists in the UAE face threats when they use the Internet, especially on social media, where they report on what is happening worldwide and comment on social issues in various forums. The risks women journalists face in the UAE range from targeted attacks involving sexual violence to digital security breaches through identifying information revealed through malicious misrepresentation using AI technologies (Jamil & Sohal, 2021). It has contributed to making most women journalists in the region less visible and more vulnerable—a double-edged sword that delegitimizes their role while increasing their exposure and further straining their resilience. Although women journalists in the UAE have recently become more involved in media and public discourse thanks to the Internet, this has been slow, mainly because there has been a simultaneous increase in the number of threats and acts of violence they face in the course of their work. Some research has shown that the chilling effect of Internet use on the safety of women journalists has led most of them to withdraw from public conversations that directly affect them and society, even to the point of leaving the profession altogether (Jamil et al., 2020).

The positioning of female journalists in UAE in the industry

Despite women journalists in the UAE facing challenges in their work, most have stood up for their right to freedom of expression against all odds. With the advent and use of the Internet, women journalists in these regions have chosen to raise their voices and those of the voiceless through various social media platforms enabled by the Internet to fight for their position in society and assert themselves in what was originally a male-dominated industry. Despite cultural and religious restrictions, women journalists have spoken out by participating in online webinars designed to fight for their rights and have spoken out in a protected space about the challenges of their profession, both at home and at work (Arab Journalists' Body, Facebook, Media Groups Join Forces to Empower Women Writers, 2021). Women journalists in the UAE have also participated in webinars that address privacy issues, gendered terms in the media, sexual harassment in the newsroom and online, and gender balance in media coverage. Through various webinars aimed not only at women journalists in the UAE but in all parts of the world, millions of women journalists reach out to speak out on issues that affect them as women professionals in the media industry (Kirat, 2004). Even though social and cultural constraints have prevented qualified graduates from entering journalism, it has not stopped them from actively using the Internet to participate in forums to change the perception that women cannot be in the media industry. Despite women journalists in the UAE facing challenges in their work, most have stood up for their right to freedom of expression against all odds. With the advent and use of the Internet, women journalists in these regions have chosen to raise their voices and those of the voiceless through various social media platforms enabled by the Internet to fight for their position in society and assert themselves in what was originally a male-dominated industry. Despite cultural and religious restrictions, women journalists have spoken out by participating in online webinars designed to fight for their rights and have spoken out in a protected space about the challenges of their profession, both at home and at work (Arab Journalists' Body, Facebook, Media Groups Join Forces to Empower Women Writers, 2021). Women journalists in the UAE have also participated in webinars that address privacy issues, gendered terms in the media, sexual harassment in the newsroom and online, and gender balance in media coverage. Through various webinars aimed not only at women journalists in the UAE but in all parts of the world, millions of women journalists reach out to speak out on issues that affect them as women professionals in the media industry (Kirat, 2004). Even though social and cultural constraints have prevented qualified graduates from entering journalism, it has not stopped them from actively using the Internet to participate in forums to change the perception that women cannot be in the media industry.

According to a study by Kirat, most women journalists in the UAE come from different countries due to the small number of locals who are not working in the industry despite their skills and education (Kirat, 2004). This results in the need to enable more women to work as journalists without cultural and religious constraints standing in their way. Since most women who practice journalism in the UAE are actively involved in using the media, this is a perfect indicator of the success of female journalism in the region. The government, families of graduates, media managers, and officials at the Ministry of Information should join hands to support, encourage, and ensure the integration of female journalists into the media industry without culture and religion serving as barriers to their success.

Research Problem and questions

Researchers argue that while the Internet makes people's lives easier, it makes them more complicated. Several studies agree that the Internet saves people time, which it uses in various fields such as journalism. Journalism is an active sector where one needs to be punctual

as a journalist, mainly when an event occurs. Several researchers focused on studying the challenges of women in the field of journalism. They found it difficult for women to cover circumstances where men must be present and fulfill their essential role as mothers caring for their children while covering events.

This study aims to examine the world of journalism in the UAE explicitly. As Emirati women make up half of the society, as (Subaihi, 2012) mentions in his article, "local women make up an impressive 66 percent of the public sector workforce, where they are not limited to menial jobs but can appear in the police, military, judiciary, diplomacy, and ministries". The paper seeks to study challenges facing female journalists in the UAE.

This study sought to answer the following questions:

- 1- What are the challenges faced by Emirati female journalists in the UAE?
- 2- How do female journalists position themselves in journalism as a changing field?
- 3- In what way do Emirati male journalists view female journalists?
- 4- What is the role of gender balance law in overcoming the challenges faced by female journalists in the UAE?

Methodology

The purpose of this study was to examine the impact of the Internet on female identity in the United Arab Emirates using a qualitative research method. Eight in-depth interviews were conducted with journalists of both sexes (men and women). A mixed strategy was used to conduct the interviews, with some conducted face-to-face and others conducted by telephone. This method was used to identify the challenges they faced in journalism. They also balanced their personal lives and work. This section discusses the methodology used in the study.

Definition of a Journalist

It is noticed that the terms "journalists," "mass communication," "news people," and "media practitioners" are used interchangeably. (KIRAT, 2004) defined journalists as "full-time reporters ... Group of people involved in news gathering and processing who compile the news content of their medium." Other researchers have attempted to further elaborate on the definition of a journalist to arrive at a living purpose. For example, (Shapiro, 2014) defines a journalist as "someone who has some editorial responsibility for preparing or transmitting news or other information."

Study Findings and Discussion

Qualitative research tools such as interviews were used to determine the impact of the Internet on female journalists in the UAE. The results indicated that female journalists' internet usage has positively affected their lives and career, compared to the associated negative impacts.

Interviews

Journalists have varying views on the Internet's role in keeping female journalists active. To understand the impact of the Internet on female journalists, interviews were conducted to collect in-depth and qualitative information about how digital journalism has affected the identity of female journalists. The results are summarized below, based on the interviewees' workplaces and opinions.

Description of journalism work in the digital media

In the beginning, interviewees were asked, "How do you describe journalism work in digital media that depends on the internet and digital media platforms to complete the work?" According to Abdul Hamid Abu Al-Nasr, a participant working as a field journalist for the news website Sharjah 24, in response to the description of journalism work in the digital media and whether journalists have to depend on the Internet and digital media platforms to complete their work, the journalist confirmed the efficiency that digital media has contributed to the work in terms of speed and the use of electronic equipment. According to him, before the advancement of technology and its use in journalism, the result was tedious because of the use of large-sized equipment. However, the introduction of technology, especially the use of phones, has made work more manageable with the phone, which has become a weapon for field journalists. Journalists can now use their phones to conduct interviews with only a need for officials and internet connectivity. The journalist further stated that technology has also enhanced the sending of materials with special programs designed for transferring files while simultaneously maintaining their intended quality at the same time.

As one of the participants in the interview, Asma Al-Juwaied, the director of the Sharjah Press Club affiliated with the Sharjah Government Media Office, proved instrumental. In response to the description of journalism work in digital media and whether journalists have to depend on the Internet and digital media platforms to complete their work, the director stated that digital platforms are not only supportive of journalists themselves but also journalistic work because they cut on the time that would have spent doing the work, besides saving one's effort. According to the director, the challenges in journalistic work, especially with the use of digital platforms, are minimal as long as the journalist understands how to work and deal with digital tools, which remains supportive of the work of journalists. Asma Al-Juwaied additionally said that digital platforms have significantly succeeded in imposing themselves in the media arena and contributed significantly to "transforming and changing" the way institutions produce content now. The director confirmed some challenges associated with using the Internet and digital media platforms, such as the increased spread of misleading news. The method of receiving information has changed because most audiences now rely heavily on media platforms to receive news. The inability of journalists to keep pace with the significant developments brought about by the use of the Internet, the failure to adopt digital tools, especially for updating information, and time factors.

According to the feedback received from Fatima Ibrahim Al Balushi, Editor-in-Chief of the electronic news website Sharjah 24 since 2015, in response to the description of journalism work in digital media and whether journalists have to depend on the Internet and digital media platforms to complete their work, the participant had the following to say. There are two types of digital journalism, the first type of digital journalism being radio and television, and a traditional newspaper that adopted the electronic approach and opened its website. According to her, "Sharjah 24" started electronically with the help of the Internet. Since they had entered the digital world, it was necessary to have "Twitter," "Facebook, and "Instagram" to complete the work on their website. The participant further stated that the journalistic work in the newspaper "Al-Jarida" or the news centers on television and radio was the same, as all the rules of journalistic work on television and radio applied there. According to her, there was no difference or dimension, and it was the same journalistic work based on templates and mechanisms with increased exploitation. Additionally, the speed of productivity and timeliness in publishing are enhanced by using the Internet and digital media, as there is no publishing date in digital media, and everything is on timeliness.

In response to the description of journalism work in digital media and whether journalists have to depend on the Internet and digital media platforms to complete their work, Ghada Al-Hourani, a collaborating journalist at the Sharjah Government Media Office and formerly a journalist at the Al-Khaleej newspaper, had very comprehensive and informative feedback. According to her, electronic journalistic works base on various types of journalism. It is impossible to deal with electronic media in isolation from traditional media because the latter depends on writing news and reports; however, the method of editing would be different because electronic media depends on short texts. Additionally, when it comes to a website or social media platform, speed and accuracy are required, and, therefore, the best in electronic media was between these two things, "speed and accuracy," because in light of the spread of this tremendous amount of information, it becomes difficult to check the validity of the information before publishing because of the competition factor that exists.

While quoting a personal experience in journalism, Ghada Al-Hourani stated that he realized that the press scoop should take a different concept because the information has become widespread. The person does not need you to give him the news, but he needs you to analyze the information given. The participant added that the accuracy of the data requires a journalist with more knowledge and the ability to conduct proper investigations. Knowledge does not mean only the information but requires an analytical capability for the information given to them. As a journalist, one might encounter information similar to that given to another colleague, and from their analysis, they establish that the news is not suitable for publication. However, not all journalists have the same analytical ability, meaning they would spread the same news. According to Ghada Al-Hourani, when it comes to presenting the acquired information or news to the public, it does not depend on the details added but rather on the preparation of followers in digital media, a task that does not happen overnight.

According to feedback from Lamia Al-Harmoudi, a Journalist at Al Ittihad Newspaper, in response to the description of journalism work in digital media and whether journalists have to depend on the Internet and digital media platforms to complete their work, the participant said that the journalist's job is the same. However, instead of writing on paper or print materials, the result is a digitized version of the media. The only difference is the platform, with each forum requiring journalist skills. For journalists to adapt to digital media and the Internet, they must acquire additional skills to manage, write, and work on digital platforms. Depending on the media platform, each requires skills and a broad scope to report on different occasions or stories effectively and efficiently. The participant added that for journalists to fit into the digital media world, they should enhance their IT skills to offer quality videography and photography to fit into the digital platform. This advancement in technology and the use of digital media pose challenges for many journalists because not all can learn skills. Despite the extra job responsibilities that come with the help of the Internet and digital media, pay remains the same, which is unfair to both male and female journalists. Therefore, it affects the quality of work that some journalists deliver since they have to work under pressure to fill in the gaps and lack the required skills, which implies that no matter how much work they do, they would still end up not meeting the standards of the required work. To ease this pressure, management in the field of journalism should assign specific tasks at each level, such as photography, editing, and videography, to ensure that one effectively masters their area.

As the head of the political department at Al-Khaleej newspaper plus an experience 20 years of in journalism, Moftah Shuaib had some interesting views regarding the description of journalism work in digital media and whether journalists have to depend on the Internet and digital media platforms to complete their work. He says working as a journalist in traditional and digital media regarding content is the same. However, the difference comes in terms of

form and performance. In his elaboration, the participant said that digital media requires several skills, including good communication with social media and proper use and dealing with them since they are platforms for transmitting digital media content; therefore, being knowledgeable of these technical matters remains essential for all journalists. As the second condition given by Moftah Shuaib, a digital journalist requires some linguistic skills, meaning that the journalist should have the knack for quick drafting and a sense of verification and scrutiny of the content he reaches, meaning that the digital journalist must have a scale that measures the information and news he receives. Thus, only some things are worth publishing, and digital journalists must be able to scrutinize and verify the content before publishing. In response to the difficulty journalists face in using the Internet and digital platforms, the problem comes because the digital journalist interacts and deals directly with the recipient. In a digital newspaper, the recipient receives the news in a few seconds, unlike the analog press, in which there is a work cycle. For example, it takes close to one day for the work done on the news for a given day, and it only reaches the reader the following morning. Moftah Shuaib concluded that time distinguishes digital media, by which responsibilities are more for journalists in digital media.

According to Nasser Freihat, a reporter journalist in Sharjah 24, whether in the traditional media or new media that relies on the Internet, journalism remains a tiring and involving profession that requires much energy; unlike journalists in traditional media, it requires time and effort to complete work. Journalists also need time and effort in digital media, especially field journalists. A journalist requires much effort to cover an event, conduct interviews, and perform filming. In a digital media setting, the journalist must have photography skills and be a broadcaster and editor of the news, which can be overwhelming for the journalist. For instance, a field journalist in a digital media setting must be responsible for all components of the information, from the image, the film material, and the written news text, by which journalists leave with less or no time to rest or engage in other activities outside their work for personal or professional growth. In his final remarks on the issue of the description of journalism work in digital media and whether journalists must depend on the Internet and digital media platforms to complete their work, Freihat said that it is impossible to overlook the element of competition created by digital media. In the field, the participant encounters fellow journalists from many media outlets, all of whom conduct interviews with the same people. There lies the skill and experience of the journalist in producing journalistic material that is entirely different from other journalists. The participant added that in terms of the equipment required to accomplish the work, journalistic work has become accessible in digital journalism. One needs a small set of pieces of equipment to produce news of value, specifically their mobile phones. Journalists use their phones to bring audience news and photographic film materials. With the help of the Internet and some modern programs, the film material will be delivered to the montage department within a few minutes, and then the field journalist edits the news.

As semi-structured interviews, the interview questions were open to adding supporting questions. In response to the same question, Amir Al-Sunni, a journalist who had worked at Al-Khaleej newspaper since 2017 for both digital and traditional media, said that the Internet and digital media depend on what the journalist is doing, either for editing news or for films. According to the participant, journalists use different techniques for editing and processing news, which is then published on various digital platforms, such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. In response to the question of whether the profession of journalism had become difficult with the availability of the Internet, Amir Al-Sunni said that modern technology, such as the use of the Internet, has made journalism easier since initially, journalists had to write for

long hours that were boring and annoying. By contrast, using a laptop to download and use editing programs has made it easier to work as a journalist in the editorial sector.

Female role as a journalist in digital media

Second, Interviewees were asked, "To what extent do you think the female role as journalists become difficult in digital media?" Based on the feedback received on the difficulty digital media has had on females and their role as journalists, some participants gave different views, with others feeling contrary to the problem digital media thought to have on female journalists. In his response, Abdul Hamid Abu Al-Nasr, a field journalist for Sharjah 24, believed that digital media has made it easier for female journalists because technology helps them save time and effort. In the era of the use of the Internet, journalism has become much easier for females.

In his response, Amir Al-Sunni, a journalist at Al-Khaleej newspaper since 2017 working for both digital and traditional media, said that society still does not accept the presence of women in the press, which makes it difficult for female journalists. Despite that, many female journalists play their roles as usual. The participant added that in Arab society, the ceiling for dealing with women is still not high in the media field, which results in the suffering of both male and female journalists. In his response to a supporting question on the difficulties faced by male journalists in the world of digital journalism, Amir Al-Sunni reported that both male and female journalists face a myriad of challenges in the field, such as the inaccessibility of information, especially when some officials refuse to speak or give the required information or cannot relay the information clearly because of other factors such as the language barrier.

In most cases, both male and female journalists face financial constraints, making it challenging to cater to their family's needs and responsibilities effectively. Consequently, the associated stress negatively influences their work. As a result, most journalists would opt to quit their profession because of low wages or poor professional growth. In response to the supporting question on the possibility for a journalist to leave his profession because of the salaries of the career momentum caused by the use of the Internet in journalistic work, Amir Al-Sunni was undoubtedly possible. If the press institution does not provide the journalist with their basic needs, the journalist will not be able to continue working without enough income to cater to their needs. The participant said that only one female Emirati journalist worked in the organization.

While responding to the same question about the difficulties that the female role encounters in the face of digital media, Asma Al Juwaied, the director of the Sharjah Press Club affiliated with the Sharjah Government Media Bureau, the participant had the following to say. As long as the journalist is well-versed, she will avoid facing the same difficulties, whether she is a journalist in the field or a digital disk journalist. Both require time, precisely the nature of the work, such as covering events. The nature of the work is the same, whether she attends events, goes to the field, covers the event, or conducts interviews. To convey the event differently from the rest of the journalists, she must strive to give her best. According to her, in digital journalism, the difficulty lies in how journalists keep up with and develop themselves firsthand because the Internet and digital platforms are a fast-paced world that includes many developments and tales from individuals rather than corporate efforts.

In her response, Fatima Ibrahim Al Balushi, the Editor-in-Chief of the electronic news website Sharjah 24 since 2015, stated that there were no difficulties associated with the female role as a journalist. In contrast, journalistic work has become easier because the tools used are

more accessible, relationships and communication have become more manageable, and mechanisms and methodologies have become more accessible. Additionally, the female journalist has become famous, and her name has emerged through her access to digital media because she arrived earlier than on television. In her response to whether married journalists have a problem or difficulty with digital media, the participant said there could be a few cases. Still, as long as a person respects their role in the profession and assumes responsibility without specifying their nationality, the difficulties encountered remain manageable. According to her, fitting into digital media for female journalists requires mental creativity, whether in editing or montage. The participant further said that she had not experienced a person who did not assume responsibility for the media as a profession, except for certain personalities that did not count as Emirati women or expatriate nationalities.

Regarding digital media, the issue is based on intelligent management and is unrelated to whether women can be present in digital media. In her response to the extent to which the female role as a journalist has become problematic in digital media, Ghada Al-Hourani, a collaborating journalist at the Sharjah Government Media Bureau and formerly a journalist at the Al-Khaleej newspaper, had several views. According to her, when journalists implement technology in the digital media world, men dominate the industry to the extent that they believe that women have no place and are incapable of doing so. The participant said she was always in a continuous debate because when she entered the world of digital media, she found herself the only girl among 20 young men in digital media. She convinced herself she could be a supportive element in digital media.

The participant further stated that tracing back to traditional media, there are jobs in which women may or may not be present, which has nothing to do with their inability. Therefore, it is essential to realize that the nature of women in social life differs from that of men. God created all humanity in His nature, and from the point of equality and inequality, the issue of equality took on different dimensions. To achieve equality between men and women in a realistic environment, it remains crucial to appreciate and consider the nature of each of them and assign them tasks based on their abilities. As reported by Ghada Al-Hourani, digital media ramifies, and as an institution in digital media, she needs someone to edit the news and create visual content for her. She also stated that she needed people to present her with new topics and reports, and if they looked for women in these tasks, women were capable of all these things. Women are considered an element closest to the topics of interest to society. By working with women, they can better understand the issues most intimate to the thoughts of a woman and a child. According to her, women have multitasking abilities, and in the context of digital media, which entails multitasking, the female figure is vital in digital media.

According to the participant, even though some people might consider night shifts a challenge to female journalists, there is a difference between different women. Naturally, a woman with other responsibilities differs from a woman without no commitments. For a woman with the responsibility of a family, such as a husband and children, it remains a challenge for her to be available for night shifts. Even though such a woman has the capability, the participant said she would consider her the last option; hence, there is no need to force her into such tedious responsibilities. She added that she assigned them other available lips for this women's category. According to the participant, in digital media, shifts vary between three and four different lips, and women can cover three. Therefore, the nature of the work entailed in digital media requires the presence of females. As reported by the participant, digital media requires the presence of people in the field and those who write special reports for her newspaper house; therefore, she employs women for that type of work, a strategy she referred to as intelligent management because she has all the resources and uses them according to the

nature of a person as well as the needs of the institution, with the situation also applying to men. The participant reported that despite the gender or physical challenges that one might have, as long as they have the skills required for the task, she has the responsibility of employing them equally and based on merit.

In terms of challenges, participants reported that both male and female journalists face similar challenges. According to Lamia Al Harmoudi, a journalist at Al Ittihad Newspaper, there are no difficulties, and the work of female journalists has been made easier by using the Internet and digital platforms since they can work online from home. Nasser Freihat, a reporter journalist in Sharjah 24, said that it is not a demanding role for female journalists in digital media since their work has been made easy by the use of the Internet that supports and helps journalists since they can work from home or any part of the world and at any time. According to the presenter, even though women have reputations and responsibilities regardless of motherhood or marital life, they do not prevent their presence and participation in digital media where they can. With the Internet and digital media, female journalists edit news articles from home while caring for their children and attending to other home responsibilities. Therefore, the Internet and digital media, in general, remain major supports for journalists' work, an undeniable fact.

Female is a Supportive Element in Digital Media

Third, Interviewees asked, "How do female journalists position themselves in this changing field?" Most journalists hold different views on the impact of Internet use on female journalists, who agree that female journalists remain a supportive element in the media field, especially in cases where the presence of a female is required to cover a feminist event. Most officials in such incidents prefer the presence of a female figure to conduct the interview. According to one participant, Abdul Hamid Abu Al-Nasr, sometimes it feels embarrassing to deny an interview because of being a man, implying that female journalists play a crucial role in journalism.

While responding to the same question, Amir Al-Sunni reported that nothing prevents women's presence in digital journalism but perhaps customs and traditions that, to some extent, affect their presence. However, there is generally no difference between male and female digital journalists. On the contrary, women have advanced in many fields; therefore, their presence and ability to be present in digital media are still intact. The participant further said that following media affairs, the audience became aware of the importance of film materials (such as videos) and that a person, whether male or female, can deal with modern or digital technologies. Women can survey men by conducting interviews and taking videos; however, these issues require awareness. While responding to a supporting question on what it means to educate people about the role of women in digital journalism, Amir Al-Sunni said that people accept women to do the interview. But customs and traditions play a crucial role since sometimes men refuse to have a female journalist interview them and vice versa. But now, people have become aware of and accept the idea and quality of women in journalism.

A male perspective on females as journalists

Forth, Interviewees were asked, "In what way do Emirati male journalists view female journalists?" Asma Al Juwaied said that she expected conservativeness in society, with males divided into two types, supporters and conservatives. This perspective does not exist in the UAE, nor does segregation and racism exist. The reporter stated that Emirati women are now traveling alone for work. There may be a negative view of women's participation in the press in other countries but not in the UAE. While responding to a supporting question on whether, as a journalist and a married woman, she thought journalism in the digital world is difficult for

a married woman, she said that the challenge for a woman, whether or not she is married, is the same in the press. She can use programs and applications that support her in writing or infographic graphics. Still, she will not write about them because technology does not have emotion in arranging the context of the news. There are technical issues that they cannot do, like in the human mind. The work pressure was the same, and there was no specific time for work. It is continuous work when women are required to work "remotely." Technology will help them, but work needs them to be present at any time. The major obstacle is their work.

In discussing Emirati girls and Arabs in the UAE, in response to the question of whether she thought that girls who study journalism are doing so just for the sake of learning or intending to work in journalism, the participant said that in the Emirates, yes, girls who take a certificate do not have the motivation or passion for becoming journalists is an attribute to many factors, including the nature of the work. Until now, some girls have not wanted to work at night. Similarly, the profession itself does not provide material incentives. They view the press as a double effort, while there are few material incentives.

Nevertheless, some girls love writing, and they may go to work as journalists as a secondary profession, not a primary one. From her point of view, one of the most important reasons was material incentives, in addition to the nature of the work. While responding to an additional supporting question of whether she thought that the culture of the UAE and the parents were a reason for girls to take journalism as a field of study and not as a field of work, the participant said that partially the two had contributed. However, they were not the primary reason. According to her, the state of the Emirates today differs from what it had been in the past. The state has changed, and families have different views and ideas. Currently, Emirati women are reaching Mars. Men and women have many models and names in the arena, including the minister, pilot, and other sectors, as well as in the automotive and mechanical sectors. Despite this, some families maintain their beliefs regarding the concept of mixing, a matter that society cannot ignore.

While responding to how males view female journalists, Ghada Al-Hourani said that she could not generalize, but when she looked at digital media officials, she saw that they were afraid of women. Some of them deal with the purely traditional thought that women will focus on their living conditions and obligations and neglect journalistic work. From her experience, she said that she tried to provide a model for women who could work despite their circumstances, such as her child's illness, and she was required to carry out her tasks, such as submitting reports and writing scripts. The traditional thought of dealing is not permissible. When children get sick, it must be the husband's responsibility, not the wife's. She said that there was a need to change social thinking, which was what the UAE was working on because it was able to place women in positions where they confirmed that they could work despite their circumstances. She further said that there were segments of men who changed their thinking, but on the other hand, there were those who needed years to change their negative and stony thoughts about women. She reported that the situation was different in the UAE. There are academic programs that support the child from their inception, as they deal with a society based on abilities and not on the principle that you are a man or a woman, but on the direction that they possess the skill, so if they can, the thought now instilled in the new generation from the Emirates. The participant reported that in media organizations in the UAE, there is still a discrepancy in dealing with women, especially in multiculturalism. Multiculturalism needs more work to be implemented in social thought, especially since there are variables; people go and return to their countries, and new people flock to the Emirates, perhaps making masculine thought the dominant one. The more multicultural a society, the harder it is to work.

According to Lamia Al-Harmoudi, in response to the question of males' views on female journalists, she reported that she has been in journalism for the past 20 years. She has never faced gender problems in journalism. In some cases, it would be better for a male to cover a story because of the associated dangers of a female covering the story. She further reported that some places, especially in Islamic culture, are not appropriately covered by female journalists. According to Muftah Shuaib, female journalists exist and have a prominent presence in the media. Female journalists are no less qualified and able to work the same as male journalists, but this issue has yet to be discussed. Some websites and platforms may attract young journalists and be more motivated to discover or work. In terms of performance, female journalists do not differ from male journalists. Perhaps there may be personal skills included in talents; sometimes, a person who graduated from the media has talent or inclinations in this type of work, so his performance will be better than his colleague who graduated with the same degree but does not have the same biases. Subjectivity has an imprint on journalistic work in the sense that journalistic work is concerned with reporting facts.

Nevertheless, it includes some creativity, meaning that the event may have well-known facts. Therefore, if some journalists gather to write about the same topic, each journalist writes on the issue in a different style. While responding to the supporting question on whether there is a time for creativity in digital media, the participant said that was considered one of the difficulties, which lies in the journalist's self-skills and experience. In media work, in general, experience plays a role, as it is a cumulative experience, and that is not only in the media but also in any work environment. The news is the product of videos and tweets on Twitter, so Twitter is the first stage to get a head start until the report is done, and thus gets enough time to formulate an attractive creative headline for the news. In digital media, the two most essential things in the news are the title and the image because the title gives vital information. When responding to a supporting question on the difficulties that male journalists might face in digital media, the participant said that failure is considered difficult; for example, a journalist who is unable to make a decision is considered difficult, and failure, or being unable to complete tasks is considered difficult and failure, as there is no sane person who does not wish to have an excellent job in any field that is not necessarily in the media. For example, for some male youths, one of the difficulties they may face in digital media is competition. Still, if the male is a component, he remains predominant in the media.

While responding to the question of how males view females in journalism, Nasser Freihath said that the role of the female in the press is essential and supportive since her presence is a tributary of journalistic work, precisely the press field. The presence of female journalists in the area is prominent and supportive. For example, sometimes, the institution sends an invitation to cover an event, and a female journalist has requested if the event entails women.

Female journalists' participation in decision-making.

Fifth, Interviewees asked ", Do females in your organization participate in her opinion or voice in decision-making?" As a field journalist for the news website Sharjah 24, Abdul Hamid Abu Al-Nasr agreed that women have their presence and entity, which they drew and proved through their voices and opinions. He further added that his direct responsibility was a woman; some of his colleagues in the "Sharjah 24" section were from the female component, and he had seen that they freely participated in work and decision-making. While responding to the same question, Amir Al-Sunni said that female journalists in their organization played a journalistic role, and there was no difference between them and male journalists. On the contrary, her voice is heard, and she has her presence. In her response, Asma Al- Juwaied said that women had their voices heard, and she took her rights. According to her, at the Emirates level, women have their rights, and agents listen. She added that, probably in other countries,

women are suppressed with no rights or voice. Ultimately, it is the journalist, his efforts, his work, and his contributions that excel him, regardless of whether he is male or female.

While responding to the same question, Fatima Ibrahim Al-Balushi said female voices were heard. Most department managers in the Sharjah Government Media Office are women; she assured "No selectivity was observed" during this test. Instead, every woman proved her presence. They have real applications in the Sharjah Government Media Office, and there is women's participation in decision-making. While responding to the supporting question of whether journalism has become more complex with Internet use, Fatima said it was easy. According to her, the ages of the journalists in Sharjah 24 varied from 27 to 62, with those at 62 working on the system and social media, in addition to devices and raising news. However, they come from different references, including purely journalistic concerns, such as the traditional manual press, and with the television department and writing the text the announcer used. She added that some did not have a media background and took courses and certificates in the media. Regardless of age, all of them could deal with modern technologies imposed by the Internet.

According to her, on the contrary, if a 6-month-old child can deal with modern technology, adults can do that as well. Although some absorbed it slowly, in the end, everyone could use modern technologies, such as the system or any new device they used at work. With the Internet, journalism has become easier because journalism is daily work, and with practice, everything has become more accessible. While responding to a supporting question on how, with the Internet and its requirements, a journalist distinguishes his work from other journalists, Fatima said that it had been imposed and recognized since childhood. Linguistic accumulation supports journalists' lives, meaning with the passage of time and the repetition of work on something; despite the slowness of some or the speed of others, the matter depends on the person himself. It is impossible to deal with the media or read the principle of displacement; there must be an accumulation of knowledge. There is nothing complicated, immediate, or fast.

In contrast, one can adapt to the machine but must have skills and abilities. The new media is all media on one's mobile phone. In the old media, the steps were longer and slower. With the availability of new media on mobile phones, they became more accessible and faster, and the steps were shortened for journalists. People have now switched to digital media. Today, most international newspapers have closed and switched to digital media with the help of the Internet. Thus, with the Internet and digital media, journalistic work has become more accessible. She added that the press is the same, but in the past, it worked with long and slow steps until the date of printing the newspaper and the date of the newsletter. However, the situation is different. Breaking news has become alert on mobile phones and tablets. The Internet serves the journalistic work and electronic journalism that journalists practice today. Journalists go to technical and digital media. To journalists, there will be no papers and no reference to the website or social media, which will stand on its own, like a metaverse. The saying that the press and television will disappear remains true.

According to Ghada Al-Hourani, in her response to the participation of females in decision-making and voicing of opinion, she said that if we talk about an institution that is keen on the presence of women in it in a large proportion, commensurate with social balances, it means that it is an institution that believes that women can make decisions. For her, decision-making relates to decision-makers, but this does not prevent advice; advice must be given to them whether the position belongs to a man or a woman. To reach a sound decision in media institutions, one must be unique when deciding without taking and analyzing the data. Journalism deals with branched and ramified fields linked to multiple domains and sciences, Is

a sense of making the right decisions. The participant further said that there were stages in the decision-making. Women can make decisions in the media office of the Government of Sharjah, and evidence for this is that most of the positions hold by women. A decision only sometimes means that one is correct by nature when making a decision. The possibility of error is possible. The most challenging aspect of decision-making is making a decision. A woman can make decisions because she manages her family's affairs and makes decisions for them. In quick situations, the woman makes the decision. While responding to a supporting question on whether women will be reluctant digital media in the future, the participant said that journalism without women would be of the same style. According to the participant, the diversity of the presence of women and men in different types of journalism is an addition to journalistic work, not a diminution, if the woman refrains from staying in the digital media. If the content is affected, it will become one nature, which creates boredom and monotony. The participant also added this "is not expected" since in the universities, there is no specialization called journalism, but instead, there is a specialization called electronic media. There is a greater inclination towards diversified media, and the percentage of women in universities is high. With the large percentage of girls in universities, they can't stay at home since the institutions in the UAE support the presence of women, so there should not be a reluctance for women in the press. The absence of women in the media despite their fact in space is perhaps because of pressure, where some decide to leave journalism for personal reasons and prefer to work within specific hours or in a study center. These are personal decisions that cannot be generalized.

According to Lamia Al-Harmoudi, top positions are occupied by women, who practice their opinion and decision-making because they are leaders in the field. While responding to a supporting question on whether females after marriage leave the journalism field after and whether journalists would work more, leading to social problems at home with their husbands, Lamia said that would not apply to her since she had been in the field before getting married 17 years ago. To her, that would be fine for females; although only selective areas were not safe to have females cover the news, more female journalists to date remain actively involved in their work or duties.

In his response, Moftah Shuaib said that the number of women in the Al-Khaleej newspaper is insignificant. Still, they are present in leadership positions and have the right to make decisions, carry out the tasks assigned to them, and express their opinions. There is no difference between them and men as they have full rights and play a full role. While responding to a supporting question on whether journalists' wages in digital media were low, the participant said that it varied according to the institution and its capabilities, especially in private institutions, where the wages ranged. For example, someone who receives a salary of 15 thousand in a specific institution may receive a lower compensation in another institution depending on the institution's capabilities. In response to a further supporting question on whether the salary is low, it would have a negative impact, which meant that the journalist might leave the institution and move towards creating their digital world with the help of the Internet. The participant said that media organizations must support journalists and stand beside them. For example, material rewards are considered the best reward, in the sense that the journalist works and progresses and sees a material appreciation that he gets in return, either if the journalist works for many years and with the same wages or if he works well. Beautiful words are not heard but sometimes heard. In the media, there is a media family and not an administration. A family means solidarity, togetherness, and transparency in dealing.

Knowledge about "Gender balance law."

Finally, interviewees asked, "What is your knowledge about "Gender balance law"?" Asma Al Juwaied said they had heard about the law the previous year. The Emirates worked

hard to consolidate the file of gender balance, as the law was among the directions of the UAE, so they might have many professional initiatives in that regard and activities to contribute to raising and consolidating the rule so that the UAE was among the first countries in the gender balance index.

In response to the same question, Fatima said that they had pursued gender equality since the establishment of the news website Sharjah 24 also thinks about equality between Emiratis and expatriates, who are present, and the same applies to equality between males and females. She added that they had the issue of shifts, where they faced difficulties, but tried hard to solve them, although they could not create equality between women and men regarding modifications. As the woman said they could work the night shift alongside the man, international labor law from the United Nations stipulates that women work until midnight. The woman did not accept this and could not make herself equal to the man, even though she asked for equality. Fatima added that they gave her everything she needed, and she agreed to everything except for some things that did not suit her, such as night shifts. Despite that, they controlled the situation by providing "remote" evening shifts for women, and that was one of the different things that exist in Sharjah 24 that is not found elsewhere, equalizing the evening time so that the female journalist does her usual work "remotely" from her home.

According to Ghada Al-Hourani, in response to the question, the law supports equality between males and females in various fields, whether it is education, health, or employment. All calls for the emergence of women in multiple areas without creating a domain exclusive to men. The law stresses the need to abandon the idea that women are capable of some work and not of performing others. The law requires women to be treated as human beings before they consider "weak beings." This law addresses society because it divides equally males and females. However, the community does not want to compare them based on abilities and skills but rather according to their biological nature. God created all people with this physical nature, so where could society employ the essence of each of these and benefit from it? The law of gender balance calls for help from every element of a community of different sexes. In response to where their organization practices the law, the participant said that in the media office of the Government of Sharjah, the participant saw the percentage of females in it was high. The positions she saw were all female. The participant further added that if they were to talk about Al Khaleej newspaper since they were a journalist for them in the past, the percentage of males in it is very high, as it is a male institution in which males have the chance to be employed more than females, mentioning that the percentage of men in it reached 99.9%. From observation, Al-Khaleej newspaper prefers males over females because it is unreasonable not to include CVs of women with high qualifications for journalistic work.

According to Lamia, the Al-Ittihad newspaper is already practicing this law, with more females in journalism than males. The participant felt that males should fight for their rights, as the females in the UAE got their position and rights and everything they wished to have. In response to the extent to which their organization practices the law, the participant said that their organization had no problem practicing the law since they employed both males and females who graduated from universities.

Discussion and Conclusion

From a study of the impact of the Internet on journalist identity in the UAE, there is no doubt that the United Arab Emirates has positively embraced the use of the Internet and digital media. Based on the responses of most of the journalists interviewed, most affirmed that the

use of the Internet and digital media contributed to efficiency and effectiveness, attributed to the use of electronic equipment.

From the findings, digital media has made it easier for female journalists because technology helps them save time and effort. In the era of Internet use, journalism has become much easier for females. Female journalists remain a supportive element in the media field, especially in cases where a female is required to cover a feminist event. Most officials in such incidences prefer the presence of a female figure to conduct interviews.

Therefore, some communities still need to embrace the presence of females in journalism. In most parts of the UAE, women have their appreciation and important role besides what was previously mentioned by (Safa & Akter, 2015), who said that "the culture in the United Arab Emirates is conservative in its attitude toward the role of women in society... marriages are arranged, and wives are required to stay at home". According to respondents, most institutions in the UAE have incorporated the law of gender balance into their organizational structures, by which females have the same rights as their male coworkers. Respondents' answers contradict what Franks (2013) mentioned previously: challenges associated with female journalism in the United Arab Emirates is the notion of hiring managers of the inability of females not being able to work in cold and wet environments". As well as, (Tsui & Lee, 2012) who said earlier "females in the journalism industry have a high likelihood of being hitched by childbearing, and their obligations as mothers and housekeepers would make them struggle with work obligations." Moreover, (Jones, 2021) whom also revealed that "in the worst-case scenarios, women are criticized for daring to speak or share their opinions. In addition to the risks and threats faced by their male counterparts, female journalists are exposed to gender-based violence and harassment, both in the field, in newsrooms, and online".

The embracing of women in the field has made it easier for them to blend well, even in the use of the Internet and social media, which has further enhanced their productivity owing to the flexibility offered, as most of them can operate from any part of the world and at any time.

References

- Adams, C. (2018). "They Go for Gender First." *Journalism Practice*, 12(7), 850–869. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17512786.2017.1350115>
- Ali, S. (2020). Combatting against Covid-19 & misinformation: A systematic review. *Human Arenas*, 1–16.
- Aljuaid, K. (2020). Media in Saudi Arabia: The challenge for female journalists. Arab journalists' body, Facebook, mediabodiesups join forces to empower women writers. (2021, September 21). Arab News. <https://arab.news/4f4rt>
- Franks, S. (2013). *Women and journalism*. Bloomsbury Publishing.
- Jamil, S. (2020). Suffering in silence: The resilience of Pakistan's female journalists to combat sexual harassment, threats, and discrimination. *Journalism Practice*, 14(2), 150–170.
- Jamil, S., Çoban, B., Ataman, B., & Appiah-Adjei, G. (2020). *Handbook of Research on Discrimination, Gender Disparity, and Safety Risks in Journalism*. IGI Global.
- Jamil, S., & Sohal, P. (2021). Reporting under fear and threats: The deadly cost of being a journalist in Pakistan and India. *World of Media. Journal of Russian Media and Journalism Studies*, 2, 5–33.
- Jones, M. O. (2021). State-aligned misogynistic disinformation on Arabic Twitter: The attempted silencing of an Al Jazeera journalist. *Open Information Science*, 5(1), 278–297.

- Kirat, M. (2004). A profile of women journalists in the United Arab Emirates. *Journal of International Communication*, 10(1), 54–78.
- Lewis, S. C., & Molyneux, L. (2018). A Decade of Research on Social Media and Journalism: Assumptions, Blind Spots, and a Way Forward. *Media and Communication*, 6(4), 11–23. <https://doi.org/10.17645/mac.v6i4.1562>
- Posetti, J., Aboulez, N., Bontcheva, K., Harrison, J., & Waisbord, S. (2020). Online violence against women journalists. UNESCO.
- Rhynas, S. J. (2005). Bourdieu's theory of practice and its potential in nursing research. *Journal of Advanced Nursing*, 50(2), 179–186.
- Rodrigues, U. M. (2014). Social media's impact on journalism: A study of media's coverage of anti-corruption protests in India. *Global Media Journal: Australian Edition*, 8(1), 1–10.
- Ross, K., Boyle, K., Carter, C., & Ging, D. (n.d.). *Women, ead ews: It's life, Ji, but ot as we k ow it.*
- Safa, M. N., & Akter, T. (2015). Challenges of female journalists in Bangladesh. *Humanities and Social Sciences*, 3(5), 207–214.
- Singh, V., Vinnicombe, S., & James, K. (2006). Constructing professional identity: How young female managers use role models. *Women in Management Review*.
- Sivakumar, I. (2018). Women and Journalism: Commitment and Challenges. *Indian Journal of Women's Studies*, 11(1), 57–66.
- Thomas, C. (2013). The development of journalism in the face of social media [Master's Thesis]. <https://gupea.ub.gu.se/handle/2077/33941>
- Tsui, C. Y., & Lee, F. L. (2012). TRAJECTORIES OF WOMEN JOURNALISTS' CAREERS IN HONG KONG: A field theory perspective. *Journalism Studies*, 13(3), 370–385.
- Walther, M. (2014). Repatriation to France and Germany: A comparative study based on Bourdieu's theory of practice. Springer.
- Ziani, A., Elareshi, M., Habes, M., Tahat, K., & Ali, S. (2021). Digital Media Usage Among Arab Journalists During Covid-19 Outbreak (pp. 116–129). https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-77246-8_12
- Shapiro, I. (2014, Oct). WHY DEMOCRACIES NEED A FUNCTIONAL. *Journalism Studies*, pp. 555-565.
- Subaihi, T. A. (2012, March 14). The role of Emirati women in the UAE. *The National*, 1.