



**THE PRACTICE OF INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM: THE CASE OF  
WALTA MERMERA PROGRAM**

**FREW BEKURETSION**

**A THESIS SUBMITTED TO SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND  
COMMUNICATION**

**PRESENTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR  
THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN JOURNALISM AND  
COMMUNICATION**

**SEP, 2021**

**ADDIS ABEBA, ETHIOPIA**

**ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY**  
**SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND COMMUNICATION GRADUATE STUDIES**

**THE PRACTICE OF INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM: THE CASE OF**  
**WALTA MERMERA PROGRAM**

**PRESENTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR**  
**THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN JOURNALISM AND**  
**COMMUNICATION**

**BY**  
**FREW BEKURETSION**

**ADVISOR**  
**MULATU ALEMAYEHU (PhD)**

**SEP, 2021**

**Addis Ababa University**

## CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the thesis prepared by Frew Bekuretsion entitled: The practice of Investigative Journalism: The case of Walta Mermera program and submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Degree of Master of Arts Journalism and Communications complies with the regulations of the university and meets the accepted standards with respect to originality and quality.

Signed by the examining committee:

Examiner \_\_\_\_\_ sig. \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Examiner \_\_\_\_\_ sig. \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor \_\_\_\_\_ sig. \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

---

Chair of department or Graduate Coordinator

## ABSTRACT

*Unlike the routine and daily reporting, investigative stories do not just happen; they are well articulated and created through a process that starts with an idea which is painstakingly developed through rigorous research.*

*This paper is intended to assess the practice of investigative journalism in 'Walta Mermera' program in particular; based on the level of practicing ethical principles and professional skills. To achieve the objective, the researcher employed a descriptive-analytical qualitative research method. Both primary and secondary data are used to assess the practice. In this regard, four sample investigative programs have been reviewed. Of the four programs, two have a three-part series (episodes). Thus, when the number of programs in the series is added, the number of programs reviewed reaches eight. .*

*In addition, personal observation was conducted to fill the gaps of the interview and other sources from various literatures. The analysis of the study revealed that there are skills, critical thinking and ethical decision making problems. Finally, it is recommended that Walta Television should organize a strong investigative journalist's team in order to produce huge and influential investigative documentaries. In addition, there is a need to strengthen the human resources by deploying professionals with experience in the field.*

# Table of Contents

CERTIFICATE .....	iii
ABSTRACT .....	iv
Declaration .....	ix
ACKNOWLEDGMENT .....	x
ABBREVIATION .....	xi
LIST OF TABLE .....	xii
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION .....	1
1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY .....	1
1.2 PROBLEM STATEMENT .....	3
1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY .....	4
1.3.1 GENERAL OBJECTIVE .....	4
1.3.2 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE .....	4
1.4 RESEARCH QUESTIONS .....	4
1.5 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY .....	4
The researcher believes that this study will have the following significances; .....	4
1.6 SCOPE OF THE STUDY .....	5
1.7 ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY .....	5
CHAPTER TWO: REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE .....	6
2.1 INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM .....	6
2.1.1 FORMS OF INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM .....	7
2.2 ETHICAL ISSUES IN INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM .....	7
2.2.1 ETHICS AND STANDARDS OF INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING .....	8
2.3 PRESS FREEDOM AND INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM .....	10
2.4 THE TREND OF AFRICAN INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM .....	11
2.5 INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM VERSES THE MEDIA LAW IN ETHIOPIA .....	12
2.5.1 THE MEDIA LAW IN ETHIOPIA AND THE GAPS IN ITS IMPLEMENTATION .....	13
2.6 CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM .....	13
2.7 THE PROCESS OF INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING .....	14
1. CONCEPTION .....	14
2. FEASIBILITY CHECK .....	14
3. MIN/MAX PROJECTIONS –GO/ NO-GO DECISION .....	15
4. PLANNING/BASE-BUILDING .....	15

5. ORIGINAL RESEARCH .....	15
6. RE-EVALUATION (GO/NO-GO DECISION) .....	15
7. KEY INTERVIEWS.....	15
8. RE-EVALUATION (GO/NO-GO DECISION) .....	15
9. REPORTING.....	15
2.8 SOURCES OF INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM.....	15
2.8.1 TIP-OFFS .....	17
2.8.2 PUBLIC RUMOR .....	17
2.8.4 TRENDS AND CHANGE.....	17
2.8.5 RECORDS AND FILES .....	18
2.8.6 OTHER NEWS MEDIA.....	18
2.8.7 OLD STORIES, NEW LEADS.....	18
2.8.8 ROUTINE CHECKS .....	18
2.9 QUALITIES OF INVESTIGATIVE REPORTERS .....	19
2.9.1MOTIVATED BY ETHICS AND MORALS .....	19
2.9.2 FAIRNESS AND STRONG ETHICS .....	19
2.9.6 FLEXIBILITY.....	20
2.9.7 ANALYTICAL AND ORGANIZED .....	21
PATIENCE.....	21
FLEXIBILITY .....	21
THE ART OF PERSUASION.....	21
COURAGE THREATS OF PHYSICAL VIOLENCE; .....	21
INVITATION AND BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE; .....	21
LEGAL SAVVY .....	22
INTEGRITY.....	22
2.10 AREAS OF INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING.....	22
2.11 TOOLS FOR INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM.....	23
2.11.1 INTERVIEW .....	23
2.11.2 OBSERVATION .....	24
2.11.3 DOCUMENTS .....	25
2.12 CHALLENGES OF PRACTICING INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM .....	25
2.12.1MEDIA OWNERSHIP: .....	26
2.12.3 THREATS: .....	26
2.12.4 SECRECY:.....	27
2.12.5 RELUCTANT SOURCES: .....	27

2.13 HOW TO SUPPORT AND IMPROVE INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM .....	27
2.13.1. LEGAL.....	28
2.13.2. TECHNOLOGY .....	28
2.13.3. ETHICS .....	28
2.13.4. SPECIFIC REPORTING SUBJECTS .....	29
2.14 THEORETICAL FRAME WORK.....	29
2.14.1 SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY THEORY .....	29
2.14.2 WATCHDOG JOURNALISM .....	32
CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY .....	35
3.1 RESEARCH DESIGN.....	35
3.2 RESEARCH APPROACH .....	36
3.3 SAMPLING TECHNIQUES.....	36
3.4 CONTENT ANALYSIS OF SAMPLE OF BROADCASTS .....	37
3.5 SAMPLE SIZE .....	38
3.6 TRUSTWORTHINESS OF THE STUDY .....	38
3.7 METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS .....	38
CHAPTER FOUR:.....	39
DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION.....	39
OF RESULTS .....	39
Phase one: 4.1 Data presentation and results of sample programs.....	39
Table 1: Selected sample programs .....	39
4.1.1 BEHIND SODERE RESORT .....	40
OVERVIEW.....	40
1. IMPARTIALITY .....	41
2. COLLECTING AND ORGANIZING EVIDENCE AND ANALYZING SKILL .....	42
3. FAIRNESS AND BALANCE .....	43
OVERVIEW.....	44
4.1.3 HOPELESS ENDEAVOUR OF MR. KEMER ON SODERE RESORT .....	46
4.1.4 GREEN GOLD PRODUCERS APPEAL.....	47
OVERVIEW .....	47
1. THE CONTENT’S DEPTH AND ITS FOCUS.....	48
2. FREE AND INDEPENDENT.....	48
4. LOGIC .....	49
5. COLLECTING AND ORGANIZING EVIDENCE AND ANALYZING SKILL .....	49
6. SKILL OF PROVIDING TO CHALLENGE ON THE ACCUSATION .....	49

- 4.1.5 FRAUD AND EMBEZZLEMENT.....50
- 2. THE ART OF PERSUASION .....51
- 3. IDENTIFY THE RESPONSIBLE BODIES .....51
- 4. CREDIBILITY AND TRANSPARENCY.....52
  - 4.1.6 DISPUTE BETWEEN DYNAMIC AND B OMEGA COMPANY .....52
- PHASE TWO: .....53
- 4.2 RESULTS OF RESPONDENTS FROM AN INDEPTH INTERVIEW .....53
  - 4.2.2 AREAS OF INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING STORIES .....55
  - 4.2.3. SOURCES OF INVESTIGATIVE STORIES.....57
  - 4.2.4 ETHICAL ISSUES IN INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM .....58
  - 4.2.5 CHALLENGES OF PRACTICING INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM IN WALTA.....59
    - 1. ACCESS TO INFORMATION .....59
    - 2. THREATS .....59
    - 3. Government Officials Intervention .....60
- CHAPTER FIVE.....61
- SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....61
  - 5.1 SUMMARY .....61
  - 5.2 CONCLUSION .....62
  - 5.3 RECOMMENDATION.....65
- REFERENCES .....66
- APPENDIX A: .....70
- QUESTIONNAIRE DESIGNED FOR PRODUCERS OF THE PROGRAM.....70
- APPENDIX B: .....71
- INTERVIEW QUESTIONS FOR EXECUTIVE PRODUCER AND EXECUTIVE OF TV SECTOR .....71
- APPENDIX C: .....72
- AMHARIC VERSION.....72
- APPENDIX D: .....73
- AMHARIC VERSION.....73
- APPENDIX E: IMAGES .....74

## **Declaration**

I, Frew Bekuretsion, declare that the work presented in this thesis is originally mine. It has never been presented to any other university or institution. All the sources of material used for the thesis have been properly acknowledged.

Frew Bekuretsion

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

This thesis becomes a reality with the kind support and help of many individuals. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all of them.

I consider it an honor to work with my advisor Mulatu Alemayehu (PhD), who has the attitude and the substance of a genius; he continually and convincingly conveyed a spirit of adventure in regards to research. Without his guidance, this research wouldn't have been possible.

I acknowledge with thanks to relatives, friends and others who in one way or another shared their support. For their valuable guidance, keep interest and encouragement at various stages of this thesis.

My beloved family, I cannot find words to express my gratitude for your care and support. Always your love transcends.

Above all, I would like to express my genuine thankfulness to the maker of all things, the great almighty, the author of knowledge and wisdom for his countless love and mercy.

## **ABBREVIATION**

P1-Producer one

P2- Executive producer

P3-producer three

P4-Executive of TV sector

P5-Another journalist from walta

E1-Media Expert

## **LIST OF TABLE**

Table 1: Selected sample programs

## CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

The media and society are believed to have a close relationship. The impact of the media on society today can be seen. Media reflects our society, how it works and what it forms or constitutes. With advances in the technology area, our society has also observed the expansion in the thoughts and ideas of people. Every single invention starting from the printing press in the 15th century (1439) to the latest smartphones since 1993 our society has accepted it.

Obviously, the mass media are pervasive part of the people. It could be hard to imagine life without the media. Different media have different primary and secondary use; to inform, entertain as well as educate us. The major purpose of the mass media is to satisfy the society's participation and act as bridge between the government and the society (John, 2003, p. 82).

One of its roles must be defender of public rights against encroachment by state and corporate powers by performing the role of watchdog, which is the media should be seen as the eyes and ears of the people; the media should be seen as a source of readers who can prevent abuses by the government and oppose the abuse of power (Coronel, 2011).

Mark Lee Hunter (2011, P.7) on his manual called Story-Based Inquiry define investigative journalism as follows;

*“It requires using both secret and open sources and documents. He further adds, in this way investigative journalism crucially contributes to freedom of expression and freedom of information”.*

Investigative reporting however not only requires the highest standards of accuracy, but also presents more ethical dilemmas on a daily basis than any other type of journalism (Houston, 2009, p.108).

Jacquette (2007, p.7) says a “theory of journalistic ethics should explain where journalistic rights and responsibilities come from and how they are related to the proper moral conduct of professional journalists”. Technological changes in the media however call for a rethink of the study of theory of journalism ethics.

*“The powerful forces now reshaping the media system, including globalization, technological changes, and economic restructuring, pose unusual challenges and opportunities for media ethics theory. The very multidimensionality of these transformative forces require theorists to utilize a wider range of tools to capture the complexity of media practice to supplement, and in some cases refine, the normative frameworks we so often advocate” (Plaisance, 2011, p. 109).*

Though investigative journalism deals with identifying the misconducts of public and private figures, regarding public interest, knowing laws in relation to the investigation after all guarantee the journalist not to be exposed for mistakes which can take him/her to court.

We can't find a law in investigative journalism in Ethiopia since it is not recognized as independent field rather seen with the idea of the practice of journalism in general.

Therefore, it is advisable to look at some of the provisions of the FDRE Constitution, Proclamation 590/2008 and the Penal Code No. 1957 in this regard. Nigusse (2008, p.100) writes: “As of late, investigative journalism has attracted attention in our country also as a means of combating corruption, preventing wastage of resources, defending human and democratic rights, and eradicating nepotism.”

According to Birhanu, 2009 “Aynachin” (literally meaning “our eyes”) Television program that dealt with exposing wrong doings was launched by the Ethiopian Radio and Television Agency in 2000 and other programs like “Wereto” (literally meaning “forceps”) was transmitted by Tigray television (Terminated), “Hizbu Minyilal (literally meaning what do people say) and “Teguazh nekash (literally meaning traveler confiscate, which is Amharic radio programs transmitted by Radio Fana (now Fana Broadcasting Corporate) are among the manifestations of this brand of journalism in the country.

“Walta Mirmera” (literally meaning “Walta investigation”) investigative program broadcasted by walta media and communication corporate is also a recent program that launched in 2019 that investigates wrong doings across the country.

## **1.2 PROBLEM STATEMENT**

Investigative journalism is not an easy task in developing countries. According to Kantumoya (2004), it is also relatively new and undeveloped in the third-world. It means, the practice of investigative journalism needs to be developed in third-world countries to encourage democracy and development.

Investigative journalism is believed to hold corrupt leaders accountable, documenting human rights abuses, exposing systematic abuses, reporting international crimes and irresponsible businesses, and other serious issues. (Kaplan, 16 January 2013).

Good investigative journalism requires skills, critical thinking and ethical decision making (Aucoin, 2006 p.34). Nevertheless, there are claims that investigative journalism as practiced in Ethiopia is unsuccessful as it is constrained by various problems despite its bright prospect.

Research conducted by Wegayehu (2017) indicates that since 2008, Ethiopian broadcast media has been growing at a high rate right before our eyes both on the government and private side. However, the practice of investigative journalism is limited in depth and shallow in content.

Among the Ethiopian media, Walta Media and Communication Corporate has installed an investigative program called Walta Mirmera (literally translated as “Walta Investigation”) reaching the national and international audiences.

But, many people believe that Walta Mirmera is transmitting half-truth, rumors, distorted stories and outright falsehood without in-depth investigation. This inspired the researcher to examine whether investigative journalism is practiced in Walta Mirmera in particular; find out the level of practicing ethical principles of investigative journalism in the station; determine the challenges facing investigative journalism in Walta TV.

In addition, this investigative program is not appearing frequently. So, the researcher believes that there is something behind that should be investigated. The findings of this research would also serve as a platform for further empirical study on the topic under investigation.

### **1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

To realize the aims of this study, it became necessary to formulate the following objectives;

#### **1.3.1 GENERAL OBJECTIVE**

The main objective of this study is to examine the practice of investigative journalism in Walta media and communication Walta Mermera in focus.

#### **1.3.2 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE**

The specific objectives of the study are:

1. To explore the status of investigative reporting in Walta media and communication Walta Mermera program in line with principles of investigative journalism
2. To analyze the contents of sample investigative programs that is produced by Walta media and Communication in Walta Mermera program.
3. Identify the major challenges to the practice of investigative journalism in Walta Mermera program.

### **1.4 RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

1. What are the basic principles of investigative journalism, as applied in Walta television in Walta Mermera in particular?
2. How is the capacity and ethical procedures of the Walta television to be the voice for voiceless?
3. What are the challenges of practicing Investigative journalism in Walta media and communication in Walta Mermera program?

### **1.5 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

The researcher believes that this study will have the following significances;

First, it will help to show the weakness of the investigative team in investigation as well as during the reporting; even the research will indicate the possible solutions for the raised questions and problems.

Second, the findings of the study would increase the awareness of investigative journalists and other media practitioners on the practice of investigative journalism.

Third, by revealing the watchdog role of journalism, the findings of the study would motivate media workers to provide the public with the information they need. Fourth, the study would help Walta and other media organizations to consider their investigative program and it can be used as an initial point to scholars who are interested in the area.

Fifth, the research would identify strengths of the investigative team in Walta TV and give credits to keep the investigation and reporting with more initiations.

## **1.6 SCOPE OF THE STUDY**

This study focused on the practice of investigative journalism in the Walta media and communication corporate in Walta Mermera program from 2019 to 2021. Data will be collected using qualitative research method from the station. In-depth individual interviews are conducted from Walta Mermera program producers.

## **1.7 ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY**

This thesis has five chapters. In Chapter one, the general background of the study, problem statement, research objectives, research questions, significance of the study and scope of the study are included. The second chapter focuses on the review of literature. Chapter three presents the study methods, approach and sampling techniques in general. In the fourth chapter, there will be a discussion on data presentation, analyze and interpretations in detail. The last chapter focuses on conclusions and recommendations based on the findings of the study.

## **CHAPTER TWO: REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

### **2.1 INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM**

Various scholars have tried to explain investigative journalism in many ways. However, the various reference works and guidebooks define investigative journalism as a style of journalism that goes beyond the usual coverage of incidences, press conferences and press statements; rather, it seeks to unearth the hidden information of vice, malpractice and misdemeanor that may injure society.

Forbes (2005, p. 6) states that there is no simple definition of what an investigative report means. There is agreement on some of its principles. He, therefore, gives the following definitions for investigative journalism as follows;

-In depth reporting of public series matters which affect the public interest, proactive journalistic enterprise to reveal information that someone wants hidden or something that may not be that well known or appreciated, a long term process of planning, information gathering and corroboration using a diverse range of sources, Investigative reporting should be independent of special interests; It must actively serve the public's trust and enrich public debate; investigative reporting may have an agenda to expose any form of villainy or wrong doing with the object of inspiring positive change through informed public debate and outrage .

One of the best examples of investigative journalism that resulted in official public investigations includes the Washington Post's Watergate scandal investigation that took down a US President Richard Nixon in 1974 (ibid: pp.78-79). This reporting was only possible through the protection of a source whose identity was kept mystery for 30 years (McFadyen 2008, p.140).

It is understood that risks and threats especially to investigative journalists also come in many forms. Journalists are expected to carry out such tasks in a timely manner for the wellbeing of the society That is why most of the time journalists are often seen suffering from many problems, such as imprisonment and murder by those who stand against the issue raised by journalists (Hargreaves, 2005).

## **2.1.1 FORMS OF INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM**

According to Kovach and Rosenstiel (2001, pp.115-118), forms of investigative journalism are identified as follows:

**A. Original investigative reporting:** It involves reporters themselves reporting and documenting activities that have been never known before. It may involve tactics similar to police work such as basic shoe leather reporting, public records searches, use of informants, and even in special circumstance, undercover work or surreptitious

**B. Interpretative investigative reporting:** this often involves the same original enterprise skill but takes the interpretation to different level. It develops as the result of careful thought and analysis of an idea as well as dogged pursuit of facts to bring together information in a new more complete context which provides deeper public understanding. It shows a new way of looking at something and new information about it.

**C. Reporting on investigations:** it is a more recent development and has become increasingly common. In this case the reporting develops from the discovery or leak information from an official investigation already underway or in preparation by others, usually government agencies.

## **2.2 ETHICAL ISSUES IN INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM**

Since investigative journalism is one of the genres of journalism, one must follow the principles of the profession when investigating an issue. Though the values of good journalism are codified in each society as code of ethics, the basic principles are the same. These are: seek the truth and report it as fully as possible; minimize harm; be accountable; and act independently (Forbes, 2005).

As Journalism's first loyalty is to its citizens, the coverage that has been given should be free from self-interest and/ or slanted for friends. When the media need to ensure the public's right to know, it should also realize that the issue which is going to be investigated stands for public good.

Otherwise, with the incarnation of the notion of the people's right to know entertaining one's self interest is unethical (Kovach and Rosenstiel, 2001).

An investigative reporter always must show respect for the rights and wellbeing of people involved in the time of gathering and presenting information. And While extracting and finding information reporters should follow the fair methods except where there is a situation to use other means for the sake of public interest when the ethical and legal options are exhausted, and they should be confidential for their sources while investigating especially for those who do not need to be identified their identity. Reporters should know their bound that the people bestow them (Kantumoya, 2004).

The aim of investigative journalism should be delivering information that is public interest in different forms including news, comment and opinion. This aim is highly imperative since it strive to create a healthy community, especially, a community that has a pretension to democracy and good governance relays on it.

Therefore, journalists should struggle to respect their profession and not breach it and behave unethically for the sake of the profession which stands to build a democratic society (Belsey and Chadwick, 1992).

In general, when journalists do their duty, deal with the choice between what is moral or immoral if published. They have to think about moral and legal issues, even when it comes to accessing information. Ethics also reduces unrestrained behavior by making journalists responsible and encourages them to strive for public interest. Journalist should consider themselves as guardian of truth and strive to serve it.

### 2.2.1 ETHICS AND STANDARDS OF INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

There are many ethical questions and dilemmas in investigative journalism that are not easily dealt with, and these require thought consideration and discussion.

**Fairness and the Law:** According to Houston and IRE, (2009, P. 109) a journalistic practice may be legal, but the question may still be asked: Is it ethical? That question can arise both in everyday matters and on larger issues of whether to publish or broadcast Particular information. For example, in some states, it is legal to tape-record someone during a phone conversation without telling that person. But some journalists will say that the practice is deceptive and that they would want to know if they themselves were being tape-recorded.

They say a reporter should tell an interviewee they intend to record them. Other journalists will say that anyone talking to a reporter should expect that the reporter will be taking notes and possibly tape-recording the conversation. Could it be considered ethical? The point should be obvious: just because something is legal does not mean it is legal. Journalists cite the Law so often because it is usually more clear-cut than ethical codes (Houston and IRE, 2009, P. 109).

Nevertheless, it is important that investigative journalists know the laws applying to libel, privacy and the infliction of emotional distress. It is wise to review some of the dozens of books about the statutory and case laws that apply to journalists. These help journalists should not refrain from investigating individuals, institutions and issues for fear of being sued.

An investigative reporter must have common sense knowledge of basic law. A successful reporter knows both the laws that restrict the gathering of information and those that can help. Laws that better enable an investigative reporter to gather the facts include federal and state freedom of information acts, open-meetings law, campaign disclosure regulations and laws that create state offices like the clerk of the courts and the recorder of deeds (Gaines, 2008, P. 5).

Aucoin (2006) also states that good investigative journalism needs skills, critical thinking, and ethical decision making. Forbes (2005), states that the value of good journalist is codified in each society in the form of a professional code of ethics. The basic ethical principle of journalism, however remain the same namely: to seek the truth, report it as full as possible, minimize harm, be accountable and act independently. In most Western countries journalism has developed largely as unregulated or “free profession”. The common possession worldwide is that a code of ethics for the media should be developed and enforced by media practitioners themselves.

In addition, Belsoy and Chadwick (2006) reporting the truth is said to be at the heart of the journalist’s enterprise.

*Honesty; is social cooperation which depends on our willingness to act within certain constraints in our various individual and joint pursuits what we may call ‘the constraints of justice, these most obviously includes constraints on the use of force and fraud. Fraud destroys trust According to (Belsoy and Chadwick, 2006).*

Objectivity is also basic ethics of journalists. David Berry (2008) states that news journalists are required to endeavor to report objectively, which means they must not express their own opinion or any bias in Favor of any of the conflicting sides of a story. Motives of journalist, accuracy and objectivity, fair play, confidentiality with sources, power and responsibility, consequences, arrogances and snobbery, freebies and junkets and conflict of interests are the basic journalist ethics’.

### **2.3 PRESS FREEDOM AND INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM**

Democracies make investigative journalism possible by offering institutional conditions that allow for increasing press freedom, but the return of democracy per se does not necessarily trigger press freedoms. There is a close relationship between press freedom and investigative journalism. To put it simply, investigative journalism requires the existence of legal, political, and economic conditions that guarantee minimal autonomy for news organizations and journalists.

Press freedom is, by no means, an easily defined concept. Notwithstanding its uncontested status as the bedrock of the democratic press, it remains an ambiguous concept. Press freedom is commonly understood as "the absence of" oppression instead of "the presence of" freedom Waisbord (2002, p.382).

Press freedom is associated with the absence of government censorship, gag laws, violence against reporters, or official meddling in newsrooms. Press freedom requires a set of institutions and laws that allow the press to keep government at arm's length (ibid).

Besides this, there is little consensus on the meaning of press freedom and its impact on investigative journalism. Should burdensome taxes on news organizations be considered as indicators of the presence or absence of press freedom? Answers are wide-ranging on whether press freedom includes anything beyond formal and legal mechanisms through which governments intervene in the workings of the press. Ibid (2002, p. 382-383).

Identifying the existence of an independent press add little to help define press freedom. Press independence is commonly associated with the existence of news organizations that are independent from the government and political organizations. This idea, however, contradicts the reality of news organizations interwoven with political and economic powers, a point that numerous studies of journalism have extensively documented. News production is linked to

political, economic, and cultural networks and results from multileveled relationships between reporters and sources. This reality makes true press independence difficult, if not impossible.

Instead, press freedom could be understood as a set of conditions anchored in a set of laws and practices that strengthen the autonomy of news organizations and reporters (Ibid).

Under authoritarian regimes, the absence of constitutional freedoms eliminates the basic conditions that Investigative Journalism needs to exist and thrive. Democracies, instead, usher in better conditions by reinstating constitutional rule and putting an end to the pervasive, suffocating atmosphere that usually exists during military dictatorship. Ibid (2002,p 383).

## **2.4 THE TREND OF AFRICAN INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM**

Scholars agree that journalists should adhere to strict professional standards and journalistic ethics while practicing investigative journalism on corruption related issues.

According to Rønning (2009, p.166) violating professional standards and journalism ethics is one of the major problems observed in practicing investigative journalism in Africa. He argues that Journalists have to stick to the standards and hence they shouldn't sensationalize the stories, never base their reporting on gossip or rumor mongering. Most of the investigative reporting in Africa is mainly shallow, poorly investigated, based on a single source, and unbalanced.

However, other researchers highly criticize Rønning's argument. They say that as elsewhere around the world, some African stories may not adhere to standards, but it shouldn't lead to generalization. Schiffrin (2017, p.18) who dismisses this argument says that it is not logical to go to such conclusion as the contribution of African journalists is unknown in the global north. This conclusion simply emanates from the wrong assumption that good journalism doesn't originate in Africa. She further argues that "African journalism not only exists but is part of a tradition going back more than a century. And, it is activism-orientated, influential and growing."

According to Afework (2017,p.9) undertaking investigative reporting in Africa has been challenged by a range of problems such as authoritarian regimes and dangerous political atmosphere, shortage of material resources, inadequate incentives for journalists, poor ethical

standards and skills of journalists, inability to properly organize public documents, lack of access to public information as well as poor communication facilities.

Moreover, the major factors affecting investigative journalism in Africa are restrictive laws, problems related to financial and corruption, as well as lack of training on investigative reporting. Lack of protection for journalists and the associated attacks and violence against journalists are also the other contributing factors (Mudhai, 2007; Yusha'u, 2009).

Even in a situation where there is no government influence, practicing investigative journalism is a tiresome job. This is because there are many legal factors and security environments that influence the practice. Factors related to media ownership, media regulations, and media corruption can still hinder the operation of investigative journalism in Africa in general and in East Africa in particular (Hester and To, 1987 and Forbes, 2005).

Rønning (2009, p.168) also describe that Low remuneration and incentives to journalists affect their practice of investigative journalism as they become susceptible to corruption. This practice is usually called “the brown-envelope syndrome”-referring to the practice of journalists and editors receiving bribes, and not press releases, with envelope. The corrupt practice of journalists definitely kills the investigative reporting through undermining, sensationalizing and exaggerating the story. Money dictates the story, not the truth and purpose of journalism. .

## **2.5 INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM VERSES THE MEDIA LAW IN ETHIOPIA**

Ethiopia as a country has formulated laws regarding freedom of expression and media. The country has also adopted international laws that align with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, international Conventions on Human Rights, and International Instruments.

Accordingly, Article 29 of the Federal constitutional law of Ethiopia, “1. Everyone has the right to hold such an opinion without interference 2. Everyone has the right to express their opinions freely. This right includes freedom to collect, receive and impart information and ideas of any kind, either orally in writing or in print, in the form of art or in any medium of his choice. Moreover, the law emphasis the freedom to access information that is valuable to the public interest.

3. Freedom of the press and other media, as well as artistic creativity, is guaranteed. Freedom of the press shall specifically include the following elements: a) Prohibition of any form of censorship b) Access to information of public interest

### **2.5.1 THE MEDIA LAW IN ETHIOPIA AND THE GAPS IN ITS IMPLEMENTATION**

Though the country has directly and indirectly stated freedom of information and the press in its law, there are gaps in its interpretation and implementation. As a result, terms stated in the law are susceptible to abuse by various bodies.

The FDRE constitution Art 29(2), (3) & (4) clearly states that journalists are guaranteed to seek information and ideas of all kinds; without any censorship to access information of public interest. Accordingly, anybody in any structure governmental or non-governmental organization is subjected investigation for the interest of the public. However, in part three of the proclamation 590/2008 article 14(3) states that a request to obtain information gives the last say on request to information to the public relation officer provide the information requested up on payment of the prescribed fee, or In accordance with Chapter Three of this Proclamation, it provides a written response stating the reasons for the rejection of the request for any of the reasons stated and the plaintiff shall be entitled to appeal.

Unlike the developed countries, the Ethiopia law also has a limitation in the ways of investigation and use of tools; such as application of undercover investigation.

First investigative journalism uses dubious means to gather information about the targets of the investigation, long lenses cameras, telephone tapping, intercepting email and other messages, buying documents or extracting them through unsavory means to spy on persons suspected of having committed scandals. Its violation entails not only civil but also criminal liabilities in article 573 of the penal code. In the west, violation of media law normally entails only civil liabilities. (Andargachew Tiruneh (cited in Nigussie, 2008, p.147)

### **2.6 CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM**

The job of investigative reporter is to examine all the institutions of society and report how they work not how they were designed to work or how their leaders claim to work, but how they really work.

Mark (1985, p 3-4) listed the major characteristics of the investigative approach as follows:

A, The goal of the investigative journalist is to discover and obtain important and hidden information.

B, The investigative journalist assumes defensiveness and non-cooperation.

C, The investigative journalist maximizes the use of existing records as well as his/her own observation and interviews.

D, as the investigation proceeds, the reporter continuously checks that the story remains feasible, significant, and acceptable.

E, Great emphasis has been paid to thoroughness, soundness, depth and originality of research.

F, in writing the final story, the reporter strives for fairness, not objectivity

G, The investigative reporter has a systemic focus and attempts to illustrate deeper issues with the specific case he/she is studying.

## **2.7 THE PROCESS OF INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING**

There has been a major step a journalist uses in carrying out an investigation. Mark

(1985, p 6-8) puts the process of investigative reporting as follows;

### **1. CONCEPTION**

Geminal ideas can come from outside sources (tipsters, colleagues, and other leads), inside sources and blue-sky sources (serendipity and the acute "smell" of the intuitive reporter).

### **2. FEASIBILITY CHECK**

Reporters may initially prepare a memo for editors with answers outlined to the following questions:

- ✓ Is it possible to do the story?
- ✓ Do we have the required personnel and technical expertise?
- ✓ Do we have the funds and other resources?
- ✓ Do we have time?
- ✓ Will the story sit still long enough?
- ✓ What are the barriers to getting the full story?

- ✓ What are the barriers, to publishing it?
- ✓ What is the ultimate significance of the story?

### 3. MIN/MAX PROJECTIONS –GO/ NO-GO DECISION

The reporter estimates minimum and maximum story possibilities. Decisions to broadcast, postpone, or terminate will be made with the editor.

### 4. PLANNING/BASE-BUILDING

Personnel are assigned; files are set up; methods are outlined and deadlines determined.

### 5. ORIGINAL RESEARCH

Reporters engage in iterative cycles of hypotheses formulation, tracking (record searches), interviews and observation. Profiles are developed and findings summarized.

### 6. RE-EVALUATION (GO/NO-GO DECISION)

Pending the outcome of the original research, the investigation may be given a green light, postponed, redirected, or aborted.

### 7. KEY INTERVIEWS

Armed with the information gained so far, the investigators go to the focus of the story, confrontation, denial, seeking confirmation, and breakthroughs.

### 8. RE-EVALUATION (GO/NO-GO DECISION)

Should the story now be written up and published?

### 9. REPORTING

The reporter chooses a central theme and writes a soundly documented story around it; he/she makes final substantiations and thoroughly checks all proofs.

## **2.8 SOURCES OF INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM**

Unlike in routine, daily reporting, investigative stories do not just happen; they are well thought out and created through a process that starts with an idea which is then painstakingly developed through rigorous research. The first challenge for an investigative journalist is to decide where to start - finding "ideas" for stories is not easy.

Sources are the lifeblood of journalists as such they provide the essential and basic information that can help to produce News, feature and other stories for public usage. So, behind an event

that is being reported to the people, idea generators and persons who have a better say on the issue take the front line. Otherwise, media houses are lifeless (Rudin and Ibbotson, 2002).

The indispensability of a source is not a matter to negotiate rather the key to move forward to finish the assignment.

Pape and Featherstone (2005, pp.133-34) strengthen the above idea by saying “Put simply, a story would not be a story without a source. That sounds obvious, but it bears saying anyway because one of the questions a journalist is most frequently asked is; ‘Where do you get your stories?’ “The answer is, invariably: “my sources” This implies that Sources are backbones for journalism activities at all.

While using sources for stories there is a classification among sources based on their proximity to the story. As the Missouri group (2005, p. 394) described on their writing, there are mainly two categories of sources for investigative reporting stories. These are Human and written sources.

Human Sources indicates that those sources are come from human beings who have directly or indirectly relationship with the topic that has being investigated. Losers who are in the issue that the reporters are going to investigate, the losing contender for the contract, election, the loser in the power struggle. Bad losers make good sources. If the reporter is investigating a failing school system, talks with students and their parents. If the story is about nursing home abuses, talks with patients and their relatives. The honest and hardworking employees caught in a corrupt or incompetent system are victims, too. They can give the reporter specific examples and anecdotes. And early in many investigations, there may be a great deal that the reporters don’t understand, so experts can be their sources (The Missouri Group, 2005).

Written Sources indicate many useful documents that are public records, available to you or on request. The Missouri Group (2005, p. 397) says public records and documents neither lie nor change their stories, the can be identified in print such as; public records, a great deal can be learned about individuals and organizations through records that are available for the asking.

In general, Ideas for potential investigative stories can spring from a number of sources. These include tips from people; the grapevine; your own intuition or suspicions; patterns from recurring phenomena; and story 'enterprising'.

### **2.8.1 TIP-OFFS**

These sources are contacts or members of the audience or they may be your friend, who may phone in with what they consider to be news items. According to Boyd (2001, p.39), “The information is not from a trained journalist, the source may be unreliable, the facts confused or even libelous. Also, every station has its time wasters and hangers-on who phone in or call round out of sheer self-importance.” It is, therefore, important to cross check the information through different mechanisms. However, some scholars do not consider that investigating based on someone else’s information as practice investigative reporting since the journalist has not conducted original work (Waisbord, 2000).

### **2.8.2 PUBLIC RUMOR**

A lot of information can also be found on the grapevine even in places where many formal, established means of communication exist. However, most of the information are likely to be based on rumor, idle gossip, and unproven allegations. Though, it is not advisable to instantly ignore everything from this source and considering it as minor, and untrue. Pay it attention; try to identify the root of the rumor, and check to see if it is designed for personal benefit. Otherwise, taking it as it is could create confusion in the public (Kantumoya, 2004).

### **2.8.3 JOURNALIST’S CURIOSITY**

A journalist has sixth sense organ that can help them to sniff new stories for the audience. Social, political, economic and cultural issues may have positive or negative impact on the life of the people. Information may not always come from other sources, and Journalists themselves need to keep an eye on whether new things are happening or not.

The main responsibility of a journalist is after all to keep the public as up to date as possible when it comes to news and events that may affect their life (Niblock, 1996).

“The job of the investigative journalist is to find something wrong and expose it. He or she is a positive force for change, a professional with the ability to penetrate the closed ranks of vested interests and free imprisoned information from behind enemy lines” (Boyd, 2001, p.29).

### **2.8.4 TRENDS AND CHANGE**

The other thing that has to be paid attention is observing what is changing in your environment, and not takes it for granted. In our daily life, things could be changed quickly and new scenes

can be occurred than before. The journalist should be alert and standby for such conditions. The investigative journalist's technique should be extracting the secret behind the curtain (Forbes, 2005).

### **2.8.5 RECORDS AND FILES**

Files and documents in a library may yield an investigative idea. Physical sources can also be the sources for the investigative story we are going to produce. Sometimes even totally we may not get a piece of information from human sources due to different reasons such as people may fail to be willing to talk about the issue by fearing the consequence or they may have a share on the idea. So, in such situation the journalist can get vital information from files and recorded items. These items may lead the journalist to further investigation in order to identify the roots of the issue going to be investigated (Kennedy et al, 1993).

### **2.8.6 OTHER NEWS MEDIA**

Some other media organizations can be sources of news and ideas for further investigation and possible new angles (Rudin & Ibbotson, 2002). It is important not to overlook local, ethnic, international, specialist and even the journalists own publication in seeking out stories that can be developed into different angles. That means we have to deal on the business of looking the issue with different angle that had not been touched on by other media stations that are around us. In order to not plagiarize it, we have to run detail investigate on the issues by using the firsthand information we got from the media (Kantumoya, 2004).

### **2.8.7 OLD STORIES, NEW LEADS**

Ideas or concepts may generate in the form of a straight news story but develop into an investigative article the more a journalist digs. Journalists should monitor their colleagues in the industry closely. Unanswered questions in the daily press may lead the investigative reporter to follow on and develop a story further. Therefore, from old stories and new leads we may get an idea of investigative report (Forbes, 2005).

### **2.8.8 ROUTINE CHECKS**

Routine checks, such as following up who owns what through company registration records, and who owes what through credit department and bank records can also reap rewards. So, from everyday activities we can also get an idea for our investigation (Ibid, 2005).

## **2.9 QUALITIES OF INVESTIGATIVE REPORTERS**

As the constitution of the Forum for African Investigative Reporters (2015) explained on the piece of writing, it is important that corrupt individuals are stopped. But if an investigative report doesn't look beyond the criminals to the faulty system that allows them to get away with it, it has simply created the ground for a new bunch of crooks to do exactly the same thing. So investigative journalism employs the toolkit of any good report, but at a very high level of skill; uncover both facts formally defined as secret and issues nobody wants to talk about; and looks beyond individuals to faulty systems and processes. The Forum for African Investigative Reporters (2015, p. 12) and (White, 2021) puts the following qualities that the reporters must possess.

### **2.9.1 MOTIVATED BY ETHICS AND MORALS**

Good investigative reporters should have a strong sense of right and wrong. Investigative journalists call upon these faculties to complete sometimes dangerous and tedious tasks, including meeting secretly with known criminals, checking financial reports for hours, and interviewing dozens of individuals to verify source's allegations. Good investigative journalists should believe that it is their responsibility and obligation to provide facts to ensure fairness, accuracy and transparency.

### **2.9.2 FAIRNESS AND STRONG ETHICS**

Investigative reporting will bring the reporter up against all kinds of obstacles; stories may put the security, jobs or even lives of sources at risks. If they are accused of negligence, they risk the same risk to their subjects. Therefore, an investigative reporter needs to have a strong, clear set of personal ethics to insure that sources and subjects are treated respectfully and as far as possible protected from harm. And investigative stories need to be guided by ethical codes and have processes.

In addition, determination and patience that motivates the reporter while obstacles are faced within source disappears, records don't exist. The process taking too long and cost too much, the editors may challenge the reporter as FAIR (2015) stated. After all, that the reporter has dug out, checked out, and finally it needs to have the quality of well-developed reporting skills.

### **2.9.3 PASSION**

Investigative journalism is a thankless endeavor, it takes time and energy, it requires the patience of the editor, and it can upset powerful people with the reporter. If the reporter enjoy challenges, has passion for truth and justice, and want to serve the readership or audience with stories that matter, no matter how much time and energy it costs and even if some powerful people will end up with may be less-than- friendly feelings towards the reporter. Then, by all means, go for it. So as to insure what the truths are behind the shadow, the reports need to have passion to face and win the challenges

### **2.9.4 BROAD GENERAL KNOWLEDGE AND GOOD RESEARCH SKILL**

As FAIR (2015, p. 20) explained, understanding the context of the investigation help the reporter to avoid dead ends and spot relevant facts and questions. But if the investigation takes the reporter into unfamiliar area, the reporter must be able to familiarize him/herself with at least the background, conventions, terminology, role-players and issues of that area quickly. The ability to have the searching, informative conversation with an expert, use computer search engines if the issue invites, locate and read useful books are all vital here.

As the explanation emphasizes, having a broad general knowledge and good research skill is crucial to have good report result.

### **2.9.5 LOGICAL THINKING, ORGANIZATION AND SELF-DISCIPLINE**

An investigative reporting takes time and, because of the legal risks it often carries, must be verified down to the smallest detail.

So the reporter need to became a careful planner to make the best use of time, and obsessive about checking and rechecking everything he/she discovers, and making sure the story fits together.

### **2.9.6 FLEXIBILITY**

Unexpected things may happen in an investigation in a way a reporter may not expect. The questions, a given reporter raise may lead to unpleasant ending or may lead to more interesting facts.

### **2.9.7 ANALYTICAL AND ORGANIZED**

An investigative journalist should have the ability to gather and interpret facts that exist in different forms. That journalist should also be surrounded by people that could assist him with deferent expertise.

Good investigative journalists also have contacts that are able to assist in interpreting and translating some data. Good investigative reporters also keep meticulous notes and document all information.

Forbes (2005 p.35) also strengthens that investigative journalist needs the following special skills;

#### **PATIENCE**

Depth investigation takes time, especially when following dead ends; be prepared to follow all leads, regardless of how insignificant they appear.

#### **FLEXIBILITY**

Keep an open mind you should be able to shift your focus and, if necessary, change the direction of an investigation.

#### **THE ART OF PERSUASION**

Investigative reporting requires a certain approach to ensure that sources reveal information. The ability to probe deeply without upsetting or distressing the source is paramount.

#### **COURAGE THREATS OF PHYSICAL VIOLENCE;**

Litigation, sanction and even death are used to deter further investigations.

#### **INVITATION AND BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE;**

Investigative journalist need the ability to think on her/his feet, ask the right questions and assess and analyses complex problems. Having a good memory and strong problem-solving abilities, as well as a sort of subconscious database are important advantages.

## **LEGAL SAVVY**

Protect you from criminal and civil action and know the legal routes that can be used to access public information.

## **INTEGRITY**

Working on highly sensitive matters requires the reporters to be discreet, adopting a discipline of secrecy with source and colleagues the ability to work independently as well as in a team.

In general, Forbes (2005 p.33.), conclude that an investigative journalist must be familiar with the following skills:

**Recording**-shorthand, audio recording Storing and recording relevant details and keeping Such records in a safe place.

**Accuracy** - The ability to identify key points in a story.

Critical thinking, Multi-sourcing, having an enquiring mind, being able to ask questions.

**Research** – being able to conduct research via the internet; getting information on companies, individuals.

**Legal** – knowing the law, especially the law of defamation; knowing your legal defenses’.

**Meticulous editing** – sensitive investigations resulting in an 800-wordstory may require much cutting, re-writing and word checking.

## **2.10 AREAS OF INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING**

Investigative journalism should carry out activities for the wellbeing of the society. There is no issue considered as off limits to investigative reporters.

Gaines, (1994) and (Kantumoya, 2004, p: 7) also strengthens as follows: there is no limitation for subject areas requiring investigative treatment. Political and politicians, government and governance, corruption, healthy and health care, agricultural land alienation, the economy, privatization, business and consumer affairs, on governmental organizations, the environment, gender issue, religion, human rights, child abuse, public procurement and tender procedures etc.

## **2.11 TOOLS FOR INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM**

Investigative reporters are not only apart from other reporters in experience and mind-set; they are also expected to have skills that others may not have cultivated. They have ability to find and use documents, whether private or public records. They have adopted the special use of interviews, surveys and surveillance as tools of the trade. Over the years, they have been able to add the Tape recorder, the video tape, the computer data base and the spreadsheet to their arsenal of working aids (Gaines, 2008, pp. 5-6).

While applying different tools to critically investigate an issue, considering and understanding laws that are related to the investigation after all help the reporter to be safe from being accused of violating the laws. “It is imperative that practitioner in any field have a sound working knowledge of the legal and ethical considerations that apply to their occupation” (Pearson, 2004, p.4).

Since there are no special laws for reporters, they must live by the law. Violating laws such as stealing documents and trespassing on personal property, directly lead to pay the price. This is especially true for the journalists, who are providing information and commentary of public interest (ibid).

Investigative reporters produce best story with the knowledge they have when they are aided or scaffold with tools. In addition to this, the reporter has to avoid reflecting personal feelings in the story. To do so, tools such as interview, documents, surveillances and surveys are commonly used in investigative reporting. Fedler (1993) and Gaines (1994)

### **2.11.1 INTERVIEW**

An investigative reporter can extract facts and the views of the interviewee by being a good listener and forwarding the relevant question. All stakeholders of the issue should be included and should forward their idea. It can be done through telephone, in person and written form like questionnaire (Scancan, 2000).

Telephone interviews are mostly applied when the reporter is sandwiched to meet the deadline or the subject’s being far enough away from the reporter. The reporter has the chance to take notes because pen and note books are not visible. The reporter, however, has not the chance to

look at the facial expression of the interviewee and somehow to forward follow up questions.(Newsom and Wollert, 1985).

In face to face interview there is a possibility to record the conversation with the consent of the interviewee if not one reporter should ask while the other takes notes; investigative reporting is a team work. The reporter is free to ask follow up questions and observe the facial reaction of the interviewee. It helps the reporter to contact other subject who has a relation to the story. But it is not easy to get the concerned body by the bureaucracy seen around there especially for investigative journalist (Gaines, 1994).

It is also possible to interview a person in writing. At most dedication the reporter should avoid such alternatives. It does not give a chance to raise a follow up question and getting natural powerful quotations. Investigative journalists do not know who is responding that and it could carefully be crafted by somebody else. It is mostly used to get very important information from reluctant sources for the investigation (ibid).

According Reang and Nariddh, (2007), sometimes it is very difficult to persuade a source to talk, especially if the investigation is about corruption or wrongdoing. People may fear to meet journalists rather they prefer to send it in such form to contribute something they know to the investigation.

After conducting the interview, reporters should compile necessary documents and know the information in order to realize whether the interviewee do not escape from the truth or not. If time permits try to verify the accuracy of the information by contacting other relevant sources (Mayeux, 1996).

### **2.11.2 OBSERVATION**

According to Gaines (1994, p.15), “observation may consist of following a vehicle, watching a place of business, or timing parking meters to learn if it registers correctly. It could be taking down license numbers at a specific location to check ownership.” It implies that the reporter places him/herself in a situation to be eye witness of the event.

It helps you to look at development of things you get firsthand information through personal observation. It may include hidden cameras and microphones. One thing directs to another,

links begin to come into inquiry and, finally, you recognize a pattern emerging from incidents which at first instance appear to be separated and purely concurrent. “A pattern may become visible in a judge giving out suspended sentences to rich and influential convicts while handing down mandatory jail sentences for petty crimes committed by the poor and vulnerable” (Kantumoya, 2004, p.34).

### **2.11.3 DOCUMENTS**

According Reang and Nariddh (2007, p.25), documents need to be understood and their meanings should accurately relate to the story being investigated. Otherwise, they may mislead the investigator. A document without its human resource must be correctly interpreted. After all it is better to know that documents are not the last stages of the investigation.

Document is something written, pictures and electronic recorded on tape, etc., that contains information. It is used to extract facts that are not told by the human source. By its nature documents are usually organized logically; cannot be copied, analyzed and reviewed at your convenience; and typically are detailed and specific (Kennedy et al, 1993).

According to Gaines (1994), in using documents the word „etc.“ by definition it includes such as arched or inscribed or impressed information. We can find a piece of information on a credit card because it contains information printed on plastic. For instance, if all the possible hints that are gathered at a murder scene and taken to the police station, a police officer lists them on an inventory and signs it. And the items themselves are considered as evidence, but the inventory is a document. However, documents have their own limitation. They cannot be asked and must need a person who can supply information on it. Public records are court cases, minutes of public meetings, inspection; and private records such as telephone bills, letters, medical records etc. These can be obtained legally by permission of the owners or their inclusion in public files (ibid)

### **2.12 CHALLENGES OF PRACTICING INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM**

Waisbord (2002, pp. 15-16) stated that Investigative journalism reports information about publicly relevant abuses that certain individuals and organizations want to remain secret. Pushing the boundaries of daily journalism, Investigative journalism goes beyond conventional

reporting and does not take manufactured, spoon-fed news as news. The mission of investigative journalism has recently been defined as the discovery of the truth.

Because all reporting should be essentially investigative, it is redundant to define investigative journalism in terms of the use of certain news gathering methods. To adopt this view is not intended to underestimate the importance of methods used to denounce wrongdoing. Instead, it emphasizes that investigative methods are not unique to investigative journalism. Investigative journalism is distinctive in that it publicizes information about wrongdoing affecting the public interest (Waisbord, 2002, pp. 15-16).

Investigative journalism is surrounded by a lot of challenges which threatens its practice. It is always sniffing such hidden facts and makes them available to the public. Some of the challenges are discussed below.

#### **2.12.1 MEDIA OWNERSHIP:**

This stems from reasons which are observed in the media institutions. Private owned media are not encouraged to produce an investigative story that if it is not needed by the owner. The same thing can happen in the government media if the agenda is related to the government interest (Rudin and Ibbotson, 2002).

**2.12.2 FINANCIAL CONSTRAINT:** is also observed in the media because to investigate a story allocating adequate budget is mandatory. The constraints may come from the Editor. When the Editor does not accept the proposal or inquiry does not have the time and resources needed. It is deep and needs enough fund (ibid).

#### **2.12.3 THREATS:**

Investigative journalism by its nature is difficult job. Some assignments are very dangerous to the journalist's life. As an investigative journalist quoted in Forbes (2005, p.51) states about it as follows:

*“When people you are investigating start threatening people close to you [family] it becomes more difficult because the more sensitive the story, the more dangerous it can become. For example, I was working on a story when someone just phoned my girlfriend and said, “We are watching you. Tell your boyfriend to stop the story or we will kill you.” I went for the story and*

*published it. She [the girlfriend] was scared. She didn't go to work for a whole week. I said, "Okay, stay at home." I had someone looking after her and I went on with the story''.*

To keep journalists from such threats it is important not to identify their identity in any means for their safety.

Brown envelope and courage: constraints may come first from the journalist himself. The journalist may fear the risk of the situation; and it can affect the investigation or leads into self-censorship to avoid offending an authority or not to offend either party affiliated who is thought to cause a problem. On the other hand, journalists can easily involve themselves in brown envelop journalism as a reason for being poorly paid (Berhanu Lodamo and Skjerdal, 2009)

#### **2.12.4 SECRECY:**

Investigating private organizations is not easy and sometimes impossible. From the beginning these organizations could include various directions in their legislation and force employees to sign on it to defend the threat that can come from outside against the interest of the organization. Most of the time employees are informed not to disclose any information with the name of confidentiality or is enshrined as secrecy in the legislation if they violate it they will pay the price. In addition to these delay tactics which are designed to boring the journalist and give up its investigation (Forbes, 2005).

#### **2.12.5 RELUCTANT SOURCES:**

Digging out vital information and disclosing it for the public is unthinkable without the good will of sources. But sources are observed while being reluctant to give information for various reasons. They may fear the "long arms" which can make their life difficult; if there is no, especially, a strong law that can guaranty the whistleblowers" life. Investigative journalist, therefore, should try persuading the source by giving a confidence on the consequence (ibid).

### **2.13 HOW TO SUPPORT AND IMPROVE INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM**

Investigative Journalism is central to the creation and consolidation of democratic communicative spaces and societies. Investigative Journalism is particularly necessary in light of the weakness of accountability mechanisms and the centrality of the media to contemporary

politics. If the press fails to support investigative Journalism, the press abandons one of its key functions to democracy.

The press can make very important contributions by presenting information about these problems, highlighting issues that need attention, providing forums for debate, and inviting solutions. To do this, the press must actively identify areas that require public attention rather than passively relay information produced by governments and other sources.

The goal should be the creation and maintenance of conditions for the consolidation of a journalism that responsibly uncovers wrongdoing in diverse social areas. To achieve this goal, many areas need attention.

Waisbord (2002, p.393) argued that in terms of journalism education, training in the following areas is very important and often lacking.

### **2.13.1. LEGAL**

Familiarity with the law and how it affects reporting is indispensable for investigative journalists, particularly considering that a number of laws continue to be crucial obstacles for their work.

### **2.13.2. TECHNOLOGY**

Most reporters have superficial training in the use of the variety of new technologies in reporting. These new technologies tremendously benefit investigative reporting. Computer-assisted reporting and the Internet, for example, are indispensable for the production of high-quality reports. Most reporters, however, get few chances to become familiar with these instruments. The lack of economic resources in most journalism schools continues to be a deficit that only a few news organizations can successfully remedy. Therefore, support for training in new technologies is key to improve investigative reporting.

### **2.13.3. ETHICS**

Investigative journalism inevitably deals with conflicting expectations and morals. A host of ethical issues frequently arise in investigative journalism, such as how far journalism can go in search of accountability without violating privacy rights. An incomplete list of ethical issues includes: privacy; accountability; accuracy; responsibility; and moral decency. The widespread

use of undercover tactics in both print and broadcast journalism, for example, repeatedly raises ethical issues.

Press ethics is a relatively new issue in journalism education that has yet to receive sufficient attention. Codes of ethics do not seem to resolve ethical dilemmas. Overcoming differences across many participants with different interests and perspectives is difficult or maybe impossible. Efforts at self-regulation have not been entirely successful or productive. Perhaps the answer is not to resolve issues once and forever, but rather to equip reporters with analytical tools to think through the ethical dimensions of their work. Because reporters must be aware of the many ethical implications of their actions, it is necessary to provide them with opportunities to reflect on the ethics of investigative journalism.

#### **2.13.4. SPECIFIC REPORTING SUBJECTS**

Training in the art of investigative journalism in general is useful, but alone, is insufficient. Reporters should be encouraged to expand the agenda of investigative journalism. Also, subjects such as the environment or the financial industry, which some exposes have targeted, demand specific training and knowledge that reporters do not receive in journalism schools.

#### **2.14 THEORETICAL FRAME WORK**

Two theories have been selected to present the theoretical framework for the study: they are social responsibility theory and watchdog Journalism.

##### **2.14.1 SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY THEORY**

Theoretically, investigative journalism is based on long-held Enlightenment ideas that have led to the concepts of press freedom and liberty. In 16th, 17th and 18th centuries social changes had primarily been seen in Europe in relation the political system which had been practiced. The main idea of the period was social and political progress should not rest in absolute power of the authorities but on the absolutes of reason, rational debate and freedom of speech (Rosner, 2008).

Sheila Coronel (n.d, p.1) also indicated that: Since the late 17th Century, classical liberal theorists had argued that publicity and openness prevents from excessive power. The press as

Fourth Estate exists primarily to check on those in public offices was based on the premise that powerful states had to be prevented from overstepping their bounds.

According to, McQuail,D.2010 (as quoted in Ntibinyane 2018, p. 18) The normative theories were first introduced and developed by Siebert, Peterson and Schramm in their seminal book, *Four Theories of the Press*. They distinguish the four normative theories of the press as, Authoritarian Theory – a theory that puts all forms of communication in the hands of the government or bureaucrats; Libertarian Theory – a theory which comes from libertarian thought and believes that the main function of the mass media is to inform and entertain the public; Social responsibility theory – a theory that allows free press but also calling for accountability in the press; and Soviet Media theory – a theory that gives the government absolute control of all the media on behalf of the public of these four normative theories, the theory of social responsibility of the press has been applied to this study. According to the social responsibility theory of media, media have a great responsibility to inform the society and to overcome those social injustice and corruption in it.

On the book *four theories of the press 1956* introduces social responsibility theory as: A social responsibility or public interest model the right to freedom of publication is accompanied by obligations to the wider society that go beyond self-interest. A positive notion of freedom, involving some social purpose, is envisaged. Responsible media will maintain high standards by self-regulation but government intervention is not excluded. Mechanisms of accountability to society and public will be in place. Public service broadcasting can be located within this model (McQuail, 2010, P. 111).

Under social responsibility theory, freedom of expression is not an absolute right, like pure libertarian theory. According to Siebert (1963), as quote in Bereket Yeheysh (2012) Freedom of expression and the function of the media are explained in the context of social responsibility theory as follows;

Basically the primary purpose of the media was to help discover truth, to assist in the process of solving political and social problems based on knowledge and evidences. It was charged with duty of keeping government from overstepping its bounds. The social responsibility theory considers purely negative liberty as insufficient and ineffective. Negative liberty, according to this perspective, is an empty liberty. Siebert (1963) further explains as: “It is like

telling a man that he is free to walk without first making sure that he is not crippled. To be real, freedom must be effective. It is not enough to tell a man

that he is free to achieve his goals; one must provide him with the appropriate means of attaining those goals.”

In general, social responsibility theory has the following functions;(1) Serving the political system of providing information, discussion and debate on public affairs;(2) Enlightening the public so as to make it capable of self-government;(3)Safeguarding the rights of the individual by serving as a watchdog against government;(4) Servicing the economic system, primarily by bringing together the buyers and sellers of goods and services through the medium of advertising; (5) Providing entertainment;(6) Maintaining its own financial self-sufficiency so to be free from the pressure of special interests (Siebert et al, 1963, p.74).

However, the theory is not satisfied with the way these functions are interpreted and carried out by some media owners and operators. For this reason, the theory lays its faith on the moral responsibility of every journalist. The journalist is highly expected not only to the duty but to the society as well (Peterson, 1996).

The social responsibility theory lies between authoritarian theory and libertarian theory because it provides total media freedom on the one hand and external control on the other. This theory has shifted the way press published news from conventional “objective” reporting (fact reporting) to “interpretative” reporting (investigative reporting).

Prior to this theory, facts were presented without interpretation. The audience interpreted the truth the way they wanted to. This has led to problems as Interpretation was not based on reality and it affected the social order. Investigative reporting (Interpretive reporting) began to reveal the reality behind every case.

In social responsibility theory, the press is made available to the public and the society. In this way, the facts presented by the press are analyzed and interpreted so that the public can get accurate and helpful information. This helps to maintain social harmony by exposing social evils such as corruption and discouraging other wrong doings.

In this regard, the Social Responsibility theory will be applied to determine, analyze and evaluate how social responsibility of investigative journalism is being implemented in Walta Television as a whole and Walta Mirmera program in particular.

#### **2.14.2 WATCHDOG JOURNALISM**

It has been more than 200 years since the notion of the press came up with the Watchdog mindset. Classical liberal theorists of the late 17th century contended that publicity and openness provide the best protection from the excesses of power (Coronel, 2010:111).

On the other hand, the idea of the press as the Fourth Estate, as an institution that exists primarily as a check on those in public office, was grounded on the premise that powerful states had to be deterred from passing their bounds. The press, working independently of the government even as its freedoms were guaranteed by the state, was supposed to ensure this vocation (Ibid).

In the late 1960s and 1970s, a watchdog style of journalism flourishes in newsrooms around the globe. In USA the Pentagon Papers and the Watergate Scandals were particularly important and considered as the result watchdog role of the press. That is why many of the press consider that era as something of a golden age of investigative journalism and as a model for the role of the press should play in public discussions in a free society (Stapenhurst & Larose, 2006).

The 1980s and 1990s saw the revival of this centuries-old notion and its application especially on societies in transition, which were then emerging from the ruins of socialist and authoritarian regimes. It had a strong emotional appeal and resonance among citizens facing pervasive corruption, weak rule of law, and governments who failed to deliver basic services (Coronel, 2010:111).

The idea of watchdog role is mainly based on supervising powerful states; individuals as well as institutions not to run out of their limit. It should go beyond simply making the management and implementation of power transparent to the public but also recognize government and institutions while working effectively and efficiently as well as failing to do so (Kovach & Rosenstiel, 2001).

The role of the press, as a watchdog, greatly facilitates the democratic process by promoting and protecting the public interest and improving good governance. It follows the footsteps of elected officials.

Schultz (1998, pp.51-52) strengthens the above idea as follows:

“The Fourth Estate ideal at its most basic holds that the role of the news media is to act as a conduit for information, ideas and opinions to assist in the good governance of society; to act as a check on the powerful, by reporting, analyzing and criticizing their actions on behalf of the public, which lacks direct access to information or power. The ideal casts the media as the handmaiden of democracy”.

Truly speaking, the watchdog role requires the news media to provide a check on powerful sectors of society with the inclusion of leaders within the private and public domains. Journalists are expected to discharge their responsibility of guarding and protecting the public interest from incompetence, corruption, and misinformation.

The available empirical evidence suggests that as much as the free press does indeed promote transparency in many countries, journalists often face serious constraints and obstacles in this regard, especially in autocracies (Odugbemi and Norris, 2010).

However, the watchdog role is nowadays expanding from major national newspapers to smaller, local newspapers and to web logs. In addition, watchdog journalism is devolving into scandal mongering.

This indicates that it is not only bounded to such big and national issues but also local issues which are public interest (Straubhaar & Larose, 2006). Where the press plays the watchdog role, it is important to understand that it has to distinct its role from oppositionist press that entertains partisan ambition. Though the presence of such press is imperative, the Fourth state should work neutrally. In such scenario the press should take care not to oversight the conduct of the government and attack government secrecy and alleged corruption otherwise it could create an adversarial relationship between the government and the press that can hinder the access to information (Schultz, 1998).

In general, from the above context, it is clear that the media, as the fourth state, must be independent, accountable and stand to the public. The press must be guided by ethical

principles regarding of obtaining information and sources. The survival and continuation of the press as watchdog highly depend on the profession of journalism and media institutions and professionals are responsible to keep it on the right track.

## **CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1 RESEARCH DESIGN**

The descriptive-analytical method of data collection is used by the researcher through a qualitative approach. By using a qualitative research methodology, researchers want to gather rich information and get a more detailed picture of issues, cases or events (Arora and Stoner 2009). Thus, the study used qualitative research methods to include in-depth insights and data on the subject.

The study focused on selected investigative programs and producers of Walta Mermera program and officials directly involved in the case. Therefore, it is the case study that the researcher used as the design of the research. This also helps to gather detailed data and to identify the characteristics of a narrowly defined subject.

In this regard, four sample investigative programs have been reviewed in order to know whether investigative journalism is practiced in Walta TV primarily Walta Mirmera program. Two of the four programs selected for the sample have three episodes each. In addition, the researcher conducts in-depth interview with producers, Executive producer, Executive of TV sector and other media expert for in-depth information and insights about the actual practice of the program in accordance with the documents analyzed.

Based on this, an in-depth individual interview was conducted to answer the questions raised in the Research Questions and to achieve the objectives set out in the Research Objective.

Data analysis was performed using the thematic analysis format. The reason for this is to check whether investigative journalism is being implemented correctly on Walta television. The general aspect of the program: program themes; to find out the level of practicing ethical principles of investigative journalism in the station and determine the challenges facing investigative journalism in Walta TV. Moreover, important issues pointed out in the literature review are also incorporated in the discussion of the research findings.

### **3.2 RESEARCH APPROACH**

The research method used in this study is qualitative one. This is because Qualitative research method is concerned with subjective assessment of attitudes, opinions and behaviors (Kothari, 2004, p.5).

Qualitative methods and techniques could complement journalistic data verification, since traditional reporting “cannot suffice for the full range of skills necessary for complete news coverage in today’s interactive and global media environment” (Franciscato, 1994). It also helps researcher in constructing concepts, theories, and principles out of details of discussions, interviews and observations (Creswell, 2009).

O’Sullivan et al (2003, p.280) says “interviews are a research method that can be employed to investigate a wide variety of research problems and projects” and that interviews are qualitative research which seek to uncover audience interpretations and observations.

In-depth interviews also “give direct access to unique forms of experience and expression often denied by other methods. The strengths of interviews often include: their freedom (both the interviewer and interviewee are allowed to explore and negotiate the particular topic); their directness of contact, feedback and responses; and their in-depth detail” (O’Sullivan et al, 2003, p.280).

In this research data were collected through in-depth individual interview to find out first-hand how they perceive the practice and ethics of investigative journalism and how they react to situations that force them to break the ethics. Sample broadcast programs were also analyzed qualitatively while giving special consideration on specific programs of contents.

### **3.3 SAMPLING TECHNIQUES**

The researcher believes that Purposive sampling is a popular approach in qualitative research. The purposive sampling technique is a type of non-probability sampling that is very effective when one needs to study a certain cultural domain with knowledgeable experts within.

Purposeful sampling is also a technique widely used in qualitative research for the identification and selection of information-rich cases for the most effective use of limited resources (Patton, 2002).

In this study, Data were collected using face-to-face in-depth interviews. The researcher, therefore, needs to understand the deeper perspectives captured through face-to-face interaction (Berger, 2010; Marshall& Rossman, 2010).

In this study, producers of “Walta Mermera” program were asked open ended questions to express their idea and views about the ethics and practice of investigative journalism. The respondents selected by the researcher were practicing investigative journalism for not less than two years.

### **3.4 CONTENT ANALYSIS OF SAMPLE OF BROADCASTS**

Content of Sample programs are collected and analyzed by the researcher in order to examine how Walta media and communication “Walta Mermera” program is practicing the ethics and practice of investigative journalism.

The researcher has looked at four investigative programs. Of the four programs, two have a three-part series (episodes). Thus, when the number of programs in the series is added, the number of programs reviewed reaches eight.

The researcher wanted to analyze those sample programs as they are representative to the frequency of airing such programs at Walta TV.

Hence, the researcher purposely picked four investigative programs based on the following elements. In the first place, the programs had been hot issue in the city as they draw the attention of ordinary people and higher figures.

Secondly, the programs have got many views compared to other programs aired by the station and their timeliness is another reason to select those pieces.

The analysis mainly looks into the contents of the respective programs by thoroughly focusing on the depth, ethics and integrity of production.

Beyond that, since the establishment of Walta Mermera program, the number of investigative programs presented to Walta television viewers has been 16. Therefore, the researcher believes that the number of investigative programs selected for sample is sufficient.

### **3.5 SAMPLE SIZE**

This study aims at describing and examining the ethics and practice of investigative journalism in Walta Media and Communication. “Walta Mirmera” is the program in focus.

The researcher analyzed four investigative stories broadcasted by Walta during the last two years. The samples were selected because the researcher felt this number would be adequate to yield sufficient depth.

On the other hand, six interviewees have participated in study. The participants were three producers, one executive producer and one media manager (Executive of TV sector). In short, the entire staffs of Walta Mirmera have taken part. One media expert was also selected as key informant.

### **3.6 TRUSTWORTHINESS OF THE STUDY**

With regards to trust ability, the findings of this paper are trustworthy as the researcher drew the conclusion after having collected first-hand account by interviewing the program producers and managers. Most importantly, the data collected through interview has been cross-checked by meticulously analyzing the contents of the selected programs from professional point of view.

### **3.7 METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS**

As the researcher stated earlier, the purpose of the research was to examining the practice of investigative journalism in Walta media and communication “Walta Mermera” program in focus.

As indicated, the research employed qualitative research method and presents a simultaneous analysis of the data generated from the content analysis and a discussion of the findings from the interviews with Walta TV journalists.

The interviews with the journalists were recorded and saved and their names would not be mentioned in this study for the purposes of confidentiality.

**CHAPTER FOUR:  
DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DESCUSSION  
OF RESULTS**

In this chapter, the analysis and discussions of the data gathered from respondents and document analyzed were presented according to the result of findings. Qualitative descriptive analysis, and discussions of results obtained from the data gathered are offered. In addition, important issues pointed out in the literature review were also incorporated in the discussion of the data. In the process of data collection, the researcher applied purposive sampling so as to look in to an in-depth sight in to the program. In the data analysis the researcher used thematic analysis format.

Moreover, the data presentation, analysis and discussion of data are carried out in two phases. In the first phase, the result of the sample selected programs was discussed and presented.

In the second phase, the result of an in-depth interview data was discussed and presented as to the design employed in the study.

**Phase one: 4.1 Data presentation and results of sample programs**

**Table 1: Selected sample programs**

	<b>Title of the program</b>	<b>General content of the coverage</b>	<b>Yardsticks (standards)</b>
1	“ከሶደራ ሪዞርት በስተጀርባ” which can be translated as “Behind sodere resort”( June 10,2020).	The program dealt with complaints of the resort’s ownership and related stories.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impartiality</li> <li>• Fairness</li> <li>• Balance</li> </ul>
2	“ባልታበሱ እንባዎች የደለቡ ኪሶች” which can be translated as “Fortune in tears”.(june 17,2020)	The program focuses on the fraud done by a wealthiest business tycoon and owner of Sodere Resort Mr. Dinku Deyass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collecting and organizing evidence and analyzing skill</li> <li>• Credibility and</li> </ul>
3	“የቀመርን ተስፋ ያመከነዉ የሶደራ ሪዞርት” which can be translated as “hopeless Endeavor of Mr Kemer on Sodere	The program consists of a person with shares on Sodere Resort, famous in the performance arts industry Mr. Kemer Yesuf and his grievance against Mr. Dinku	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transparency</li> <li>• Free and Independent</li> </ul>

	Resort”.(June 26,2020).	Deyass.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Logic</li> <li>• The required knowledge on content</li> <li>• The art of persuasion</li> </ul>
4	“የአረንጓዴው ወርቅ የአምራቾችና አቅራቢዎች ጩኸት” which can be translated as “Green gold producers appeal’. (sep3, 2020,Oct 17,2020 and Oct 24,2020).	The program had three series part and focused on Coffee sector.	
5	“አሟ ቀሊጦ” which can be translated as “Fraud and Embezzlement”.(April 14,2021).	The program was intended to expose the automobile import company called AL-BURJ General Trading.	
6	“የዳይናሚክና ቢ ኦሜጋ ውዝግብ” which can be translated as “Dispute between Dynamic and B Omega Company”.(March 13,2019).	The program focused on Dynamic and B Omega Company.	

#### 4.1.1 BEHIND SODERE RESORT

##### OVERVIEW

The investigative program done by Walta Television entitled “ke Sodere Resort Jerba” which can be literally translated as Behind Sodere Resort dealt with complaints of the resort’s ownership and related stories. The program had screening time of 56 minutes.

The program elaborates that Sodere Resort was owned and managed by government agencies before it was leased to private investors some nine years ago aiming to modernize the resort services.

However, several individuals in the program voiced their concern that the people who bought the resort were neither capable to pay the lease price which amounts to 150 million birr nor able to modernize the resort’s service as it was intended in the outset.

The program also entertains the resort’s expansion work after privatization and it specifically blames an investor named Dinku Deyasa who is mentioned as one of the investors who took part in the purchasing of resort. The program portrays that Dinku did an expansion work to the

resort without proper consultation with local communities and government administrative bodies and this in turn resulted in local farmer's displacement. The resort was finally closed then, the program concludes.

This investigative program aired by Walta Television evaluated according to the following professional and ethical principles: -

### **1. IMPARTIALITY**

As the researcher of this study observed, the program aired by Walta Television entitled "ke Sodere Resort Jerba" lacks impartiality. For instance, the program presented three investors together bought Sodere Resort quoting Ethiopian Privatization Agency while Oromia Investment Commission, in the same program, claims the resort belongs to five investors altogether. Despite such discrepancies of figures, the program yet targets one investor, namely Dinku Deyasa as solely responsible person to all wrongdoings of the resort.

For example, the Public Relations Director of the Ethiopian Privatization Agency said literally on the program as follows:

The investors who bought the resort are together, not Mr.dinku deyassa alone. There are certain business structures enshrined in the Ethiopian trade law. Accordingly, we sold our property to business entities which are established as per the country's trade law and obviously Dinku Deyassa is a member of such business entities

It can be seen from the script mentioned in the introduction of the program that the program generally lacks impartiality.

For instance, in the program, the journalist literally described the role of Dinku Deyassa's Sodere Resort ownership as follows:

"We have not received any clear information from the federal government or Oromia region that shows Dinku Deyassa is a major stakeholder in Sodere Resort. But we inferred his dominance from his actions and he is playing a significant role in executing almost the entire management works of the resort"

This practice contradicts scholars' assumptions about the principles of investigative journalism.

Since investigative journalism is one of the genres of journalism, one must follow the principles of the profession when investigating an issue. Though the values of good journalism are codified in each society as code of ethics, the basic principles are the same. These are: seek the truth and report it as fully as possible; minimize harm; be accountable; and act independently (Forbes, 2005).

## **2. COLLECTING AND ORGANIZING EVIDENCE AND ANALYZING SKILL**

As the researcher understood in this study, the journalist of the program was not only unable to organize proper evidences but also unable to give sound analysis to his various documents. To substantiate this with an instance, the program presented farmers who said they were displaced from their farmlands due to the resort's expansion yet none of them presented any evidence for that.

The journalist in such cases has no guarantee to filter fabricated complaints. The program simply sounds done in hurry and lacks proper depth. This obviously can result in loss of credibility, harm professional integrity and push audiences away from the station. The journalist capacity to present evidence and cross examine his informants was also weak in the program.

The journalist never questioned any of his complainers and he appeared to accept any of their claims true for granted. On top of that, government officials who need to be interrogated well appeared on the program innocent. They went further in the program to the level of forwarding advice to the journalist.

For example: East Shewa Zone Administrator was seen saying the following on the program.

"This is an investment. Investment should be directed and enforced by the government, not the individual. Accordingly, the government provides investment, it demands expansion. It is the government that does this.

If there are farmers who are evicted from their plots of land for investment, the government has to compensate as per pertinent laws of the country. If individuals go to enforce this law, the government will be in danger.

Cognizant of such facts the investment has to be executed considering the local farmers living the investment area. It had to answer all questions including which farmers would the

investment evict from the area, how shall those farmers can be relocated to another site and what the law says about them. While all had to be answered in the outset of the project but none them were addressed unfortunately.

The investment had to also consider whether there was a committee that estimates compensation in the woreda. It needs to also show the future lives of the evicted farmers and thereby putting a proper solution to their challenges as they leave their farmlands for potential investors. But this was not also addressed properly. Due to all such shortcomings, farmers were forced to file appeal and walk to the office of the regional president several times. ”

However, the East Shewa Zone Administrator was not asked in the program how the zonal administration left bringing the responsible party to justice while aware of such illegal activities.

### **3. FAIRNESS AND BALANCE**

Balance and fairness are common words of journalism ethics. News reporting and writing, by Melvin Mencher urges that unfair and unbalanced journalism might be described as a failure in objectivity.

In this regard the specific details presented in the program lack fairness and balance. In spite of the many complaints mentioned in the program concerning the investor Dinku Deyasa, no one appeared there countering the claims on behalf of him. In the program, the journalist presented the reluctance of Sodere Resort Manager to comment on the issue upon presenting his request over a phone. Yet the manager, in a recorded sound included in the program, expressed his willingness contrasting the journalist’s claim. The journalist later on told us in his script the manager’s lack of cooperation after he expressed his will for interview yet he never presented any evidence to assert this claim.

A journalist cannot say someone is not willing to give information simply depending on telephone conversations according to the present Ethiopian Broadcast law. According to Freedom of Mass media and Access to Information Proclamation 590/2000 Article 14 any media institution has to present its request for information in a written letter to the concerned body and that body can take up to 30 working days before the media says this body is not willing provide information. This was not implemented in Dinku Deyasa’s case.

The journalist in this case might have done either a deliberate mischief or he might not be aware of law related concerns.

In addition to this the journalist aired his telephone conversation with Sodere Resort manager without consent to do so. It also infringes the privacy of the individual.

Taking all those into considerations, the program in a nutshell didn't include the basic requirements of investigative journalism such as balance, accuracy, objectivity, and plausibility on top of transgressing pertinent laws of the country and related.

#### **4.1.2 FORTUNE IN TEARS**

##### **OVERVIEW**

The investigative report done by Walta Television entitled "Baltabesu Enbawoch Yedelebu Kisooh" which can be translated as "Fortune in Tears ". This program also focuses on the fraud done by a wealthiest business tycoon and owner of Sodere Resort Mr. Dinku Deyasa. The program had screening time of 60 minutes. This investigative report presented three victims who claimed lost huge sum of money after having done certain business transactions with the richest man Dinku Deyasa.

When we see the investigative production on the basis of the journalistic principles in general and principles of investigative journalism in particular we may point out the following pros and cons:

##### **On the pro side:**

- The journalist tried to uncover an alleged big fraud by a business person who has networks with government officials and did a number of mega deceptions. The person, namely Dinku Deyasa, who is referred doing the fraud in the investigative report, is a multi-millionaire and it needs highest professional courage to deal with such issues due to possible security threats. In this regard the journalist took massive security risks and his courage has to be appreciated.
- The journalist also brought to light complex business transaction frauds and helped the victims to voice their problems. The story may also signal a warning message to

other people who may want to have certain transactions with the alleged person or with other people in similar business setups.

But there are also cons with this investigative reporting:

- The journalist did the reporting solely based on an interview with three people end to end. Names of institutions such as Federal Anti-Corruption Commission and Ministry of Defense were mentioned by the victims in story but the journalist approached none of them for comment.

For example, the complaint, Aster Ketsela, reported the matter to the Federal Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission, but did not receive a response. It is presented in the program as follows:

"I informed the Anti-Corruption Commission that this man (Mr. Dinku Deyassa) had cheated on me. They told me to bring the documents that I claimed were fraudulent. I prepared all the documents and gave them accordingly. But following this every time I went there, they merely said the case was being investigated"

In this regard, the response of the Federal Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission is important but not included in the program. It makes the story unbalanced and ill researched.

- The journalist lacks proper footage for his reporting. For instance, one of the victims in the story (Aster ketsela) claimed she did a certain construction to the Eastern base of Ethiopian defense force in Harer but got no payment after completion. But we never saw any proper footages of this construction other than a single photograph. It erodes the reports plausibility.
- The victims talk about lots of deceptive transactions in the interview but the journalist lacks substantiating them with documents. It erodes both the reports authenticity and credibility. For instance, the victims mentioned about "dry cheque" fraud in their interview but the journalist never cross check its authenticity from bank managers or other concerned bodies at all.

- The journalist never interviewed the alleged trickster who is the main focus of the investigative report. The reason he mentioned was absence of access to the person but the way he presented it in the story is less convincing.
- The journalist starts his production in stand up reporting before a building which was presented in the latter part of the story as illegally taken from its owner. Here the stand-up reporting lacks clarity and has individual names that was never introduced in the earlier part of story.
- In some parts of the story, the journalist also used long narrations that have little or no value to the report.
- The journalist mentioned in his reporting one of the victims' issue is already filed in court. However, he never told us weather the file is already done, in this case the media is interfering in courts independence and it brings certain journalistic ethical breaches.
- The journalist also presented in the story recorded phone calls of two individuals whom he claimed had relations with Dinku Deyasa. This could also bring ethical issues as he never makes them informed that he was doing so.

#### **4.1.3 HOPELESS ENDEAVOUR OF MR. KEMER ON SODERE RESORT**

The last part of the program focusing on the investor Mr. Dinku Deyasa titled “Yekemerin Tesfa Yachelemew Ye Sodere Resort” which can be translated as “hopeless Endeavor of Mr Kemer on Sodere Resort”. The Program is 43 minutes long. The program consists of a person with shares on Sodere Resort, famous in the performance arts industry Mr. Kemer Yesuf and his grievance against Mr. Dinku Deyasa.

The first grievance raised was the fact that while Mr. Kemer Yesuf share on Sodere Resort was 33%, due to unknown circumstances his current share was reduced to 1%. Secondly, the program shows Artist Kemer’s stay abroad, life experiences in a foreign country and what he brought when he returned to Ethiopia as well as his introduction to Mr. Denku Deyasa and their consequent business agreement that had been filled with injustices committed on him.

## **EVALUATION**

Even though, the introduction states the program to be an investigative report the content does not support that claim.

On the program artist Kemer Yessuf was given 43-minute airtime to state his grievance against Mr. Dinku Deyasa. However, neither Mr. Dinku Deyasa nor his representative was given a chance to refute the claim. With the exception of artist Kemer Yesuf, no one was interviewed or gave their comment on the program and the interviewer was a passive listener no questioning was done.

In connection with this, Mr. Kemer Youssef claims that Dinku Deyasa has intentionally secured 98% of Sodore Resort Share by deceptively incorporating signatures of nonexistent Shareholders.

Mr. Kemer accused Mr. Deyassa for pushing him to engage in tour operation activities which he said lately cost him the land of his father and brother in Adama by the same investor. However, the program has made no attempt to substantiate the allegations made by Kemer Youssef.

There was no evidence supporting the artist's claim, thus it has been decided that the program is not an investigative report.

Therefore, the researcher is unable to evaluate this program with the criteria of an investigative report

### **4.1.4 GREEN GOLD PRODUCERS APPEAL**

#### **OVERVIEW**

Walta TV investigative program entitled on “Ye Arenguade Worq Ye Amrachochina Akabiwoch Chuhet” which can be translated as “Green gold producers appeal” focused on Coffee sector. The program had three series part. In the first introductory part of the program mentioned that Coffee being as the source of foreign currency treasury, it is playing a pillar role for Ethiopian economy and as well is serving between Ethiopian as strong social bondage link.

Ethiopia as home land of coffee and a unique and various coffee types producer compared to others world countries, why the country does not getting deserved amount of benefits from the sector? At the international arena, from Coffee grower countries, the producers become more than 90% benefit package from the Sector where as it comes to Ethiopian farmers why not more than 60% exceeds? What types of problems are there manifested due to unjust trade exchange between the stakeholders? What type of consequences are we facing as a result of contrabands, traditional working cultures, and unethical connection to secure benefit and lack commitment to implement rules and regulations? In general, the introductory part of the program indicated that its aim was to show the sector's problem and its solution. However, when the researcher tried to see the program according to investigative journalism's criteria and characteristics, the program content did not reveal the above stated problems.

The selected program evaluated according to the following criteria: -

### **1. THE CONTENT'S DEPTH AND ITS FOCUS.**

-It is difficult to understand this program focus clearly.

### **2. FREE AND INDEPENDENT**

In the program that was featured as part of appealers (coffee dealers), they themselves are source of the problems. As an example, those coffee dealers who presented the appeal, they used to lobby others' properties to secure their bank loans and if they got bankruptcy finally, those banks confiscate that property which does not belong to the coffee dealers. Even if the program should expose these malpractices, it jumps the reality rather than uncover it.

As a result, the program did not escape from being criticized since it far away from central truth.

During the program, one of the Coffee vendors who borrowed money from bank collateralizing a third party (someone else's property) said:

"After losing everything I owned in 2007 E.C., I went bankrupt. I borrowed money from a third party (relatives' property) and the people sued me. I booked a 17-person house."

Other coffee vendors on the show have reported that many people have lost their homes, and they are hiding from borrowers living a miserable life.

In particular, the secretary of the Southern Region Coffee Suppliers Association linked it with cooperation instead of condemning such an act as follows:

"They are Hawassa people, but now they have fled outside Hawassa. There is a conflict with a third party. In the past, things that were done with the help of love have now been turned into hostility after their properties were confiscated to liquidate their debt. So it has broken the value of helping the community and other social fabrics."

### **3. THE REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE ON CONTENT**

Without a problem and gaps created by banks, the program lauded it by taking heresy and appeals of the coffee dealers which tell us a knowledge gaps on "who asks why?". As an example, there was no any individual in the program that came from Bank side but the journalist asked others about the banks service. In fact, the researcher did not get this kind of work is professional.

### **4. LOGIC**

Those who claimed as being a victim did not produce a single evidence to prove their accusation as their case obsolete based on the rules and regulations in the program. Even they could not challenge their case based on that assumed violated rules and regulations instead they tried to show their correctness by using weeping (fallacy/appeal to pity).

Unless the coffee dealers (appealers) are part of the problem, it is unacceptable and illogical to produce appeal on the issue.

### **5. COLLECTING AND ORGANIZING EVIDENCE AND ANALYZING SKILL**

-The program lacks strong research, knowledge and analyzing skills

-The introductory part narration of the program told us about the use of coffee and one of the companies which are part of coffee production (Midroc). It told us other story while it had no any relation from the expected outcomes.

### **6. SKILL OF PROVIDING TO CHALLENGE ON THE ACCUSATION**

- There is no challenging skill in the program as well in the producer. Even if there was a challenge its base was emanated from heresy. It did not mention

the Ethiopia's financial working system to challenge for accession as prove or disprove.

- The producer did not have a passion to uncover on the truth rather than accepting their labelling as it was. In this point, one can ask the issue of impartiality and balance unless the producers did not show his commitment to stand on the center. He drops one of the central elements of investigative journalism principle.
- The journalist had a problem on the program how much the issue got its target. Even he left his argumentative points that should be addressed well.

To sum up, according to the researcher's evaluation the program contained in the intro jungle part and introductory script as it was an investigative program but could not prove to be that in its content. It is difficult to say the program was investigative production since it missed the basic logic and reasoning.

#### **4.1.5 FRAUD AND EMBEZZLEMENT**

##### **OVERVIEW**

The investigative program done by Walta Television entitled "Emua Kelito" which can be translated as Fraud and Embezzlement had screening time of 60 minutes.

Eight years ago the automobile import company called AL-BURJ General Trading undertook an agreement with Ethiopian Public Health Association to import nine cars to five universities with contract amount of 5.6 million birr.

The donor for the project was USAID CDCS and the recipient universities of the cars are Haromaya, Gondar, Jimma, Mekelle and Butajira University. Even though, AL-BURJ General Trading received the money and the cars have not been imported till date.

Furthermore, according to the contract agreement Ethiopian Public Health Association was supposed to give 50% of the total contract amount but in actuality 75% of the money was given to AL-BURJ General Trading. This show the payment was unlawfully. Meanwhile, even after the payment it has been eight years and still the cars have not arrived.

Accordingly, Ethiopian Public Health Association has taken AL-BURJ General Trading to court and the court has decided that AL-BURJ General Trading needs to deliver the cars or return the money with their losses to Ethiopian Public Health Association. Despite the court's order, nothing has been implemented till date.

This program evaluated on the following criteria;

### **1. SOURCES**

Sources are the lifeblood of journalists as such they provide the essential and basic information that can help to produce News, feature and other stories for public usage. So, behind an event that is being reported to the people, idea generators and persons who have a better say on the issue take the front line. Otherwise, media houses are lifeless (Rudin and Ibbotson, 2002).

In this regard, the journalist of this program primarily used a variety of people as sources. She also used a variety of documents and files to strengthen the investigation. Therefore, both primary and secondary sources were applied in the program.

### **2. THE ART OF PERSUASION**

According to FAIR (2015, p. 20) investigative reporting requires a certain approach to ensure that sources reveal information and the ability to probe deeply without upsetting or distressing the source is paramount. It is also expected from an investigative journalist to have the art of persuasion. From this point of view, the researcher understood that the journalist's ability to persuade, present arguments and evidence in this program was strong.

### **3. IDENTIFY THE RESPONSIBLE BODIES**

In this program many people have participated. Ethiopian Public Health Association employees, Ethiopian Public Health Association current director, Jimma University, Gondar University and Ethiopian Public Health Association current board members were interviewed in the course of the investigative report.

The individuals that were repeatedly stated as the wrongdoers during the investigation were Ethiopian Public Health Association previous director and owner of AL-BURJ General Trading. However, they were not questioned in the programs. No reason was given why the

previous director of Ethiopian Public Health Association was not included in the documentary. While it was stated that the owner of AL-BURJ General Trading was not willing to grant interviews with no further explanation or evidence of the refusal, additionally it is not clear in what way was the request for interview communicated either through letter or phone call. Due to the aforementioned reasons it is hard to ascertain the refusal of the owner.

Moreover, the program does not include several agencies involved like police officials, Ethiopian

Public Health Association previous board chairman, Ethiopia's Tax & revenue agency and court officials involved in the case.

#### **4. CREDIBILITY AND TRANSPARENCY**

At the beginning of the program, it was stated that this investigative report was recorded two years ago and was not aired for various reasons. As a result, it is stated that those involved in the story may not be in their previous position.

In the view of the researcher, it is unethical to broadcast a story completed two years ago without telling the exact reason and purpose to the audiences. It also raises doubts about the credibility and transparency of the TV station. Above all, it is not clear what the benefits will be for the complainants who need a quick solution in this story.

Professional journalists are needs to have credibility in their work. If the press has no credibility, it makes no contribution to democracy. Credibility is the lifeblood of profession as journalists. Without it, journalists are nothing. Without it, not one person will believe a single word we write" (Krüger, 2004)

##### **4.1.6 DISPUTE BETWEEN DYNAMIC AND B OMEGA COMPANY**

The investigative program aired by Walta Television entitled "Ye dynamic endihum B omega company wuzigib" which can be translated as "Dispute between Dynamic and B Omega Company" focused on Dynamic and B Omega Company. These two companies used to be involved in Hotels, road work, manufacturing and import of cables and several other works, creating work opportunities for over 200 people. However, dispute occurred between the founders of the companies Mr. Belayneh Sergioalem and Mr. Adugna Amebelu and they could

not come to an agreement so the issue was taken to court which resulted in the dissolution of the companies and all the employees lost their jobs. As a result, the construction machineries and dump trucks which imported duty free by the company according to government laws for construction purposes have been idle and discarded ever where for ten years.

After the court's decision to dissolve the companies, due to court assigned auditors have not identified overall assets of the companies or loans and other reasons that caused disagreement between the owners the problem have still not been resolved.

## **EVALUATION**

The program only shows the two owners throwing accusations (allegations) at each other, it does not offer any information as to who was responsible for the dissolution of the companies and does not present any evidence to identify the responsible party. This indicates that thorough study was not done during the selection of the title. In other hand, there was no biased assessment in the program. Even though, the main parties involved in the dispute were included the program lacks depth.

The producer of the program is only seen listening to the people being interviewed, he does not present any evidence, give explanation or challenge the interviewees.

## **PHASE TWO:**

### **4.2 RESULTS OF RESPONDENTS FROM AN INDEPTH INTERVIEW**

#### **4.2.1 PRACTICING INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM IN WALTA**

The researcher has conducted an interview with Executives of Walta TV sector, the Producers and executive producer of Walta Mermera program to examine the practice of investigative journalism at Walta TV. The entire staffs of Walta Mermera program have taken part and one media expert was selected as key informant.

Executive of TV sector (P4) stated his observation as follows;

“Compared to the previous times, Walta media is producing and broadcasting multiple investigative programs since the political reform came in the country. In the program, various social, economic and political issues are raised and different parties are introduced to the public”.

Another producer (P1), on the other hand, opposes the above idea to some extent. He said

“Investigative journalism is about seeking the truth. Investigative journalism in developing countries could be about fighting injustice in the system or people in power, and bringing about good governance and fairness. In this regard, we are still in early stage to implement investigative journalism”.

One of the producers (P3) also stated, “Regarding investigative journalism, it is difficult for me to say that we are practicing investigative journalism as much as we should. However, there are efforts that need to be encouraged.

On the other hand, the researcher enquired the producers of “Walta Mermera” program whether Walta TV has an organized investigative department and team and learnt that the station did not have an organized investigative department.

P1 clarified the above idea and Analyzed as “The program is structured under news and current affairs directorates. There are no journalists that work exclusively on Walta Mermera program. As the producers of the program, we are forced to do regular news work. In addition, the numbers of journalists preparing the investigative program in the station do not exceed four.”

Similarly, P3, stated that “Walta Mermera lacks Team work because they don’t have a strong and independent investigative department.”

Another participant from WALTA (P5) stated, “Investigative journalism has its own principles. However, here in Walta Mermera program one person could be an interviewer, a producer and content editor for one program. This indicates that there is no team work on the investigative team. Beyond that, some people may bribe your manager or shift the program direction before you start filming. In general, the content of broadcasted programs reflects this autonomous working environment. In light of this fact, sometimes you may get forced to say that the media who owns an investigative program itself should be investigated”.

From the above topic, especially in relation to Team Work, the researcher observed something similar to P5 in some of the programs he chose to sample. Therefore, the researcher raised this question to p2, the Executive producer of the Walta Mermera investigative team and she answered as follows:

“Even if the programs do not have its own department, investigative programs are discussed and analyzed at each level. High level media managers, editors and journalists participate in the team. However, there are programs broadcasted with one person being a producer, and editor himself. These kinds of things may happen sometimes due to political influence from the government side without the knowledge of our team. If you take an investigative program done on Mr. Dinku Deyasa (the owner of Sodere resort), it is made without our knowledge. It is more like a one sided story; it only shows the accusers/complainers in the absence of the accused person. You even hear the investigative journalist insulting the person.”

Therefore, based on the above statements it can be said that Walta mermera program does not have an organized investigative department, which led to lack of strength in investigative Journalism works in the TV station. There is also political influence on Walta Mermera program.

In addition, the researcher confirms from the respondents that Walta mermera program is not appearing frequently due to the above problems.

A media expert in EBC, E1 has worked as an investigative journalist for over twelve years and interviewed in this study. He explained, “There can be no strong teamwork without a solid and organized investigative team. If these things are not established, it will be difficult to make in-depth investigative reports. Additionally, the Walta Mermera program cannot play a watchdog role if it is under the control of the government.”

#### **4.2.2 AREAS OF INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING STORIES**

As per the discussion in the review of literature, no issue is considered off limits to investigative reporters.

There is no limitation for subject areas requiring investigative treatment. Political and politicians, government and governance, corruption, healthy and health care, agricultural land alienation, the economy, privatization, business and consumer affairs, on governmental organizations, the environment, gender issue, religion, human rights, child abuse, public procurement and tender procedures etc. Gaines, (1994) and (Kantumoya, 2004, p: 7)

In this regard, the researcher tried to study and ask producers what kind of area the Walta Mermera program focuses on.

According to P3, most of the time Walta mermera program investigates issues related to good governance and corruption in private and public institutions.

On the other hand, P2 replied similar question as;

It focuses more on cases that have received court decision and decision that are not implemented due to corruption and other issues. As well as cases not taken to the court and could be a lesson for others.

The Executive of Walta TV Sector (p4) also stated that “Walta mermera program examines all issues that may affect the public interest. The issues could be politics, corruption, and land grabbing, abuse of power, and other serious crimes”.

On the contrary, P5 explained that “the Walta Mermera Program often investigates known issues. It does not investigate the major political problem, especially those of the government. So the journalists have to investigate this and make the truth known to the public.

P1 agrees with p5. He strengthens the stated idea as follows:

“We are often criticized by observers and scholars alike for being afraid to investigate major issues related to government institutions and higher officials. For example, we are not allowed to investigate ministers who are suspected of corruption. In political matters, too, the government does not allow us to produce independent investigative documentary, except in the way it wishes.”

According to the views of respondents above, the researcher comprehends that the Walta Mermera Program focuses on many areas that may affect the public interest. But the program refrains from working on grand corruption by high-ranking government officials and political issues in a way that is contrary to the government's direction.

If there are areas that are considered untouchable to journalists in the Walta Mermera Program, it contradicts the principle of investigative journalism. Because “investigative reporting should cover serious issues which affect the public interest” (Forbes, 2005, p.6)

### 4.2.3. SOURCES OF INVESTIGATIVE STORIES

As it is discussed in the review of literature, Sources are the lifeblood of journalists as such they provide the essential and basic information that can help to produce News, feature and other stories for public usage. So, behind an event that is being reported to the people, idea generators and persons who have a better say on the issue take the front line. Otherwise, media houses are lifeless (Rudin and Ibbotson, 2002).

According to Forbes (2005 p. 66) investigative journalism is a long term process of planning, information gathering and corroboration using a diverse range of sources.

The Walta Mermera Program also conducts different sources from different bodies. (P1) explained: “Our program has many sources. For example, a public complaint, anticorruption commission findings, reports of a parliamentary standing committee, and more. But the main source of information for an investigative report should be the journalist himself. Otherwise, a report based on information obtained from another institution or individual could not be an investigative report.”

Executive producers of the program (p2) also stated “Once the Tips come to our investigative team, the journalist will be asked to study the issue himself. At the end of the study, we will review the study in groups. So the journalist himself is a researcher here in Walta Mermera program.”

From the above answers, we can see that the Walta Mermera program does not have its own research team. According to Gaines (1994) if the research is collected by only one person it may have its own impact on getting detailed and well organized evidences because investigative journalism is a team work not only in the office but also in the field (Gaines 1994).

Following this, the researcher asked the Walta TV sector executive (p4) the same question and received the following answer:

“It is better that the journalist researches, investigates and reports the story himself as much as possible. However, in this way, we find it difficult to obtain information especially in the current condition of the country, so we rely on Tips from compliant, and research from other institutions”.

On the other hand, the researcher observed that the Walta investigative programs selected for the sample did not have an in-depth research. There are also programs broadcasted with one person being a researcher, producer, and editor himself. Therefore, the researcher recognized that autonomous works cause lack of depth.

#### **4.2.4 ETHICAL ISSUES IN INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM**

On the other hand, producer of the program (p1) explained that the editorial policy of the institution was violated due to political influence from the government. He clarified as follows: “Some issued that are handled by the court, conflict to the broadcasting editorial policy of our institution. There are also cases taken to the court deliberately after we start filming.”

In this case, P2 also said “We do not work on cases taken by the court. But sometimes we are forced to produce Walta Mermera program in a special case’

This indicates Walta Mermera program producers strives to respect the ethics of journalism but sometimes are forced to violate the ethics because of external body.

However, the Executive body of Walta TV Sector (p4) does not agree with this idea. He explained in the following way :

“I believe that the ethics of journalism are often violated by not knowing the law of the country, not taking enough training on the subject and not updating yourself”

The researcher also observed on Walta mermera producers that there is a gap in understanding of the country’s law. For instance, it is not legal and ethical to tape-record someone during a phone conversation without telling that person. Nevertheless, producers of Walta mermera program did that in their broadcasted programs.

A journalist cannot say someone is not willing to give information simply depending on telephone According to Freedom of Mass media and Access to Information Proclamation 590/2000 Article 14 any media institution has to present its request for information in a written letter to the concerned body and that body can take up to 30 working days before the media says this body is not willing to provide information.

However, journalists of Walta mermera program are often seen violating this law repeatedly.

An expert from EBC (E1) said:

“In our country, investigative journalism education is not taught in universities. There is also no law course in journalism class. Therefore, investigative journalists should strive to increase their legal knowledge in a variety of ways. Media outlets are also required to provide training for their investigative journalists”.

P2 also strengthened the above idea and said; “I studied investigative journalism outside Ethiopia, but I need to be frequently updated. We don’t have such kinds of strong trainings. As a result, the journalists ourselves try our best to fill the gap.”

An investigative reporter must have common sense knowledge of basic law. A successful reporter knows both the laws that restrict the gathering of information and those that can help. Laws that better enable an investigative reporter to gather the facts include federal and state freedom of information acts, open-meetings law, campaign disclosure regulations and laws that create state offices like the clerk of the courts and the recorder of deeds (Gaines, 2008, P. 5).

#### **4.2.5 CHALLENGES OF PRACTICING INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM IN WALTA**

Investigative journalism is surrounded by a lot of challenges which threatens its practice. The Walta Mermera Program also faces various Challenges from time to time. The Challenges mentioned by Walta Mermera program producers are as follows:

##### **1. ACCESS TO INFORMATION**

Producer of the program (p3) explained: The main challenge we often face is problem of access to information. We work hard to investigate facts but we do not get the information when we need them.

In this regard, one of the producers (p1) states that the media law itself has a problem. He explained that Free flow of information is permitted under Article 29 (4) of the Constitution. But according to the media law (proclamation 590/2008 Article 14(3), It is a must to wait 30 working days to get information. This shows that there is a contradiction between the rules.

##### **2. THREATS**

The other challenge raised by the respondents is Threats. Investigative journalism by its nature is a difficult job. Some assignments are very dangerous to the journalist’s life (Forbes, 2005).

A journalist from walta (P5) puts the challenge associated with Threat as follows

“Here in our country nobody gives you legal protection. Nobody gives you an ear or care about you if one higher official threaten you with physical harm or death. I have heard people who face such kinds of challenge”

One of the producers of Walta Mermera program (p3) said that there were times where people have threatened him by using their power. Some tried to get him fired from his job.

### **3. Government Officials Intervention**

Almost all respondents agree that there are gaps in the media houses to stand with journalists when higher officials start to interfere. They told the researcher that they are facing both internal and external challenges.

One of the producers (p1) put the problem they are facing in this way:

“There is government and media interest in such kinds of programs. There are plenty of programs I know that are either not transmitted or issues censored after production. The problem is not only lack of resource but our poverty and the polarized nationalism that existed in the country”.

Similarly, Executive producer of the program (p2) forwarded her views on challenges of exercising investigative report as follows:

“There are times that I have been forced to do a program filmed three years ago that has no relevance which I do not understand why it is needed now. The media itself does not give you protection. It may stand with higher officials against the journalist. Information may leak out without your knowledge. People may threaten you, they may follow your every footstep as there is no legal or physical protection to investigative journalists, and try to bribe you since these journalists are low payed”.

According to views of the above respondents, it is possible to say that whether they are different in kind, there are a lot of challenges to practice investigative report. Among the challenge are lack of access to information, Threat and Government Officials Intervention are the major challenges.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The study was designed to investigate the practice of investigative journalism in Walta TV: The case of “Walta Mermera” program. Based on the research findings, the following summary, conclusions and recommendations were drawn.

#### **5.1 SUMMARY**

The main objective of this study is to examine the practice of investigative journalism in Walta media and communication Walta Mermera in focus. To find out how issues investigated in Walta Mermera the researcher employed a qualitative approach. The sampled documentaries produced by Walta Mermera has been analyzed and evaluated in light of basic journalism and investigative journalism principles. Plus an in-depth interview was conducted with pertinent professionals to unveil deeper perspectives.

Based on the results of this study, the following major findings are forwarded

- ✓ The study shows that Walta Mermera program is in early stage (pre matured) in terms of seeking truth, uncovering hidden issues, upholding justice, and promoting good governance.
- ✓ The results of the study showed that Walta Mermera Program did not have an organized investigative department and this has led to a lack of a strong investigative team.
- ✓ The program lacks in-depth research and report of the concerned bodies. This is because one person could be a researcher, a producer and editor for one program.
- ✓ Based on the sample programs selected by the researcher, most of Walta Mermera program lacks the basic ethical requirements of investigative journalism such as balance, accuracy, objectivity, and impartiality.
- ✓ The study shows Walta Mermera Program focuses on many areas that may affect the public interest. However, the program refrains from working on grand corruption by high-ranking government officials and political issues in a way that is contrary to the government's direction.

- ✓ The editorial policy of the Walta TV has been violated due to political influence from the government. Issues handled by the court are broadcasted so many times opposed to the editorial policy of the institution.

## **5.2 CONCLUSION**

Based on the findings of the study the following conclusions were drawn.

The researcher concluded that Walta Mermera investigative documentaries produced by Walta media and communications had a premeditated claim rather evidence lead conclusions. This has mainly caused by the breach of basic principles of investigative journalism which supposed to serve as a guidelines. It appears most of breach of principles are committed deliberately while some happens by the lack of knowledge and experience among producers. The deliberate breach of investigative journalism principles is a result of direct involvement of government interest.

Walta Mermara program produced investigative documentaries upon the request of government entities'. This is one of the significant factors for the documentaries to entail premeditated messages. Upon such request the producer and the executive producer will be forced to work against the editorial policy they should abide by. Therefore most of the sampled documentaries by the researcher are interest driven rather than evidence. That means the chance to investigate topics/issues initiated by the journalists is very tiny.

Apart from breaching editorial policy and principles of journalism, Walta Mermara is also engaged in breaching other laws by producing documentaries on cases under court process. These also indicate how Walta's hand twisted.

So apart from shortage of resources Walta's investigative documentary should start again from the scratch- which is with good intention of revealing the truth.

Moreover, the theoretical framework in this study used the social responsibility theory of press to find out how the Walta TV specifically "Walta Mermera" program is practicing investigative journalism.

Under social responsibility theory, freedom of expression is not an absolute right, like pure libertarian theory. According to Siebert (1963), as quote in Bereket Yeheysh

(2012) Freedom of expression and the function of the media are explained in the context of social responsibility theory as follows;

Basically the primary purpose of the media was to help discover truth, to assist in the process of solving political and social problems based on knowledge and evidences. It was charged with duty of keeping government from overstepping its bounds. The social responsibility theory considers purely negative liberty as insufficient and ineffective.

However, the finding of this study indicated that Walta TV was unable to implementing social responsibility theory. In particular, most of the investigative programs selected as a sample in this study didn't include the basic requirements of investigative journalism such as balance, accuracy, objectivity, and plausibility on top of transgressing pertinent laws of the country and related issues. In this context, it can be conclude that the Walta Mermera program was unable to discover the truth and to solve political and social problems based on knowledge and evidences.

In this regard, since investigative journalism is one of the genres of journalism, one must follow the principles of the profession when investigating an issue. Though the values of good journalism are codified in each society as code of ethics, the basic principles are the same. These are: seek the truth and report it as fully as possible; minimize harm; be accountable; and act independently (Forbes, 2005).

However, as the researcher of this study observed, most of the Walta Mermera programs selected for sample lacks impartiality. Such actions often fall on the journalist's moral responsibility. The journalist is highly expected not only to the duty but to the society as well (Peterson, 1996).

On the other hand, the theoretical background in this study applied the concept of Watchdog journalism as working theory in practicing investigative journalism. The idea of watchdog role is mainly based on supervising powerful states; individuals as well as institutions not to run out of their limit. It should go beyond simply making the management and implementation of power transparent to the public but also recognize government and institutions while working effectively and efficiently as well as failing to do so (Kovach & Rosenstiel, 2001).

However, the theory is not satisfied with the way these functions are interpreted in Walta Television. According to the respondents of this study, investigative journalists working in Walta encounter internal and external pressures to carry out these functions.

The role of the press, as a watchdog, greatly facilitates the democratic process by promoting and protecting the public interest and improving good governance. The Fourth Estate ideal at its most basic holds that the role of the news media is to act as a conduit for information, ideas and opinions to assist in the good governance of society; to act as a check on the powerful, by reporting, analyzing and criticizing their actions on behalf of the public, which lacks direct access to information or power. (Schultz, 1998, pp.51-52)

In this context, "Walta Mermera" program producers are facing a lot of challenges to practice the watchdog role in their investigative documentaries. Among the challenge are lack of access to information, Threat and Government Officials Intervention are the major challenges. In the face of these challenges, the media could not facilitate the democratic process by promoting and protecting the public interest and improving good governance.

### 5.3 RECOMMENDATION

On the basis of the conclusions drawn, the researcher forwards the following recommendations:

- Walta Television needs to organize a strong investigative journalist's team in order to produce huge and influential investigative documentaries. In addition, there is a need to strengthen the human resources by deploying professionals with experience in the field.
- Walta Television should have a strong research team to do in-depth research and reporting. Research is considered as fuel for investigative journalism. It is impossible to make a strong investigative report without a strong research.
- The researcher recommends that Walta should create an opportunity for investigative journalists to develop their knowledge related to the ethics of investigative journalism.
- The study suggests that strengthening the capacity of investigative journalists is vital to enhance the practice of investigative journalism in Walta TV.
- Walta TV should investigate issues that have of high benefit to the public and working for the improvement of the lives of the people. In addition, Walta TV is expected to produce investigative documentaries on huge issues and higher officials in order to be the voice for voiceless.
- Media managers at walta tv should not allow external intervention to influence the rights of journalists. Their investigative program should be aired as long as it meets the set standards. They should not relinquish their editorial independence to an external body.

## REFERENCES

- Addis, B.** (2021). Analysis of Walta TV's "Netsa Hasab" program from the perspective of Investigative Journalism Principles. A Thesis Submitted To School Of Journalism And Communication Presented In Partial Fulfillment Of The Requirement For The Degree Of Masters Of Art In Journalism And Communication, AAU.
- Aucoin, J.** (2006). The Evolution of American Investigative Journalism: University of Missouri, Columbia.
- Belsey, A. and Chadwick, R.** (1992). Ethical Issues in Journalism and the Media. London: Rutledge.
- Bereket, Y.** (2012). The Practice of Investigative Journalism in Ethiopian Radio and Television Agency, in case of "Aynachin" A Thesis Submitted To School Of Journalism And Communication Presented In Partial Fulfillment Of the Requirement For The Degree Of Masters Of Art In Journalism And Communication, AAU.
- Berhanu Lodamo and Terje S. Skjerdal** (2009) Freebies and Brown Envelopes in Ethiopian Journalism. Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System: retrieved from <http://www.mediehogskolen.academia>.
- Bingham, J.** (2011). 'Elliot Morley jailed for cheating his expenses'. The Telegraph. [Online]. May 20, 2011. The Telegraph. Available at <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstoppers/mpsexpenses/>
- Birhanu Olana** (2009). Journalism in the context of Ethiopian Mass Media: Essays, Researches and Reflections.
- Brooke, H.** (2010). The silent state: secrets, surveillance and the myth of British democracy. William Heinemann.
- Burgh, H.** (2008). Investigative Journalism; context & practice: New York: Rutledge.
- Campbell, V.** (2004). Information Age Journalism. New York: Oxford University press
- Coronel, S.** (2010). Corruption and the Watchdog Role of the News Media. In Public Sentinel: News Media & Governance Reform, edited by Pippa Norris, 109-36. Washington, D.C.: The World Bank.
- Coronel, S.** (n.d). Digging Deeper: A Guide for Investigative Journalists in the Balkans. Retrieved from: <http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/page/Digging-Deeper-A-Guidefor-Investigative-Journalists-in-the-Balkans>.
- Coronel, S. S.** (2010). "Corruption and the Watchdog Role of the News Media" In: Norris, P. Public Sentinel: News Media and Governance Reform. Washington DC: World Bank.
- Coronel, S.** (nd). The Role of the Media in deepening democracy. Retrieved on 10/07/2011 and available at <http://www.unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/.../un/unpan>

**Forbes, D.** (2005). *A Watchdog's Investigative Reporting: A Simple Introduction to Principle and Practice in Investigative Reporting*. Johannesburg: Konard Adenauer Stiftung.

**Frost, C.** (2011). *Journalism Ethics and Regulation* (3rd edition). Harlow: Longman.

**Gaines, W.** (2008). *Investigative Journalism: Proven Strategies for Reporting the Story*, CQ Press: Washington.

**Greenslade, R.** (2008). 'Subterfuge, Set-Ups, Stings and Stunts: How Red Tops Go About their Investigations'. In: de BURGH, H. *Investigative Journalism*. London: Routledge. pp. 319-339.

**Hargreaves, I.** (2005). *Journalism: A Very Short Introduction*. New York: Oxford University Press Inc.

**Horrie, C.** 2008. 'Investigative Journalism and English Law'. In de BURGH, H. *Investigative Journalism*. London: Routledge. pp. 114-29.

**Hester, A.** and To, Wai Lan J. eds. (1987). *Handbook for Third-world Journalists*: Athens, GA: University of Georgia

**Houston and IRE,** (2009) *Investigative Reporter's handbook*. University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, New York.

**Houston, B., et al.** (2002). *The Investigative Reporter's Handbook: A Guide to Documents, Databases and Techniques*. 4th ed. Boston: Investigative Reporters and Editors, Inc.

**Jacquette, D.** 2007. *Journalistic Ethics: Moral Responsibility in the Media*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall.

**Kantumoya, L.** (2004). *Investigative Reporting: A Practitioner's Handbook in Zambia*: Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and Transparency International.

**Kaplan, D.** (2013). *Global Investigative Journalism: Strategies for Support*. Centre for International Media Assistance. p10. Edition Washington, DC.

**Kieran, M.** 2000. 'The Regulatory and Ethical Framework for Investigative Journalism'. In: de BURGH, H. (ed). *Investigative Journalism: Context and Practice*. London: Routledge. pp.156-176.

**Knuut et al.** (2015). *Media Guide: Practice and Ethics of Journalism for Adults*. Retrieved September 10, 2020, from [https://mediaguide.fi/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/media\\_guide\\_eng\\_painoversio\\_final.pdf](https://mediaguide.fi/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/media_guide_eng_painoversio_final.pdf)

**Kothari, C.R.** 2004: *Research Methodology, methods and techniques* (second revised edition).

**Kovach, B and Rosenstiel, T.** (2001). *The Elements of Journalism*. USA: Crown Publishers.

**Kovach, B and T, Rosenstiel.** 2007. *The Elements of Journalism: What News People Should Know and the Public Should Expect*. New York: Three Rivers Press.

**Kovach, B. & Rosenstiel, T.** (2007). *The Elements of Journalism: What News People Should Know and the Public Should Expect*. New York: Three Rivers Press.

- Lacy, S. & Rosenstiel, T.** (2015) Defining and measuring quality journalism. Retrieved from <http://mpii.rutgers.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/129/2015/04/Defining-and-Measuring-QualityJournalism.pdf>
- McFadden, G.** 2008. 'The Practices of Investigative Journalism'. In de BURGH, H. Investigative Journalism. London: Routledge. pp. 138-156.
- Nigussie Tefera.** (2008). Communication for Social Development: An overview and the Ethiopian experience. PMC-Ethiopia
- Ntibinyane, N.** (2018). Investigative journalism in Africa: Reuters Institute Fellowship Paper University of Oxford.
- Odugbemi, S.& Norris, P.** (2010). Assessing the Extent to Which the News Media Act as Watchdogs, Agenda Setters, and Gatekeepers. In Norris, Pippa (Ed.) Public
- Pape, S. and Featherstone, S.** (2005). Newspaper journalism: a practical introduction. London: SAGE Publications.
- Pippa (Ed.)** Public Sentinel: News Media &Governance Reform. USA. The World Bank. Washington, D.C.
- Plaisance, L. P.** (2011). Moral Agency in Media: Toward a Model to Explore Key Components of Ethical practice. Journal of Mass Media Ethics, 26:2, pp.96-113
- Rønning, H.** (2009) 'The politics of corruption and the media in Africa. Journal of African Media Studies. P155-171
- Rosner, C.** (2008). Behind the Headlines, a History of investigative journalism in Canada: oxford university press.
- Rudin R. and Ibbotson.** (2002). An Introduction to Journalism Essential techniques and background knowledge. Linacre House, Jordan Hill, Oxford. Sentinel: News Media &Governance Reform. USA. The World Bank. Washington, D.C.
- Sanders, K.** 2003. Ethics and Journalism. London: SAGE.
- Sanders, K.** 2010. 'Ethical Journalism: Individual Challenge and Collective Responsibility'. In: MWITA, C and L. G. FRANCESCHI. (eds). Media and the Common Good: Perspectives on Media, Democracy and Responsibility. Nairobi: Law Africa Publishing. PP.37-48
- Schultz, J.** (1998). Reviving the Fourth Estate: Democracy, Accountability and the Media. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Schiffirin, A.** (ed.) (2017). African Muckraking: 100 Years of African Investigative Journalism. South Africa: Jacana Media

**Shoemaker, P. and S.D. Reese.** 1996. (2nd edition). *Mediating the Message: Theories of Influence on Mass Media Content*. London: Longman Siebert, F., et al (1963). *Four Theories of the Press*. Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press.

**Spark, D.** 1999. *Investigative Reporting: A Study in Technique*. Oxford: Focal Press

**St. John Mark** (1985). *Investigative Journalism Techniques*. Evaluation Glade Number 6.

**The Missouri Group,** (2005). *News Reporting and Writing*, (8th ed), School of Journalism, University of Missouri, Colombia.

**Waisbord, S.** (2000). *Watchdog Journalism in South America News, Accountability, and Democracy*. New York: Columbia University press.

**Waisbord, S.** (2002). *The Challenges of Investigative Journalism: University of Miami Law, Vol.377*.

**Ward, J., S.** 2006. *The Invention of Journalism Ethics: The Path to Objectivity and Beyond*. London: McGill-Queen's University Press.

**Wegayehu, M,** (2017). *The Practice of Investigative Journalism In Fana Broadcasting Corporate. The Case Of "Teguazh Neqash"* Investigative Program A Thesis Submitted To School Of Journalism And Communication Presented In Partial Fulfillment Of The Requirement For The Degree Of Masters Of Art In Journalism And Communication, AAU.

**White,Jon,** (2021) *Qualities of a Good Investigative Reporter, The Nest:*  
<https://woman.thenest.com/qualities-good-investigative-reporter-5292.htm>

**Woodring** (2009). *Watchdog or Lapdog? Media Freedom, Regime Type, and Government Respect for Human Rights*. *International Studies Quarterly*.53, 595

## **APPENDIX A:**

### **QUESTIONNAIRE DESIGNED FOR PRODUCERS OF THE PROGRAM**

1. How do you define investigative journalism?
2. What are your sources for investigative stories?
3. What are the major focus areas of investigative issues in Walta Mermera program?
4. For how long do you research the area before you go to cover the issue?
5. What kinds of tools do you apply to investigate a given issue? (Interview, observation, documents and etc.)
6. Is there a favorable environment in WALTA to apply investigative journalism?
7. Have you faced court cases because of the program? If so, how could it be solved?
8. In your work as an investigative journalist, what ethical challenges have you faced and how did you deal with them?- Would you tape a news source/interviewee without their consent?
9. What are the major challenges you face while covering an investigative issue?  
  
- Why does the program become occasional?
10. How often you are provided trainings and professional support on issues related with investigative journalism from walta?
11. To what extents media law of Ethiopia support investigative journalism?
12. What do you suggest for a better/strong future investigative journalism practice in walta?

## **APPENDIX B:**

### **INTERVIEW QUESTIONS FOR EXECUTIVE PRODUCER AND EXECUTIVE OF TV SECTOR**

1. What is investigative journalism for you?
2. What issues are your major targets (focus) of your coverage?
3. Is the “walta mermera” program run frequently? If not, why?
4. What are the major hindrances your media face when practicing investigative journalism?
5. Do the journalists who produce “Walta Mermera” have clear understanding about investigative journalism?
6. Are there any trainings or special considerations your media house provides to enrich the capacity of Investigative journalists?
7. What kind of ethical consideration taken into account during investigation?
8. What should be done to strengthen the practice of investigative journalism in your station?

APPENDIX C:

AMHARIC VERSION

ለዋልታ ምርመራ ፕሮግራም አዘጋጅቶ የተዘጋጁ ጥያቄዎች

- 1 የምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነትን እንዴት ያብራሩታል?
- 2 ለምርመራ ዘገባዎቻቸው በመረጃ ምንጭነት የምትጠቀሙት ምንድን ነው?
3. የዋልታ ምርመራ ፕሮግራም ዋነኛ የትኩረት አቅጣጫዎች( ጉዳዮች) ምንድን ናቸው?
4. ወደ ቀረፃ ከመግባታቸው በፊት በርእሰ ጉዳዩ ላይ ለጥናት ምን ያህል ጊዜ ይወስድባቸዋል?
5. ምን ዓይነት የምርመራ ዘዴ ነው ተግባራዊ የምታደርጉት የምርመራ ታሪኮችን በምትሰሩበት ጊዜ?  
(ቃለመጠይቅ፣ምልከታ፣ሰነዶች እና የመሳሰሉት)
6. የምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነትን ለመተግበር በዋልታ አመቺ ሁኔታ ተፈጥሯል?
7. በዋልታ ምርመራ ፕሮግራም ላይ በሰራኸው/ሽው ፕሮግራም የተነሳ ፍርድ ቤት ቀርቦ/ሽ ታወቃለህ/ሽ?  
ፍርድ ቤት ቀርቦዎ ከነበረ ችግሩ እንዴት ተፈታ?
8. የምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነትን በሚያከናውኑበት ወቅት ምን ዓይነት የስነምግባር ተግዳሮት ገጥሞት ያወቃል?  
-ቃለ መጠይቅ የሚደረግላቸውን ሰዎች ወይም የመረጃ ምንጮችን ያለፈቃዳቸው በድምፅ ወይም በምስል ለመቅረፅ የምትገደዱበት ጊዜ አለ?
9. የምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነትን በምትተገብሩበት ወቅት በዋናነት የሚገጥማቸው ተግዳሮቶች ምንድን ናቸው?  
-የዋልታ ምርመራ ፕሮግራም መደበኛ የሆነ ጊዜ የሌለው(አልፎ አልፎ ብቻ የሚቀርበው) ለምንድን ነው?
10. በምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት ዙሪያ ለምን ያህል ጊዜ ስልጠና እና ሙያዊ ድጋፍ እንድታገኝ/ኚ ተቋሞት አድርጓል(አመቻችቷል)?  
ስልጠናና ድጋፍ  
ካላገኙ ባለማግኘቱ ያጋጠሙ ችግሮችን ቢጠቀሱ?
11. በኢትዮጵያ ተግባራዊ የተደረጉ ህጎች የምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነትን ያበረታታሉ ብለው ያምናሉ ?
12. የምርመራ ዘገባ በቀጣይ በዋልታ ተጠናክሮ እንዲቀጥል ምን መሠራት አለበት?

**APPENDIX D:**

**AMHARIC VERSION**

**ለዋልታና ለምርመራ ፕሮግራም አዘጋጅቶ የተዘጋጁ ጥያቄዎች**

1. የምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት በእርሶ እይታ ምን ማለት ነው?
2. በዋልታ ምርመራ ፕሮግራም ላይ በዋናነት ለምን አይነት ጉዳዮች ነው ትኩረት የምትሰጡት?
3. የዋልታ ምርመራ ፕሮግራም የሚተላለፍበት መደበኛ የሆነ ጊዜ አለው?ከሌለው ምክኒያቱ ምንድን ነው?
4. ተቋማቸው የምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነትን ሲተገብር የሚገጥመው አበይት ተግዳሮቶች ምን ምን ናቸው?
5. የዋልታ ምርመራ ፕሮግራም ጋዜጠኞች በምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት ዙሪያ በቂ ግንዛቤ አላቸው ብለው ያምናሉ?
6. ዋልታ የምርመራ ጋዜጠኞቹን አቅም ለማጎልበት ከሙያው ጋር የተያያዘ የክህሎት ማሳደጊያ ሥልጠናዎችን ይሰጣል?
7. የምርመራ ጋዜጠኞቻቸው የምርመራ ዘገባን ሲያከናውኑ ምን ዓይነት የስነምግባር መርሆዎችን ነው የምትጠብቁባቸው?
8. የምርመራ ዘገባ በቀጣይ በዋልታ ተጠናክሮ እንዲቀጥል ምን መሠራት አለበት?

## APPENDIX E: IMAGES

**Figure 1**

Kemer Yesuf weeping and explaining his grievance on Dinku Deyassa to Walta TV



Note. The first grievance raised was the fact that while Mr. Kemer Yesuf share on Sodere Resort was 33%, due to unknown circumstances his current share was reduced to 1%. Kemer Youssef claims that Dinku Deyasa has intentionally secured 98% of Sodore Resort Share by deceptively incorporating signatures of nonexistent Shareholders.

This image and information were taken from Walta Tv Walta Mermera program titled “Yekemerin Tesfa Yachelemew Ye Sodere Resort”. <https://youtu.be/Getz6ZRYCFw>

## Figure 2

Aster Ketsela weeping and explaining the fraud done by Dinku Deyassa



Note. Aster Ketsela tried to uncover an alleged big fraud by a business person Dinku Deyassa who has networks with government officials and did a number of mega deceptions. She also talks about lots of deceptive transactions in the interview but the journalist lacks substantiating them with evidences.

This image and information were taken from Walta Tv Walta Mermera program titled “Baltabesu Enbawoch Yedelebu Kisooh”. [https://youtu.be/fa\\_uyw3kslY](https://youtu.be/fa_uyw3kslY)