

**THE PRACTICE OF INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM
IN THE ETHIOPIAN RADIO AND TELEVISION
AGENCY**

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**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**

ADDIS ABEBA UNIVERSITY

ADDIS ABEBA, ETHIOPIA

JUNE, 2012

Addis Ababa University

School of Graduate Studies

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The practice of Investigative Journalism in the Ethiopian Radio and Television Agency

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ABSTRACT

This research was conducted to investigate the practice of investigative journalism in the Ethiopian Radio and Television Agency, 'Aynachin' program. To conduct this study, the researcher employed a qualitative research approach. In depth interview and content analysis of some sample programs were used to get the required data from the sample respondents for the research. Scholarly articles related to investigative journalism and its role in realizing democracy and development were discussed. Social responsibility theory and watchdog Journalism were used as theoretical framework. The findings of the study indicated that the practice of investigative journalism in the Ethiopian Radio and Television Agency (ERTA) is at an early stage although its importance for the country is well understood. The program mainly focuses on government institutions which fail to promote democracy, good governance and fight corruption with issues related to land. The program mostly uses tip-offs as a source for investigative stories and secondary sources especially documents, were intensively used as a tool for investigations. In addition, some ethical problems like intervening and excessive use of ambush interview and coming up with sketchy information that is below the people expectation are observed in the program. Lack of qualified journalists who are committed to this assignment, Lack of logistics, inadequate training, organizational pressure, external interference, such as political and financial, absence of incentives, absence of protection for the journalists and people's reluctantinace to be source of information are highly challenging the practice of investigative journalism ('Aynachin' program) in the agency.

Acknowledgement

First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Almighty God who guides me in every step of my work and makes the paper to have this shape. Then, my special thank goes to my family for their moral and material support throughout my life; especially for my mother, Medhin G/gergis who was beside me and eager to see my final destination though she could not.

Next my deepest gratitude goes to my advisor Dr. Negeri Lencho, for his unreserved and all rounded contribution in my study. He especially encourages me to be strong being as father, brother and teacher when I faced challenges during my work. His scholarly advice and time to read my paper makes it to have this form that is developed with his constructive comments. “I wish all the best to him and his family and God may always visit them.”

From the bottom of my heart, my sincere gratitude goes to Kidanu G/mariam and his wife Tirhas Hailu for their unconditional support throughout my study. And also I would like to say to my neighbors found in Tigray region, Mekelle (Gembela), “your endless love is in my heart and God may protect you.”

Then, I would like to thank Dereje Moges and Gebru Kahsay for their assistance and the informants who devoted their time and provided me with indispensable information for the research.

At Last, I am so grateful to Jigjiga University for giving me this chance. Moreover, I would like to thank Addis Ababa University, Eighth batch post graduate students and employees of the School of Journalism and Communication, and others who served me during my stay in the university

Dedication

*I dedicate this thesis to my mother **Medhin G/gergis** with due respect, love, and indebtedness and with all the best wishes; as a tribute for what she had done for me through out my life, and particularly during the course of my postgraduate study. Mom I know the price you paid though you do not look at the fruit due to the call from the Almighty **GOD** for good reason. Your endless love is always in my heart. 'Adey'(Mom) I love you!!! **GOD** may join you to the heaven.*

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List of Abbreviations

ERTA: Ethiopian radio and Television agency

FDRE: Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

Definition of terms

The definition of the following terms in the study is as follows:

‘Aynachin’ is an investigative program which is transmitted by ERTA through its television department.

Producers: journalists who produce ‘Aynachin’ program and other investigative stories.

Journalists: journalists who work under the educational programs of ERTA.

Editor: who edits ‘Aynachin’ program.

Media experts: people who have rich experience in Media profession and work as practitioners in different organizations found in Addis Ababa.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Media have a tremendous role in shaping the daily activities of a given society. Their main function is striving for promoting the people's needs. The area, especially, has its own features which differentiate it from other sectors. It is always standing on behalf of the people by being eye and ear.

Where there is a gap between the people and the mass media, the communication process becomes fruitless. It is also unthinkable to realize sustainable development in all aspects such as economic, political and social activities, without the support of the mass media. Therefore, the information which is delivered to the public has a decisive role for different achievements. Journalism has also been playing a significant role. "In the contemporary world nothing is more important than information. For the last 400 years, journalism has occupied pivotal place in transmission of information in societies all around the world" (Campbell, 2004, p.1).

When Journalism is rapidly developed, traditional model of journalism that was only dealing with informing function about social, political and economic activities brought some professional norms and variety of genres, and investigative journalism could be one of them. Moreover, it feed upon the increasing rationalism of intellectual discourse in the period and upon that scientific approach of identifying truth from facts was the Enlightenment's greatest gift; in doing so, it advanced the idea of objectivity, or at least impartiality. The question of liberty in line with freedom of speech became the burning

issue and it was examined through the media; and investigative journalists personalized rational observation with moral responsibility and made exploitation and abuse as topic of analysis, discussion and investigation (Burgh, 2008).

Investigative journalism deals with following the footsteps of the government and private individuals to know whether they are in the right track or not and inform the public immediately. “Investigative journalism involves exposing to the public matters that are concealed either deliberately by someone in a position of power, or accidentally, behind a chaotic mass of facts and circumstances that obscure understanding” (Hunter, nd , p.7).

According to Feldstein (2006) investigative journalism has been contributing to realize democracy, good governance and human rights. It has considered as vital bulwark of democracy as a way of check point the wrong doing in politics and public policies. It clearly stated that people should know the direction where their rulers are through the media. In this regard O’Neil (1992, p.21) says “In a democratic system, the primary function of the media is to act as a watchdog on government”

Following the fall of the Derg regime, the media industry joined the new era that freedom of expression is clearly enshrined in article 29 of the FDRE constitution and proclamation 34/1992 are drafted to show its implementation by media organizations. Though the controversy on the implementation is there, numerous private newspapers joined the market than ever.

The 1995 constitution Art 29(4) clearly states that “free flow of information” should be utilized by the media to entertain various opinions and ideas which are important to realize democracy with their full independence. Thus, media should strive to fight such

actions which tackle the democratic process such as corruption, lack of good governance, abuse of power etc.

Though there are no laws directly stating about investigative journalism in Ethiopia, it is indirectly included with the concern that is given to journalism. Investigative reporting programs began to be broadcasted when public and other officials engaged themselves in the business against the public interest. In this regard, Nigusse Teffera (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.”

“Aynachin” Television program that dealt with exposing wrong doings was launched by the Ethiopian Radio and Television Agency in 1993 E.C and other programs like “Wereto” was transmitted by Tigray television (Terminated), Hizbu Minyilal (Radio Fana), Bale Guday (Addis Zemen) are among the manifestations of this brand of journalism in the country (Birhanu, 2009).

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Media have a prominent role in serving the public by providing accurate information about the activities of government and private institutions. Media have the power in influencing public opinion as well as social policy about significant social issues. The role of media as a “Fourth estate” is highly essential and unquestionable in western countries. That is why, scholars of the area have been working hard to convey this mission all over the world to bring a fundamental change in prevailing good governance (Campbell, 2004).

Democratic values such as justice, good governance and democracy are always demanded by any society who is in need of peace and security. Some people, unfortunately, are given the authority and power to facilitate the task with real and whole heart commitment for the welfare of the nation. The public has also the right to look at the leaders' daily activity, and this can be realized through media by recognizing where powerful institutions are working effectively or not (Kovach and Rosenstiel, 2001).

The media are the one and major way which is believed to serve as guardian of the citizens by running such tasks. That is why our media are observed in attempting to broadcast different programs which are mainly believed to serve the interest of the public. Investigative journalism is about the business of bringing issues behind the curtain for the security of the people and assigned journalists are expected to do it at the right time using their maximum effort with the sense of neutrality. In this regard, Street (2001, p.151) writes:

The job of the journalist is to expose corruption and deceit in public office, to act as a key mechanism of public accountability in a democracy. For Journalists to operate like this, they have to be able to extract information from the people who do not want it revealed. For this, Journalists need resources and they need to be free of direct commercial and/or political pressure.

The role of investigative journalism is often a major topic of discussion in countries where the benefits of journalism are fully recognized and the status of the profession has been advanced. It can play an essential role in a country's governance by keeping corporations and government accountable of their work (Nigussie, 2008).

The practice of investigative journalism, however, varies from country to country. In developing countries its development is not yet satisfactory. The political and economic

environment in some regions of the world present specific challenges for investigative journalists; countries that achieve low on governance and transparency present particular risks and underline the need to build investigative journalism capacity. According to Kantumoya (2004), investigative journalism is still relatively new and undeveloped in the third-world countries. It means, the practice of investigative journalism needs to be developed to promote democracy and development in the third world countries.

Investigative journalism is difficult to practice especially in many third world countries. Being the press part of the national government impacts its practice. Even where the press is separated from the government, the idea of “investigating” anything gets headache. Various factors such as weak legal and security environments, libel laws, media regulations, media ownership, corruption in the media are hindering it not to be practiced in third world countries in general and in east Africa in particular (Hester and To, 1987 and Forbes, 2005).

In Ethiopia, for instance, despite the high need for investigative reporting to tackle corruption and enhance development and democratization, Ethiopian media, however, do not seem to be playing the “watchdog role”, which means exercising investigative journalism in their programs as they are expected. Birhanu’s (2009) finding concerning the practice of investigative journalism in the Ethiopian media also confirms the above idea.

‘Aynacin’ (literally meaning “our eyes”) is a program attempting to practice investigative journalism by broadcasting issues which are public interest. It is, however, on/off, meaning some years back it was a weekly program but now appears occasionally.

In addition to this, it does not broadcast follow up stories on the covered issues. For this reason, the audience does not able to know the last stage of the stories. However, according to Reang and Nariddh (2007), an investigative story should aim to bring a change or correct wrongdoing.

Therefore, the researcher attempts to investigate the practice of investigative journalism in the Ethiopian Radio and television Agency “Aynachin” program in particular.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

1.3.1 General Objective

The main objective of this research is to investigate the practice of investigative journalism in the Ethiopian Radio and Television Agency with special reference to ‘Aynachin’ program.

1.3.2 Specific Objectives

The specific objectives of the study to:

- Explain areas of issue coverage of the program.
- Assess the types of sources used in the program.
- Identify the major challenges to the practice of investigative journalism in the station.

1.4 Research Questions

The basic questions guiding the study are :

1. What are the issues being covered by ‘Aynachin’ program?
2. What types of sources does the program use while investigating?

3. What are the major challenges to the practice of investigative journalism in ERTA?

1.5 Significance of the Study

It is not an easy task to find ample research materials on the practice of investigative journalism by the Ethiopian media. Therefore, this study can contribute to promoting good governance by indicating strengths and weaknesses of the program to the concerned bodies. It can also be used as a springboard for further research on the topic. It may also be used as a means to measure whether or not investigative journalism is really practiced in the country, i.e., whether ERTA is discharging its responsibility of acting as the Fourth Estate.

The study can, thus, be significant and illustrative base in providing preliminary information for stakeholders, such as policy makers, media outlets, and other institutions which have interest in studies related to investigative journalism.

1.6 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The area of the study was limited to the Ethiopian Radio and Television Agency (ETV) 'Aynachin' program. The study only assessed the practice of investigative journalism by conducting an interview with the subjects of the study and analyzing five selected sample programs based on the parameters.

The study has faced financial and bureaucratic constraints. Especially, it was difficult to get some sample programs for the study. Though extensive and intensive stay in this

research area may help to look at different dimensions, the study only focused on the questions raised for.

1.7 Organization of the Study

The study contains five chapters. The first chapter deals with introduction: background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, research questions, significance of the study and scope and limitation of the study and organization of the study. The second chapter reviews literature related to the study. The third chapter entertains the methodology of the study. The fourth chapter discusses the findings. And the fifth chapter concludes and gives recommendations based on the findings.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This part deals with reviewing of various issues that are related to the practice of investigative journalism. In addition, the underlying theoretical frameworks of this study are discussed.

2.1 Media's Role in Promoting Development and Democracy

The new inventions and major or technological breakthroughs highly sophisticated and very rapid means of communication make transmit of information easy almost instantaneously, between the different regions of the globe .And this would help nations to enhance democracy, good governance and development by learning from the advanced nations (Campbell, 2004).

The media's role in a democracy is varied. After all, it acts as additional mechanism to check and balance on government activities; creates an enabling environment for accountability when public figures stray from the track and provides issues for public discussion by inviting citizens to actively participate in the issue of their country. In such scenario media can strengthens and benefits democracy. However, if the media fails to accomplish these responsibilities, and instead acts as mouthpiece for the interest of particular group such as the government or large corporations, it does not only fail to do its role to secure democratic governance, but it can also undermine it (Rapporteur's Report, 2009).

Development is not as such commodity to be negotiated in any society especially for the third world country. To resist influences which may come from local and international conditions being developed is unquestionable. The more a country has a strong economic, social and political base, the more it becomes powerful state and would be able to influence others in various aspects. To register all rounded and sustainable development, applying important mechanisms which can enhance the participation of stakeholders has a pivotal role in realizing the business. In this regard media take the key role in realizing sustainable development by informing the public to support the development process and informing the public about the barriers such as corruption, abuse of power and lack of good governance (Maina, 2010).

Though media can play a decisive role in enhancing development and democracy, its role in different governments is characterized by the ideology of these governments. In authoritarian government, the media function is helping the ruler to stay in the power. The day to day activities of the media is highly related with propaganda, propagating the people about positive aspects of the government and invite people to be part of the government system. The media can be taken as benevolent authoritarian. On the other side in a democratic government the main business of the media is serving the interest of the citizens. In short, it serves as watchdog guarding the interest of the people against abuse of power in order to sustain democracy (Siebert et al, 1963).

Media can play a significant role by setting agendas for public debate to create general consensus on the development issue. For instance, the Ethiopian media are observed in covering the issue regarding “the grand renaissance dam” and people are observed while taking actions for its implementation as a result of the agenda set by the media.

However, it is not always expected that government officials and individuals always save the public interest. They can breach the public interest by using their power for personal benefit. The media is needed to extract the wrongdoings and inform the public. However, the media cannot bring the hidden to the light through the practice of conventional journalism unless it applies and follows the notion of investigative journalism (Hunter, nd, p. 8).

Generally, to promote democracy and development in a given country, exposing hidden activities which are against the people is; after all, guarantee the sustainable development of the country. For this reason the media is highly expected to adopt and encourage the practice of investigative reporting in order to block the barriers of the development process such as corruption, abuse of power, etc., in the society. Journalists are also responsible to inform the public concerning issues related to their life. Especially, in exposing individuals or organizations who/which are standing against the public interest; but it does not mean that journalists should not only strive to extract the wrong doings but they should also take into consideration the ethical principles in carrying such tasks for the well being of the society (Nigussie, 2008) .

2.2 Investigative Journalism

According to Niblock (1996,p.1), journalism is not only bounded to news events that traditionally recognized rather it largely covers a lot of issues and he strengthens, “There are literally hundreds of thousands of people working in the media in an enormous range of roles. This vast realm of journalism covers not only news but also documentaries, features, photojournalism, business and commerce and entertainment information.”

Journalism is not easy business that can be accomplished in trouble-free manner rather it requires life scarification to serve the public and the truth effectively and efficiently. Since journalists are carrying such tasks they are expected to run it at the right time for the wellbeing of the society. That is why most of the time journalists are seen while suffering so many problems, such as imprisonment and murder by those who stand against the issue raised by journalists (Hargreaves, 2005).

Among the dangerous assignment in journalism investigative reporting takes the front role. Because it is mostly dealing with exposing corruption, lack of good governance etc. For this reason, it extremely examines the life of investigative journalists while they are investigating different issues. Sometimes the attack includes the whole family beyond the journalist (Forbes, 2005).

2.2.1 The Essence of Investigative Journalism

Investigative Journalism derives from two words; Investigative from Latin “Vestigium” means “foot print” and journalism from French “journal”, which in turn comes from the Latin “diurnal” or daily. Different scholars define investigative journalism in different ways. Though there is no fundamental definition, but their point of view emanate from two points. Some of the scholars consider investigative journalism as involves in-depth reporting in the public interest while others regard it as an extension of good journalism should really be (Rosner, 2008 & Forbes, 2005).

Burgh, (2008, p.10) defines investigative journalism by indicating the demarcation it has with police and others investigation as follows:

An investigative journalist is a man or woman whose profession it is to discover the truth and to identify lapses from it in whatever media may be available. The act of doing this generally is called investigative journalism and is distinct from apparently similar work done by police, lawyers, auditors and regulatory bodies in that it is not limited as to target, not legally founded and usually earns money for media publishers.

This implies that though there is a similarity with the work of police, lawyers, etc., investigative journalism makes different since it is not limited to any target and does not earn money for the station.

According to Braddle (1993 as quoted in Klappprith, 2005) the essence of investigative journalism relates with the attribute of good reporting if a journalist can ask more than a couple questions it is considered as investigative reporting.

According to Williams (quoted in Protess, David L. et al. 1991,p.4) investigative journalism is an intellectual process which can take several days, months even years. "It is a business of gathering and sorting ideas and facts, building patterns, analyzing options and making decisions based on logic rather than emotion-including the decision to say no at any of the several stages"

These definitions generally imply that investigative journalism is a type of journalism that deals with extracting facts which are hidden but public interest. This practice is not as such event reporting rather requires an intellectual process.

There is no easy definition of what constitutes investigative reporting. However, there is agreement on some of its elements:

- An investigative story must include the journalist's personal investigation, i.e., not just publishing the result of an investigation done by somebody else.

- An investigative story must point out the problem of a management or working system, but not the problem of an individual.
- An investigative story must explain a complicated social issue and uncover corruption, bad attitude and abuse of power.
- The story must tell something that the audience is interested, which affects them and their daily life.
- It is very important to uncover information that people want to hide.
- An investigative story intends to push for change, or correct of wrongdoing.
- Usually, investigative reporting requires a lot of resources and is longer than a normal story (Reang and Nariddh 2007,p.16)

2.2.2 Historical Development of Investigative Journalism

Regarding the emerging of investigative journalism, different ideas have been raised. Some scholars have related it with the Watergate scandal of 1974 which was dealing with the reason for the resignation of Richard Nixon and revealed by an intensive and continuous investigation made by Washington post (Burg, 2008).

Other scholars, however, suggested that it had a long history not different from the beginning of journalism. In Britain its emerging is related with the competition which was between television and newspapers and it saved the life of the newspapers. To resist the challenge, Newspapers began to fill their space with big features and picture reporting of undisclosed facts (Burgh, 2008).

In the Ethiopia history of practicing investigative journalism is directly related with the political system that existed in different governments. In the feudal period, there was no possible condition that enabled professionals to participate themselves in such business. In the Derg regime, there were some activities in disclosing hidden facts which had an impact on the life of the people. For instance, a program entitled “Keminayew Keminisemaw” (From what we see and hear) which dealt with extracting irregularities

and corruption related issues; was transmitted by the Ethiopia radio and several cases were aired. Post 1991, different media outlets have been investigating various issues occasionally and/or permanently. At this time ‘Aynachin’ which is transmitted by ETV can be taken as example (Nigussie, 2008).

2.2.3 Forms of Investigative Reporting

With the development of the practice of investigative journalism, several forms have emerged. According to Kovach and Rosenstiel (2001, pp.115-118), at this time, three forms are identified as follows:

A. Original investigative reporting: it involves reporters themselves uncovering and documenting activities that have been previously unknown to the public. 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 reveals a new way of looking at something as well as 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.

However, reporting on investigations cannot be taken as one form of investigative journalism since the journalist does not participate in the investigation. This is like reporting on corruption cases which are discovered by Ethics and Anti corruption Commission. In this regard Reang and Nariddh (2007, p.16) say “An investigative story

must include the journalist's personal investigation, i.e., not just publishing the result of an investigation done by somebody else.”

2.2.4 Areas of Investigative Journalism

In our planet various issues are cycling our life. The impact of these issues has direct or indirect contribution to the regular activities of the society. Since journalism is standing on behalf of the people for those who are in need of voice and striving to report their say in the way that can influence the legislative, executive, judiciary bodies and private institutions. Investigative Journalism should also have run such activities for the wellbeing of the society; by its nature is dealing with process reporting rather than event reporting. It means reporting issues and conditions are the business of investigative journalism than incidents and events. In additions to this, there are not issues considered as off limits to investigative reporters (Gaines, 1994). And Kantumoya (2004, p.7) also strengthens as follows:

There is no limit to subject areas requiring investigative treatment. Politics and politicians; government and governance; corruption; health and health care; agriculture; land alienation; the economy; privatization; business and consumer affairs; nongovernmental organizations; the environment; gender issues; religion; human rights; child abuse; public procurement and tender procedures; the list is endless. All these could produce issues amenable to investigative reporting.

Among these various issues, some of them are illustrated as follows:

Politics

To bring about sustainable development in a given country, its political atmosphere has an indispensable role. Politicians who have been elected to office are expected to discharge their responsibilities. So, investigations should be done to know whether they

have overridden the line that is given by the people. The media, therefore, have to check the truth through deep investigation. Gaines (1994, p.3) clearly states that how much the investigation made by *The Washington post* influence the American politics of the time as follows:

The Watergate investigation of The Washington post in 1972 began as a follow up to a routine story and ended in the resignation of President Richard Nixon. It touched off a revival of investigation efforts. It showed the public and, more profoundly, reporters and editors how perseverance can reveal truth in the face of a formidable opponent who seeks to hide it.

This implies that the media could change the situation and warn the actors of the business in their way of walking on the track of politics. And the people become alert at the time for political change if they believe the situation around them is not conducive.

Good Governance

Good governance refers to the process of decision making in government actions and the way these actions are done not what is just done. It assesses the quality of institutions and their effectiveness in interpreting policies into successful implementation on the ground. It is mostly characterized with having eight elements. These are: rule of law, participatory, consensus oriented, accountable, transparent, responsive, effective and efficient, equitable and inclusive. (Maina, 2010 and <http://www.unescap.org/sitemap.htm>)

The role of the media in promoting good governance is very imperative and it facilitates the democratic process by being an independent means in surveying the activities of the government and assures whether these actions are beyond they should to be. In this regard, Pippa (2006, p.6) writes as follows:

The news media is most effective in strengthening the process of democratization, good governance, and human development when they function as watchdog over the abuse of power (promoting accountability and transparency) as a civic forum for political debate (facilitating informed electoral choices), and as agenda setter for policy makers (strengthening government responsiveness to social problems).

In the name of good governance, governments are seen ratifying various local and international conventions. But its ratification could not guarantee its implementation. “This is something that needs checking out. For international treaties and conventions are not self-executing by the mere fact of their ratification. They become functional only after they have been infused into a country's municipal laws” (Kantumoya 2004, p.7).

Non-governmental Organizations

Nongovernmental organizations exist to improve the life of the society in different ways. The fund for these organizations comes from local, national or international donors which can help to facilitate their program. Ideally, such initiatives have very much impressed human being. Most of the time, however, organizations are observed walking out of the track after they first create an impression on the public. The fund became a source for personal wealth of people who organized the institution in the name of charity through various mechanisms intentionally or not. Houston et al (2002, p.351) clearly state things behind these organizations as follows:

Such thinking about charities, non profits and foundations is misguided. Charities sometimes spend donations unwisely, even crossing the line from inefficiency in to the realm of corruption. When run efficiently and honestly, they still might be failing the populations they want to help. Increasingly, they charge fees for their services, violating the concept of charity that originally earned them their tax exemptions.

This implies that such organizations are indirectly accumulating wealth for different purposes. The people who are behind them exploit their good name for the sake of relief while they are in such scenario or in Amharic saying “Endayamah Tiraw Endaybela Gifaw” (literally means call him not to claim on you push him not to share from you). That is probably why people always strive to be hired in such organizations for better payment than others like government organizations.

Land

The accessibility of land to locals, and the sale of it for personal benefit have become matters of great concern for the people who are living around. Those people who have the power and the money have been playing the gambling or in easiest expression “I have scratched your back, now it is your turn to scratch mine.” In between the people who have been harmed are bemoaning for the concerned bodies (Kantumoya 2004, p.9).

For instance, at this time in our country there is a controversy on the land that is being given by the government in the name of investment for foreign investors around Gambela and Oromia regions. In this regard, Desalegn Rahmate (2011, pp.16-17) writes:

The great majority of investors held the land idle (many simply did not have the resources to put the land to use) and some used it for purposes for which it was not approved. As a rule, the size of land allocated to foreign investors is much bigger than that of domestic investors.

Some people have also considered it as a competition for getting huge land than its benefit for the people. The incumbent government, however, has been rejecting such claims because the justification is baseless and it is simply opposing the development of the country announced through the government media.

So, in such controversial affairs, the media should try to investigate whether the claim is relevant or not through deep investigation.

Environment

Nowadays the issue of environmental degradation and global warming are becoming the burning issue all over the world. According to Hester and To (1987,p.95), this issue is especially too important for the developing countries and explains “Most of the projects and problems in the developing countries have their basis in their relationship to the scientific and environmental facts .These facts should be recognized by decision makers as well as by the public.”

This time the need for shelter in this country is increasing from time to time. Real estate organizations are established swiftly to entertain the need in a desired way. These shelters are not built in a vacuum rather in such big areas. To do so, deforestation and degradation are accelerated rapidly. As per the Growth and Transformation Plan, industries are established in different areas of the country. Though, they have a key role for the development of the country, their impact on the environment should be studied well (ibid).

2.2.5 Sources for Investigative Story Ideas

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 has 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. These are primary and secondary sources. Reporters use both primary and secondary sources when reporting news stories. A primary source could be an interview with a person who has direct experience about the event or topic, or an original document related to that topic. The journalist as eyewitness also considered as primary source. A secondary source might be a written report based on the original document. (Potter, 2006)

But, as I stated earlier, investigative stories do not just happen; they are well thought-out and created through a process that start with an idea which is then painstakingly developed through rigorous research. That is why; especially the source we use here should be carefully examined and tested. Some source may mislead us deliberately for their personal interest and it could damage the credibility of the media we are engaged.

In providing information, especially, sources may fear the long arms which can twist their life and the chain of withholding information by public officials in the name of national security, bureaucracy, etc, are the closed and blocked fences not allowed to be

entered by journalists. Ideas for potential investigative stories can spring from a number of sources. These include tips from people; public rumor; journalist's curiosity; trends and change; and other news media (Forbes, 2005).

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)

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. However, 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).

Journalist's Curiosity

A journalist has sixth sense organ that can help him/her to sniff news for the audience. Social, political, economic and cultural issues may have positive or negative impact on the life of the people. Information always may not come from other sources rather the journalist him/her self should observe their environment whether new things are occurring 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).

Journalists must have a discerning eye and unflagging curiosity to spot investigative stories. The best investigative stories are often the ones originated by the journalists themselves when they have experienced corruption, injustice or a problem first hand. "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).

Trends and Change

The other thing that has to be paid attention is observing what's changing in your environment, and not take 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. For instance, let's look at what a Belgian reporter did, "the great Belgian reporter *Chris de Stoop* began a landmark investigation of the traffic in

women after noticing that the Belgian prostitutes in a neighborhood he crossed on his way to work had given way to foreigners, and wondering why” (Hunter ,nd,p.14).

The salaries of civil servants and politicians are obviously known by the people. But these persons can be observed while leading better life than they have to be. If you suspect people in receipt of bribe, check to realize whether they are living away from their means. Human being has a natural tendency that is urging to spend their wealth in such luxury goods such as large houses and other items. These things are often prioritized for taxation and/or police detectives – the investigative journalist’s technique should be similar in this regard to extract the secret behind the curtain (Forbes, 2005).

Other news media

Sometimes our organization may be unable to cover some important issues due to busyness in other works. So, other news media such as newspapers, magazines, radio and television can be sources of news and ideas for further investigation and possible new angles (Rudin and Ibbotson, 2002).

It is important not to overlook local, ethnic, international, specialist and even the journalist’s 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. When we take some body’s written article it is better to understand that taking it directly may cause two things. First it is considered as plagiarism and the published article may have errors which are not yet identified. These things may lead our station to lose its credibility that the people had for it (Kantumoya, 2004).

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).

However, as an investigative reporter all documents what he/she found have not to take as reliable data rather making cross check will be necessary. The reason behind is that people could anticipate that once up on a time these files or record items could be open for public inspection and they may be recalled for investigation. Modifying even changing these documents could be taken as a solution for the time being. Therefore, being curious and wise in digging out the document in relation to their significance to the public is expected from the reporter; otherwise, if its substance is not that much to the public, it is better to look for other issues (Keir et al,1986).

2.2.6 Tools for Investigative Journalism

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).

However, by respecting these laws the investigative reporters can produce a best story with the knowledge they have. In addition to this, the reporter should avoid reflecting personal feelings in the story. To do so, tools such as interview, documents, surveillance and surveys are commonly used in investigative reporting (Fedler, 1993& Gaines, 1994).

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. After all, if the subject becomes hostile or aggressive, can hang the phone and wind up the interview (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).

Documents

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).

According Reang and Nariddh (2007, p.25), in searching documents and to make easy and get the necessary document advice investigative journalists to adopt such techniques beyond the formal approach as follows:

Everyone is a potential source, not just high-ranking officials. When you visit offices, including those of ministries, NGOs, businesses or the National Assembly, try to establish a good relationship with secretaries and assistants. Even if they can’t give you the document you’re looking

for, they may be able to tell you who can. It pays to take the time to meet regularly with key sources in government and the private sector that can help you find records or may be willing to leak them to you.

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 (ibid).

Surveillance

According to Gaines (1994,p.15), “Surveillance 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/her self in a situation to be eye witness of the event.

It helps you to look at development of things you get first hand 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).

Most of the time reporters hide their identity and poses as someone else to get the information they need. However, most newspapers do not allow reporters to do such undercover reporting because it is considered as deception. Reporters actually take it as

the last option when other formal means are exhausted. But the consequence following the story lets to the reporter (ibid).

Survey

According to Gaines (1995), investigative stories can also be developed from a survey. It deals with a systematic examination of a group or set of items which are under the subject that is going to be investigated. Comparing the cost of maintenance services given to vehicles in different garages could be taken as example.

While applying Surveys for our investigation we normally use samples to generate facts and figures which are going to be analyzed and interpreted to produce a story. For instance, you might want to compare the tax collected from some small industries to establish why some pay less, Or, within the same town, you could compare the budgetary allocation for students theses over a given period, say, two years in the same town. You may dig out that, although the amount allocated for the first year is less than the previous year for the same purpose (Gaines, 1995).

The result would thus lift up questions that the story might answer. Use of appropriate means of fact-gathering greatly determines the success of the investigative story. Once dedicated to survey, by the reporter can not change the samples whatever the findings should be respected. The reporter is responsible to accept the proved one and let the other that does not prove the story (ibid).

Interviews, documents, surveillance, and surveys are the investigative reporter's tools. The reporter must consider which to use at the appropriate time, taking into account the prevailing circumstances.

2.2.7 Challenges of practicing Investigative Journalism

Unlike conventional journalism that deals with reporting daily events, investigative journalism is surrounded by a lot of challenges which threatens its practice. Investigative journalists are always sniffing such hidden facts and make them available to the public. However, behind these watchdogs there are also barriers which are starting from blocking the situation not to be comfort for investigative reporting up to questioning the life of the journalists. Some of the challenges are discussed below.

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 envelope journalism as a reason for being poorly paid (Berhanu Lodamo and Skjerdal, 2009).

Secrecy: investigating private organizations is not easy and sometimes impossible. From the beginning these organization 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 this delay tactics which are designed to boring the journalist and give up its investigation (Forbes, 2005).

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).

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 threaten it is important not to identify their identity in any means for their safety.

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).

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).

2.3 Why Investigative Journalism for Ethiopia?

Democracy, good governance and justice are the key ideas what the people of this world have been waiting for. Citizens also strongly need these ideas to be applied in their country to achieve a sustainable development. Politicians and civil servants are also given the power to facilitate the task on behalf of the people. The society also has the right to ask officials while they commit a mistake through the media that is established to serve the public by being eye and ear. The international anti censorship organization *Article XIX, Article 19: 2000* (quoted in Alan Knight, nd,p. 1) clearly states that how the media could take the forefront role in prevailing democracy as follows:

Democracy is founded on a number of principles, including the accountability of elected representatives and civil servants to the people. Ideally, a host of mechanisms should guarantee this, but even the best systems may be abused. Experience shows that when wrongdoing does take place, investigative journalists are among those best placed to expose it and ensure that justice is done.

In a country like Ethiopia which has been ruled by different political system such as monarchy, dictatorship etc realizing democracy, good governance and justice is not such easy work rather needs unreserved effort and all rounded contribution. Thus, the media have a significant role in checking the ways whether they are exercised per the people's need. A watchdog press ensures that individuals and institutions that are recognized to

serve the public remain transparent and are held accountable. “A vigilant press is therefore a key to good governance” (ibid).

Coronel (nd, p. 2) strongly strengthens that the media role as watchdog is indisputable and states as follows:

Watchdog reporting covers a wide range of different types of journalism. On a routine basis, the watchdog press monitors the day-to-day workings of government, thereby helping citizens assess the efficacy of its performance. Reporting that goes beyond what officials or their spokespersons say, to examine government performance, is also a form of watch dogging.

This time preventing corruption, respecting human right, prevailing good governance is the agenda that has been discussing in different level of the government bodies. The FDRE government has established institutions in commission level; and is given the power to assess and accuse officials who are discovered in misconduct activities. However, Controlling and preventing corruption is not an easy task that can be achieved in short period of time rather needs a continuous effort which is supported by the media message about it.

The media should assist the activities that are running by the government. As we are aspiring a nation with a middle class income, struggling to have transparency in over all actions made by the government is predictable .Thus, investigative journalism can play the fore front role in establishing it. Reang and Nariddh (2007, p.13) strengthen the idea by indicating how investigative journalism can enhance transparency in a country as follows:

In a country that lacks transparency, it is important to have investigative journalists like “a crow flying over a cow with a wounded back” as a Khmer saying goes. The wounded cows, like corrupt officials, would

pretend to be eating poor farmers' rice without being afraid of anything until they noticed crows flying over and whip their tails.

In general, the media through consistent reports and investigations on the anti-corruption struggle and prevailing democracy, good governance and justice can help reinforce values of honesty and integrity in the society. Realizing successful investigative journalism practice, after all can help the governance to be healthy and participatory. As a result people would be benefit equally from the development out puts without discrimination. This is the desire of the developing countries in general and our country Ethiopia in particular.

2.4 Investigative journalism and the Ethiopian law

Though investigative journalism deals with extracting 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 to court. In this regard western countries (US and Britain) include such laws like privacy laws, libel laws and official secrecy to entertain the disputes between investigative journalists and the targets of the investigations .These laws have their own contribution whether to enhance or hinder the practice of investigative journalism (Andargachew Tirunehe cited in Nigussie, 2008).

In Ethiopia we can not find a law concerning investigative journalism since it is not recognized as independent field rather seen with the idea of the practice of journalism in general. Thus, looking at some articles of the FDRE constitution, proclamation 590/2008 and penal code 1957 which have relevance with the issue is preferable for this topic.

The FDRE constitution Art 29(2),(3)&(4) clearly states that journalist are guaranteed to seek information and ideas of all kinds; without any censorship to access information of public interest which can help to functioning democratic order for the wellbeing of the society. Thus, governmental, non-governmental and private individuals can be investigated in the issue of public interest.

However, in part three of the proclamation 590/2008 article 14(3) request to obtain information gives the last say on request to information to the public relation officer and he is guaranteed at least 30 days to decide whether to release the information or not; even he is also guaranteed 30 additional days due to some stated reasons in the proclamation.

....Provide the information requested up on payment of the prescribed fee, or provide a written response stating the reasons for rejecting the request on any of the grounds specified under Chapter Three of this proclamation notifying the requester his rights of appeal. However, the response shall in any case be made not more than thirty working days, of the receipt of the request. (Pro.2008 article14 (3))

In addition, in case of releasing urgent information, if the public relation officer deems that the request is not urgent in accordance with some statements in Art.10 (a) and (b) can reject the requisition (Art.3). These statements totally rely on the good will of the public relation officer in releasing information and it is against the democratic right of the people in relation to be informed about the activities of their rulers. The presence of conducive environment to obtain information after all facilitates the democratic and development process of the country. Center for Democracy and Governance (1999, p.3) strengthen the idea as follows:

Access to information is essential to the health of democracy for at least two reasons. First, it ensures that citizens make responsible, informed choices rather than acting out of ignorance or misinformation. Second, information

serves a “checking function” by ensuring that elected representatives uphold their oaths of office and carry out the wishes of those who elected them.

On the other hand, Art.26 (1) & (2) of the constitution in the right to privacy, everyone is guaranteed not to be searched by any means ;but in 26(3) it can be limited for the safeguarding of national security or public peace, the prevention of crimes or the protection of health, public morality or the rights and freedom of others.

While this right guarantees the right of privacy it also limits on the right of the journalist to investigate and on the right of the people to receive information. In this regard Andargachew Tirunehe (cited in Nigussie, 2008, p.147) states the reasons as follows:

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.

It implies that if journalists can not use these means of gathering very important information about the subject because of Art.26 of the constitution and are discouraged by the sanction enshrined in the Ethiopian law; and it has impact on the practice and development of investigative journalism in Ethiopia and makes it questionable.

2.5 Ethical Issues in Investigative Journalism

Journalism is an honorable profession, because it has an aim of 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).

Since investigative journalism is among the genres of journalism it has to follow the principles of the profession while conducting an investigation on a given 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).

Generally, ethics 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.

2.6 Theoretical framework

2.6.1 Social Responsibility Theory of the Press

From a theoretical perspective investigative journalism is rooted in a long tradition of Enlightenment ideals that gave rise to 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). In this regard Sheila Coronel nd, p.1) pointed out that:

Since the late 17th Century, classical liberal theorists had argued that publicity and openness provide the best protection from the excesses of power. The idea of the press as Fourth Estate, as an institution that exists primarily as a check on those in public office, was based on the premise that powerful states had to be prevented from overstepping their bounds. The press working independently of government, even as its freedoms were guaranteed by the state, was supposed to help ensure that this was so.

In libertarian theory the main function of the mass media is to inform and entertain the public. Siebert et al (1963, p.51) explains further:

Basically the underlying purpose of the media was to help discover truth, to assist in the process of solving political and social problems by presenting all manner of evidence and opinion as the basis for decisions. It was charged with duty of keeping government from overstepping its

bounds. In other words of [Thomas] Jefferson, it was to provide that check which no other institution could provide.

That is why the press has also been referred to as a 'Fourth Estate'. But it does not mean free of some control or influence but minimal. The theory later modified and named as Social responsibility theory that extensions the initial ideas of libertarian theory which the press should have maximum responsibility with maximum independence. The relationship between state and media is based on mutualism; i.e. fulfilling social obligation and retain the independence of journalism and freedom of speech (Campbell, 2004).

The functions under social responsibility are the same as those were under libertarian theory. Six tasks came to be credited to the press as traditional theory evolved:

1. Servicing the political system by 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 considers purely negative liberty as insufficient and ineffective. Negative liberty, according to this perspective, is an empty liberty. Siebert et al (1963, pp.93-94) 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.

As we know the incumbent government of the FDRE follows revolutionary democracy that mostly claims that the media function has to be fit with the sense of development journalism. The media is also guaranteed by the constitution to fulfill its social responsibility with enjoying its independence. The 2002 policy entitled issues of building democratic system in Ethiopia states that media disseminate current information in line with the development policy and strategy of the country to the public. While disseminating media should report both positive and negative outputs without exaggeration and indicate solutions to overcome the barriers of the development process such as corruption and lack of good governance. And this could facilitate democratic process by creating national consensus among the people. However, in the ground it seems that practitioners do not interpret in a way which development journalism is defined. According to Gunaratne (cited in Campbell 2004) development journalism is not only informing the public about positive state developments but it should also report problems of the development process. This implies that within development journalism there is also investigative journalism.

Thus, investigative journalism is accompanied by this sense to realize democracy, good governance and justice for the well being of the society. It is one function of the media in

social responsibility theory. "...Safeguarding the rights of the individual by serving as a watchdog against government" say Siebert et al, (1963, p.74).

Generally, social responsibility theory states that freedom of expression is a moral right with an aspect of task. The reason behind is rooted on the individual to his thought or to his conscience. Under this theory, freedom of expression is not an absolute right. It should be considered with others private and public interest. For instance, if freedom of expression is used to provoke civil crisis by somebody the person has no the right to argue on it.

2.6.2 Watchdog Journalism

When we talk about the present the role of the Fourth Estate, it is important to remember and consider the previous time that makes different demands and raise different expectations about the function of the news media. In the late of twentieth century, being the people pessimistic and suspicious about the commitment and integrity of those who were in the position, the news media has gained remarkable momentum as watchdog and its power grows (Schultz, 1998).

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 role of the press as watchdog has become central to the current understanding of the Fourth Estate by media professionals. The media, especially, those who engaged in public issues are expected to play a watchdog role and keep the government as well as the private sector under regular scrutiny. The main purpose of the press in a democratic system is informing the public about daily activities of the government (Dennis & Merrill, 1996).

According to Schultz (1998, p.49) for the past 200-years the ideal of the Fourth Estate, has assumed different guise for press baron, politicians and journalists. These meanings broadly used but seldom precisely defined, emanate from:

The news media as an adjunct of the political process; as an independent source of Power, as an industry which must not be regulated, for fear of comprise or co-option as the watchdog of powerful institutions and individuals on behalf of the public; as the permanent political opposition; as the neutral agency for conflicting political opposition; as the neutral agency for conflicting political messages; as the agency for securing public consensus for political, economic and social change.

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 and Rosenstiel, 2001).

The press's role as watchdog highly facilitates the democratic process and enhances good governance by standing and being custodian of the public interest. It follows the foot steps of the officials who have been elected by the people. In this regard Schultz (1998,pp.51-52) writes:

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.

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 and Larose, 2006).

Where the press play 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).

Generally, press as Fourth Estate must be independent, accountable and after all stand to the public. The press should be guided by the ethical principles in relation to source and other means to obtain information. 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.

Profile of the Ethiopian Radio and Television Agency

Ethiopian Radio passed some stages before it was launched as a station. In 1926 E.C it began its transmission with short news located near to the Etege Hotel at the office of telegram and telephone, for the people of Addis Ababa with three Kilo watt. After two years on September 2, 1928 E.C. it began its first transmission as Ethiopia Radio with small transmitter which is established around 'Nifas silk'

Following the Italian Invasion and it controlled Addis Ababa; it launched a radio station for propaganda purpose and established an office entitled 'Ofitchio di stampa e propaganda' around 'Abune Peter'square (currently journalism and communication faculty) to run its political mission.

In 1955 E.C with the installation of antennas with four directions for a first time it could broadcast news to western, Middle East and Europe countries. Ethiopian Radio started its work with five employees and Honorable Doctor Kebede Micheal was the first news anchor.

In 1948 E.C an attempt was made to promote Ethiopian Television at the old Airport with two cameras and four monitors in connection to the 'Silver Eyobealyu' anniversary of Emperor Hailelassie. It was decided to launch Ethiopian Television in 1955E.C with the establishment of Organization of African Unity and the people could follow the program. With these two reasons on November 23, 1957E.C the Emperor inaugurated Ethiopian Television and began its regular transmission.

In 2001E.C Ethiopian Radio and Ethiopian Television merged together and restructured their institutional base. This time ERTA has five major departments. These are

Educational programs, News and current affairs, Sport and Entertainment, Media technology and finance. Under the educational programs, there are sub departments: Democracy and Good governance, Socio-economic affairs, Ethiopian languages, and foreign languages; under democracy and good governance sub department programs like 'Aynachin', 'Fit lefit', parliament, federalism, etc., are broadcasted.

'Aynachin' program was launched in 1993 and Samuel Fikre was executive producer of the program. Since the program got significant respect from the people the Ethiopian Fine Arts and Mass Media Prize Trust gave Ato Samuel an award for his achievement in the field of investigative journalism. Before some years, it was a weekly program but at this time it is transmitted occasionally with four investigative journalists.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This part deals with the methodology and procedures of the study under which the methods data source, sampling technique and data analysis are discussed.

3.1 The Research Design

This study deals with describing the practice of investigative journalism in ERTA. Qualitative research method of inquiry is primarily selected as the principal method for the study, because it enables the researcher to critically evaluate and grasp the social phenomenon from the perspective of the subject of the study. In addition to this it encourages the researcher's interaction with the subjects which enable him to gather a rich data out of observations in line with discovering meanings attribute to events and activities (D. Porta and Keating, 2008 cited in Kibrom, 2011).

“In qualitative research the aim of inquiry is to develop a body of knowledge that is unique to the individual being studied, and that can be used to develop hypotheses about the individual” (Abiy 2009,p.39). Therefore, qualitative study does not describe knowledge in generalizations rather it attempts to provide comprehensive information about an individual being studied. This is the other ground that forced the researcher to apply qualitative approach.

The qualitative method includes different tools of data gathering among which are: participant observation, interviewing, document analysis, and ethnographic study (Jensen & Jankowski, 1991).These tools had a key role in gathering reliable data and are applied on the research

In this research data were collected through in-depth individual interview and some sample broadcast programs were analyzed qualitatively to understand whether the station is considering and practicing aspects of investigative journalism based on the literature that is discussed in addition to confirm with the interviewees response.

3.2 Data Source and Sampling Technique

In qualitative research, it is important to use data collection instruments which can help the researcher to dig out and extract the desired output based on the questions and objectives of the study. To do so, the researcher classified the source of data as primary and secondary based on the source of the information. Purposive sampling method selected as the researcher believes that it helps to extract rich and comprehensive information that can answer the basic questions of the research. According to Abiy, (2009, p.64), “Qualitative research methods are typically used when focusing on a limited number of informants, whom you select strategically so that their in-depth information will give optimal insight into an issue about which little is known. This is called purposive sampling.”

3.2.1 Primary Source of Data

Primary sources of data were believed as a very vital instrument to answer the research questions. Thus, in-depth individual interview was selected among the others to gather a rich and reliable data for the study.

In-depth Individual Interview

The managers, -editors –in- chief, editors of the program, journalists and media experts have an indispensable role in realizing and practicing real investigative journalism (which is led by the principles of the profession). Here, the vice for general director and head for educational programs, editor and producers of the program and other two journalists who were working in ERTA under educational programs department and media experts were selected as informants to express their own view from their experience on the current practice of investigative journalism in ETV. Media experts are people those who have an experience in the area and working in similar programs. Therefore, for this study eleven persons among the mentioned people were asked.

Individual in-depth interview can be taken as best method to explore if the issue is considered by the individual too sensitive to talk about in the presence of others (Mack et al, 2005). For this reason, the selected samples were interviewed. The in- depth-interview was accompanied by semi structured with open ended questions.

According to Jensen & Jankowski (1991), interview has a number of advantages. One is that it can cover variety views on a given subject. This could be done either by interviewing different informants in order to get diversified opinions or by preparing interview questions that cover over a wide area of subjects. Interview can also be useful as “heuristic devices”; leading to new perspectives and generating questions for later inquiries.

3.2.2 Secondary Sources of Data

Content Analysis of Sample of Broadcasts

The content analysis of sample programs was crucial to confirm with the interviewees' response on the program on the raised questions. To do so, the researcher looked at five programs which were produced this year and discussed different issues against the parameters set by and analyzed qualitatively in line with the in-depth individual interview.

3.3 Analyzing the Data

As the researcher stated earlier, the purpose of the research was to investigate the practice of investigative journalism in regard to the existing situation. The analysis of the data was accompanied by thematic coding based on the objectives and questions of the study. The codes weren't pre-set but they rather grew out of the data gathered. To do so, the interview was recorded and then translated (Amharic version) to English and the sample programs were analyzed by the parameters that were set. Results which were gathered with these instruments were interpreted carefully against the practice of investigative journalism which was discussed in the review of the literature. The presentation of the data structured in a narrative form with significant quotations to serve as evidence for the research findings. Since the respondents are not voluntary to be cited the researcher coded them to keep their anonymity.

*In analyzing data, respondents were coded based on their job as follows:

P----producer M---media expert J---journalist

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION

This chapter deals with presentation and interpretation of the data gathered from the respondents of the study area. This study, as discussed in the aforementioned chapters, is qualitative – involving explanation and interpretation of results. Thus, important issues pointed out in the literature review are also incorporated in the discussion of the research findings.

4.1 The Essence of Investigative Journalism

To practice investigative journalism in a way it has to be applied familiarizing with its concept is crucial. For this reason, the researcher has presented what discussed with the respondents.

In order to know their level of understanding, the researcher asked different informants about the essence of investigative journalism. Most of the interviewees elaborated investigative journalism as exposing wrongdoings which are against public interest and done either by government or individuals for the sake of their personal or group interest. Another interviewee from the journalists (J1) explained it in such neutral way as “investigative journalism means exposing something that is not clear or hidden for the society and should be extracted by a journalist’s investigation; but in each process it should be apparent and need an opinion of concerned bodies. In such issue, the journalist informs the society through conducting intensive research which includes all stakeholders.” According to this respondent, investigative journalism is not only dealing with exposing wrongdoings but also something good and important for the public.

Similarly, one of the media experts (m1) clarifies investigative journalism in broad way as follows:

As we know in journalism literature and practice, investigative journalism is a form of reporting when a public official, group of people or private individuals abuse and misuse power; in the time of moral and legal transgression; journalists report it with public interest point of view. But the problem is many scholars in journalism reduce investigative journalism to master sergeant or police work. But journalism is a nature of inquiry into the world of history, culture, politics, science etc. Therefore, it investigates something that is known or within the society even in the absence of crime. Investigative journalism consists of these two equally important aspects. Some people reduce it to crime; abuse and misuse of power. I do not agree. For instance, we attempt to produce about marginalized poor urban communities who have their own lifestyle and hope and fear. We seek and investigate about how they live in that world; how they make themselves anchor and define their hopes and fears. That is also investigative journalism.

This statement indicates that investigative journalism does not only exist in the world of crime or wrongdoings but it also investigates something out of crime and wrongdoings that is very important to the public. It means it has dual function. Though the respondents explained investigative journalism in the way they understand, there is one point that makes common for what the above informants said. That is, investigative journalism deals with exposing something public interest that is concealed from the public through intensive research. According to Williams (quoted in Protes,et al. 1991,p.4),"It is a business of gathering and sorting ideas and facts, building patterns, analyzing options and making decisions based on logic rather than emotion-including the decision to say no at any of the several stages"

Meanwhile deputy of general director and head of educational programs of ERTA reflects "Especially in our context, investigative journalism is dealing with exposing

irregularities which are observed in government institutions in relation to good governance and unfair activities to the concerned bodies to take corrections; in order to strengthen democracy and good governance the country has been doing for.” It indicates that contextually investigative journalism mainly targets government institutions when irregularities observed to promote the policy and strategies of the government.

Therefore, it can be said that the concept of investigative journalism is recognized by the stakeholders at least it can be practiced contextually.

4.2 Why Investigative Journalism for Ethiopia?

Having discussed about the concept of investigative journalism, the researcher grasped ideas from respondents on its indispensability for Ethiopia and organized the ideas here below.

A response of respondents on the significance of investigative journalism to Ethiopia is very important and the researcher questioned media experts to forward their understanding whether they contextualize it or not. One of them (m1) said “It is very important. In a democratic institution, the purpose of journalism is normative function, which is check and balance. Government and institutions which are operating in investigating cannot investigate what is all going on. Therefore, it is important to have a mechanism that assists such work. From this point of view, to build a democratic institution, culture and society, investigative journalism is quite important.” Similarly, another media expert (m2) also explained in relation to the current condition of the country as follows:

Investigative journalism is very important, because our country is a developing country that is found in a dynamic social change. It means there is a huge economic activity. In this time there is huge investment, construction, auction etc. Thus, a lot of money is invested here. In such scenario, it is not difficult to guess that how much corruption can be done. Therefore, investigative journalism is now very important for Ethiopia than ever.

From these respondents it can be said that since investigative journalism is standing to investigate wrongdoings, it is vital bulwark of democracy and good governance. This time, especially, the country is in vibrant social and economic activities which need huge investment. These activities should be healthy and mainly benefit the people. Therefore, investigative journalism can serve as guardian of these activities by fighting activities which can hinder the development such as irregularities, corruption and lack good of governance.

Reang and Nariddh (2007, p.13) strengthen the idea of the respondents as follows: “In a country that lacks transparency, it is important to have investigative journalists like “a crow flying over a cow with a wounded back” as a Khmer saying goes. The wounded cows, like corrupt officials, would pretend to be eating poor farmers’ rice without being afraid of anything until they noticed crows flying over and whip their tails.”

4.3 Reflection of Media experts on the practice of Investigative Journalism in the Ethiopian Media

In this section, the respondents discussed whether there is enabling environment or not and reflect their view on the practice of investigative journalism in Ethiopian media.

To discuss the practice of investigative journalism in Ethiopian media, first, it is better to look at the existing situation in the country. For this reason, the researcher asked media

experts to forward their view on whether the current environment is conducive to practice investigative journalism or not. One of the media experts (m1) illuminate as follows:

Now it is possible. First we have to define the way we practice investigative journalism. For instance, within investigative journalism there is a barking dog. This barks when it observes problems and blames the people who committed the mistake. Ethiopia is not a country of prevailing transparency. So the culture does not allow this because, it could panic the whistleblowers. The other one is the lapdog. This media is driven by governments, advertisers or interested group and harassed the guilt man by already 'given by given agenda'. This also cannot be functional in Ethiopia. The third one is constructive dog (investigative journalism).It investigates before problems happened and warns solutions to be made. This kind can be functional in Ethiopia.

From this text, it can be deduced that the existing situation in Ethiopia according to the informant is appropriate for constructive investigative journalism which deals with investigating situations leading to abuse and misuse of power. It means investigating once the problem happened some how difficult. The reason behind this is our culture does not encourage people to entertain such events wisely. So this kind of investigative journalism guarantees both the source and the body to be investigated since it mainly indicates on taking preliminary actions.

Another respondent (m3) replied the question by identifying frameworks which are helpful to practice investigative journalism. These are: legal, mass media institutions' working situation, journalists' qualification and public perception. To him, investigative journalism is a dangerous assignment because there is no legal protection for journalists but whistleblowers. This discourages the journalist to join him/her self to this assignment. Since investigative journalism requires huge institutional capacity (capital) and intensive research, there is no institution which can entertain this task. Lack of qualified journalists, especially who respect the ethical guidelines of the profession; and public perception as

being source of information. Therefore, this informant connected the situation with these aspects. The other media expert (m2) explained it as follows:

To evaluate the current situation, it is better to understand the past. Its historical background should be carefully evaluated. If we cannot understand this, we cannot thank and judge the current one. Now things are changed. In this regard some conducive environment is started to be seen. The government established an institution which is ethics and anti corruption commission. Evidences can be found there because they conduct excellent research. This indicates that there is conducive environment for investigative journalism. In contrast, there are institutions which are hesitating in giving information. The journalist suffers in such situation. Sometimes journalists prefer not to go through on a given issue due to lack of confidence and internal fear not because of the government's pressure. I have seen such journalists while working in the profession. So the government should also be committed in avoiding such problems.

The above respondent elaborated that in relation to the history with the previous situation and government's commitment to strengthen such practices. To do so, the government has established an institution that can help investigative journalism which mainly fights corruption and expose wrongdoings against the public interest. He also added that journalists should be alert and courageous to fulfill their responsibility properly.

Therefore, it is possible to say that the current environment is somehow conducive to practice investigative journalism in Ethiopia than ever. This time at least the government somehow established some mechanisms which can investigate its wrongdoings and this may encourage other media outlets both government and private owned to involve in such practices to promote democracy and good governance.

Having discussed about whether the current environment is conducive to practice investigative or not, these respondents forwarded their view on the practice of investigative journalism in Ethiopian media. One of the media experts (m1) explained

“well it needs research. Each media institutions’ news, documentaries, talk shows etc need to be looked. I personally did not see a research on this topic. However, as I told you earlier, there is one aspect that is investigating crime issues. There are some attempts but investigative journalism is not a permanent attribute of Ethiopian journalism.” It indicates that though there are attempts, they are totally focusing on one aspect that is investigating crimes. Ethiopian media are not commonly characterized by investigative journalism. Similarly other respondent (m3) strengths the idea in such broad way as:

There are two arguments. Based on the discussion we had with media professionals, there are some people who claim that there is no investigative journalism at all; and others say there are some attempts. I personally do not take side. But when we observe the practice from the nature of investigative journalism, it requires huge institutional capacity. Thus, I do not believe that there are media institutions, whether private or government owned, which have the capacity to run investigative journalism in Ethiopia. Though there are some attempts, they are not normally investigative journalism but simple cross checking.

From this extract we can understand that with the current media capacity investigative journalism is not well entertained since Ethiopian media do not have the capacity to do so. Therefore, it can be said that they are practicing a little bit of investigative journalism.

When he (m3) was asked to comment on how he observed ERTA’s 'Aynachin' program; he responded from the angle of budget, the allotted time to the program and journalists’ role in the program. To him it does not have the elements which an investigative journalism should have. But he believes that there are some attempts to make the civil servant becomes accountable with its ethical problems while entertaining different issues. According to him though the journalist has the right to ask, the way journalists forward questions in the program is sometimes unethical. They consider themselves as an official

who has power and interrupt interviewees while expressing their idea and it looks like court case.

The other respondent (m1) also expressed his own view on the program. He considered it as a breakthrough because if the government can be examined by its own media and identify its failure that is one step ahead; and it indicates that investigative journalism can be practiced in Ethiopia. He also identified the ethical problems “From the program I watched, directly or indirectly there is blaming (judging) one side of stakeholders of the investigation. The journalists are observed while intervening and harassing when they can state the facts and let the judgment to the audience and use of excessive ambush interview.”

Moreover, another respondent (m2) also forwarded his observation on the program. He admired the commitment and initiative of the producers. He stated that it is not expected to fulfill all elements of investigative journalism in a short period of time since it is directly related with our development. So, the initiative is recommendable. But according to him there are some problems in the program. He explained “I observed some things to be corrected. These are flaw of data presentation (they do not present the data chronologically) and there is also a gap between the expectation of the people and what are presented .While viewers hear and know so many things about the issue, they come with ordinary officials and sketchy information.” To him, investigative journalism is not only simply reporting but it should also follow the development and go up to the concerned bodies who can decide.

Based on these ideas, it is possible to conclude that the attempt being made by the program is recommendable. Especially, the government's initiative to evaluate its work by its own media takes the practice of investigative journalism one step ahead. However, the ethical problems mentioned by the respondents; and presenting issues with sketchy information which is below the people's expectation somehow affects the program not to advance in the way it should. The researcher had also seen these ethical problems on the sample broadcasts. To summarize, it is better something than nothing and gradually the program can be fully recognized and practiced; and it could take the role of the media beyond covering about cutting ribbon rather the way they are cut. ,

In regard to the ethical problems, Kantumoya (2004) states that an investigative reporter always must show respect for the rights and wellbeing of people involved in the time of gathering and presenting information and should act independently.

4.4 Investigative Journalism in the Ethiopian Radio and Television

Agency

This part deals with the explanation of respondents on the practice of investigative journalism in ERTA ('Aynachin' program) in the ground apart from the concept they have.

The practice of investigative journalism is directly related with the aim of the station that has earlier been defined under the topic of the essence of investigative journalism. The researcher understood from the discussions made with producers, editor and officials of the station, its main target is investigating government institutions which have experienced lack of good governance and irregularities when delivering service to the

public. With this assumption the researcher asked journalists who are assigned to the educational programs department to state their observation on whether the station is practicing investigative journalism or not. One of the interviewee (J2) first preferred to state about the existing situation in ERTA and then its practice as follows:

I cannot say there is investigative journalism or not. There are attempts being made and established programs to promote it. It is questionable to what extent they are performing. It did some good things and even though it brought changes, it is not being performed as expected from such big institution. Regarding ‘Aynachin’ program, it may not be completely perfect. Especially, it has a problem in following up the issue to the end (following the result of the investigation). In this regard the science might not exactly be practiced.

According to the above respondent, the attempt by itself is one thing despite its problem with interpreting the science of investigative journalism. Similarly, the other journalist (J1) shared the stated idea and clarified: “It is not only difficult in our institution but I do not believe that the concept is well understood by the public. As an institution it is organized at a department level but it is not well equipped and the journalists’ capacity is not crafted as well. Since it is a very difficult task, it needs both personal skill and resource. It is also questionable whether we journalists really understand the concept. But nowadays there is a progress in extracting some important issues and even politically assigned people begin to be interviewed.”

Based on the above ideas, it is possible to say that though the station is in need of practicing investigative journalism, in the ground it lacks commitment to do so. The station is not well armed to exercise it as it is expected.

As regards building up the capacity of investigative journalists by training, the researcher posed a question to the respondents and most of them admitted that they are not well

armed in trainings regarding investigative journalism. The station rather provides excessive training in documentary production but only promises for investigative journalists. One of the producers (p1) also said, “No. Never, Maybe Ethics and Anti corruption commission invites you to attend a half day workshop on report of corruption scandals and discuss how to combat corruption.”

The deputy general director and head of educational programs replies, “I believe that they are not well trained but after all, the journalist should be passionate rather than providing lame reasons. If he/she has to extract evidence beyond the fence, they should do it whether they are trained or not.”

Therefore, based on the above statements it can be said that the station is not building the capacity of the journalists to practice investigative journalism well: and lack of passionate journalists also hinders the practice of investigative reporting in the station. It has not been given due emphasis.

The other question raised by the researcher was concerning the program’s inconsistency and not accompanied by follow up stories. Though the producers admitted that there is lack of human resource, there is also a problem of logistics when we need to produce a follow up story. One of them (p1) also added that once they exposed the wrongdoing of the institution they afraid to get back and do the follow up story. If investigative stories are not accompanied by changes following the investigation, it is considered as half work.

According to these respondents the main reason for the programs inconsistency is lack of human resource. There are only four journalists in the investigative team with two

programs “Aynachin” and “Fitlefit” and this is too difficult to run the program weekly as before. That is why the program becomes occasional.

Here we can understand that the practice of investigative journalism is in early stage in ERTA due to lack of qualified human power and adequate physical resource allocated by the station; and the public awareness make it not to be practiced as it is expected. In relation to these ideas, Reang and Nariddh (2007) state that investigative reporting requires a lot of investment and long time than a routine reporting; and after all it should report the result of whether the investigation brings a change or not because investigative stories intend to change or correct wrong doings.

4.4.1 Areas of Issue Coverage

Investigative journalism has a crucial role in promoting democracy and development by looking at different affairs that are public interest. Respondents clearly discussed this issue in relation to what they have been practicing so far.

Regarding issues and targets which have been entertained in investigative journalism respondents shared their opinion. One of the interviewee from the media experts (m1) said “It is infinite, but traditionally it is considered that dealt with crime against public interest.” Similarly another media expert (m2) also strengthens the stated idea as follows:

I do not think that it is possible to put a cut line that investigative journalism should rely on. National issue is basic. There is also no demarcation not to cover private individual issues, if it touches basic interest of the people. In many countries because of private individuals’ attack, issues take global form and brought international mobilization. For instance, in Tunisia a single person who was mistreated regarding his business and burnt himself. This was exposed and revolution erupted up in

Tunisia and ousted the government. Therefore, it has to be all rounded as the depth and width of the issue.

One can understand from this text that investigative journalism does have a limit and focuses both on private and government based on its importance to the public. National interest issues can be given a priority. “There are not issues considered as off limits to investigative reporters” (William Gaines 1994, p.2).

Regarding issue coverage one of the producers (p2) of 'Aynacin' program explained that the main thing is not regarding the target (government or private) rather the consequence and importance of the issue after aired on. He also added a point on the current practice in ERTA. As he explained, at this time the focus is on issues related to land, which is connected to corruption, lack of good governance and irregularities. Most of the time, tips that come to their station are related with land. Most of the producers also agreed on the mentioned issue. This is also observed in sample programs; out of these five programs the researcher analyzed three of them were about land.

Moreover, the deputy of general director and head of educational programs explained that his media stand is focusing on issues of lack of good governance and corruption in government institutions.

According to these respondents, issues entertained by the program are measured with the government policy and strategy. These issues have to have a role to promote democracy and good governance that the government has been doing so far.

To the question why the program does not entertain other issues such as religious and political issues which are of public interest, one of the producers (p2) related it with the FDRE constitution that states about religion and state. It underlined that government and

religion are separate and they cannot interfere with each other. If corruption is made behind religion they could investigate; but they have never encountered it yet. Similarly, regarding politics he said that issues are not yet forwarded to them. Therefore, they do not attempt to produce such program.

But the other producer (p1) replied in a different way: “Firstly, it is preferred to produce a program on religious tolerance rather than to extract something different. Secondly, the editorial policy does not encourage this. It is also the same to politics and investigating politics is too difficult. On one side you personally may have the fear and on the other side the station’s stand to entertain such an issue is also other business.” The editor of the investigative program also strengthens the reason mentioned by the producer. He stated that politics, religion, and nation nationalities issues are sensitive.

Deputy of general director and head of educational programs, however, related it with the existing situation of the country. He said “Politics and religious issues are not investigated because there is a problem of attitude and perception. Since democracy is emerging in this country you may not correct and solve by extracting problems in relation to these issues.” The other producer (p4) forwarded his idea on entertaining issues by saying “Indeed the editorial policy blocks us not to produce religious issues. Even with permitted once we journalists prefer to produce simple issues which are our interest.”

From the respondents explanation, it can be stated that in relation to the issue coverage, investigative journalism is targeting both private and government institutions. However, ERTA is currently focusing on government institutions (mostly land issues) in order to promote good governance and democracy in the country but it is not lack of getting other

issues rather journalists are not in finding of issues but issues related to land are finding them. And other significant issues which lost recognition of the journalists' are neglected and in need of people who can take them to the station.

Regarding on not covering politics and religious issues the editorial policy, the existing attitude and perception and interest of journalists' are raised as justifications.

However, the FDRE constitution in article 11 states that government and religion are separable but it does not mean media should not cover religious issues. It is a lame reason because it does not state even a single word that blocks investigative journalism not to cover religious issues. Regarding to the editorial policy, the 2005 editorial policy for television section, it does not state anything unique for politics and religious issues coverage unless these could bring civil crisis. And this is the main function of any responsible media station.

Therefore, the respondents' justification is based on lack of self confidence and their personal interest not to cover some complex issues. The station also does not encourage investigative journalists to investigate such issues and this makes journalists to consider these affairs as untouchable areas in their practice without any written justification than depending on the informal preaching of spiral of silence to cove these issues. For this reason 'Aynachin' program cannot somehow meet among the tents of investigative journalism i.e., "investigative reporting should cover serious issues which affect the public interest" (Forbes, 2005, p.6).

4.4.2 Sources of Investigative Stories

Sources especially for investigative journalism has a decisive role since organizing crucial and relevant information help to produce a successful program. To do so, different sources can be used to cover investigative stories. Respondents forwarded their view here below.

Like other areas of journalism, there are also different originations for investigative stories. The researcher asked the producers about what could be the main sources for their investigative stories. One of the producers (p3) explained “You can get ideas in many ways. Tips come from the complaints and devoted people. You can also get rumors anywhere; from newspapers; institutions which are working in the area like Ethics and Anti-corruption Commission and personal observation. Ideas also come from the area we investigate and others through phone calls.” Similarly, another producer (p1) also shared the idea as follows:

Ideas can be found in two ways; firstly as a journalist you should look and interpret things in different ways. Especially, investigative journalist should be alert and curious. Therefore, you should run the business by collecting information. Secondly, tips come from people. We mostly use tips and then extract evidences for the investigation.

Ideas for investigative stories can emanate from a number of sources these are, tips-off; public rumor; journalist’s curiosity; trends and change; and other news media (Forbes, 2005).

As explained by the respondents whose statements written above and others, it seems that the origins for the investigative stories emanates from tip-offs, journalists’ observation, and institution which are running such business. But practically most of the time they investigate issues based on tips come either from the complaints or some other

whistleblowers those who do not have a relation with the issue rather being devoted to their country. Investigating issues based on personal observation (journalist) is not habitual in the program. And this creates conducive environment producers to focus on specific issues which repeatedly come to their office especially land issues. However, some scholars do not consider that investigating based on someone else's information as practice of investigative reporting since the journalist has not conducted original work (Waisbord, 2000).

According to Forbes (2005,p.6), "Investigative reporting needs a long-term process of planning, information gathering and corroboration using a diverse range of sources." This means investigative stories should accompanied by using variety of sources.

Having said this about the origin for the investigative stories, it is better to discuss about how they select tips for investigation and extract evidences. With regard to this, respondents were asked to forward their idea whether criteria are set or not. The editor of the program states his idea relating it with assigning journalists as, "In the investigative journalism team, there are four journalists who produce programs and I assign any journalist who is not assigned to study the area and come up with evidences for the defense." Similarly one of the producers (p1) of the program strengthens the idea in such way:

After tips come to our department, the assigned journalist come with research based evidence to the editorial board of investigative journalism team to decide on whether the issue should be investigated or not. In the defense, we digest it in regards to law and other factors and after it is well organized, it is forwarded to socio- economic department head. He/she also sends it to educational programs directorate and the head endorses it, then the program is going to be produced.

One can grasp from the above statement of the respondents that there are no any criteria to assign journalists to investigate a given issue. Their background or experience is not considered to give assignments for the journalists and this can has its own impact on the investigation especially in digging out detailed information by looking at different dimensions using their experience. The research is being conducted by a single journalist and this 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).

In the sample broadcasts, it was also observed that all of them were researched by a single journalist who produced and presented the program. That is why some programs lacked detailed information and some people who had to be interviewed were not included in some of the programs though even the reason was not stated. This lets its own impact on presenting relevant and diverse ideas that had to be presented.

According to the respondents (producers), however, even the team agrees up on the production, a program can be cancelled if the head for educational programs and other official do not approve for some reasons from their point of view. This could also happen on a produced program which is ready for transmission. Some programs were entertained in this way. This indicates that programs which are proposed for production are exposed for personal decisions than professional judgments. Thus, these producers are not working their task with professional freedom as they should and the resource is not properly utilized due to the organizational pressure.

According to the producers, following the approval, they inform the institution which is going to be investigated and other concerned bodies that they meet for information. This has both negative and positive impacts on the investigation. It helps to make ready the concerned bodies for both to prepare relevant information and at the same to hide sources (both human and physical) which are thought very important for the investigation. Since the program is going to extract their wrongdoing.

Meanwhile the researcher also asked respondents to identify whether criteria are set to select issues for investigation. Deputy general director and head of educational programs explained “we select issues based on their width and weight, how much the issue affects the society and its influence in promoting good governance and democracy; do they educate the concerned bodies; these are the criteria. All issues are not going to be produced.” According to the respondents Personal, families and issues under trial are not entertained by the program. This indicates that it has to be public interest and informative to stakeholders especially for those who are public officials.

Similarly, Reang and Narrdih (2007, p.16) states, “The story must tell something that the audience is interested, which affects them and their daily life.”

Here, it is possible to conclude that though there are some criteria to select issues for investigation, these criteria are more subjective. And this creates conducive environment to conduct investigations on personal judgment as the researcher stated earlier.

Unlike event reporting, investigative reporting needs intensive and careful research, because it is extracting the hidden to the light (Hunter, nd). As a result, evidences can be deliberately hidden. The researcher questioned the respondents for how long they conduct

a research to investigate a given issue. One of the producers (p3) of the program elaborated here below:

Research depends on the issue. First, when you investigate, it should have width and depth. It has to be research based. It is not like anything you go and assess. You have to have facts and evidences not only tip. Especially, it could not be smooth while collecting evidences from the area; concerned bodies could hide necessary documents to tackle the investigation. In such cases you should find people who give you such evidences. It is open, sometimes people may come with all necessary documents, and you may be expected to look at the issue in relation to proclamation, regulation and directives.

According to this respondent, the research duration that take to produce a program is indefinite. Since it is sensitive assignment, it needs careful collection of facts and evidence. But if people come with adequate evidence, it shortens the time. This implies that journalists also need extracted evidences to simplify their work rather strive to extract information themselves. They simply need to minimize their effort in the investigation. And this somehow contradicts with the nature of investigative journalism.

While investigating issues, different tools can be used. According to the respondents, the main tool for their investigation is document than human source. It means secondary sources are the backbone of the program in addition to other sources. The reason behind this is that most of the time people are reluctant to take part in the investigation as a source. The researcher had also observed this in the sample broadcasts while documents are intensively used.

As the work is too difficult and sensitive, it is unthinkable to get evidences easily and on time. Even sometimes evidences can intentionally be hidden if the organization which is going to be investigated recognizes it ahead of the data collection process. So the researcher asked the respondents if it is allowed to hide their identity or use surveillance

for the sake of getting essential evidences. One of the producers (p3) said “you have the right to obtain information legally not by force. There is a law to extract the hidden; this is the line you should follow. If you go beyond this, you are unlawful and it is personal, department’s and ERTA’s stance. If you think like this you cannot do it.”

Another producer (p1) of the program said, “You observe while media are doing a miracle in investigative journalism. But it is difficult in our case. You yourself fear because you do not have any protection. It is also questioned how much a program can run that you brought by such means. The editorial policy also does not permit it”

From the above extract, it is possible to say that using surveillance or hide one’s identity to bring information is strictly forbidden in ERTA’s editorial policy. In addition to this, since there is no any protection for the journalist, they are not encouraged to practice it in their investigation. The 2005 editorial policy (Television section), FDRE constitution article (26) the right to privacy and penal code also do not allow such activities and if someone breaches this can be fined.

However, another interviewee from the producers (p2) stated that there is a situation which allows you to use it. He says “Though it is unethical to dig out information without the consent of the concerned bodies but if it is public interest and the journalist blocked to get it, I think the profession may permit it.” The editor of the program also said that they sometimes use surveillance to find a document and they produce some programs. Similarly, the deputy general director and head for educational programs strengthened it as follows:

Our editorial policy doesn’t allow such methods to collect information, for instance you cannot take visuals without the consent of the person

concerned and hide one's identity. But there might be situations which force you to use it. The journalist can use hidden cameras and hide his/her identity when the way to find the information is very narrow and its degree of public interest is high. Then we justify the editorial policy.

To conclude, using surveillance is somehow allowed in producing investigative stories when other legal means of obtaining information are exhausted. Most media do not allow reporters to use such mechanisms while reporting because it is considered as deception. Reporters actually take it as the last option when other formal means are exhausted; and the consequence following the story is laid on the reporter (Kantumoya, 2004).

However, it seems investigative journalists do not try to apply surveillance due to liking to follow the legal ways and which the editorial policy permits; and personal fear in regards to protection. Regarding the editorial policy, it is possible to conclude that some producers of the program are not familiar with justifying of the editorial policy to apply surveillance and because of these significant evidences that are public interest might be ignored. And this may affect the investigation in getting evidences which could not be found in the formal way of searching because investigative reporting is not about event reporting rather scandals. In such situation no body is expected to give you a piece of information that can take him/her may be to jail. Therefore, it is the investigative journalist's responsibility to decide whether to satisfy public interest or to betray his/her vow.

Verification of Documents

Using reliable and relevant information after all guarantee the investigation to be accepted by the public and strive them to take part in similar works. In this regard, respondents explained their point of view.

Documents are manmade and supplementary. As they have a great contribution in providing written information, they can also be modified; especially in investigative journalism, this can be seen widely. Thus, how do producers of 'Aynachin' program verified the validity and reliability of the document they found for their investigation?

One of the producers (p2) replied:

For instance, there was a complain that takes a decade , so when I went there the official provided me with modified document which had been made to be similar as it is written before 10 years and he said that they gave them this letter for the complaints. So you can cross check it in many ways; such as by police, by looking at seal and signature of officials and other things. It needs careful technique, and this is the key function of investigative journalism to realize the evidence.

According to this respondent he uses his personal skill and such methods to verify the validity and reliability of the documents. Most of the respondents have agreed up on verifying documents' reliability contacting different legal organizations like Ethics and anti corruption commission, human rights commission, ombudsman and other concerned institutions as helpful because most of the time issues pass over these organizations. Similarly, the deputy general director and head for educational programs underlined that it could happen and fabricated evidences could be provided for evidence after all the journalist should be curious in his investigation.

This indicates that the station has no mechanism to verify documents. After all, the journalist should be smart and wise otherwise he would not escape from being accountable for the mistake he committed. However, it is difficult a single journalist to describe all things since the research and investigation lay on him/her shoulder; and in addition to this how could they encounter such things with their personal skills while they are not armed and trained well. This may create unnecessary fear on the journalists while

investigating. Thus, this puts its impact on the investigation since the program is highly dependent on documents as a basic tool.

According to Gaines (1994), documents need to be understood and their meanings should be accurately related to the story being investigated. Otherwise, they may mislead the investigator. A document without human resource must be correctly interpreted. After all it is better to know that documents are not the last stages of the investigation.

4.4.3 Challenges of Practicing Investigative journalism in ERTA

Since investigative journalism is a difficult task, it faces a lot of challenges which takes journalists up to life scarification. In this section, the researcher discussed the major challenges to practice investigative journalism in ERTA with ‘Aynachin’ program in particular.

To identify the major challenges to practice investigative journalism in the agency the researcher posed questions to the respondents and expressed their ideas. One of the media experts (m2) illuminated it as follows:

First and foremost it should be understood that what investigative journalism is and the skill it needs; issues it includes, the journalist’s mission and responsibility, obligation to law of investigative journalism, both the compliant and those being investigated, should be treated objectively. It is difficult for me to believe that there are investigative journalists who can wisely run such tasks in appropriate way.

This extract implies that lack of qualified investigative journalists is the major challenge to practice investigative journalism. Most of the respondents shared the idea; especially, producers of the program underlined that absence of adequate training to build up their capacity greatly affects their practice.

The other challenge raised by the respondents is related with the absence of committed journalists who are ready to pay scarification and accept it as reward for their investigation of public interest. Most of them related it with lack of incentives apart from other journalists working in the station. Similarly, one of the producers (p4) stated that the reason why journalists are not being committed as follows:

A journalist may sometimes not be committed because his/her friends working with him/her may receive their salaries without doing anything or simply reproducing something that is recorded only by adding captions, intro etc within a month; but when you do investigative assignments, you suffer and face so many challenges. Therefore, in such situation the investigative journalist may fail to be committed if his/her work is equally entertained with the other journalists.

According to the respondent, entertaining investigative journalism as other assignments by the station may discourage journalists making them not to be committed to their work. It means that the organization's attitude to this job is not as it should have to be. And this affects the development of the practice of investigative reporting in the station since the producers are not evaluated per their effort. And this may lead journalists to involve in brown envelope journalism that highly affects the validity and reliability of investigative stories (Lodamo and Skjerdal, 2009).

The other thing that is mentioned by the respondents is that the organization's commitment to strengthen investigative journalism is not much. It can be explained in different ways, for instance, the investigative team is not well armed both in human resource and logistics. One of the producers (p1) strengthened the idea as "you may use your pocket for transport to collect evidences for the investigation and to copy documents." Similarly other producer (p4) elaborates such challenges as follows:

As regards to the organization, there might be things connected with politics. If the program is believed that it can dissatisfy some politically assigned people, you are requested to extract something or polish which is thought to be the key theme of the story unless it can be canceled after you already produced the program that come with unreserved effort. I know some programs that are entertained in this way.

In addition, external institutions also interfere in the program since the station is somehow subsidized and the station does not like disappointing the sponsor if not the sponsorship can immediately be terminated.

Therefore, from the above idea it is possible to say that there is political and financial pressure which leads to entertain the interest of the influentials rather than public interest. And ERTA seems failing to resist some challenges and this is undermining the Journalists effort and public interest. According to Hester, and To, W. (2011), private owned media are not encouraged to produce an investigative story which is not needed by the owner. The same thing can happen in the government media if the agenda is related to the government interest.

According to the respondents there is also a great challenge in obtaining relevant information for the investigation. One of the producers (p3) states it as follows:

First the nature of the program is to explore gaps of institutions and private individuals, and nobody likes this. I do not know, may be religious people get penance for their benefit. But this is not penance; because you are investigating by saying 'you are preaching and breaking your promise. Therefore, he/she might not be voluntary to be interviewed. To do so, he/she may postpone the day for interview; and preach to determine your work as it is falsehood, not important and informative.

The researcher also observed in the sample broadcasts while concerned bodies being reluctant to give information in such unethical way that is not expected from one government official to do so.

Another respondent from the media experts justified for what the producer says as “first there is no trust framework between journalists and the public; journalists and institutions (public or private).It is not yet developed in the community and there are people who do not recognize that journalists are doing this for good.”

Therefore, based on the mentioned statements it can be said that there is a difficult situation in obtaining information for the investigation since it is done to dig out wrongdoings of the subjects those being investigated. The reason behind this is the absence of trust framework between the investigator and those being investigated due to misunderstanding the importance of investigative journalism. Investigative journalists, therefore, should try persuading the subjects by giving confidence on the consequence .Investigative journalists should be confidential for their sources while investigating especially for those who do not need to be identified their identity (Kantumoya 2004).

Most respondents also stated that threats can be forwarded from those who are exposed their irregularities since investigative journalists have not any protection; they are exposed for various attacks and some of them were imprisoned illegally during investigating. Investigative journalism by its nature is a difficult job. Some assignments are very dangerous to the journalist’s life (Forbes, 2005). Some people may also try to entertain journalists with financial benefits if it is possible not to produce the program or to remove some facts that they need to be lifted up.

To summarize according to the respondents, the major challenges to the practice of investigative journalism are: lack of skilled human power and logistics, inadequate training, absence of committed journalists, absence of incentives for investigative

journalists, absence of trust frame work among journalists, institutions and the public; misunderstandings of the importance of investigative journalism in the community; organizational pressure; external interference such as political and financial ;threats and absence of protection for journalists during pre production, production and post-production.

CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusions

This study focuses on the practice of investigative journalism in the Ethiopian radio and television agency, ‘Aynachin’ program. To answer the basic research questions and to meet the objectives of the study, qualitative research approach was employed.

Since the study needs description and analysis of the existing situation in the Ethiopian radio and television agency in relation to practicing investigative journalism, the researcher used individual in-depth interview and content analysis of some sample programs (broadcasts). The researcher used individual in-depth interview to extract detailed and reliable data about the subject. Interviewees were selected based on their background knowledge they have and their proximity to the subject matter. The content analysis of sample programs was crucial to confirm with the interviewees’ response (especially producers) of the program on the raised questions. To do so, the researcher looked at five programs which discussed different issues against the parameters set by. In addition, some theoretical foundations regarding investigative journalism were also raised.

Based on the research findings, the researcher has come up with the following conclusions:

- ❖ Regarding the level of understanding of respondents about the essence of investigative journalism, it was found that they have a common understanding

that investigative journalism deals with exposing wrongdoings that are hidden but of public interest.

- ❖ According to the respondents, investigative journalism is now highly imperative for the country than ever, because it is found in a dynamic social and economic change.
- ❖ Concerning the situation to the practice of investigative journalism in Ethiopian media there is now somehow conducive environment and a little attempt when compares to the past.
- ❖ Regarding ‘Aynachin’ program, the result of the study showed that it is attempting to practice investigative journalism although it is in early stage. And it mainly targets government institutions which fail to promote democracy and good governance.
- ❖ The program lacks presenting detailed information of the concerned bodies. This is the result of investigating a given issue only by a single journalist.
- ❖ Moreover, decision on the issue to be aired is made subjectively. Programs might not be transmitted if the higher officials do not approve it despite the investigative team decide to produce the program. There are no clear criteria to select issues for production.
- ❖ As the study showed that most of the time the program covered land issues in relation to good governance and democracy. In covering other issues such as politics and religion, producers failed to do it due to the need not to cover

complex issues and being highly dependent on issues came to the station rather they extract themselves.

- ❖ The finding also depicted that most of the time the program uses tip-offs as main sources for investigative stories. Physical (secondary) sources such as documents are intensively used as a tool for investigations because of people being reluctant to give information (as human source). However, the station has no any mechanism to verify the validity and reliability of documents since they could easily be modified; it lets journalists to curios. And this can somehow mislead the investigation. Surveillance is possible when other legal options are exhausted and the editorial policy could be justified for this reason but producers are not familiar with the above justification to do so.
- ❖ Excessive use of ambush interview and failing to respect people who involve in the investigation especially those being investigated are ethical problems observed in the program.
- ❖ The study also identified that lack of qualified journalists who were committed to this assignment, lack of logistics, lack of adequate training, organizational pressure, external interference such as political and financial, absence of incentives for investigative journalists, absence of protection for the journalist and poor public participation as being source of information are the major challenges while practicing investigative journalism in the station in particular to 'Aynachin' program.

5.2 Recommendations

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

- The Ethiopian Radio and Television Agency in particular and other concerned bodies like Ethics and Anti corruption commission in general should contribute their part by working jointly, especially with media institutions to build the capacity of journalists to strengthen the practice of investigative journalism in the Ethiopian media.
- The agency, especially, should strive to create conducive environment and build the capacity of the investigative journalism department by allocating adequate budget; by giving adequate training to enrich the potential of the journalists in the field and recognizing the effort of the journalists apart from other programs since it is quietly different and difficult job. It should also resist external influences when journalists produce relevant and important programs and avoid blocking them from putting their investigation on air. Journalists should also strive to do their best with the knowledge and skill they have rather than stating lame reasons.
- Educational institutions which are delivering related courses should also give attention for investigative journalism and work cooperatively with media organizations, especially in informing the public about its significance in order to give information which are indispensable for the development and democratization process.

- Researchers, who are interested in this area, are kindly invited to conduct a study on the aspect of audience reception analysis to extract findings how the people perceive the program and the changes realized by the program.

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Appendix I
Graduate School of Journalism and Communications
Addis Ababa University

GUIDELINES FOR DATA GATHERING

Interview Questions for Vice of the General Director of Educational programs

1. How do you (your organization) define investigative journalism?
2. What issues are focuses of your coverage?
3. What are the major obstacles your media face when practicing investigative journalism?
4. Why does the program become occasional?
5. Why does not the program accompany by follow up stories on the issue it raises?
6. Are there any trainings or special considerations your media house provide to enrich the capacity of Investigative journalists?

Interview Questions for the Program Editor and producers

1. What is investigative journalism for you?
2. How are you assigned to investigate a given issue?
3. Where do you get ideas to your investigation?
4. For how long do you research the area before you go to cover the issue?
5. What are your major targets (focus) of the program?

6. What issues are mainly covered by the program?
7. What kinds of instruments do you apply to investigate a given issue?(Interview, documents, surveillance and/or survey)
8. How do you select your sources while investigating a given issues? What type of sources you usually use?
9. What are the major challenges you face when practicing investigative journalism or covering an issue?
10. How do you assign journalists to investigate issues?
11. Why does the program become occasional?
12. What should be done to strengthen the practice of investigative journalism in your station?

Interview Questions for journalists working at ERTA Educational programs

1. How do you define investigative journalism?
2. Is there a conducive environment in your station to practice investigative journalism?
3. How do you evaluate the practice of investigative journalism in ERTA?
4. What are the major challenges to practice investigative journalism in ERTA?
5. Are there any trainings or special considerations the media house provide to enrich the capacity of Investigative journalists?

6. What should be done to strengthen the practice of investigative journalism in your station?

Interview Questions for media experts

1. How do you define investigative journalism?
2. How do you evaluate the practice of investigative journalism in Ethiopian media?
3. How do you observe 'Aynachin' program which is transmitted by ERTA in relation to investigative journalism?
4. Is there a conducive environment to practice investigative journalism in Ethiopia?
What are the major challenges to practice it?
5. Do you think that practicing investigative journalism is necessary for this country?
6. What should be done to strengthen the practice of investigative journalism in Ethiopian media?

Appendix II

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Addis Ababa University

Parameters for the Content Analysis of Sample Broadcasts

1. What type of sources does the program use to cover the issue?
2. Does the program present pertinent and diverse ideas regarding the issues it raises?
3. Does the program use instruments of investigative journalism?
4. What challenges do producers face while investigating?

Appendix III
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Sample Broadcasts

Title of the story	Issue of the story	Date of transmission
‘ከአጥፍ በስተጀርባ’ meaning “Behind the fence”	It was about Ethio-Dibouti rail road located around legahr, and the issue dealt with illegal construction inside the compound of the station.	09/03/2004E.C
‘መዘግየት ለምን?’ meaning “Why the delay?”	It was about the debate between Bahirdar Municipality and residents of some kebele in giving license on land ownership.	14/04/2004E.C
‘ለራስ ወይስ ለህዝብ?’ meaning “For the people or For personal benefit ...?”	It was about NGO which breaches the rules and regulation that has been given for personal interest.	25/02/2004E.C
‘ተጠያቂው ማን ነው?’ “Who is responsible?”	The issue dealt with Adama city administration on not paying compensation for farmers who are displaced for development purpose.	10/06/2004E.C
‘ያልተናበቡ ተቋማት....’ meaning “disintegrated institutions ...”	It was about Zewditu hospital maintenance and its irregularities on the process.	06/01/2004E.C

Declaration

I, the undersigned, declare that this thesis is my original work and all sources of materials used for this study have been appropriately acknowledged.

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Date of Submission: 28/06/2012

Place of submission: Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia