

ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND COMMUNICATION

AN INVESTIGATION IN TO THE PRESENCE OF ENABLING  
ENVIRONMENT FOR INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM IN  
ETHIOPIA: THE CASE OF EBC RADIO CLUSTER, FM 104.4  
MEKELLE, SNNPRS RTA/FM 100.9

BERHAN WELDEGEBRIEL

JUNE, 2018

Addis Ababa

AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE PRESENCE OF ENABLING  
ENVIRONMENT FOR INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM IN  
ETHIOPIA: THE CASE OF EBC RADIO CLUSTER, FM 104.4  
MEKELLE, SNNPRS RTA/FM 100.9

BERHAN WELDEGEBRIEL

ATHESIS SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND  
COMMUNICATION IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE  
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN  
JOURNALISM AND COMMUNICATION

ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY  
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA  
JUNE, 2018

ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND COMMUNICATION

AN INVESTIGATION IN TO THE PRESENCE OF ENABLING  
ENVIRONMENT FOR INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM IN  
ETHIOPIA: THE CASE OF EBC RADIO CLUSTER, FM 104.4  
MEKELLE, SNNPRS RTA/FM 100.9

BY

BERHAN WELDEGEBRIEL

ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

JUNE, 2018

## **School of Graduate Studies**

This is to certify that the thesis prepared by Berhan Weldegebriel, entitled “An investigation in to the presence of enabling environment for investigative journalism in Ethiopia: The case of EBC radio cluster FM 104.4 Mekelle, SNNPRS RTA/FM 100.9” and submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in Journalism and Communication complies with the regulations of the University and notes the accepted standards with respect to originality and quality.

Signed by the Examining Committee:

Examiner \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Examiner \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Chair of the Department or Graduate Coordinator**

## **Acknowledgements**

First and foremost my gratitude goes to Saint Virgin Mary with her son Jesus Christ! You never leave me alone! Thank You!!!

I am thankful to my Advisor Dr. Yohannes Shiferaw for his genuine support and patience through the whole process of this thesis.

My grandmother Tsiyoney even if you're not alive, you are still always with me! You are my foundation! My freedom! May God rest your soul in Heaven! I will always love you! This is for you!

Of course there are many people who are involved in this research. All my dearest friends, people who participated and cooperated in this research, thank you all!

## **List of Acronyms**

EBC – Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation

SNNPRS RTA– South Nation Nationalities and Peoples Regional State Radio and Television Agency

OBN - Oromia Broadcasting Network

FBC- Fana Broadcasting Corporate

## List of Tables and Charts

<b>List of Tables</b>	<b>Page</b>
Table 1 Demographic Profile of Respondents.....	46
Table 2 Access to Information Sources .....	48
Table 3 Organizational Support and Knowledge and Skill of Journalists in Investigative journalism.....	49
Table 4 Questions Related to Media law of Ethiopia.....	53
Table 5 General Knowledge Related to Investigative Journalism.....	55

<b>List of charts</b>	<b>Page</b>
Chart 1 Training on Investigative Journalism after Graduation from University or College stay.....	58
Chart 2 the desire to Specialize in Investigative Journalism.....	59

## **ABSTRACT**

This research was conducted in order to explore the presence of enabling environment for investigative journalism in Ethiopia in the case of EBC radio cluster, FM 104.4 Mekelle, SNNPRS RTA/FM 100.9. Therefore, both qualitative and quantitative approaches were used to collect the needed data. In-depth interview, questionnaire and document analyses of data collection methods were applied. The sources of this study were journalists from the selected radio stations, media managers and an instructor from the Department of Law Mekelle University. In-depth interview was conducted with the primary sources of key informants, total of ten which is 6 investigative journalists, three media manager and an instructor from Mekelle University law department. Besides, questionnaire was distributed among the journalists of the selected three radio stations from the existing different departments. Then 86 journalists filled the questionnaire. Finally document analysis (editorial polices) of the three radio stations were used as secondary sources.

The finding of the study reveals that, the poor applicability of media law and editorial policy in the media organizations, lack of full commitment from the government and media organizations to help journalists embark on investigative journalism are mainly contributed to the poor performance of investigative journalism in Ethiopia. In addition, journalists have lack of enough skill and knowledge of investigative journalism and there is less cooperation of public and government bodies to provide information for investigative journalists are the major findings.

Therefore, journalist should be strong, devoted to practice investigative journalism and confront challenges. In addition, all the concerned bodies should be committed and initiated in practicing the editorial policy of the organizations and media law should be implemented in the ground.

## Table of Contents

Acknowledgements.....	V
List of Acronyms .....	VI
List of Tables and Charts .....	VII
List of Tables .....	VII
ABSTRACT.....	VIII
CHAPTER ONE .....	1
INTRODUCTION .....	1
1.1 Background.....	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem.....	3
1.3 Objectives of the Study.....	5
1.3.1 General Objective of the Study.....	5
1.3.2 Specific Objectives .....	5
1.4 Research Questions.....	5
1.5 Significance of the Study .....	6
1.6 Scope of the Study .....	6
1.7 Limitation of the Study .....	7
1.8 Organization of the Study .....	7
CHAPTER TWO .....	8
2. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE .....	8
2.1 The Place of Media in Society .....	8
2.1.1 Media and Democracy .....	9
2.1.2 Social responsibility theory.....	11
2.2 Investigative Journalism .....	13
2.2.1 Historical Overview of Investigative Journalism.....	13
2.2.2 Definition of investigative journalism .....	15
2.2.3 Importance of investigative journalism.....	16
2.2.4 Practice of investigative journalism.....	18
2.3 Challenges of investigative journalism .....	19
2.3.1 Attitude of media managers (Editors).....	19
2.3.2 Budget and Facilities.....	20

2.3.3 Commitment of Journalists .....	21
2.3.4 Media Ownership.....	22
2.3.5 Lack of Information Sources.....	24
2.3.6 Lack of Skill and Professional Knowhow.....	25
2.3.7 Self- Censorship of Journalists .....	25
2.4 Journalists’ Right and Responsibility .....	26
2.4.1 Freedom of the Press and Access to Information.....	28
2.5 Development Journalism and Investigative Reporting .....	30
2.5.1 Development Journalism in Ethiopia .....	32
2.5.2 Training for Investigative Journalism in Ethiopia .....	33
2.6 Investigative Reporting and Media Law .....	34
2.6.1 Investigative Journalism and Media Law in Ethiopia.....	35
2.6.2 Protection for Journalists and Sources .....	36
CHAPTER THREE .....	40
METHODOLOGY .....	40
3.1 Research Design.....	40
3.2 Types of Data Sources .....	41
3.2.1 Primary Data Sources.....	41
3.2.2 Secondary Sources .....	41
3.3 Data Collection Tools .....	42
3.3.1 Questionnaire .....	42
3.3.2 In-depth Interview.....	42
3.4 Sample and Sampling Technique.....	43
3.5 Data Analysis.....	45
3.6 Ethical Considerations .....	45
CHAPTER FOUR.....	46
DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION .....	46
4.1 Introduction.....	46
4.2 Quantitative Findings.....	46
4.2.1 Demographic Profile of Respondents .....	46
4.2.2 Access to Information Sources .....	48
4.2.3 Organizational Support, Knowledge and Skill of Journalists in Investigative Journalism .....	49

4.2.4 Questions Related to Media Law of Ethiopia .....	53
4.2.5 General Knowledge Related to Investigative Journalism .....	55
4.2.6 Findings from the Open Ended Questions .....	58
4.3 Qualitative Findings.....	61
X In-depth Interview with Investigative Journalists .....	61
4.3.1 Background.....	61
4.3.2 Perception on Investigating Journalism .....	62
4.3.3 Development Journalism and Investigative Reporting .....	62
4.3.4 Importance of Investigative Journalism .....	63
4.3.5 Organizational Support to Investigative Journalism .....	64
4.3.6 The Opportunity to get Public Information and Sources .....	67
4.3.7 The Knowledge of the Existing Media Law .....	68
4.3.8 Media Law Protection for Journalists and Sources.....	69
4.3.9 Challenges of Practicing Investigative Stories.....	69
4.3.10 Suggestions for a Better Investigative Journalism in Ethiopia in the Future .....	70
Xx In-depth Interview with Media Managers.....	71
4.4 Vision and Commitment to Struggle the Public Problems .....	71
4.4.1 Organizational Support to Investigative Journalism .....	73
4.4.2 Freedom of Journalists .....	74
4.4.3 Criteria of Investigative Reporting Editors.....	75
4.4.4 Suggestions for Better Investigative Journalism in Ethiopia in the Future.....	75
Xxx In-depth interview with An Educator from Department of law .....	76
4.5 Provision of Ethiopian media law for press freedom and access to information.....	76
4.5.1 Media law of Ethiopia and Investigative Journalism.....	78
4.5.2 Confidentiality of Journalists and Legal Protection.....	80
4.6 Editorial Policy Analysis .....	81
4.6.1 Introduction.....	81
4.6.2 Editorial Policy of EBC .....	81
Introduction.....	81
4.6.3 Editorial Policy of FM 104.4 Mekelle .....	83
4.6.3.2 Organizational Support .....	85

4.6.4 The Editorial Policy of SNNPRS RTA– South Nation Nationalities and Peoples Regional State Radio and Television Agency .....	85
4.9 Discussion .....	86
4.9.1 Background .....	87
4.9.2 The Organizational Support and Editorial Policy in Investigative Journalism Practice .....	87
4.9.3 Skill and Knowledge of Investigative Journalism .....	89
4.9.4 Access to Public Information and Sources.....	89
4.9.5 Media Law of Ethiopia and Investigative Journalism.....	90
4.9.6 Challenges of Investigative Journalists .....	91
CHAPTER FIVE .....	92
CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION .....	92
5.1 CONCLUSION .....	92
5.2 Recommendations .....	95
List of References .....	97
APPENDICES .....	103
Appendix 1 .....	103
Appendix 2.....	111
Educational background of investigative journalists .....	111
Appendix 3.....	112
In-depth Interview Questions.....	112
Interview questions for investigative journalists.....	112
Appendix 4.....	113
Interview questions for media managers .....	113
Appendix 5.....	114
Interview questions for an educator from law department.....	114
Appendix 6.....	115
Questionnaire for Journalists .....	115



# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

Media are very powerful if we use them properly to mobilize people for bringing positive social, political, economic and psychological change. To accomplish the needed positive change in the society, journalists are expected to be responsible in every day of their activities. In fact there are different forms of media ownership and perspectives. However, all should aim at serving the majority of society to be effective, to sustain in the media industry and to contribute for the wellbeing of the country.

In addition, 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 issues of their country. In such scenario media can strengthen and benefit democracy. However, if the media fail to accomplish these responsibilities, and instead act 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 as Cited in Bereket, 2012).

One of the complex and hard type of journalism approaches is investigative journalism, which has a great contribution to the society by exposing the unethical, immoral and illegal behavior of the government officials, politicians as well as private citizens (de Burgh 200, Kovach and Rosenstiel , 2007 as cited in Onyango ,2011). Besides, Adenauer (ND) agreed up on that, investigative journalism helps build democracy. Reporting that never seeks to move beyond the event or the official release allows those in power to set the agenda. News is made from the top down. The principles that create democracy, popular participation, accountability and the transparent operation of government, remain paper concepts if nobody is asking questions and

providing information and analysis, looking beyond the claims and counter-claims of contending factions. In the final analysis, investigative journalism is the right thing to do.

In Ethiopian media history, investigative journalism is directly related with the political system that existed in different governments. In the feudal period, there were no possibilities that enabled professionals to participate themselves in such areas. In relation to this, Ashenafi (2017) stated that in the Derg regime, there were some activities in disclosing hidden facts which had an impact on the life of the people. For example, there was a program entitled in Amharic “*Keminayew Kemnsemaw*” (meaning “from what we see and we hear”), which dealt with extracting irregularities and corruption related issues and transmitted by the Ethiopia radio. During post 1991, several media outlets occasionally and/or permanently have been investigating various issues. “*Aynachin*” (meaning our Eye), the Amharic television program dealt with exposing wrongdoings was launched by the Ethiopian Radio and Television Agency (ERTA) now ETV in 2000 and was transmitted until 2015 (which is back on air in 2018) can be taken as example (Ibid).

Moreover, Wegayehu (2017) states that after the starting of Aynachn program in EBC now (ETV) it had a great role in opening the door for other investigative journalism practice in Ethiopian broadcast media and introducing the concept to the public at large. “*Teguazh Neqash*” in Fana broadcasting corporate(FBC) 98.1, “*Anid Anid Negeroch*” in Sheger FM 102.1, “*Abiy Guday*” in Addis TV “*Ye ketemoch Medrek*” in Ahamara TV are among the attempted practices following the footstep of “*Ayanachin*”. Concerning this, Kefale (2017) added that in Oromiya Radio and TV Organization now OBN the program called “*Iftoomaa*” raised issues on sometimes controversial, investigative nature and style of tough questioning, brought a huge audience to the program.

Therefore, this study is about an investigation of the presence of enabling environment for investigative journalism in three government radio stations of Ethiopia.

## 1.2 Statement of the Problem

In 2008, Ethiopian authorities presented a draft policy document which established development journalism as the official reporting style for the state media. The policy prescribes that the media and journalists should play an active role in the country's development scheme (Skjerdal, 2011).

Development journalism works in overall the development activities of the country rural and urban development issues such as farming, irrigation, health, education, road construction, industrial activities to mention a few. Besides, development journalism should report about the failure of road construction delay, evaluate the service of health institutions, and the like. In general, the obstacles for development should be given due emphasis as well to the positive achievements.

Wimmer & Wolf (2005) argue similarly with the above point that, basically, it is assumed that journalism is able to influence the development process by reporting on development programs and activities. Accordingly, it is the journalists' duty to 'critically examine and evaluate the relevance of a development project to national and local needs, the difference between a planned scheme and its actual implementation, and the difference between its impact on people as claimed by government officials and as it actually is' (Aggarwala 1979: 181).

Since Ethiopia recognized development journalism, investigative practice has to be a must in solving the development problems of the country. Accordingly Negeri (2012) states in his study that; there are some indicators of journalistic efforts in tackling good governance problems as part of development journalism. In almost all government media institutions at federal and regional levels there are programs devoted to address good governance issues. Best examples are from ERTA's (ETV) Aynachin/ Fitlefit and special program on good governance issues in Oromia Radio and Television Organization now OBN, Amhara Mass Media Agency and Dehub Mass Media Agency. These programs have the objectives of ensuring accountability of public officials in discharging their responsibilities. But Negeri also mentioned that the investigative practices haven't given broad coverage than development activities. Moreover, Temesgen (2013) in his study of an investigation of the practice of journalism in Ethiopian Television, states that,

in ETV the news stories were presented in building the positive deeds of the government and void of critical stories about the government.

In addition to the above points, Journalist Bob Greene's standard definition states that investigative journalism requires the disclosure of issues of public relevance that results from the effort and initiative of reporters (Ullman and Colbert, 1991) as stated in Waisbord (2000). In contrast with this there are findings which show that in Ethiopia the investigative stories mostly aren't the original work of the journalists. Bereket's (2012) finding shows that the origins for the investigative stories emanates most of the time, 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. Likewise, Negeri (2012) in his study states that while journalists are expected to be the first in investigating and exposing the repetitive problem of the society but it is the government which takes the responsibility to put the criminals to justice. Here the media are observed to report the information they receive from the government rather than doing by themselves.

Since the media are considered as forth state they should help the society to improve their lives and protect them from harm. But from my personal observation as a researcher, media practitioners in Ethiopia are blamed for not doing well on the big hindrance of development issues like, lack of good governance, corruption, abuse of power as they are expected, while people are complaining about different social, economic, political, cultural issues. Even the programs which focus on investigative reporting tend to be event based; shallow and most of all they don't have follow up reporting. These are some of the problems that drive the researcher to study in this area.

Obviously radio is well known for its easily accessible than any other medium of mass communication, especially for society like Ethiopia dominantly rural population. Hence, radio has the capacity to address investigative issue for the society this research will be conducted on radio.

Furthermore, the points that we have discussed so far indicates that there are problems with the practice of investigative journalism in Ethiopia. Besides, as far as my knowledge is concerned

there is no much research conducted on the Ethiopian investigative journalism at country level. Except some researches which focused on issues specific to a single program or to a single station. So this research attempts to investigate the presence of enabling environment for investigative journalism in Ethiopia. This study is different from the previous researches in that it has a broader coverage.

## **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

### **1.3.1 General Objective of the Study**

The general objective of the study is to investigate in to the presence of enabling environment for investigative journalism in Ethiopia.

### **1.3.2 Specific Objectives**

- To find out to what extent does the editorial policy of the selected radio stations provides support to investigative practices of journalists.
- To explain if journalists of the selected radio stations have knowledge and skill needed to conduct investigative journalism.
- To find out if investigative journalists get access to public information and sources.
- To identify if investigative journalists feel they are protected by existing legal systems.

## **1.4 Research Questions**

- To what extent does the editorial system of the selected radio stations provide support to investigative practices of journalists?
- Do the journalists of the selected radio stations have the knowledge and skill needed to conduct investigative journalism?
- What are the opportunities for investigative journalists to get access to public information and sources?
- Do investigative journalists feel they are protected by existing legal system?

## **1.5 Significance of the Study**

The researcher believes this study would have some level of contribution for different stockholders and individuals within the media industry. Firstly, this research could contribute as a wake up call to the media institutions to evaluate their status in investigative journalism and take a good action in their editorial policy, facilities for investigative department, knowledge and skill of investigative journalists etc. In addition individual journalists can also use this study for improving their investigative skill and knowledge.

Secondly, the government can see this study as a mirror of the existing environment of investigative journalism and help the media organizations to play their role in combating corruption, abuse of power, maladministration etc. Besides media policy makers can be able to use this study as input in designing policies regarding investigative journalism.

Finally, it could provide as starting point for other researchers in this area who are interested and to make some improvements.

## **1.6 Scope of the Study**

The study area is limited to two regions and to the capital city of Ethiopia which means Tigray, SNNPR and Addis Ababa city administration selected radio stations in the presence of enabling environment for investigative journalism. In order to balance the research study the researcher only select from government owned media outlets. EBC radio cluster from Addis Ababa, FM 104.4 Mekelle from Tigray region, SNNPRS RTA/FM 100.9 from SNNPRS region are the selected radio stations. One of the reasons to choose these radio stations is their language of transmission, which the researcher easily understands. Somehow the distance of the media stations from Addis Ababa is another reason.

## **1.7 Limitation of the Study**

This study has faced certain challenges. One of the challenges is some respondents weren't willing to fill the questionnaire. In addition, shortage of literature review on some topics was also limitation of the study. The time and money also restricts the research to focus only on the three media stations.

## **1.8 Organization of the Study**

This thesis is organized in to five chapters. The first chapter contains background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study. Moreover it deals with research questions, significance of the study, limitation and scope of the study. Chapter two discusses the literature related to this study. In addition, chapter three deals with the research methodology of this study. It presents research design, data collections tools, sampling techniques and data analysis. The forth chapter includes data presentation, analysis and discussion of findings. Finally, chapter five encompasses conclusion and recommendation.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **2. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

Generally this review of literature deals with the main topics related to this study area. Mainly it attempts to discuss media's role in society, investigative journalism and its challenges and other related points which are found from different sources were used.

#### **2.1 The Place of Media in Society**

Media have an essential role in the life of any society if it performs responsibly. Anyadike (2013) noted that media are the bridge between the government and the governed as well as the mouthpiece of the society. Besides, he also noted that a basic duty of the media professionals in every society is to be a civic watchdog whose mission is to uncover secrets / issues and keep the government accountable to society. Similarly (Bassey, Brown & Olajide, 2017) mention that media in any society cannot be over-emphasized, and through the advent of technology, the world has become a global village. The media perform the role of teaching, informing, educating and entertaining the public, in addition to encouraging socio-economic and political development in nations of the world.

In addition to the above point, Justine (2011), states that the media plays a broad educative role in different levels and different ways in society. For example, in support of early childhood development, broadcasters can, and often do, broadcast basic educational materials aimed at teaching children the alphabet, colors or animals. In addition to this the media can inform adults about nutrition, health (especially in relation to diseases such as HIV and Aids, malaria and diabetes) basic money management and budgeting, developments in agriculture, child care, etc. Mass media are a creation of technology. They have moved on for ages spurred by technology and new media technology herald each age in human history ever since man perfected the art of writing (Ukonu, 2005). As creations of technology, mass media have become an integral as well as an indispensable aspect of human society. A society without the mass media is unthinkable.

The world owes the mass media great gratitude for making social, worldwide interactions possible. The place of the mass media in modern mass society is easily clear.

### **2.1.1 Media and Democracy**

According to Cornel (2003), as early as the 17th century, Enlightenment theorists had argued that publicity and openness provide the best protection against tyranny and the excesses of arbitrary rule. In the early 1700s, the French political philosopher Montesquieu, raging against the secret accusations delivered by Palace courtiers to the French King, prescribed publicity as the cure for the abuse of power. English and American thinkers later in that century would agree with Montesquieu, recognizing the importance of the press in making officials aware of the public's discontents and allowing governments to rectify their errors. Moreover, Cornel mention that after that the press considered and proclaimed as the "Forth Estate " serve as branch of the government to criticize and analyses the activity of the government. For this reason, democrats through the centuries have tended to take the Enlightenment's instrumentalist view of the press.

In addition to the above point Patrick (1998) argues that the existence of the notion that open and free communication is essential to the functioning of a democracy, has been taken long centuries. Based on the ideas of John Milton, Thomas Jefferson, John Stuart Mill, and other liberal thinkers, the "Libertarian theory of the press" emerged out of the changes in social organization necessitated by the transition from feudalism to capitalism. Moreover, Patrick asserts that central to the Libertarian theory was the idea that a democracy could flourish only where the press created an "open marketplace of ideas" and acted as "watchdogs of the government."

Wanyande (1996) argued that the unique nature of the media from other means of communication in reaching a wide audience has a big contribution the media to serve in democratization process comparing to other organizations. According to Wanyande, the media therefore stand a better chance of providing the public with information about democracy and to explain any messages that may be useful for democratic politics. This can involve the transmission of information from the major political actors to the public as well as from the public to the actors. This is one major way of empowering civil society (1996). Moreover, Center for Democracy and Governance (1999) stated that, the contribution of access to information for

the existence of democracy can be seen at least in 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.

Different medium of the communications have contributed for the flourishing of new democracies. But Cornel (2003) mainly focuses on the role of the radio. He states that radio has become the medium of choice, as it is less expensive and more accessible. FM and community radio have been effective instruments for promoting grassroots democracy by airing local issues, providing an alternative source of information to official channels, and reflecting ethnic and linguistic diversity. The Internet, too, can play such a role, because of its interactivity, relatively low costs of entry and freedom from state control.

Critical to such participatory media, then, is the right to freedom of expression. This right is recognized as a basic human right in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the European Convention on Human Rights, the American Convention on Human Rights and the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights (Norris, 2006, as cited in Banda , 2009). As such, it lends itself to universal recognition and application. The work of Norris (2006) on the statistical correlation between a free press and democratization, good governance and human development, although its focus is fundamentally on liberal conceptions of media, democracy and development, must be noted as contributory to evidentiary arguments for linking media to the realization of democracy and development.

On the other hand, the media’s advocacy role in democracy and good governance is controversial because it envisages the press as both advocate and impartial reporter. In this role, the press comments on issues of the day and advocates improved democratic practices and good governance. In this advocacy role, the press sees itself firmly on the side of the ordinary citizen, whose life can be improved or worsened depending on how public authority is exercised. This advocacy role is also closely linked to the watchdog role of the press; however, it goes further. The press as advocate will report not only on what is happening but on what *should* be happening (Justin, 2011).

A study from America shows that the existence of media may not contribute for the building of democracy rather it might be a reason for declining the democracy. The media have become a significant *antidemocratic* force in the United States. As McChesney, (2000) the wealthier and more powerful the corporate media giants have become, the poorer the prospects for participatory democracy. McChesney noted that:

I am not arguing that all media are getting wealthier, of course. Some media firms and sectors are faltering and will falter during this turbulent era. But, on "balance, the dominant media firms are larger and more influential than ever before, and the media *writ large* are more important in our social life than ever before. Nor do I believe the media are the sole or primary cause of the decline of democracy, but that they are a part of the problem and closely linked to many of the other factors. Behind the lustrous glow of new technologies and electronic jargon, the media system has become increasingly concentrated and conglomerated into a relative handful of corporate hands. This concentration accentuates the core tendencies of a profit-driven, advertising-supported media system: hyper-commercialism and denigration of journalism and public service. It is a poison pill for democracy (2000: p.2).

### **2.1.2 Social responsibility theory**

The social responsibility theory gained prominence in the late forties against the backdrop of World War II. Supported by funding from publisher Heruy Luce and from Encyclopedia Britannica, a group of eminent scholars and authors convened a Commission under the direction of Robert M. Hutchins, President of Chicago University (Commission,1947). The Commission in 1947 published its first report in a 50-page volume titled *A Free and Responsible Press*. The Hutchins' Commission was the first to enunciate in a coherent and systematic way the social responsibility theory of the press. Since its publication, the report of the Commission has provided a blueprint for many subsequent studies on press responsibility and ethics (Literature review, n.d.).

Again this Literature review written Peterson (1956) who authored the section on the social responsibility of the press noted that the theory is a development of the twentieth century and is a further development of the libertarian theory. The Libertarian theory, according to Peterson (1956) was born of a concept of negative liberty, which can be defined loosely as "freedom from" and more precisely as "freedom from external restraint." The social responsibility theory, on the contrary, rests on a concept of positive liberty, "freedom for," which calls for the presence of the necessary tools for the attainment of a desired goal. The major premise of the theory according to him is that "Freedom carries concomitant obligations; and the press, which enjoys a privileged position under the government is obliged to be responsible to society for carrying out certain essential functions of mass communication in contemporary society. He outlined six tasks usually ascribed to the press:

1. Serving 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 as to be free from the pressures of special interests (cited in Literature review (n.d.:15).

Kumar (2012) also has argued that the Press has a social responsibility function apart from educating, informing and entertaining the public. The theory of social responsibility postulates that the Press has to play a crucial role in the people-centric issues. Because people depend on media for their day-to-day information needs, media should act to inform and educate people on social issues. The socially responsible press helps the citizens to be well informed on issues of immediate concern to them. Moreover, the degree of media attention given to social and developmental issues makes people and government take necessary action on them. Moreover, as

Ostini states the social responsibility model is based on the idea that media have a moral obligation to society to provide adequate information for citizens to make informed decisions (2002).

McQuail (2010) summarized the main principles of social responsibility theory as follow:

1. The media have obligations to society, and media ownership is a public trust.
2. News media should be truthful, accurate, fair, objective and relevant
3. The media should be free but self-regulated
4. The media should follow agreed codes of ethics and professional conducts
5. Under some circumstances, government may need to intervene to safeguard the public interest (cited in Ali , 2015:4).

## **2.2 Investigative Journalism**

### **2.2.1 Historical Overview of Investigative Journalism**

In *From Yahweh to Yahoo!* tracks the origins of investigative reporting back to sixteenth century England and its religious reformers, who traced their zeal to the New Testament. “Many elements of the prophetic tradition—the spirit of righteousness, the indignant moralism, the effort to maintain the purity of values, the call for spiritual and ethical renewal, and the fierce sense of corruption abounding everywhere— are as typically found in today’s best investigative reporters or crusading editors.” In fact, in 1975, The Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, was closely involved in the formation of IRE (Investigative Reporters and Editors) and the choice of its apt acronym. The work thus brings with it heavy ethical burdens that underlie the standards—fairness, accuracy, thoroughness, and transparency— for the investigative journalism of the future (Underwood, cited in Houston, (2010 ).

On the other hand Ismail, Ahmad & Mustaffa (2014) claimed that the craft was born in the United States, it has been largely American phenomenon, practiced and researched mostly in that country. Additionally, Steffens, cited in Feldstein (2006) stated that although the term

“muckraking” did not develop until the twentieth century, investigative reporting in the United States has a rich historical tradition. He also righteously declared “I was not the original muckraker,” one of its best-known practitioners. The earliest known muckraking on American soil can be traced to the first colonial newspaper published in 1690. Printer Benjamin Harris’s *Publick Occurrences* was a fore runner of both the noble and lowbrow traditions that would come to characterize investigative reporting in America.

As Redelfs, cited in Nitsch (2005), investigative journalism reached major popularity in the 1970s, most of all in America. Investigative journalists aim at exposing the abuse in politics, economy and society. They refer to the often cited ‘public right to know’ – therefore acting in the interest of the public. As the emphasis lies on the critique and control functions of journalism, the media has in this connection often been called the ‘Fourth Estate’ within a democracy. So-called ‘Muckraking’ is regarded as the predecessor of investigative journalism. Furthermore, Redelfs stated that at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, this journalistic movement caused mayhem in America with its revealing publications. Numerous journalists, amongst them Upton Sinclair, Ida M. Tarbell and Lincoln Steffens, exposed corruption and abuse of power in politics and economics and drew attention to the increasing social misery among the population. In their widely noticed articles, they publicly denounced the abuse of power and corruption. This way of reporting provoked a political reaction from Theodore Roosevelt in 1906, when he gave his speech ‘The Man with the Muck Rake’. In this speech the American President insulted the journalists in calling them ‘muckrakers’. They, however, raised the insult to a name of honour. Therefore the expression ‘muckraking’ is still in use and describes this early form of investigative journalism to the present day (Ibid).

Probably no other branch of journalism has been so closely associated with one particular affair in public perception than investigative journalism has with Watergate. The political scandal which eventually led to President Nixon’s resignation in 1974 proved to be a milestone in investigative journalism. It coined the term “investigative journalism”, which had only become fashionable some years before (Pilger 2004: xiv, as cited in Klapproth, 2005) in public discourse.

Additionally, Klapproth noted that great reporting everywhere has always used investigative elements, but since the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, the practice of investigative journalism has grown dramatically overseas. Enterprising news media in Brazil, China, and India now field investigative teams (2005).

### **2.2.2 Definition of investigative journalism**

There are different definitions given to investigative journalism. Investigative journalism also known as exposé journalism, adversarial journalism, in-depth journalism, muckraking journalism, advocacy journalism, public service journalism, watchdog journalism and journalism of outrage. As Houston these names have various definitions, which reflect numerous conceptions. Among layman, the term investigative journalism invokes a picture of crime reporting. For some, any news is investigative because it requires research before the reporter can write the news. However, daily news and investigative news have differences, especially in terms of their depth, issues covered, focus and even the information-gathering techniques (Houston (2010) cited in Ismail, Ahmad, Mustaffa, 2014).

According to Kaplan (2013) Eventhough there are different definitions among professionals but there is broad agreement of its major components: systematic, in-depth, and original research and reporting, often involving the unearthing of secrets. Others note that its practice often involves heavy use of public records and computer-assisted reporting, and a focus on social justice and accountability. Moreover, the organization of Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE), defined investigative journalism by three main characteristics. The three basic elements are that the investigation be the work of the reporter, not a report of an investigation made by someone else; that the subject of the story involves something of reasonable importance to the reader or viewer; and that others are attempting to hide these matters from the public (Greene 1983: viif cited in Nitsch, 2005)

Ansell et al (2002) argues that investigative reporting deals with original research into wrongdoings that go on in the society. The core of investigative journalism is to uncover information that is in the public's interest. These interests are listed as including:

- Detecting or exposing crime or a serious misdemeanor
- protecting public health and safety
- preventing the public from being misled by some statement or action of an individual or organization
- Exposure of corruption, conflicts of interest, corporate greed or hypocritical behavior of those in power

Moreover, according to Asakitikpi (2012) the definition of investigative journalism comes out of the traditional view of journalists as “watchdogs”, whose mission is to sniff out wrongs, point fingers at those to blame, and report in a way that brings about change.

On the other hand there are scholars like Waisbord (2000) who contended that the American model of investigative journalism is extremely influential but it is not the only possible paradigm. Waisbord asserted that the meaning of investigative journalism varies according to dissimilar press traditions and conditions for journalistic practice in a country. The IRE definition which is heavily buried with American values and cultures does not suit South America because it has a different political, social and media environment. For example, he explained that “it should be the original work of the reporter, not resulted from information provided by someone else” requirement in the American definition does not suit media and journalistic environment in South America (cited in Ismail, Ahmad, Mustaffa, 2014).

### **2.2.3 Importance of investigative journalism**

The proponents of watchdog journalism have high hopes for what it can do, especially in the control of corruption. By exposing wrongdoing, they say, the press prompts investigations of those involved in malfeasance and catalyzes changes in laws and regulations. It helps shape public opinion against corrupt governments and generates public hostility against those who abuse their office (Coronel, 2010). In the U.S., media scholars such as Proffess et. al. found that (as cited in coronel , 2010) investigative reporting can produce three types of policy effects: The first type is described as “deliberative,” which initiate hearings to deliberate reform initiatives. “Individualistic” results take place when sanctions are applied against individual persons or

enterprises accused of wrongdoing. “Substantive” reforms happen when the investigations result in intangible changes in rules, laws, procedures, or policies or new governmental units or bodies are created or public funds are reallocated.

As a study by Ismail, Ahmad & Mustaffa (2014), general news lack of such impact and influence as they only report daily happenings. On the other hand investigative journalism reports something with impact that can influence the public awareness and push the authorities to take actions. In addition, Kaplan argues that investigative reporting helps to hold responsible people to people who are found in private and government. Watchdog reporting also holds institutions accountable when wrongdoing has been committed and tolerated (2008).

Furthermore, the study by Ismail, Ahmad & Mustaffa (2014) shows that practicing investigative journalism will also benefit not only the society but the media organizations too. It can help improve their organization credibility and increase sales because of the in-depth information, analysis and reports matters pertinent to public interest provided to their readers. The element of exclusivity also makes them different when compared to other newspapers. Therefore, readers will follow the story and investigative journalists also satisfied when they are part of the solution for the public’s problem.

On one hand as Asakitikpi (2012) and Coronel (2010) investigative reporting is also seen as contributing to journalistic freedom. By constantly digging for information, by forcing government and the private sector to release documents, and by subjecting officials and other powerful individuals to rigorous questioning, investigative journalists expand the boundaries of what is possible to print or air. At the same time, they accustom officials to an inquisitive press. In the long term, the constant give and take between journalists and officials helps develop a culture—and a tradition—of disclosure. In the end, even if in the short-term, exposés make little impact, they educate citizens and provide information, a process that over time enriches democratic discourse (2010).

Even though the role of media as watchdog is very important; Coronel (2010) argues that the media role as watchdog is dependable on the value of the society. The “Asian values” conception of the media, which had its heyday during the 1990s, stressed the importance of collective, over individual, rights and welfare...in the Asian values school, the media’s role is primarily that of helping forge social consensus for strong governments in pursuit of economic growth. On the other hand, even within the liberal tradition, however, there is skepticism about whether the watchdog role of the press should take primacy. On the other hand Western scholars belonging to the “media malaise” school of media effects say that too much negative reporting undermines support for public officials, making it more difficult for them to govern effectively.

#### **2.2.4 Practice of investigative journalism**

Investigative journalism is more demanding both of its subjects and its evidential standards than normal newsroom practice. A range of differing methods has evolved, many aiming at the same result (MacFadyen, 2008). According to MacFadyen, practices differ from place to place in many national institutions; collegial working is uncommon and rarely practiced. In others, often in mainstream current affairs television, it is a frequent practice in complex investigations. For freelancers without major institutional resources, it becomes increasingly difficult to replicate the standards of these often wealthy organizations. But some major stories have been broken by single individuals (2008).

Reporting in itself implies coverage without lengthy or protracted in-depth research. Reporting in dangerous circumstances or where it is prohibited or frustrated by governments or corporations demonstrates a commitment that is, or is very close to, investigative journalism. Other constituents of reporting are the use of photographs and video to expose a lie, provide evidence of misleading or unsafe practices, which against the pressure from powerful interests, may constitute a critical element of an investigative report. Moreover, whistleblowing remains one of the most important sources of major stories and the cultivation and protection of whistleblowers is a central preoccupation for investigative journalists. It is common practice in serious investigations to look for compromising material from ones closest sources, lest that material be used against the investigation as a whole

As Ayedun-Aluma (2012, cited in Adepate. Rahmat Mustapha-Koiki et al. (2013) the reportorial styles for investigative reporting as described by emphasizes the manner of information gathering employed by the reporter. It recommends the painstaking use of numerous sources, including personal interviews, documents and records. It requires the reporter to spend a lot of time probing deeply into an issue.

## **2.3 Challenges of investigative journalism**

Overall, investigative journalism is facing challenges at a global level such as funding and political restrictions across both the developed and the developing world (Bebawi, 2016). Investigative reporting is an expensive form of journalism, as it requires lengthy timeframes, spanning from months to years, with little financial return. Nonetheless, its impact can be significant, depending on the kind of story that is being pursued (Ibid).

### **2.3.1 Attitude of media managers (Editors)**

Investigative journalists fall serious pressure first and for most from their editors. Loretta Tofani, who was wrote a series on jail rapes for the Washington post and won a Pulitzer prize for local investigative specialized reporting once said “it was never easy to be an investigative reporter, especially when the journalist wanted to tell a story that was original, that he or she saw but others didn’t see...In 1982, when I wrote a series on jail rapes for The Washington post... my two immediate editors at the post had no interest in giving me the time to report and write this series. But it was possible to circumvent them.”(2001). “My editor said ‘let’s put it on the back burner.’ I argued, but there was no winning.” But after a lot of effort she get the permission to write her story. (Tofani, 2001)

As cornel (2003) states that investigative reporting also threatens to upset the cosy relationships between media owners and their friends among the upper crust of business and politics. According to him press proprietors are wary that hard-hitting exposés might turn off advertisers. Given these obstacles, the only way that investigative reports can make any headway in the

media free market is to show that they can sell newspapers and news programs and that there is an audience for serious reporting (2003).

Advertisers have big influence in all contents of the media but the pressure increases in investigative reporting. As Gans points out, “Journalists are employed professionals working for mainly commercial news media that try to supply what the news audiences will accept and what advertisers will pay for” (Gans, 2003 as cited Nebiyu, 2008). So the journalists might be influenced in choosing their stories in the assumption that it may impact the financial interest of their organization and advertisers.

As the finding of Kaplan suggests that newsroom managers should reinforce the importance of investigative journalism in a newspaper’s mission and consistently follow up for what reforms might result from the story. Even in newsrooms facing budget cuts, managers should strive to allow reporters more autonomy and time for assignments, as this is also an important motivator in pursuing excellence (2008).

### **2.3.2 Budget and Facilities**

There is no argument that state controls are an impediment to watchdog journalism. There is far less consensus about the role of the market. On one hand, market liberalization and competition have encouraged the emergence of, and in many places, also sustained, investigative reporting Coronel (2010). Market pressure and the establishment of the media orientation to profit influence the watchdog role of the media.

According to Coronel (2010), the above view gained currency in the U.S. in the 1980s, with the emergence of big media conglomerates and the takeover of family-owned media enterprises by giant corporations. The rise of entertainment values result the increasing of profit-hungry media behemoths. Then the activities of the watchdogging has reduced in both profit and non- profit media.

Like coronel, Marsh (2013) taking these amounts of money out of any business has obvious effects. Marsh adds that for journalism, it's resulted in fewer local and regional newspapers, consolidation, dailies turning into weeklies or going online. And that's meant, in turn, fewer journalists, more 'efficient' newsrooms and a retreat to core business, focusing on increasingly homogenous agendas. Editors or channel controllers are curious about money. They ask 'what am I going to get for my money?' That presents investigative journalism with its most obvious challenge. The toughest investigations often require a team and more time. In addition to this Forbes (2005) agrees that depending on the medium, journalists usually work on a quota system of two to three straight news stories a day. The amount of time a journalist spends on a story is important, although deadlines may vary depending on the publication or programme. For some freelancers who are not paid much, it is almost not worth the effort. Time is money after all.

However, there are scholars who disagree with the idea that financial capacity has less impact in the practice of investigative journalism. Kaplan (2008) in his finding shows that money is *not* the essential element in producing excellence in investigative journalism. Thus, even financially struggling newspapers can be in a position to pursue excellence. Similarly, Coronel states that an economist using game theory posits that older, bigger, and more established media companies will tend to undertake investigations only when the expected gain from exposure is large enough to justify the expenditure. In contrast, the new and emerging media are observed more likely to practice investigative journalism (Samarth Vaidya. (200) cited in coronel (2010)).

Furthermore, Coronel (2010) argues that watchdog reporting has been done under a variety of conditions. The type of media ownership, the size of the news organization, its financial viability, and profitability are not in themselves sufficient factors in determining whether watchdog reporting can take root and be sustained. As per Coronel the structures that best support watchdog journalism vary over time and across countries.

### **2.3.3 Commitment of Journalists**

Commitment of journalist and other stack holders is very mandatory in overall activity of investigative journalism. A study by VVOJ ([Vereniging van Onderzoeks journalisten](#)) found

there was no correlation between whether a medium was in good financial shape and whether it undertook investigative projects. In fact, according to Rebond (2010) finding reveals that they often found a more substantial commitment to investigative journalism in small, poor independent media. Professor Harber points out that in South Africa: “It doesn’t always have to take a lot of time and money and when we look at some of the great investigations in South Africa’s history a number of them were not based on huge time and resources, they were based on determination and commitment”. Small publications, of course, are usually free of corporate ‘strings’ that often set a conservative policy. There are now funds that support such media in important projects. But their commitment to investigation also rests on another key argument (Rebond, 2010).

#### **2.3.4 Media Ownership**

There is an argument that different media owners may have different motive but the result is the same. Media owners are those who dictate media content (Hrvatín and Petković, 2004). The regulation of media ownership could be one reason to decrease the influence of the owners. In relation to media ownership and the influence of investigative journalism Hrvatín and Petković stated that:

Investigative journalism and investigative articles are increasingly rare. Media owners tend to see journalists as non-essential items on their cost sheets, so streamlining in the media business is often accompanied by lay offs, salary cuts and widespread disregard for collective agreements. Today, the independence of both the media and journalists rests in the hands of media owners, and, consequently, so does the freedom of expression of every individual (2004:12).

Similar to the above argument Chomsky and Herman mentioned that, the sole purpose of journalism has become profit making and Journalism as service to society has been replaced by journalism aimed at profit and affluence for media promoters and media workers. Hence, most of the media groups are not only dependent on market but they are also controlled and guided by

the markets. According to Chomsky and Herman (2010) most of the media organizations are owned by large corporations with an objective of the news provided by the media will take care of their interests (cited in Kumar, 2012).

As to Chomsky and Herman (2010) due to the dependency on advertising revenue of the media organizations news becomes a product. Hence, stories that may affect the buying mood of the audience or the interests of the advertisers will be marginalized or avoided (Ibid). It is also a major factor deciding media content. Also, media companies have included corporate captains and big businessmen on their boards of directors. Many of those on the board of directors of media companies represent some of the biggest advertisers, companies with large market capitalization. Board Members not only exercise an influence on media content, they also influence appointments to key positions.

Like Kumar (2012), Hrvatin and Petković (1998) state that the overview of corruption in the media in developing countries reveals that the ownership structure of the media is likely to have an effect on the potential for undue influence on media reporting by either the government or private interests.

Ali argues “He who pays the piper calls the tune” is a common statement in the media. Media ownership has influence in the editorial policy of any media organization. It is so bad in some media organizations that the ethics of journalism are exchanged with the opinions and decisions of the proprietors of the organization (2015). McQuail while writing on the influence of ownership on mass media content said, “ there is no doubt that owners in market based media have ultimate power over content and can ask for what they want to be included or left.” This is against the ethics of journalism (cited in Ali, 2015).

According to Cornel (2003), in many countries, ownership of the media is controlled by a few vested business and political interests. A 2001 study of 97 countries by the World Bank shows that throughout the world, media monopolies dominate. The study says:

In our sample of 97 countries, only four percent of media enterprises are widely held. Less than two percent have other ownership structures (apart from family or state control), and a mere two percent are employee owned. On average family-controlled newspapers account for 57 percent of our sample, and families control 34 percent of television stations. State ownership is vast. On average the state controls approximately 29 percent of newspapers and 60 percent of television stations. The state owns a huge share – 72 percent – of radio stations. The media industry is therefore owned overwhelmingly by parties most likely to extract private benefits of control (Simeon, et al.,2001.as cited in Cornel,2003:8).

### **2.3.5 Lack of Information Sources**

It might seem perverse to see such a massive increase in apparent transparency as a challenge to investigative journalism. No one with an interest in informed democracy can possibly argue against knowing more...that's clearly true. Access to information and data is essential to efficient public discourse and scrutiny (Watt and Allan, 2013).

As Forbes (2005), states private companies are notoriously difficult to investigate. The culture of secrecy which comes from protecting the company from outside threats make it hard to get information in general from the staff members and authorities. Again Forbes states that journalists often experience difficulty with the military and police service. Situations occur where police operating protocol may slow down or obstruct the timely release of public information. Delay tactics are used whereby, for example, an investigating police officer dealing with a specific case claims s/he cannot speak to the journalist because s/he is not a police spokesperson. Government official representatives may at times employ similar tactics or hide information behind the veil of 'national security'. Ndlela added:

My recent investigative story was on how a Zimbabwe Defence Force company lost a diamond concession to a private company in what might have been a cover up to conceal the Zimbabwe government's association with the diamond claim in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The

obstacles that I encountered included a clear refusal by the military to comment on the shareholding of the company that owned the diamond claim and the interests of the military-owned company in the DRC. The Ministry of Defence clearly indicated that they were not compelled to give me any information that I might need to do the story. (Cited in Forbes,2005:49)

In the absence of access to information legislation, that could be used to force government organizations and departments to provide certain types of public documentation, ‘red tape’ becomes the bureaucrat’s weapon to hide information from journalists. It is common for government offices, when approached for information, to respond that the journalist should file a formal request in writing. This is a common way of slowing down enquiries and is an attempt to chase away ‘nosy reporters’ (Ibid).

### **2.3.6 Lack of Skill and Professional Knowhow**

Cornel (2003) argues that it is observed widely in many places journalists are willing to work on investigative reporting. But many have neither the skills nor the training that investigative reporting requires.

In addition to this, as a study by Rebond (2010) shows, one of the qualities of an investigative reporter is a well-developed skill. But the study asserts that this doesn’t mean you have to have a degree in journalism. But you need enough of either training or experience, or both, to know how to identify sources, plan story research, conduct good interviews (and sense when an answer doesn’t ring true), and write accurately and informatively.

### **2.3.7 Self- Censorship of Journalists**

Censorship generally refers to the method used by the government authorities or politicians to directly or indirectly control the contents of the media that circulates within the society. Its purpose is often to suppress information and ideas objectionable to the authorities in power. Censorship can take two forms. One is that directly exercised by the government authorities. The

other is indirect or self-censorship (Solomon, 2005). Still this type of censorship is mainly the result of the first form, which is caused by fear of punishment. Journalists practicing self-censorship often focus on reporting what the authorities want at the expense of other important events.

Kasoma( 2002:102 Cited in Solomon, 2005) define self-censorship as one type of censorship, which is exercised by the media practitioners themselves. It occurs when journalists are trapped between what to broadcast or not and often ends up in favoring the authorities. Usually it is the result of fear induced by the government authorities or politicians. Self-censorship occurs “when the selection of what to and what not to publish/broadcast is influenced by fear of punishment, even though there is no overt pressure by the authorities on the journalists”

But self- censorship shouldn't interpret always in a negative way. Journalists choose what to write or not because they are bounded by the culture, religious, political views of the people they are working. In addition, the nature of investigative reporting is sensitive, which demands a careful reporting many journalists may involve themselves in self-censorship (Solomon, 2005).

## **2.4 Journalists' Right and Responsibility**

As stated in Munich Charter, Press freedom in international texts Rights and obligations of journalists, the right to information, to freedom of expression and criticism is one of the fundamental rights of man. All rights and duties of a journalist originate from this right of the public to be informed on events and opinions. The journalists' responsibility towards the public excels any other responsibility, particularly towards employers and public authorities. The mission of information necessarily includes restrictions which journalists spontaneously impose on themselves. This is the object of the declaration of duties formulated below. A journalist, however, can respect these duties while exercising his profession only if conditions of independence and professional dignity effectively exist. This is the object of the following declaration of rights. According to Munich charter:

### ***Declaration of duties***

The essential obligations of a journalist engaged in gathering, editing and commenting news are:

1. To respect truth whatever be the consequences to himself, because of the right of the public to know the truth.
2. To defend freedom of information, comment and criticism.
3. To report only on facts of which he knows the origin; not to suppress essential information nor alter texts and documents.
4. Not to use unfair methods to obtain news, photographs or documents.
5. To restrict himself to the respect of privacy.
6. To rectify any published information which is found to be inaccurate.
7. To observe professional secrecy and not to divulge the source of information obtained in confidence.
8. To regard as grave professional offences the following: plagiarism, calumny, slander, libel and unfounded accusations, the acceptance of bribes in any form in consideration of either publication or suppression of news.
9. Never to confuse the profession of journalist with that of advertisements salesman or propagandist and to refuse any direct or indirect orders from advertisers.
10. To resist every pressure and to accept editorial orders only from the responsible persons of the editorial staff.

Every journalist worthy of that name deems it his duty faithfully to observe the principles stated above. Within the general law of each country, the journalist recognizes, in professional matters, the jurisdiction of his colleagues only; he excludes every kind of interference by governments or others.

### ***Declaration of rights***

1. Journalists claim free access to all information sources, and the right to freely enquire on all events conditioning public life. Therefore, secrecy of public or private affairs may be opposed only to journalists in exceptional cases and for clearly expressed motives.

2. The journalist has the right to refuse subordination to anything contrary to the general policy of the information organ to which he collaborates such as it has been laid down in writing and incorporated in his contract of employment, as well as any subordination not clearly implicated by this general policy.
3. A journalist cannot be compelled to perform a professional act or to express an opinion contrary to his convictions or his conscience.
4. The editorial staff has obligatorily to be informed on all important decisions which may influence the life of the enterprise. It should at least be consulted before a definitive decision on all matters related to the composition of the editorial staff, e.g. recruitment, dismissals, mutations and promotion of journalists, is taken.
5. Taking into account his functions and responsibilities, the journalist is entitled not only to the advantages resulting from collective agreements but also to an individual contract of employment, ensuring the material and moral security of his work as well as a wage system corresponding to his social condition and guaranteeing his economic independence.

#### **2.4.1 Freedom of the Press and Access to Information**

Reporters without borders (2015) mention that principle of press freedom is recognized by international law, as well as regional texts and national legislation (rights and customs, constitutions, laws and decrees).

The basic documents on press freedom (Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Adopted 10 December 1948, *Article 19*; International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Adopted 16 December 1966, came into force 23 March 1976; *Article 19*, African Charter of Human and Peoples' Rights, *Adopted 12 July 1981, came into force 21 October 1986, Article 9*) argue that everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kind through any media and regardless of frontiers. These rights carry special duties and responsibilities.

According to the UNESCO report (2011) the phrase “information is power” is just part of the story. The Right to Information is an enabling and empowering right to have a free media. Therefore, without a free media the information people receive is biased and unbalanced. But with the presence of the right to information media creates a responsible states and governments. Moreover, Coronel (2010) argues that democracy allow for the press to be free and provide a legal protection. Access to government-held information gives journalists not only the right, but also the tools with which to monitor government. The checks and balances inherent in the representative system also legitimize journalistic inquiry as part of a broader framework of government accountability to citizens.

Gicheru, 2014 described most of the new constitutions adopted by sub-Saharan countries in the last two decades categorically guarantee the freedom of the press and the right to free expression. For example, he puts the Ghanaian constitution (1992) states in sections 3 and 4 of Article 162 that

3) “There shall be no impediment to the establishment of a private press or media and in particular, there shall be no law requiring any person to obtain a license as a prerequisite for the establishment of a newspaper, journal or other media for mass communication or information, and

(4) “Editors and publishers of newspapers and other institutions of the mass media shall not be subject to control or interference by the government, nor shall they be penalized or harassed for their editorial opinions and views, or the content of their publications”.

Additionally, James (2005) states it is now almost universally recognized that public bodies hold information not for themselves, but on behalf of the public and that, subject only to limited exceptions based on overriding public and private interests, everyone should have the right to access that information. Besides according to overview of corruption in the media in developing countries, the right to access information is other important right as of freedom of expression and which able the media to gather news timely and accurately and help them avoid self-censorship because the government provides relevant information to journalists.

Unless freedom of information legislation is properly implemented, public oversight, which is at least partly ensured through the media, and participation in decision-making cannot function properly (CleanGovBiz, 2013). It is therefore imperative to make as many information as possible accessible to the public. However, there will sometimes be cases where doing so could be problematic or even dangerous, for example when information has national security implications. Here the freedom of information can be restricted by law. Such legislation in many countries is called an “Official Secrets Act” and Article 13 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption defines acceptable justifications for keeping information (Ibid).

On one hand Sturges (2006) contends that freedom of access to information is not a phenomenon principally driven by the information professions, but it has enormous implications for librarians, information scientists, archivists, records managers and others whose task includes providing users with access to content. Information professions were not giving their resources to access by users early but now the improvement of technology particularly internet able ‘end user‘ to have the access to information and the role of the information professionals is diminished or even eliminated.

## **2.5 Development Journalism and Investigative Reporting**

Philippine journalists are generally credited with coining the term; development journalism/communication; Alan Chalkley; Juan'Mertado; And Erskine Childers, working with the Philippine Press Institute, began as early as the mid-60's to conduct development oriented seminars and to encourage the Philippine news service to report news about development:(Lent, 1977;Quebrar; 1975; cited in Ogan, 1980).

Different scholars argue about the function of development journalism. As claimed by Joseph, development journalism can further be divided into two types of journalism where the first new school started appearing in the 1960s, this school of thought is similar to investigative reporting which focuses on the conditions in the developing world and how to improve them. The second one involves heavy influence from the government of the

country involved. This can be a very powerful tool for local education and empowerment however it can also be a powerful means of suppressing information and restricting journalists (Joseph, 2002 cited in Kefale, 2017).

Furthermore, Kunczik states that different forms of development journalism can be identified in literature (1995). The first form is comparable to a western style investigative journalism. With having the basic tool of freedom of the press this includes critically examine development projects and controls government activities. The other form of development journalism can be defined as benevolent-authoritarian. It allows systematic manipulation of information in favour of a subtle development serving the common welfare. More recent conceptions include a Chinese version of this concept (which comprises distinct class-character following the communist party) or an intellectual development journalism: “The journalists should [...] form a kind of free intelligence and should critically examine the aims of national development and the applicable instruments in a rational discourse and solve them by reasonable criteria free of social constraints” (Kunczik 1986 Cited in Wimmer& Wolf, 2005).

In other way, according to Coronel (2010), has argued development journalism was focused only on positive things of the government instead of criticizing:

In the 1970s, was the school of development journalism, which preached that in poor countries, the media should veer away from the Western fixation on conflict and disaster and should instead promote developmental goals. From this perspective, the press blunts its critical edge and instead functions mainly as information-provider and cheerleader in support of the development agenda.

Off course there were and there are still debates about the function of development journalism among different scholars. Even AmitabhaChowdhury, one of the originators of the development journalism concept said that he regrets having been involved in the coining of the term because of the attempts by governments to remold citizens in the name of development journalism.(Righter, as cited in Ogan, 1980).

Gunaratne (1978) described developmental journalism as an integral part of a new journalism that involved

Analytical interpretation, subtle investigation, constructive criticism and sincere association with the grass-roots (rather than with the elite)." He argued that developmental journalism was not compatible with either the libertarian concept, which defined the function of the mass media as providing information and entertainment, or the authoritarian concept, which stifled "criticism of political machinery and the officials in power" and imposed a "top-down approach to problem solving. (Cited in Gunaratne, 1996:68)

Moreover, Duke, Brown and Talabi, (2017) as well as Coronel, (2010) argue that development journalism can certainly play the watch dog role. And development journalist should critically examine the existing development programmers and projects with the actual task undertaken till date. Investigative reporting, which in some cases has led to the ouster of presidents and the fall of corrupt governments, has made the media an effective and credible watchdog and boosted its credibility among the public.

### **2.5.1 Development Journalism in Ethiopia**

There is no any approved policy document that guides the Ethiopian media philosophy and practice in their role of development (Abayneh, 2017). According to Abayneh only the draft policy document published by Ethiopian press agency (EPA) in 2008 is considered as the main official document; in this policy draft document the basic pillars of DJ (Development journalism) are included in a way that it will guide the Ethiopian media practice in a certain way. Therefore, this draft document can be considered as an official development journalism introducing document (2017).

Moreover, the document defines development journalism: Development journalism is a journalism that makes people understand, accept and actively participate in the implementation of appropriate development ideas that may extricate people from poverty and backwardness by bringing about rapid national change and building on positive values of development and

democratic change. (Ethiopian policy document on development journalism, EPA 2008 cited in Abayneh ,2017 ).

According to (Muluneh,2015; Abayneh , 2017) argue the practice of development journalism in Ethiopia is more focused on positive development efforts but lack on investigative issues of national development and finding solution for the problems. Muluneh (2015) in his study development journalism in Ethiopia, has written that in Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation effort of giving spatial attention to vulnerable, image-building, creating national consensus on several issues and identity formation cultural makeup of nations, nationalities and people from across the country are identified and introduced. But EBC now ETV lacks the entertainment of diverse opinion.

The research conducted by Abduljelil (2016), as cited in Kefale, 2017) also showed that there are several factors that affect the practice of development journalism in EBC (now ETV) and ORTVO now OBN. Accordingly, lack of knowledge and skill on the concept of development and development journalism, lack of logistics and finance, focusing on event reporting, failure to give attention to marginalized groups and diversity, absence of strong and independent journalistic associations at the national and at the media level, were identified as the some factors affecting the practice of development journalism in Ethiopia. On the other hand, Habtamu (2014) writing in ‘The Developmental State and Developmental Journalism’: Spotlighting Ethiopia, argued that modern journalism doesn’t fit with the Ethiopian culture, demography, socio-economic structures. But Ethiopians deserve a journalism which exactly matches with their real situation.

### **2.5.2 Training for Investigative Journalism in Ethiopia**

Training for journalist is very important in order to develop their skill knowledge throughout their career. As a study by Ashenafi (2017) shows lack of qualified investigative journalists is the major challenge to practice investigative journalism in Ethiopia. Moreover, as to Ethiopia

training on investigative journalism (n.d.) Article 29 of the Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia clearly guarantees the freedom of expression, information and the press. In addition, there is a recently amended press law that is actively serving all stakeholders in the country. In order to practice our constitutional rights to their full extent, we need a well-organized and vibrant media which can serve the people.

Accordingly Ethiopian Radio and Television Agency (ERTV) have organized with outside partner a month- long training for 20 investigative journalists and 20 documentary journalists. The project was aimed to contribute for the building of professional capacity of media workers, thereby promoting good governance, transparency and accountability. Similarly Transparency Ethiopia (n.d.) has organized training on investigative journalism for media professionals and students from Addis Ababa university journalism department.

## **2.6 Investigative Reporting and Media Law**

Every country, whether governed by civil or common law, has its own set of journalism laws. The sources and objectives of these media laws reflect each society's political and sociocultural value judgments in weighing press freedom against its competing values. Some countries adopt special laws aimed directly at the press, while others choose indirect press laws. Those laws may or may not derive from a constitutional commitment to a free press. Regardless, a country's media law hinges not on a constitutional guarantee or a special press statute but on the "political philosophy" that underlies it (Lahav, 1985 cited in Wahl-Jorgensen & Hanitzsch, 2009).

According to Rebond (2010) the journalist applies recognized standards (related to those that would be used in a court of law) to both what counts as valid evidence and whether it adds up to conclusive proof. Because laws of defamation (libel and slander) exist, the standard of the journalist's investigation and fact-checking should not be lower than those of a detective putting together a prosecution case. In addition, investigative journalists are unlike detectives they work to tell the checked details as they are than proving guilt.

In relation to the investigative journalism and media law there are problems arise with anonymity source and some laws force journalists to reveal the identity of their sources. Just because there is no specific law against invasions of privacy (other than the Human Rights Act ). But this does not mean to say that journalists can do whatever they want. Alongside the laws on defamation and malicious falsehood, there are a range of laws which offer a patchwork protection of parts of people's private lives. These include the Data Protection Act 1998, the laws of confidence and copyright. It is the law of confidence that is perhaps being most often by the courts as a way of protecting privacy (Frost 2007:97 as cited in Mustapha- Koiki et al 2013).

As the Mustapha- Koiki et al 2013) findings suggest that sometimes, not all the time, privacy of individuals is invaded. The reason for this is giving on the note that most times the investigative journalist does his/her investigation in secrecy in order not to create awareness and at times, he/her interferes with privacy of news subjects. Other finding in the study suggest that investigative journalist could employ evasive techniques but should not be ones that are criminal in nature. It was however suggested that in order for an investigative journalist to do his/her job well without being unnecessary intrusive and unethical, he/she needs to balance all sides to a story and abiding by laid-down rules and regulations (Ibid).

Furthermore, Ongowo ( 2011) in his study stated that taping interviewees without informing them first and hacking telephones and e-mail of news subjects should not be condoned 'but should only be done in situations where there is an intense public interest to get the news published.

### **2.6.1 Investigative Journalism and Media Law in Ethiopia**

As Ashenafi (2017), noted that in Ethiopia, we cannot 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.

Article 29 of the 1995 Ethiopian Constitution provides citizens of Ethiopia the right to hold opinions, thoughts, and free expressions. Specifically, Article 29 protects freedom of expression without interference, including the freedom to seek, receive, and impart information Tracy J. Ross (n.d.). It also affords freedom of the press and mass media by ensuring the opportunity for access to information of interest to the public and prohibiting censorship. Finally, Article 29 transcribes the media's right to institutional independence and legal protection to enable the accommodation of different ideas necessary to a democratic society.

In addition Ashenafi (2017) point out Freedom of expression has got recognition in the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia 29 but there are clearly many legal obstacles to information gathering and publication in Ethiopia, as there are in other countries. Some of these are preventing journalists from doing serious investigative journalism in the public interest.

### **2.6.2 Protection for Journalists and Sources**

Forbes argues that the press should provide special protection for the journalists. Even to the extent of keeping the journalist's identity secret (2005). Newspapers have been known to not publish photographs of their investigative reporters due to death threats levelled at them and even their families. As WaAfrika said:

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 (cited in Forbes, 2005: 51).

According to MacFadyen one of the latest threats to the integrity of the investigative process is the increasing fear of government and private electronic surveillance. Stories involving sensitive

government or corporate activities or plans may be intercepted, witnesses and sources identified, schedules and legal opinions noted, often without the knowledge of the journalist (2008).

As MacFadyen, Encryption and anonymising peer-to-peer software have proven effective defenses against normal bugs and taping. Applications like PGP ([www.pgp.com](http://www.pgp.com)) make routine spying difficult if not impossible, and are used by many investigative reporters. Other methods include secure email addresses ([www.hushmail.com](http://www.hushmail.com)) and software which effectively changes your computer IP address ([www.freedom.net](http://www.freedom.net)). Many investigators prefer to use other methods to hide their documents than using sophisticated applications (Ibid).

CleanGov Biz (2013), clearly states that it can be dangerous for members of the public to provide journalists with information, especially if that information denounces serious miss behavior or pertains to corruption. That is why people often only agree to speak up anonymously. The journalists can then use the information but will not make the name of this source public. According to briefing Paper on Protection of Journalists' Sources, in many instances, anonymity is the precondition upon which the information is conveyed from the source to the journalist; this may be motivated by fear of repercussions which might adversely affect their physical safety or job security. Journalists have long argued that they should protect any document of their confidential sources. Without means to protect their confidential sources, journalists ability, for example, to lay bare corruption of public officials would be seriously impaired (1998).

As claimed by briefing Paper on Protection of Journalists' Sources, Despite the clear advantages of ensuring that journalists protect the anonymity of their sources, situations arise when the interests of journalists clash with other powerful interests and rights. Often, the clash relates to the administration of justice, commonly where information is relevant to a criminal or civil proceeding (Ibid). The researcher also argues that confidential sources should be kept confidential but in the case of court journalists should disclose their sources, unless many journalists will be encouraged to come up with false stories or fabricated reports.

However, as maintained by CleanGov Biz (2013), revealing sources could be a reason to people to refuse in providing information and causes to reduce the ability of the public to receive information, both of which are rights granted by Article 19 the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Journalistic sources should therefore be protected by law. Exceptions should only be granted by a judge and only for “key witnesses and serious crimes”. It is very important to clearly specify those restrictions, so that journalists can reliably inform their potential sources about the risks involved. Furthermore, there are protections provided in many countries to individuals who release information on wrongdoing, or whistleblowers Mendel (2008). It is often unclear whether disclosure of information on wrongdoing is warranted under the law, even if that law includes a public interest override, and individuals seeking to disclose information in the public interest cannot be expected to undertake a complex balancing of the different interests which might come into play. Principle IV(2) of the African Declaration states:

[N]o one shall be subject to any sanction for releasing in good faith information on wrong doing, or that which would disclose a serious threat to health, safety or the environment save where the imposition of sanctions serves a legitimate interest and is necessary in a democratic society (cited in Mendel 2008: 40).

On the report of the protection of sources and whistle blowers, it is mentioned that whistleblowing is an integral part of freedom of expression, protected under Article 19 of the ICCPR as well as other standards such as UN Convention against Corruption.

The UN Human Rights Committee noted in its General Comment no. 34 that:

States parties should recognize and respect that element of the right of freedom of expression that embraces the limited journalistic privilege not to disclose information sources.( cited in protection of sources and whistleblowers 2015:4)

The report of protection of sources and whistleblowers on the other hand argues that with the proliferation of electronic surveillance over the previous decade, the safety of anonymous sources and whistleblowers no longer depends only on ethical and legal protections, but also on information security. Even if ethical and legal protections are in place, mass surveillance risks rendering them meaningless. However, the majority of journalists and civil society organizations

still exchange confidential information over regular phone lines, text messages and unencrypted email. This is a significant challenge especially within the context of state or corporate surveillance, as the relevant actors can sidestep the legal protection of sources and whistleblowers, and identify their identities by other means (2015).

# CHAPTER THREE

## METHODOLOGY

### 3.1 Research Design

This chapter deals with the methodology of the study. It discussed the research approach of the study, what types of data sources have been used, the data collection methods and the sampling technique. Finally the data analysis part with clarification of each step is provided.

The goal of this research was to investigate the presence of enabling environment for investigative journalism in Ethiopia. The study used both qualitative and quantitative approaches. Therefore, the researcher used convergence parallel mixed method design. The two approaches have their own advantages. From a methodological perspective, qualitative research is a loosely defined collection of approaches to inquiry (Qoetz & LeCompte. 1984), all of which rely on verbal, visual, tactile, auditory, olfactory, and gustatory data (as cited in Thompson (Ed.) 1994). On the other hand Dornyei (2007) QUAN proponents usually emphasize that at its best the quantitative inquiry is systematic, rigorous, focused and tightly controlled, involving precise measurement and producing reliable and replicable data that is generalizable to other contexts. The statistical analytical apparatus is refined and far-reaching and it also offers some in-built quality checks and indices (such as statistical significance) that help readers to decide on the validity of quantitative findings.

According to Creswell (2014), mixed method involves combining or integration of qualitative and quantitative research and data in a research study. Qualitative data tends to be open-ended without predetermined responses while quantitative data usually includes closed-ended responses such as found on questionnaires or psychological instruments. Because of this the combination of qualitative and quantitative methods, allowed the researcher for better understanding of the research problem.

The primary data collection tools for this study, was questionnaire and in-depth interview. The questionnaire was distributed among the journalists of the selected three radio stations from the existing different departments. This instrument was employed to obtain data on the presence of enabling environment for investigative journalism in their organization. Both open and close ended questions were employed for the questionnaire. In addition in-depth interview was also conducted with the key informant's; investigative reporters, media managers and with an instructor from Department of Law Mekelle University. The secondary data source of this study was the editorial policy of the three selected radio stations.

## **3.2 Types of Data Sources**

Data that has been observed, experienced or recorded close to the event are the nearest one can get to the truth, and are called primary data. Written sources that interpret or record primary data are called secondary sources (Walliman, 2011).The attempt of this study was to understand deeply the environment of investigative journalism from the practitioners and documents. Therefore, the data needed for this study were written documents (editorial policy) of the selected radio stations and practitioners from the media. Then both primary and secondary data sources were used in order to increase the accuracy, and validity of the research.

### **3.2.1 Primary Data Sources**

The primary data sources were useful and original for the study because they were collected only for the purpose of this research. Therefore, primary sources of this study were journalists, media managers and instructor from Department of Law Mekelle University. This study employed an in-depth interview and distribute questionnaire with the primary sources.

### **3.2.2 Secondary Sources**

Editorial policy of any media station serves as a stand of the station. Then every activity of the station is guided with the help of the editorial policy. Specifically, for this study, analyzing the content of the editorial system of these selected radio stations was showed the attention given to

investigative journalism. For this reason, the editorial policy document of each three selected radio stations were used as secondary data source for this study. The editorial policy of FM 104.4 Mekelle, SNNPRS RTA/FM 100.9 and EBC radio cluster was useful to see whether the organizations are creating a favorable environment for the journalists to work on the investigative reporting.

### **3.3 Data Collection Tools**

#### **3.3.1 Questionnaire**

According to Denscombe, questionnaires are economical, in the sense that they can supply a considerable amount of research data for a relatively low cost in terms of materials, money and time. Again questionnaires were relatively easy to arrange. Moreover, they supply standardized answers, to the extent that all respondents were posed with exactly the same questions – with no scope for variation to slip in via face-to-face contact with the researcher. Denscombe further stated that the data collected, then, were very unlikely to be contaminated through variations in the wording of the questions or the manner in which the question is asked. There is little scope for the data to be affected by ‘interpersonal factors’ (2010).

The questionnaire of this study was distributed among journalists of each of the three selected radio stations. It means journalists from news and current issues, entertainment, sport and other department was selected and filled the questionnaire. The questionnaire was both open and close ended questions.

#### **3.3.2 In-depth Interview**

Media managers and editors are the gate keepers of the media content. They guide and lead the media organization functions. Therefore, media managers were subject to key informant interview. Besides, investigative journalists of the three selected media organizations and an instructor from the Department of Law Mekelle University were part of the in-depth interview. These practitioners were believed to provide an in-depth understanding of the problem because they have lived experience of such practice.

As Berg (2007: 96 cited in Alshenqeti, 2014) claims that the value of interviewing is not only because it builds a holistic snapshot, analyses words, reports detailed views of informants; but also because it enables interviewees to “speak in their own voice and express their own thoughts and feelings”. Accordingly, the interview type for this study was semi- structured. This provided a free room for the participants to discuss on the topic under study. Besides the questions that were not answered by questionnaire was complemented by the interview.

The questions for this study were designed to get the practical interviewee’s view and perceptions about the topic under study. The questions were prepared differently based on the role of the respondents. So the interview was prepared for three different professionals. The first was for the selected investigative journalists from the three selected radio stations who have special experience. The questions focused generally on the practice and challenges of investigative journalism. The second interview was prepared for the managers of the three different radio stations. These questions were mainly focused on the media organizations support for investigative journalism practices. The third interview was designed for the instructor from Department Law Mekelle University.

### **3.4 Sample and Sampling Technique**

According to Cohen, Manion & Morrison (2005) factors such as expense, time and accessibility frequently prevent researchers from gaining information from the whole population. Therefore, they often need to be able to obtain data from a smaller group or subset of the total population in such a way that the knowledge gained is representative of the total population however defined under study. This smaller group or subset is the sample. (Ibid)

This study used both nonprobability (purposive) and probability sampling. For the probability sampling, all the subjects had equal chance to be selected. On top of that nonprobability sampling was applied for the purpose of getting the appropriate subject for the study.

A basic principle of probability sampling is that a sample will be representative of the population from which it is selected if all members of the population have an equal chance of being selected

in the sample (Babbie, 2010). In order to give equal chance for all the journalists for the questionnaire the researcher used simple random sampling in choosing respondents for the questionnaire part. Because they have more homogeneity among the journalists, again the data needed for this questionnaire didn't require the journalists to hold a special experience.

The sampling technique for questionnaire of this study was simple random sampling technique. According to Denscombe (2010), there are plenty of software utilities freely available on the Internet that do calculations at the press of a button. A web search on 'sample size calculator' will identify plenty of these.

In all the three radio stations list of all the journalists excluding investigative journalists (part of the in-depth interview) was prepared. Then every journalist was given number. After that the numbers were written individually in a small piece of paper then collected together. Finally the determined sample was extracted from the collected small piece of papers and used for the study.

The total population of EBC radio cluster was 114 journalists who were on duty without study leave, investigative journalists (part of the in- depth interview) and other reasons. Total population of FM 104.4 Mekelle was also about 19. In addition, total population of SNNPRS RTA/FM 100.9 was 23. Using the sample size calculator, the confidence interval (margin of error) commonly used 5, the confidence level was 95%. Thus, the researcher extracts total of 128 determined samples from the three selected radio stations. But due to different reasons like some of them were in the field, some of them were reluctant to fill the questionnaire. Therefore, only 86 of the respondents filled the questionnaire.

The sampling technique for the interview was purposive sampling. All, the media managers, investigative journalists and instructor from Department of Law were selected purposively because they were the key subjects for this study. Thus, the researcher selected three media managers, which means one from each selected radio station. Again one interviewee was selected from the Department of Law Mekelle University. Besides a total of 6 investigative reporters, 2 from each station who were actually practicing investigative reporting was interviewed.

### **3.5 Data Analysis**

This study was aimed to explore the presence of enabling environment for investigative journalism in Ethiopia in three governmental radio stations, in two regions namely FM 104.4 Mekelle from Tigray, SNNPRS RTA/FM 100.9 from SNNP and EBC radio cluster from the capital city of Ethiopia Addis Ababa.

Kaul defines data analysis as, “Studying the organized material in order to discover inherent facts. The data are studied from as many angles as possible to explore the new facts.” (As cited in Pandey & Pandey, 2015). The primary and secondary data source that was used for this study was treated first separately and then combined together. The data was collected through three ways i.e, questionnaire, interview and document analysis of the editorial policy of the three selected radio stations. The data found from interview in this study was thematically discussed and special citations were used. In addition the data from the questionnaire was presented and analyzed using frequency, percentage tables and charts. Furthermore, the document of editorial policy of the three selected media organizations was analyzed based on the research questions.

### **3.6 Ethical Considerations**

According to Oddi & Cassidy (1990) cited in Akaranga & Makau (2016), more declarations on research ethics were made, but the most significant one was the Helsinki declaration of 1964 which states the need for non-therapeutic research emphasizing the protection of subjects by noting that the well-being of individuals is more important than scientific or social needs.

Thus, the study was conducted based on the norms of the subjects without use of deception. The dignity, Anonymity, confidentiality and privacy of the subjects were protected based on their consensus. Therefore, in order to maintain the anonymity of the respondents the researcher used coding by the first spelling of their job and numbered the participants. i.e J-Investigative journalist and M- manager.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

#### 4.1 Introduction

This chapter deals with the findings in the presence of enabling environment for investigative journalism in Ethiopia in the case of EBC radio cluster, FM 104.4 Mekelle, SNNPRS RTA/FM 100.9. It presents and discusses the support of editorial policy to investigative practices, knowledge and skill of journalists in investigative journalism, access to public information and sources and legal protection of investigative journalists.

#### 4.2 Quantitative Findings

With the intention to fill the gap in the qualitative part the researcher has used quantitative approach. A Total of 128 respondents were supposed to fill the questionnaire from the selected three radio stations but due to many different reasons only 86 of them completed the questionnaire. It means 42 questionnaires were rejected .Therefore the researcher discussed based on the data found from 86 respondents. Then to analyze the quantitative data SPSS software was used.

##### 4.2.1 Demographic Profile of Respondents

Profile of the Respondents				
1	Sex	Male	Female	Total
		63	23	86
		73.3%	26.7%	100%

2	Age	20-30 years	31-40 years	41-50 years	51 years & above	Total		
		33	23	9	2	67		
		49.3%	34.3%	13.4%	3%	100%		
3	Educational qualification	Diploma	First Degree		Masters and Above	Total		
		8	71		7	86		
		9.3%	82.6		8.1	100%		
4	Field of study	Journalism and Communication	Social sciences and Others			Total		
		41	45			86		
		47.7%	52.2%			100%		
5	Experience in media houses	5 years or below	6-10 Years	11-15 Years	16-20 Years	21-25 years	26-30 years	Total
		37	23	11	6	7	2	86
		43.0%	26.7%	12.8%	7.0%	8.0%	2.4%	100%
6	Experience in investigative reporting	0 years	5 years or below		6-10 years		100%	
		73	12		1		86	
		84.9%	14.0%		1.1%		100%	

**Table 1 Demographic profile of respondents**

As it is stated in table1 from the total respondent's majority of 73.3 percent of them were male and 26.7% female. Concerning to age category, only 67 out of the total 86 respondents fill the question. Therefore majority of them 49.3% found in the age among 20-30. Another 34.3% are at the category of 31-40 years. The rest total of 16.4% are 41 and above.

In the case of educational background 82.6% of the respondents hold first degree while 9.3% and 8.1% are diploma, masters and above respectively. In addition most of them, 47.7% of the respondents graduated from the field of journalism and communication and 30.2% of them are from other field of study. In terms of experience in media houses majority of them 43% are 5 years and below and 26.7% are found at the group from 6-10. Journalists were also asked if they

have investigative journalism experience. Therefore, majority ,84.9% have 0 year experience and 14% have below 5 years.

This inferred that the profession of journalism is dominantly practiced by men and journalism and communication background but also other field of study can join the profession. Moreover, the profession of journalism especially investigative journalism is in its initial stage in Ethiopia.

#### 4.2.2 Access to Information Sources

No	Questions related to information sources		Strongly agree	Agree	undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Total
1	I can always access any information from the public easily	F		26	17	41	2	86
		%	0	30.2	19.8	47.7	2.3	100
2	I can always access any information from governmental organizations easily	F	1	10	16	47	12	86
		%	1.2	11.6	18.6	54.6	14	100
3	I can always access any information from Private organizations easily	F	2	12	22	39	11	86
		%	2.3	14	25.6	45.3	12.8	100
4	Sources are willing to provide any information for investigative reporters	F	1	7	25	33	20	86
		%	1.2	8.1	29.1	38.3	23.3	100

**Table 2 Access to information sources**

Table 2 shows respondents' access to information sources. In case of easy access to information from the public, 47.7% of the respondents indicated disagreement while 30.2% agreed. Again while 2.3% strongly disagreed, none of the respondents strongly agreed. Thus, total of 50% have

a negative response to the access of information from the public. This indicated that journalists do have less access to public information.

Moreover, 54.6% of respondents disagree with the statement of access to information from governmental organizations easily, 14% of them stated strongly disagree. Therefore, total of 68.6% were disagreeing with the statement. Another 11.6% and 1.2% said agree and strongly agree respectively. This implies the respondents disagreeing with statement of access to information from governmental organizations easily.

In relation to access to information from Private organizations while 45.3% disagreed, 12.8% strongly disagreed with the statement. Hence, a total of 58.1% respondents were disagreeing with the statement. In addition, a total of only 16.3% agreed with the statement. This shows that private organizations are not always willing to provide information.

Regarding to the willingness of information sources for investigative reporters majority of 38.3% disagreed, 23.3% were strongly disagreed with the statement. Total of 61.6% disagreed and 9.3% have positive response with the willingness of information sources for investigative reporters. Therefore, it indicated that journalists are challenged by different information sources. And there is a culture of secrecy in the information sources.

#### **4.2.3 Organizational Support, Knowledge and Skill of Journalists in Investigative Journalism**

	<b>Questions related to the organizational support to investigative journalism</b>		<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Undecided</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Total</b>
5	I get enough support from my boss	F	6	23	28	25	4	86
		%	7	26.7	32.6	29.1	4.6	100
6	I believe I have the knowledge of investigative journalism	F	7	47	21	8	3	86
		%	8.1	54.7	24.4	9.3	3.5	100
7	I believe I have the key skills of investigative journalism	F	8	61	12	5		86
		%	9.3	70.9	14	5.8		100

	(interviewing, observing, chasing documents)							
8	I am committed to work in investigative reporting	F	21	34	14	15	2	86
		%	24.4	39.5	16.3	17.4	2.4	100
9	I am free to write on any investigative topic	F	5	13	24	31	13	86
		%	5.8	15.1	27.9	36	15.2	100
10	Our organization gives great emphasis for investigative reporting	F	1	12	21	41	11	86
		%	1.2	14	24.4	47.7	12.7	100
11	The editorial policy of our organization is supportive for the journalist to work on investigative reporting Percentage	F	6	34	19	22	5	86
		%	7	39.5	22.1	25.6	5.8	100
12	We have enough budget allocation for investigative reporting in our organization	F	2	4	28	33	19	86
		%	2.4	4.6	32.6	38.4	22	100
13	My editor's attitude regarding investigative journalism is positive	F	1	18	35	24	8	86
		%	1.2	20.9	40.7	27.9	9.3	100
14	Our organization provides investigative training	F		3	18	47	18	86
		%		3.5	20.9	54.7	20.9	100
15	I have taken investigative course during my stay at university or college?	F	12	31	8	24	11	86
		%	14	36	9.3	27.9	12.8	100

**Table 3 Organizational support, knowledge and skill of journalists in Investigative Journalism**

As it is shown in the above table 3 respondents' were asked if they get support from their respective organizations. With regard to getting enough support from their bosses, majority of respondents, 29.1% disagreed while 4.6% strongly disagreed. Thus, a total of 33.7% were

disagreeing with the statement. Similarly a total of 33.7% agreed with the statement. This presents that respondents have equivalent positive and negative responses which shows presence of support in some organization while there is a lack of it in the others.

Concerning to the existence of knowledge in investigative journalism, majority of the respondents 54.7% stated they agree while 8.1% strongly agreed. It means total of 62.8% agreed with the statement. Only 12.8% disagreed. Thus illustrates that majority respondents have the knowledge of investigative journalism.

When asked if they had key skills in investigative journalism, 70.9% respondents stated their agreement and 9.3% strongly agreed. Thus, a total of 80.2% agreed with the statement. Therefore, this seems to show that journalists had key skills of investigative journalism. Only 5.8% disagreed.

In relation to respondents' commitment to work as investigative journalist, larger percentage, 39.5% stated they agreed and significant percent, 24.4%, also strongly agreed with the statement. Only total of 19.8% disagreed. Overall 63.9% stated they had the commitment in investigative reporting. Hence from the above point we can conclude that half of them get enough support whereas half of them don't get enough support from their bosses. On the other hand, respondents believe that they had the key skills, commitment and knowledge of investigative journalism.

In regard to existence of freedom for the journalists', large number about 36% disagreed and 15.2% strongly disagreed. A total of 51.2% disagreed with the statement that journalists are free to write in any issue. Another 20.9% agreed with the statement. Thus, this indicates that journalists felt they are not free to write on any investigative topic.

Concerning to the level of organizational emphasis given to investigative reporting, majority 47.7% stated they disagree and 12.7% strongly disagree. Only a total of 15.2% agreed with the statement. Therefore, total of 60.4% argue their organization didn't give great emphasis for investigative journalism.

Moreover, in relation to availability of support in the editorial policy for journalists to work on investigative journalism, majority which is 39.5% stated they agreed whereas 7% of them strongly agreed. Total of 46.5% claimed agree. Significant number of respondents 25.6%

disagreed and 5.8% strongly disagreed to the statement. Therefore this seems to indicate that the editorial policy of their organization is supportive for the journalist to work on investigative reporting.

When respondents were questioned about proper allocation of the budget for investigative reporting, 38.4% stated they disagree as well as 22% strongly disagree. Overall 60.4% claimed that they disagreed with the statement. 7% only agreed with the statement. This shows us the organizations were not allocating enough budgets for investigative reporting.

With regard to availability of favourable attitude of editors towards investigative journalism, 27.9% stated they disagreed while 9.3% strongly disagreed. The aggregate of 37.2% disagreed with the statement as well as significant number which is 22.1% also agreed. This indicates that editor's attitude towards investigative journalism was relatively less positive.

In relation to availability of training from the organization, 54.7% stated they disagree and 20.9% stated they strongly disagree. This means a total of 75.6 argues that their organization don't provide investigative training. Only total of 3.5% agreed with the statement. Respondents were also asked if they took investigative course during university or college. Then majority of 36% stated agree, 14% strongly agree. Therefore total of 50% shows their agreement. While 27.9% disagreed, 12.8% strongly disagreed with the statement. This indicates majority of them took a course of investigative journalism during their university or college stay. Therefore based on the above points it can be concluded that even though the organizations editorial policy supports for journalists to involve in investigative reporting they happen to be very poor practically in providing investigative training, enough budget allocation. In addition even journalists have the background of investigative journalism there is poor attitude of editors towards investigative journalism. In general the emphasis of the organizations to investigative journalism is unsatisfactory and uncomplimentary.

The above data shows that, journalist believed that, they have the key skills, knowledge and commitment of investigative journalism even there no enough support provided by their organizations for the practice of investigative journalism. This shows that the media organizations commitment to support the practice of investigative journalism is weak. But

journalists have confidence on themselves that they are capable of doing investigative journalism.

#### 4.2.4 Questions Related to Media Law of Ethiopia

	Questions related to the existing media law of Ethiopia		Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Total
16	The Ethiopian media law provides protection for investigative journalists	F	4	12	32	29	9	86
		%	4.6	14	37.2	33.7	10.5	100
17	The Ethiopian media law provides protection for the information sources	F	2	14	34	27	9	86
		%	2.3	16.3	39.5	31.4	10.5	100
18	I have enough knowledge of my right and responsibility as a journalist	F	11	61	6	3	5	86
		%	12.8	70.9	7	3.5	5.8	100
19	I have received media law training frequently	F	8	37	5	29	7	86
		%	9.3	43	5.8	33.7	8.2	100
20	I feel protected by the existing media law of Ethiopia	F		10	25	30	21	86
		%		11.6	29.1	34.9	24.4	100

**Table 4 Questions related to media law of Ethiopia**

The above table 4 presents journalists perception about media law in Ethiopia. When asked if the Ethiopian media law provides protection for investigative journalists, 33.7% disagreed with the statement while 10.5% strongly disagreed. So, majority 44.2% indicated their disagreement to the statement. Another total of 18.6 percent indicated their agreement.

When asked whether Ethiopian media law protects information sources. While 31.4% stated disagree, 10.5% strongly disagree. Accordingly 41.9% confirm their disagreement. About total of 18.6 agreed with the statement. This implies that journalists feel that their sources are not protected.

The respondents were also asked if as journalists they had knowledge of their right and responsibilities. Accordingly, majority of 70.9 percent agreed and 12.8 percent strongly agreed with the statement. Accordingly greater percentage of respondents (83.7%) stated they had knowledge about their rights and responsibilities. Only a total of 9.3% state their disagreement. Thus, it is possible to state that journalists perceive they have the knowledge of their rights and responsibility.

In the case of existence of media law training, 43 percent stated agree and 9.3 percent strongly agree. Therefore, total of 52.3 percent point to agreement. However large number of 41.9% also indicates their disagreement. This shows that majority of them received media law trainings frequently.

In relation to whether journalists feel protected by the provision of the media law in Ethiopia, about 34.9% disagree while 24.4% strongly disagree with the statement. Thus, a total 59.3% state their disagreement. Only 11.6% stated their agreement. This indicates that journalists are not feeling protected with the existing media law of Ethiopia.

The above table indicates that journalists believe they are well aware of their rights and responsibilities and they receive frequent media law trainings. Nevertheless they are not certain about the media law in Ethiopia provides protection of journalists and their sources. Moreover, journalists don't feel protected by the existing media law in Ethiopia. Therefore, the finding inferred that, there are confusions with the media law of the country and knowledge of journalists, that's why they don't feel protected by the existing media law of the country.

#### 4.2.5 General Knowledge Related to Investigative Journalism

	Questions related to investigative journalism		Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Total
21	Investigative journalism is only the work initiated by the journalist	F	7	12	16	35	16	86
		%	8.2	14	18.6	40.6	18.6	100
22	I have frequently been questioned for investigative stories I wrote	F	2	8	35	33	8	86
		%	2.4	9.3	40.6	38.4	9.3	100
23	I believe there is investigative journalism practice in Ethiopia	F		12	47	25	2	86
		%		14	54.6	29	2.4	100
24	Ethiopian media have the capacity to practice investigative journalism	F	5	34	23	18	6	86
		%	5.8	39.5	26.7	20.9	7	100
25	Investigative journalism doesn't require huge economic capacity rather commitment of journalists and the organization	F	10	24	9	29	14	86
		%	11.6	27.9	10.5	33.7	16.3	100
26	Media ownership doesn't affect the	F	1	9	12	46	18	86
		%	1.2	10.5	14	53.4	20.9	100

	content of the journalism practice							
27	The owner of our media influences in the practice of journalism	F	1	17	17	35	16	86
		%	1.2	19.8	19.8	40.6	18.6	100
28	I sometimes self-censor my stories	F		23	54	8	1	86
		%		26.7	62.8	9.3	1.2	100

**Table 5 General knowledge related to investigative journalism**

The above table 5 shows that, the overall knowledge of respondents about investigative journalism. Respondents asked if investigative journalism is the work only initiated by the journalist. Then 40.6% disagree, 18.6% strongly disagree. As a result total of 59.2 percent argue investigative journalism is not the only work initiated by the journalist. Another 22.2 percent indicate their agreement with the statement.

When they were asked if they had been questioned frequently about their investigative stories, 38.4% stated they disagree while 9.3% they strongly disagree. Then total of 47.7 percent disagreeing with the statement. Whereas 9.3% stated agreed and 2.4% strongly agreed. Therefore this indicates majority of the respondents didn't frequently get questioned for investigative stories they have wrote.

In the case of the question asking them whether there exist the capacity of investigative journalism practice in Ethiopia, 29% disagree, 2.4% strongly disagree. However 14 percent agreed with the statement. This means total of 31.4 percent believe there is no capacity for investigative journalism practice in Ethiopia.

Regarding the capacity of Ethiopian media, majority of respondents which is 39.5% stated agree while 5.8% strongly agree. Total of 27.9% show their disagreement. So, 45.3 percent indicate their agreement to the statement. This shows that Ethiopian media have the capacity to practice investigative journalism.

Relating to economic capacity of an organization or commitment of both journalists and organizations to carry out investigative reporting, 33.7% of them disagreed and 16.3% strongly disagreed. Which is cumulative of 50 percent said disagreed with the statement. On the other

hand 27.9% indicate agreed, 11.6% strongly agreed. This illustrates half of the respondents believe economic capacity is important than commitment of journalists and organization in practicing investigative journalism.

In the case of whether ownership influence the content, large number, which is 53.4% disagree and 20.9% strongly disagree though total of 11.7% agree with the statement. This is dominant 74.3% of respondents disagreeing with the statement. This indicates respondents believe media ownership has an influence to the content of journalism practice. Respondents were asked does the owner of their media influence their professional practice. 40.6% stated disagree again 18.6% strongly disagree. Total of 59.2 percent show their disagreement. While 19.8% and 1.2% stated agree and strongly agree respectively. Accordingly this shows that the owner of their media influence their professional practice. The final question is regarding to self-censorship. About 26.7% respondents stated agree with the statement and another total of 10.5% stated that they disagree. Thus majority of the respondents sometimes self-censor their stories.

The above table indicates that, even if journalists don't believe any media ownership doesn't affect the practice of journalism, in contrast they claimed, the owner of their media organization has affected their practice of journalism. As the result some there are journalists who censor themselves in writing their story. Journalists also argue that investigative journalism requires huge economic capacity not only the initiation of the journalist. In addition, the journalists believe Ethiopian media's are capable of practicing investigative journalism but so far they are not actually practicing it in the ground.

Finally in order to have broad understanding, the relationship of independent and dependent variables of this questionnaire are prepared. See (Appendix 1).

## 4.2.6 Findings from the Open Ended Questions

### 4.2.6.1 Training on Investigative Journalism after Graduation from University or College



**Chart 1 Training on Investigative Journalism after Graduation from University or College**

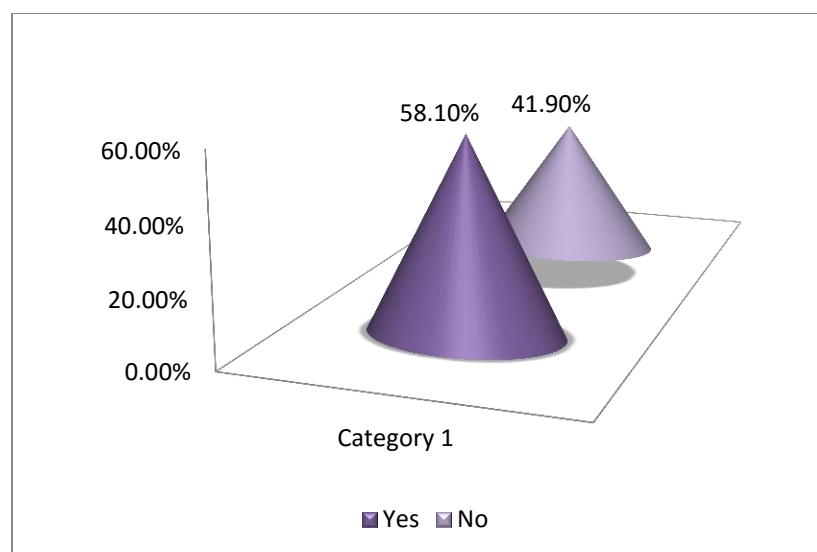
As we can see from the above chart from the total of 86 respondent's 65 (75.6 %) have not taken training on investigative journalism after graduation from their university or college, while 21 (24.4%) said yes. From the total 65 who said no only two of them mention that even though they are not trained by the organization they try to upgrade themselves by personal effort. Additionally around 3 of the respondents who said yes stated that the training was shallow and discussed about investigative journalism as one part of the training not specifically investigative journalism. Furthermore from the total 21 who said yes, 13 of them take the investigative training once, 7 of them two times the rest one has taken three times. Therefore, we can determine that majority of the respondents have less opportunity for training regarding investigative journalism. Even some of the trainings which were taken about investigative journalism, they are not deep-rooted and regular.

#### ***4.2.6.2 The Indicators for Presence of the Practice of Investigative Journalism in Ethiopia***

On the other hand respondents were asked if they believed there were indicators for presence of the practice of investigative journalism in Ethiopia. Around 40 respondents out of 86 respond yes. From the total 40 about 15 respondents stated that, there are little attempts in practicing investigative journalism in different media institutions in exposing corruption, maladministration. Another 9 respondents indicated even there are some efforts but they are not sufficient and fruitful. In addition around 15 respondents mention that there are attempts in EBC most of them referring to the investigative program called “Aynachin” which was terminated before some year but now get back on the air this year (the year this research was conducted, 2018). Again some of them mentioned that, there were attempts in FBC radio, OBN (Oromia Broadcasting Network) and Addis Admas, Fortune and reporter newspapers.

Therefore, even there are some attempts in different media institutions in the practice of investigative journalism they are not satisfactory.

#### ***4.2.6.3 Desire to Specialize in Investigative Journalism***



**Chart 2 Desires to Specialize in Investigative Journalism**

The above chart indicates the response of respondents for the question that if they have the desire to specialize in investigative journalism. From the total of 86, half of the respondents 50(58.1%) say yes and 36(41.9%) say no to the question. The majority of respondents who said yes have indicated different reasons. Most of them stated that they have the interest and obligation in serving the public and solve the public grievance and complaints raised by exposing the traitors. And they believe investigative journalism is a type of journalism which helps them to realize their interest. On one hand some of the respondent's remarks, investigative journalism helps them to serve the public better, upgrade themselves through the entire profession and build media trust on the public.

From the 36 (41.9%) respondents who said no, certain respondents confirmed they were not interested in specializing investigative journalism rather they are passionate in entertainment and other forms of journalism. For some, the poor legal protections of journalists, low budget allocation, less commitment of top media managements generally the unfavorable conditions in the country are some of the reasons to hold back or hinder themselves from specializing in investigative journalism. Few in number, also mention that the weak government measurement for corrupt officials and individuals doesn't encourage them involving in investigative journalism. Generally, more than half of the respondents are hungry and interested to specialize investigative journalism with all these unfavorable situations in order to solve the public's challenges.

#### ***4.2.6.4 Suggestion for Better Investigative Journalism in Ethiopia in the Future***

Almost all the respondents provide their suggestions in order to have a better investigative journalism in Ethiopia in the future. All most all of them suggest in creating a favorable media system. But they explain it in different ways. Most of the respondents suggest that press freedom should be ensured; media's have to be free and independent of any outside interference especially from government involvement. So, the government, media owners and media policy regulators should work together for the press freedom.

Concerning the legal system, they mention that the media law and proclamations should be practiced and respected. In addition, there has to be legal protection of journalists and their

sources. Here government and other stockholders commitment is mandatory. Government should support, strengthen and evaluate the practice of investigative journalism. Professional association, democratic institutions should also be strengthening. Again there should be a mechanism which forces the government officials who aren't ready to provide information and punish these criminals.

In addition, the respondents stated that all the media organizations should be committed. There should be enough budget allocation, encouraging mechanisms to investigative journalists by fulfilling all the necessary facilities, providing investigative training and promotion. More over the media should be run by professional who holds the knowledge, ethics and skill of the profession. In general the working system of media houses should be enhanced.

## **4.3 Qualitative Findings**

The qualitative part is collected through in-depth interview. Therefore, total 10 which is 6 investigative journalists and 3 media managers and one instructor from the Department of Law Mekelle University were interviewed. This part deals with the data found from in-depth interview of investigative journalists, media managers and an instructor from the law department. All the investigative journalists, media managers and the instructor were male.

### **X In-depth Interview with Investigative Journalists**

#### **4.3.1 Background**

Almost all of the investigative journalists who were interviewed for this research had a different educational background. They were from social sciences from different field of study except one from journalism and communication (see Appendix 2).

The data found from the in-depth interview of investigative journalists shows three of them who were from language and literature and journalism and communication background had the

chance to have the background of investigative journalism at their universities. The rest 3 are no familiar with investigative journalism. In addition, four of them are in the position of editors and two of them are program producers.

#### **4.3.2 Perception on Investigating Journalism**

As Ansell et al (2002) argument investigative reporting deals with original research into wrongdoings that go on in the society. The core of investigative journalism is to uncover information that is in the public's interest. All informants also describe investigative journalism in a similar way with Ansell. They claimed investigative journalism is about digging out or extracting the hidden public problems and government through going to the grass root. It is a very complicated and very tiredness. It needs commitment, it needs selfless; it needs passion and journalists have to even overcome to the extent of different risks. Because the journalist has to put her/himself in the shoe of the society who was facing the different socio economic, political or cultural problems. It is not to ventilate their grievances, fault finding rather it is to expose such malpractices, misgovernments which the society always seeks to get solution. Different from the other informants, (J2) believed that:

Even there are similarities about the basic principles of journalism but in practicing investigative journalism it depends on the situation of the countries policy and strategy similarly the editorial policy of the organization you work for. So I don't believe all investigative journalism have the same principles (personal interview, 26 April 2018).

#### **4.3.3 Development Journalism and Investigative Reporting**

All in all the respondents said that development journalism and investigative journalism complements the other. Development journalism allows practicing investigative journalism. But they explain it in different ways. One of the respondents described that "When we bring development journalism and investigative journalism together, Development journalism can be to some extent subset to investigative journalism so far we are at its infant stage. We haven't practiced it yet" (Personal interview, 23 mar 2018).

All explained that, in the case of Ethiopia, development journalism tends to report positive achievements, success stories in the assumption of influencing others positively but in the other hand they argue that they undermine certain malpractices. They realize it can be because of lack of competence, lack of resources, it can be lack of commitment from the journalists as well as from the top management. Moreover, they are very few immediate bosses who will encourage and who will be on the side of journalists while conducting investigative journalism. Additionally some of the informants claim that the unsecured financial issue forces journalists to prefer the safe way. They are afraid to face challenges. The other thing is, there is limited capacity, lack of working environment, misunderstanding of the concept and practice of development journalism. For e.g. one of the informants mentioned that journalists are influenced with the political membership. “If a journalist is a member of one political party, it is unlikely to report bad things about the party...” (Personal interview, 26 April 2018).

#### **4.3.4 Importance of Investigative Journalism**

According to Kumar (2012), the Press has a social responsibility function apart from educating, informing and entertaining the public. The theory of social responsibility postulates that the Press has to play a crucial role in the people-centric issues. Most informants agreed in a similar way that investigative journalism has a very broad importance especially for developing countries like Ethiopia in exposing corruption, crime etc. It helps to manage the public and government property and fills the gap among them. Government officials will aware of their accountability and be able to understand their right and responsibility. Indirectly this activity creates stable environment and country. Furthermore, informants emphasized that investigative journalism adds value in building one media organization’s credibility and develops trust. People give their ear and eyes when the media talk about their problems. The society will also have the appetite to listen, or watch to them. Since the programs are part of their daily life. The professionals will be getting more credit among the society; employees will be satisfied and confident. So, investigative journalism shouldn’t be optional. We have to practice it. But then again almost all they believe that they are not practicing the real investigative journalism.

#### 4.3.5 Organizational Support to Investigative Journalism

In terms of the organizational support to investigative journalists respondents provide different ideas. One of the respondents claim the organizational provision is less. He stated:

I do remember two, three incidents in the last more than 10 years when I was program producer. It was 10 years back that I faced the first incident that I was arrested while I was investigating certain malpractices... it was by my cost and by my expense that I tried to defend my rights while I report it to my office. The other thing was in 2006. The same thing has happened to me. But thanks to the great almighty God I escaped death... It is the society who provides me every facility... at the end of the day victory was on my side. The only thing what my office has helped me in both cases is not beyond talking to them through telephone. No more no less. Yes we do have legal department, but nobody dare to go there or nobody tries to bring the criminals before the court of law because of different reasons, lack of commitment, lack of resource could be some (Personal interview, 23 Mar 2018).

On the other hand the informants of investigative journalists mention regarding the organizational support that the investigative journalism has been less emphasized in many ways. There is no assigned separate organized investigative journalism team. Which is well equipped and with specialized full manpower. In addition one informant mention that journalists are assigned additional duties while they are conducting investigative journalism. In addition their media organizations or the top management doesn't encourage and provide special support for journalists to practice investigative journalism. Even though the journalists are not committed enough but somehow they claim that they are trying a little bit to practice investigative journalism.

Except one informant who got the chance to train once for 3 months, all the investigative journalists didn't get chance to train about investigative journalism. That's why they argued that their media organization provided no organized, no planned, well-articulated training regarding investigative journalism. No appropriate attention has been paid not only by their organizational

level even at federal level. In general there is no special attention, facility or support given to investigative reporting. Of course the media organizations don't prohibit journalists from doing investigative reporting but at the same time they don't create a favorable environment to practice it.

#### **4.3.5.1 Knowledge and Skill of Investigative Journalism**

Cornel (2003) argues that it is observed widely in many places journalists are willing to work on investigative reporting. But many have neither the skills nor the training that investigative reporting requires. As the finding also indicated that most of the informant agreed for different reasons, they don't believe they are perfect enough with the knowledge and skill of investigative journalism. Since there is no well-organized and articulated training, no favorable environment for investigative journalism it is unlikely to have enough knowledge and skill. Some of them say that there is a gap in the provision of investigative training after their university or college stay. Again some of them stated that even if it is not perfect but they believe at least they have a favorable knowledge and skill which they get through personal effort and some additional training they took so far related to general concept of media. One of the informants contends that

It is through practice one could acquire knowledge and skill because journalism by itself is dynamic profession. It is not like that of accountant profession that has already established formula which we are familiar with. Journalism by itself is a profession which always needs dynamic attitude, perception. It is not a static. No one is perfect enough while with the passage of time. It is through practice and practice (Personal interview, 23 Mar 2018).

#### **4.3.5.2 Journalist's Freedom to write in any Issue and Time Provision to do Their Story**

In general journalist's freedom to write in any issue is somewhat positive. One informant mentions that "I am free to write on any issue. And my editors support me in providing additional idea , directions to conduct a better investigative program There is no one who can ask me why I do that and this" (Personal interview, 24 Mar 2018). But some of them also

mentioned that the freedom depends. There are certain moment journalists censor themselves depending on the complication of the issue. If there are key individuals who can easily influence the journalist and yet who get involved in this incident, the sooner they abstain and opt for another option. On one hand if the issue is off less complicated in which the people these who are engaged in this malpractice are less influential they try to face these challenges. Again one of the informants mentioned there are mostly event based activities so it is hard to say there is freedom to write or not.

One of the informants also claimed that “journalists are sometimes forced to stop their investigation at the middle or after they completing investigation (production). There was one story which has been stopped before one hour left for transmission. I cried that day. The issue was about a car which has been distributed and sold the parts of the car among individuals of one bureau. Therefore, I have done who were the individuals, where did they take the parts of the car etc based on the tip I get from the audience. It was an interesting and educative program if it was transmitted.” (Personal interview, 26 April 2018).

According to issue of self –censorship, three informants noted that there are moments which journalists remain silent or self-censor themselves because they see the consequences or in the assumption to minimize harm for the majority. If the issue is less important for the public and focuses on individual interest journalists also withhold themselves from the issue.

In regard to time provision most of the Journalists mention that their editors give them enough time to do their story. It’s the journalists who will come up with plans not by their editors. And they communicate with their immediate editors in their activity. The journalists put at least roughly for some days to do their story and what matters is balancing their story.

But Informant 1 mention that whatever complicated the issue is journalists mayn’t be allowed to go for more than a month. If the journalists don’t come up with full fact, the only chance is to gather data’s through telephone. So they can’t stay any longer than the schedule.

#### **4.3.5.3 Commitment of Journalists**

All the investigative journalists are very passionate enough and have given special attention and consideration for investigative journalism. They stated that they are doing investigative reporting because they are interested to answer the public complaints and solve their pain, to expose the corruption, maladministration seen in the ground. In general the investigative journalists are doing it with the interest which emanates from inside to solve the public's problems. They do it with all these challenges.

In the first place as a journalist you are hired to serve the public, you build the interest and responsibility first. Then when you work on it, people will also appreciate you, send you feedback then you will be satisfied and committed you truly doing your mission. As a journalist I am hungry to solve the public's problem. (Personal interview, 27 April 2018).

#### **4.3.6 The Opportunity to get Public Information and Sources**

Generally informants indicated that the process of getting information is very tiresome. But some of them see the problem from the public angle and other from the government official's side. About three of the informants mention there is culture of secrecy in the public. But the Public is a little bit cooperative to the investigative journalists comparing with officials by providing information and documents. More over the informants mention that the public give tipoffs, they come to the radio station in person with their documents, they call to the program producers or they send letters because there are some programs they listen to and attempt to solve the public's problem, then they come with hope to solve their problems too. The public is willing if the issue at stake is public issue; there is no problem with that. On the other hand one informant added, there are also people who don't expose themselves.

They prefer to provide information anonymously. Some of them are very reluctant to give information, or they tell everything off the record but they are not willing to go on the record. They censor themselves. There is this general misconception that, they think it's risky to provide information for the journalist. Because they

believe they may encounter with many problems if they are cooperate with the journalists (Personal interview, 28 Mar 2018).

Most of the informants stated that even though what they are doing isn't deep rooted and they don't demand for different documents but mostly they don't have the access to public documents. Most of the time officials, expertise those who engaged in supervisor role or in embezzling this public resources, they are very much reluctant and they pretend like they are always busy, they aren't available, they were out of city. They try to transfer or tend to externalize the problem. They forced the journalist to communicate the other person who is less informed and less engaged with these problems. In addition there are moments when they switched off their mobile phones. Most of the officials are not well aware of their responsibilities. They simply fear to answer to journalists and hide documents. Additionally, one informant also referred that officials can influence negatively for journalists.

Officials are not always willing to be on the record. They almost have no interest to cooperate with journalists in the case of investigative story. They have a big connection. So they can even stop you by calling to your bosses (Personal interview, 26 April 2018).

#### **4.3.7 The Knowledge of the Existing Media Law**

Informants were asked questions relating to the knowledge they have about the existing media law in Ethiopia. At most all the informants are not well aware of the existing media law. About three of the informants say they only have very shallow and not detail knowledge about it. At the same time three informants also indicated that they have specific knowledge they acquire through their own personal efforts. One informant clarifies it as "most of the time it's the journalist who have to search for these materials. You have to be sniff. If you are always sniffing you have a chance to come across up to date and adequate laws, proclamations and directives"(Personal interview, 23 Mar 2018). Most of them also stated that they don't attained media law training for long time. In addition to that the effort of the journalists to know is very weak. The media organizations and other stakeholders are also weak in providing training and materials about the existing media law in Ethiopia.

#### **4.3.8 Media Law Protection for Journalists and Sources**

Almost all of the journalists are not sure whether the media law provides protection for journalists and their sources. They don't have adequate or detail knowledge about media law protection of journalists and their sources. Three of the informants agreed even if they don't have broad understanding of the law, they stated that the law provides protection for journalists and their sources. Moreover they mention that, in Ethiopia there are very ambitious and well-articulated media proclamations, laws, rules and regulations in theoretical and in paper level. But the problem lies in its practical term. As a country it's less sensitive towards applicability of the proclamations and laws of the media both in empowering media's, journalists and in giving due legal protection for media institutions. The other three informants also answered that they are not sure whether the media law in Ethiopia provide protection to journalists and their sources or not.

#### **4.3.9 Challenges of Practicing Investigative Stories**

Concerning to the challenges journalists face in conducting investigative reporting. All journalists agreed upon that they encounter many different challenges both internally and externally in their personal experience.

From the external challenges, are there are people or interested groups these who are part of that problem who will become challenging for the journalist. All the informants have the same opinion about the reluctance of government officials in providing information. But they clarified it in different ways. Some of the informants claim that officials give false reasons when they are asked to provide information. Some officials pretend as if they are attending meeting but they are actually present at office, they refuse to come to studio, they also wants you to provide them questions in advance, they don't keep their promises, they hide documents, they are not aware of the proclamation of press freedom, and officials are changing from year to year then it is difficult for journalists to get sequential information. Additionally one informant claimed that investigative journalism puts the journalist always at risk.

If you go to certain region while conducting this investigative journalism, you are at their disposal. They can arrest you, they can harass you, even they can detain

you...the sooner they got this information the sooner they design strategy that can create an obstacle towards your investigation. So, you are always at risk. You will go to expose yourself to certain undue risks because they have upper hand (Personal interview, 23 Mar 2018).

In regard to the challenges two informants noted that top media managements are not committed. They want to stay at their position. They may lose confidence. Then they put journalists on fear and in doubt. Even the immediate editors can work or be on the side of the people to be investigated. Furthermore, according to one informant there are challenges related to the public.

Some information sources from the public side hide information or reluctant in providing information because they experience that their comments, ideas and opinions have not transmitted or aired fully in the previous times due to different reasons (Personal interview, 27 Mar 2018).

As two informants there are some internal challenges which emanates from the journalists. Journalists lack commitment due to different reasons. They lack the capacity and interest and they come up with shallow reports even there are opportunities to work on. Moreover, according to the two informants, journalists get information easily for success stories but people are not easily willing to give information for investigative stories, that's why they are not encouraged to work on investigative reporting and choose the safe way.

#### **4.3.10 Suggestions for a Better Investigative Journalism in Ethiopia in the Future**

Investigative journalists were asked to suggest their opinion based on their experience to have a better investigative journalism for the future in Ethiopia. According to one of the informants "first of all journalists should be always trustful, genuine for themselves. They should not give empty promises for their audience. Their loyalty should be to their mind, to their office and to the law...they have to always make ready themselves to face challenges, convince their boss or be able to mobilize human and material resources (Personal interview, 23 Mar 2018)."

Furthermore three of the informants noted that the government should give due emphasis for investigative journalism because it benefits the government too. On the other hand most of the

informants mention that media organizations should have to organize a separate investigative journalism team with well-equipped and full manpower, enough airtime, legal protection and enough budget allocation. One informant referred that “unless we provide all the necessary equipment’s journalists can be found themselves to be investigated”. In contrast with the above informants one informant mentioned that

Government is committed and initiated to support investigative journalism but there is a problem with the top media managements. Therefore top media managements should be committed, determined serving the truth and their public and encourage journalists. Additionally top media managers should also trained together with investigative journalists (Personal interview, 26 April 2018).

According to one informant there has to be a mechanism that minimizes the negative influence of out sourced programs (sponsored programs) on investigative journalism. Because it is difficult to investigate and expose the wrong doings of the organizations that are served as source of income for the media organizations.

## **Xx In-depth Interview with Media Managers**

### **4.4 Vision and Commitment to Struggle the Public Problems**

As to the informants of the three media managers, the government media organizations have similar mission and vision. They aimed to create an informed society and educating the public by providing balanced and clear information. They design educational and informative programs for the youth, elders, women and children etc. In general they are working in building development, peace and democracy of the country and being the number one choice of their audience.

Moreover all informants claimed that their organizations are committed to face for the challenges that can be threat of the development. But for different reasons they argue the organizations less emphasized the practice of investigative journalism in the past years. On the other hand (M1) mentions that, they tend to focus on development issues and success stories because it was

believed their region was left behind in development. So, development is a big issue for the region. According to this, (M1) added that:

Of course we have some investigative programs but they are not more highlighted...Our journalist's capacity and commitment is limited. Additionally, our organization lacks to function in improving the skill of the journalists. The other obstacle is that, the tendency government officials perceive government media as public relation officers, which only talk about the positive things of the government. (Personal interview, 28 Mar 2018 ).

All informants provide various explanations for the weakness of the media organization on investigative journalism. As to (M3) the journalists have no adequate knowledge of their right in constitution and press freedom proclamation. He added stated that "Lack of enough budgets, strong human resource and less cooperation of government officials were some of the reasons."

But still with these whole challenges all the media manager's claimed that there are programs which attempts and strive to solve the problem of the society through different mechanisms.

In regard to SNNPRS RTA/ FM 100.9 they have programs like "Tyake alegn" literally meaning "I have question" which is live phone in program, "Ennegager" meaning "Let's talk" and an out sourced production program called "Sne mgbar" literally meaning "ethics" which is done by anti-corruption commission, in addition they cover issues of investigative reporting in their news coverage. On the side of 104.4 FM Mekelle "Melsi Nhtotatkum" meaning "Answer for your questions" which is produced based on tip offs that comes from the audience and "Wushatona" meaning "out interior". And EBC have also programs of "Yehig neger" meaning "About law" is live program aimed to create awareness about the rule of law and protect it. And a program called "EBC medrek" literally meaning "EBC stage" which discusses big issues.

"Aynachin" program from EBC which terminated for some years but now it is back on air. The program is reorganized now in a better way than before. Investigative journalists are organized in one separate desk with full manpower. They are organized in a way to serve the two mediums, what has done on "Aynachin" on Television will also transmitted on Radio.

Note: “Aynachin” the well-known investigative program in EBC which was terminated for some years is back on air while this research was conducting.

#### **4.4.1 Organizational Support to Investigative Journalism**

Basically the three media managers claimed that the media organizations don't provide special support for investigative journalists they all are treated equally. There is no separate well-organized group of investigative journalism, no particular budget allocated for investigative journalists.

All the informants argued that media organizations lack in providing specialized training on investigative journalism. As (M1) mentioned that every year they plan for capacity building and there is a separate group which is responsible for providing training but didn't provide training specifically on investigative reporting yet. In addition he put that even there is no particular investigative journalism training given so far but the media organization provide training about general discipline of journalism, the current policy and strategy of the country, current issues and investigative journalism as part of the training by inviting different government bodies and other organizations. (M3) added that:-

Still we didn't provide training specifically on investigative journalism. The biggest problem of practicing investigative journalism in media organizations is, it lacks cooperation from the outside democratic institutions, like that of human rights, ombudsman commission and anti-corruption commission. By its nature investigative journalism demands you legal protection, budget, committed and journalists with special capacity. But even we have shortage of budget we try to do some programs of investigative with the entire budget at hand (Personal interview, 26 April 218).

Concerning the legal protection for the journalists, all the media managers expressed that organizations take full responsibility for the journalist's action and provide legal protection for the journalists when it is necessary. Since the journalist's activity is in the acknowledgement of the organization. In the case of one of the media managers (M2) “there are separate assigned law

professionals in the organization who are responsible for the general legal activities of the organization.”

As regard to promotion of investigative journalists, all the informants claimed there is no special promotion given to investigative journalists in these media organizations under study. But in one of the media organizations, investigative journalists are privileged with some percent to encourage them during incentives like resident. When the whole workers compete for resident, investigative journalists are getting some percent in the criteria.

Some of the media managers argue in relation to the provision of support for investigative journalists is that, media managers guide journalists through the whole process of their investigation. Media managers discuss agenda together, and provide help who are better informed about the issue at hand and who they should contact with, how they should get balanced story etc.

#### **4.4.2 Freedom of Journalists**

According to the three informants, as organizational structure their journalists are free to practice investigative journalism. As far as the journalists are practicing based on the public interest not on the personal or individual interest there is a working environment. In addition if the story is not against the proclamation of press freedom, broadcast proclamation and editorial policy of the organizations, journalists are not limited to write. But they mention that in the past years all the media organizations and media managers were not committed enough and encourage journalists to practice. On the other hand according to (M2) journalists censor themselves for different reasons.

There are misunderstandings in the journalists regarding to investigative journalism. Journalists censor themselves from the consideration that, the program might disappoint the government. Some of them feel fear that, they might be questioned (reliable) about the issue. Some of them consider involving in investigative reporting is related to politics. Others distant themselves from practicing investigative reporting because of the challenges they face in their past experience and observation from others (Personal interview, 22 Mar 2018).

#### **4.4.3 Criteria of Investigative Reporting Editors**

Two of the informant claimed there are no unique standards to assign investigative editors. Since there is no separate group of investigative journalism there are no special criteria to assign investigative editor and anyone who is assigned as editor and a member of editorial team is responsible for all the activities under him/her. Because it is believed that all editors have good and long experienced. While on the other hand (M2), indicates that professional proficiency matters to assign an investigative editor.

Even though skill is developed through time but, an investigative editor have to have unique characteristics. She/he has to be ethical, determined, who have the investigative journalism skills like how to plan, how to collect documents, whom to interview, how to keep secret, and what is the relation should be with people (Personal interview, 22 Mar 2018).

#### **4.4.4 Suggestions for Better Investigative Journalism in Ethiopia in the Future**

The three media managers suggest different ideas to have a better investigative journalism in Ethiopia in the future. All agreed up on that all the government, media management and the journalists should be committed, initiated in supporting the activities of investigative journalism. According to (M3), media organizations should work in upgrading journalist's capacity, creating responsible and free journalists by giving well organized training on investigative journalism. One of the informants also stated that journalist should not censor themselves. They have to understand that exposing one minister doesn't mean the whole country is at risk.

Finally all informants claimed that their media organizations didn't give special attention to investigative journalism earlier. But this time they promised that there is a bright future for the investigative journalism in Ethiopia. There are some improvements in the activity of investigative journalism than before.

## **Xxx In-depth interview with An Educator from Department of law**

### **4.5 Provision of Ethiopian media law for press freedom and access to information**

An instructor from Mekelle university Department of Law was asked about the general provision of the Ethiopian media law for investigative journalism. In order to evaluate how the media law is supportive to the practice of investigative journalism in Ethiopia.

According to the instructor the general source of rights to journalists emanate from the constitution of the country article 29. He mentioned that article 29 of the constitution indicates the right to speech or the right to express/ describe yourself, to impart or to receive, to read and to write. He emphasized that when a journalist is arrested or one newspaper, Magazine is closed, it is not only the denial of the right to speak of the journalist but it is also the public's right to listen is denied.

Article 29 of the constitution has 7 sub articles and generally explains about the right of Thought, opinion and Expression.

As the instructor, the constitution prohibits any form of censorship. It prohibits content based discrimination. Article 29 is very good, ambitious and which provides full respect for the freedom to access information. He added that

The freedom of the mass media and access to information of our country is favorable comparing with that of most Europeans. The proclamation 590/ 2008 chapter three, access to information puts public relation officers or public body must provide information. But the proclamation is not applicable still. Because the government claims to modernize the system, to digitalize the documents found in every government offices, generally to apply this law requires huge capital and preparation. But it is 10 years passed since this law didn't fully applicable... I think the government is not committed. The previous proclamation in 1984 E.C was not very much strong. There was one article which puts government officials to provide information for journalists but it doesn't state punishment for the

government officials who refuse to provide information. Rather it puts penalty if the journalists found guilty (Personal interview, 10 May 2018).

Article 14(3) of the proclamation stated that

*upon receiving request for information, the public relation officer, in accordance with sub –article (1): of this Article shall as expeditiously as possible either 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.*

In addition Article 14(7) stated that any official or employee of the public body shall have a duty to cooperate when a request for information is made to him by the public relations officer.

Furthermore, the instructor claimed that the new proclamation which is, 590/2008 allow for journalists to even accuse the public officials who refuse to provide them information. And even let them punished with criminal code. More over journalists can appeal against organizations. The power to function this is given to anti-corruption commission. Then the journalists can also appeal to Ombudsman commission for these who refuse to provide information with in the limited time. Even if the request of information has to be extended for external time for different reasons, the proclamation provided the time limitation. This is stated under Article 31(1) of 590/2008 proclamation.

Accordingly, article 33(3) of the proclamation mentions the power of Ombudsman.

*The Ombudsman shall have the power to reject any appeal, or to order any public body to provide the requested information or to take such other action as is appropriate to ensure that the public body meets its obligations under this proclamation.*

When the proclamation was declared on 2008 there were some changes observed in all the government organizations. As the instructor indicated that, the government organizations were formed in well-organized and full manpower public relation offices. The public relation offices

were under the ministry of communication by that time. But later the offices became under the control of their own organizations and there were no much development seen. The instructor added that, to realize freedom of information for sure it demands huge capital, organizations must change the old documentation system and build modernized one. Moreover, in order to keep the government officials more transparent and accountable, investigative journalism must be supported and freedom of information is mandatory. Thus, even the rights of freedom of information are there in the proclamation but they are not still applicable.

#### **4.5.1 Media law of Ethiopia and Investigative Journalism**

According to the instructor of Mekelle University Department of Law, the environment to investigative journalists is to some extent limited. It doesn't encourage journalists to criticize and comment on different issues. We can see it in different ways. For example in our case top government officials can take journalist to court for defamation. As the informant states that, basically there is no defamation for journalists when we refer to the United Nations human rights commission, the defamation manual. Especially if the journalists are talking about politicians and public personality, these public figures should be ready to defend themselves instead of accusing journalists for defamation and screening which is false and which are truth. The instructor said, "Under these circumstances, most of the time freedom of thought is defiance." Therefore, he believes with these all things journalists can't be free to express their view.

The other thing which is related to defamation is, Penal Code of Ethiopia. It has an article of defamation. The instructor appreciate that there are improvements in relation to liability of defamation from the previous proclamation. But still the article has a cross reference that indicates the individual might be penalized with one month imprisonment and with some amount of money. Additionally the press license could be snatched by press related offense. So, the informant has claims that, this is against international norms.

In the proclamation of 590/2008 part Five article 41(1) stated that *the media establishment may incur joint criminal or civil liability with the responsible person under Article 41 of the Penal Code for a criminal offence committed through the mass media or a civil damage caused by the media.*

In addition article 41(2) stated *in action for defamation through the mass media the court may award, having regard to the seriousness of the moral damage, compensation up to 1000,00 birr having regard to the seriousness of the damage.*

As the instructor claimed, the above articles might discourage a journalist to involve in investigative journalism. In fact the anti-terror proclamation also has discordant with the freedom of expression that, it doesn't provide a link. The instructor emphasized that:-

If they consider what you write can cause terror, they simply put you on jail. But there has to be a link. What you incite must be have evidence with what happened in the ground. But if it is hypothetical judgment, the journalists will not be encouraged to write freely. If the issues are public matter journalists should be free to talk and to discuss about it. (Personal interview, 10 May 2018).

The informant believed that journalists should be allowed even to mock at the politicians. The freedom of journalists should be extending to this much. He stated the John staurt mill's theory "The argument from truth" in order to support his idea. One of the freedoms of speech justification is john staurt mill theory. It argues that all ideas should come together finally the winner is the truth. It's through argument that false will be falsified. Truth will be identified in the market place of ideas. Opinions should not be falsified.

Moreover he indicated that, we can't prove opinion. "What we can prove is only facts. Freedom of opinion, freedom of thought, freedom of belief and freedom of conscience these are the foundations of all human rights. They are absolute, we can't limit them. In the case of Ethiopian legal system the limitations are about thoughts of racism etc. But he said in Ethiopia we left behind somehow in respecting and tolerating different thoughts (Personal interview, 10 May 2018).

The informant was also discussed about the court issue and investigative reporting. He argues that the Ethiopian constitution, European courts and other source of laws states that trial is public excluding some exceptions. In the case of public matters there is no difference everywhere in the world except the issue of morality. All are governed by the same human rights convention. When it comes to Ethiopia even there are some exceptions in the court case, journalists should not comment or discusses about issues which are pending on the court and criticize the judges during

the trial. Nevertheless the informant sees that since the trial is public, journalists should be free to criticize judges or the court after the judicial statement. Moreover, it is known that, those parliamentarians are exempted. It is prohibited defamation against governmental organizations. The law stated that you can't talk or criticize against the parliament and courts. If journalists report about the taboo words what happen at the parliament and criticize them, they will be punished.

#### **4.5.2 Confidentiality of Journalists and Legal Protection**

Journalists have the right to keep confidentiality. But on the other hand they can be obliged to give the information source by the criminal code, especially if the case is a serious crime. Again if they refuse to provide information journalists will be accused by the criminal law. In addition if the government wants the journalists to expose the identity of their information source, the government can force the anti-terrorism law remark that, it can ask information or any other document the press any time related to terrorism case. Furthermore, the law states that if the press is not willing to cooperate, it can be accused by the law. The informant mentioned that, other countries of the world do the same to the journalists, that if journalists are not willing to provide their information source they will be imprisoned and promoted as conscious prisoners. But journalistic source is fundamental right.

On the other hand the instructor argued, the corruption proclamation indicates that whistleblowers are protected. This shows as also if journalists prove with evidence, they can be free of any charge. But again the law indicates that if it is intent to injure someone, journalists might be questioned.

In general as the instructor stated that after 1983 E.C censorship is abolished and it has created a good environment for private media. In addition 590/2008 proclamation has good improvements from the previous one.

Finally the informant suggested that government has a positive obligation. The state has to help for citizens to exercise their rights. If it is necessary government should give free scholarship for journalists, it has to empower journalists by providing trainings.

Obviously the government has to punish journalists if they found guilty. But still the civil code, criminal code punishments related to the media should be reduced. Additionally there should be a law which held accountable for any one whether he/she is a police officer or prosecutor who mistreats journalists. Even the government officials should be accountable for their wrong doings.

## **4.6 Editorial Policy Analysis**

### **4.6.1 Introduction**

This part of the research deals with the document analysis of the three selected radio stations. Analyzing the editorial policy helps the researcher in order to evaluate to what extent the editorial policy of these radio stations favor investigative journalism. Since editorial policy is a guide line for the general day to day activity of the media organizations. Editorial policy shows the organizations stand.

All the three editorial policies were produced in different times. The current editorial policy of EBC was entering into force on 10/11/2006 E.C. The editorial policy of SNNPRS RTA was produced 2000 E.C and also the current editorial policy of FM 104.4 Mekelle was produced on 2007 E.C.

The editorial policy of FM 104.4 Mekelle was produced by its original language, which means Tigrigna. In addition to that the editorial language of SNNPRS RTA was in Amharic language. The language of the editorial policy of EBC is both Amharic and English.

The editorial policies of the media mainly focused on the general activities of the journalists. But the analysis of editorial policy of the three media organizations mainly focused on investigative journalism.

### **4.6.2 Editorial Policy of EBC**

#### **Introduction**

The editorial policy of EBC is for all mediums of the EBC Radio, Television and online. It is mainly focused on foundation and principles and values of the editorial policy, general principles

of journalism like code of conduct, issue of conflict of interest, information gathering and use of sources, issue of advertisement are some of the central focus of the editorial policy. In addition it provides a detailed information and implementation of the activities.

#### **4.6.2.1 Editorial Policy and Investigative Journalism**

The editorial policy of EBC shows in some parts of the document that it will play its role in building the democracy, development and exposing all forms of malpractices and rent seeking attitudes. In page 136 chapter one sub topic, 1.4 *Mission of EBC*, it stated that ... by utilizing modern broadcast technologies in order to fulfill its role of consolidating the development and democratic system ... in addition to that in chapter three (page 138) sub topic 3.1.3 *Serving the public*, also stated that

*...It will ascertain its partiality to the public by realizing the principles of development journalism. In the process, it shall expose all forms of malpractices and rent seeking attitudes and practices that harm the interest of the public thus working for the prevalence of good governance.*

This means the editorial policy gives due emphasis for the investigative practice journalism under the main form of development journalism. Therefore it inspire positively for the journalists to involve in the practice of investigative reporting.

In relation to confidentiality, Page 199 of the editorial policy of EBC under sub topic *10.1.4 keeping sources of information secret*, states *in a situation where keeping the source of information in secret is a must to get the information, EBC journalist should keep the source of information secret in accordance with the law*. This is a good thing for journalists and their information sources. Additionally the editorial policy of EBC indicates the obligation to respect and honor the promise and agreement it has reached with its sources of information. This obligation was mentioned on page 204.

*... if agreement is reached not to disclose such a source, the journalists has to keep his/ her promise and take caution that the source is not revealed due to negligence or any other reason.*

#### **4.6.2.2 Organizational Support**

In relation to the organizational support for the activity of investigative journalism, the editorial policy of EBC state that the organization will provide the necessary institutional support and protection for the investigative journalists under the topic of 10.6 *investigative reports on criminals and perpetrators of unethical practices*.

According to the editorial policy of EBC it takes the full responsibility to protect their journalists. This is indicated on page 234 under the *duty and responsibility of EBC*.

*B.EBC shall protect its journalists from external and internal desires that put pressure on their work and editorial independence.*

*c. EBC has to give full protection to its journalists under any circumstances.*

As it is discussed in literature review cornel (2008) has stated that ...many journalists are willing to work on investigative reporting. But many have neither the skills nor the training that investigative journalism requires. Having said this, editorial policy of EBC in page 201 under the topic of *cautions during interviewing* has state that it will provide training in order to build the journalists skill.

*... Hence, in order to build the interviewing skills and techniques of EBC journalists, serious of training that focus on this sector shall be given.*

In addition as it is indicated in chapter fourteen of the editorial policy of EBC, it planned to provide continues capacity building works. But on the other hand it doesn't indicate in detail provision of trainings specifically in investigative journalism.

#### **4.6.3 Editorial Policy of FM 104.4 Mekelle**

##### ***Introduction***

The editorial policy of FM 104.4 Mekelle, primarily focuses on the key activities of the editorial board, origin of the editorial policy, the general contents of the radio and their execution. Besides the ethical conduct of the journalists, how to report crime and disputes, relationship of journalists with information sources and about prohibited advertisements were also emphasized. The editorial

policy is established based on the media proclamations and the policy and strategy of the government.

#### ***4.6.3.1 Editorial Policy and Investigative Journalism***

The editorial policy of FM 104.4 Mekelle in relation to respecting the public participation, building democracy and abolishing poverty the media based the constitution of the country and the proclamations of the press and broadcast agency.

Under number 5 of the editorial policy of FM 104.4 Mekelle, stated that the organization will work in creating awareness and informing the public about the activities of the government to ensure the development, peace and democracy, and these constructive measurements which the government took.

Moreover it states that

*5.5 Serving the public's opinion, criticism, compliant etc in a balanced way.*

*5.6 Focusing in the achievements of the public in development and good governance activities, the problems and the solutions taken.*

Furthermore, under the topic of *giving services of editorial policy*, sub topic 10.1 *servicing the public*, it indicates

*Providing contents which safeguards the public interest, fighting corruption and improving the participation of the public in building democratic system.*

In the finding from the interview with managers, the managers have claimed that they provide support to investigative journalists in conducting the investigative reporting. Managers discuss and provide directions with the investigative journalists. Similarly the editorial policy of FM 104.4 Mekelle under topic 7, state that “*any work of a reporter must be edited first by the editors then next by the respective departments.*” This works for all the journalists. It means investigative reporters can also consult to her/his immediate boss or the higher managers in the entire activity.

Generally the editorial policy of FM 104.4 Mekelle have given consideration to the practice of investigative journalists but still lacks in providing the detail information of its implementation how to fight the malpractices and other obstacles of the public.

#### **4.6.3.2 Organizational Support**

Even though there is no specific detail information, the editorial policy of FM 104.4 Mekelle also remark that *unless it is the court decision, take in secret any deal with customers*. This indicates that journalists should keep secret of any contract. Therefore, this encourages these who are dealing with the media in different ways.

Additionally under the topic of 10.2 of *Integrity / Honesty*, the editorial policy of FM 104.4 Mekelle states about empowering journalists in order to improve the press freedom. But it is not detail. It doesn't provide the ways how it will be implemented. Does it will provide training or any other method to improve the capacity of its journalists.

#### **4.6.4 The Editorial Policy of SNNPRS RTA– South Nation Nationalities and Peoples Regional State Radio and Television Agency**

##### ***Introduction***

This editorial policy deals largely in the role of building peace, development and democratic system of the country in particular the region. The duty and responsibility of editorial board, code of conduct ..... as it is stated in the editorial policy 2.3.2 the media is established basically in providing and justifying the policy and strategy of the government.

##### **4.6.4.1 Editorial Policy and Investigative Journalism**

The media has versioned to build a national consensus, changing the image of backwardness of the region, buy building peace, development and democratic system and broadcasting quality information. In addition, the editorial policy 1.3.1.1 encourages the freedom of expression. Besides I 2.2.3 stated that it will play its great role in building development, good governance and democracy system. In accordance with the idea of 2.2.3 the editorial policy 4.2.7 states that in support of investigative reporting.

*It is possible to produce investigative programs or news based on the complaints and tip offs of the public.*

In addition 4.2.8 and 5.1.2 supports the above idea that it states, there has to be an air time and pillars which works on the opinion, messages, grievances of the public in balanced way. It indicates that the media will provide special attention on public interest issues and exposing corrupters. SNNPRS RTA, they have an out sourced investigative program production which is done in cooperation with anti-corruption commission. Therefore this shows as at least the SNNPRS RTA is working in the activities of investigative programs and keeps doing what it has promised in the editorial policy.

In our discussion in relation to media law the instructor has mentioned journalists have to criticize and provide opinion freely about the court especially after decision has made in the court cases. Accordingly the editorial policy of SNNPRS RTA 6.1.2.1.7 state that the media will provide criticism and evaluation coverage on court case after decision has made. This editorial policy offers detail information or activities about investigative reporting in different parts of the editorial policy. Therefore this editorial policy is good in a manner giving special attention for investigative journalism.

Concerned with the confidentiality as the editorial policy stated in 6.1.2.7.4 and 6.1.2.8.4 a journalist should keep the information, or document that has been obtained from information sources through secrecy unless it is requested by the court. Again if the journalists provide information of the organization in favoring of their personal interest they can be held accountable.

## **4.9 Discussion**

The major gaps of this study were, the practice of investigative journalism in Ethiopia compared to other development contents has been insignificant and mostly the contents are event based. In addition, the origins of the investigative stories are from tip offs of the audience and government. Therefore, the media are observed receiving tips rather than doing investigative stories by themselves. These motivated the researcher to study in this area. Therefore, to address this issue

the researcher applied questions like, to what extent does the editorial policy of the selected radio stations provide support to investigative practices of journalists, do the journalists have knowledge and skill needed to conduct investigative journalism, the opportunity of investigative journalists to access public information and sources and the protection of investigative journalists by the existing legal system. Therefore, the findings of the study were discussed based on the literature review of the study.

#### **4.9.1 Background**

As the finding shows majority of the journalists are male. This shows as, journalism profession in Ethiopia is mainly dominated by men and women are few in the profession of journalism especially in investigative journalism. Moreover, majority of the journalists found in the youngest age and have 10 and less year experience in the media house. Besides, majority of them have no any experience in investigative journalism. However, this finding also indicates most of investigative journalists were more experienced than other journalists. Thus, the media industry of Ethiopia is dominated by fresh journalists who tend to be energetic but less experienced. Similar with this finding, the study of Terje (2016) shows that, Ethiopian journalists have short professional experience. Therefore, the findings of this research and Terje (2016) have similarity.

#### **4.9.2 The Organizational Support and Editorial Policy in Investigative Journalism Practice**

This finding reveals that, government media in Ethiopia delegated development journalism. In addition, the finding shows that the practice of development journalism have a tendency more in highlighting the success stories in the assumption of bringing development by influencing others positively and undermine certain malpractices. But the practice in fighting for the limitations of the development was unsatisfactory. Similar to this study, Negeri (2012) mentioned that media in Ethiopia are entrusted the role of promoting development, democracy and good governance and a new journalism model, i.e. development journalism. But on the other hand (Muluneh,2015; Abayneh , 2017; Negeri, 2012) argue the practice of development journalism in Ethiopia is more focused on positive development efforts but lack on investigative issues of national development and finding solution for the problems at the grassroots level. Therefore, the finding of the study and the other findings show similarities.

On the other hand, the finding of this study also shows that the editorial policies of the media stations under study have given due emphasis for the profession of investigative journalism and there are attempts in practicing investigative journalism. To mention some “Tyake alegn”, “Ennegager” are programs in the case of SNNPRS RTA/FM 100.9 and in the case of EBC radio cluster “Yehig neger” , “EBC medrek”. Similarly in FM 104.4 Mekelle, “Melsi Nhtotatkum” and “Wushatona” and FBC radio, OBN (Oromia Broadcasting Network) and Addis Admas, Fortune and reporter newspapers indicate they have programs which attempts to solve the public problems in different issues. On the other hand, journalists believe even though the Ethiopian media have the capacity to do investigative journalism but they don’t believe they are really practicing investigative journalism. The finding of this study also reveals that, while the media editorial policies are supportive to investigative journalism in paper level but they are not practiced well, as they are expected.

Investigative journalism has been less emphasized in many ways in the government media in Ethiopia practically. Because there is no particular budget allocated and well-organized group of investigative journalists, which is well equipped, specialized with full manpower, separate investigative editors, and no special promotion has been given to encourage investigative journalists. In regard to investigative journalism training, the finding also shows that, investigative journalists didn’t have the chance to train about investigative journalism for long time. Except they have trainings on issues of general principles of journalism, current issues and strategy of the country.

Additionally the finding reveals investigative journalism requires huge economic capacity. But in contrast with the finding of this research, Kaplan (2008) and Coronel (2010) argue that money is *not* the essential element in producing excellence in investigative journalism. Thus, even financially struggling, new and emerging media are observed more likely to practice investigative journalism. In addition, a study by VVOJ shows there is no correlation between whether a medium was in good financial shape and whether it undertook investigative projects. So, the finding of this research has shown difference among these studies.

In addition to the above points, the finding of this study indicated that, generally even though there is some confusion with the environment of investigative journalism, media organizations are comparatively provided freedom to journalist to write on any issue and give them enough

time to do their story. Moreover, the media organizations provide legal protection when it is necessary but on the other hand the organizations don't also fully provide special support to investigative journalism. Forbes (2005) has argued similarly with this research. He stated that, the amount of time a journalist spends on a story is important, although deadlines may vary depending on the publication or programme.

#### **4.9.3 Skill and Knowledge of Investigative Journalism**

The finding indicates that, the investigative journalist's capacity to conduct investigative journalism is low due to different reasons. The investigative journalists have not taken the investigative journalism course in their university stay, at the same time they have no background education of journalism and communication and the chance for investigative journalism training at their career. As a study by Rebond (2010) shows that, one of the qualities of an investigative reporter is a well-developed skill. But this doesn't mean you have to have a degree in journalism. But you need enough of either training or experience, or both, to know how to identify sources, plan story research, conduct good interviews (and sense when an answer doesn't ring true), and write accurately and informatively (Ibid). Therefore, Rebond's study shows somehow similarity and difference with this study.

Additionally, journalists have a satisfactory perception of investigative journalism especially investigative journalists. But also they have shallow and not detailed knowledge about the existing media law in Ethiopia.

#### **4.9.4 Access to Public Information and Sources**

This research finding shows that Article 29 of the Ethiopian constitution provided and used as a source of press freedom and access to information. It is encouraging, ambitious and which provides full respect for the freedom to access information. It indicates the right to speech or the right to express/ describe yourself, to impart or to receive, to read and to write. Similarly reporters without borders (2015) mentioned that principle of press freedom is recognized by international law, as well as regional texts and national legislation (rights and customs, constitutions, laws and decrees. Similarly as stated in Munich Charter, Press freedom in

international texts Rights and obligations of journalists, the right to information, to freedom of expression and criticism is one of the fundamental rights of man. Therefore, the Ethiopian constitution has respected the international law of press freedom.

Additionally the finding indicated that, the press proclamation of Ethiopia 590/ 2008 provide clear justifications in access to information. But even the constitution provides full respect for the freedom of access to information; the press law is not fully practiced yet due to less commitment of the government.

And practically the journalists have less access to government, private and public information sources. Most of the information sources are not willing to provide information. On the other hand James (2005) argues that, government bodies have the responsibility to provide information. Now almost universally recognized that public bodies hold information not for themselves, but on behalf of the public and that, subject only to limited exceptions based on overriding public and private interests, everyone should have the right to access that information. Besides if the government provides relevant information to journalists, it allows the media to gather news timely and accurately and help them avoid self-censorship.

#### **4.9.5 Media Law of Ethiopia and Investigative Journalism**

The environment to investigative journalists concerning the media law of Ethiopia is somewhat favorable. The finding of this study shows, even there are big improvements in relation to liability of defamation in press proclamation 590/2008 comparing with the previous one 1984 E.C but still it needs some improvement related to punishment of journalists and the media. In addition, some part of the law doesn't encourage the investigative journalists because the case of defamation can be challenging to investigative journalists. It is obvious that the practice of investigative journalism is highly related to criticism.

The finding indicated that investigative journalists are protected to keep secret of their information sources with some exceptions. Likewise Nkusi (2014) argue that non-disclosure of confidential sources is an essential element in promoting both the free flow of information and

the public's right to know. Moreover, journalists must be able to assure their sources that their identities will remain anonymous in order to encourage the informants to continue supplying them information freely.

Furthermore, the finding indicates, there is poor applicability of the press law and less attention given for journalists in creating awareness about the media law of Ethiopia. Moreover, journalists don't believe the Ethiopian media law provides protection for journalists, their information sources and they don't feel protected by the existing media law of the country.

#### **4.9.6 Challenges of Investigative Journalists**

The study finding reveals that investigative journalists face many challenges in practicing investigative journalism. Journalists fear to face challenges, less commitment to investigative journalism from the media organization and government. Furthermore, reluctance of public, private and government sources are the main challenges. Similarly Forbes (2005) claimed correspondingly with this finding that, private companies are notoriously difficult to investigate. Again journalists often experience difficulty with the military and police service. Situations occur where police operating protocol may slow down or obstruct the timely release of public information. Delay tactics are used. Similarly government official representatives may at times employ similar tactics or hide information behind the veil of 'national security'.

Additionally, the finding shows that it is claimed that lack of enough budget, lack of cooperation from the democratic institutions, to some extent less commitment from both journalists and media managers are some of the problems for the poor practice of investigative journalism in the media organizations.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

#### **5.1 CONCLUSION**

This research has been conducted with the aim of investigating the presence of enabling environment for investigative journalism in Ethiopia in three government owned radio stations namely, EBC radio cluster, FM 104.4 Mekelle, SNNPRS RTA/FM 100.9. This research attempted to answer the emphasis given to investigative journalism in the editorial policies of the media organizations, journalist knowledge and skill of investigative journalism. Besides, this research has covered the legal protection of journalists and access to public information and sources.

In order to get relevant information, the study used both qualitative and quantitative approaches. Questionnaire and in-depth interview with key informants (investigative journalists, media managers and an instructor from Department of Law) were the primary sources. Moreover, document analysis (editorial policy) of the three media organizations have used to collect data.

The finding reveals that, the media organizations are dominated by men journalists, especially all the investigative journalists are men and the profession is composed of youngsters. In addition, majority of investigative journalists are in the position of editors but they have no background education of journalism and communication. This can inferred that, the smallest number of women in the profession of journalism has affected similarly the practice of women in investigative journalism. In addition, the finding indicates that the practice of journalism in Ethiopia is in its infant stage.

Furthermore, the practice of investigative journalism somehow differs from the other type of reporting in which it demands well experienced journalists who can understand different things with developed skills and knowledge of the profession. Investigative journalists are assigned by their interest in spite of their educational background.

The finding indicated that journalists have a favorable perception of both development journalism and investigative journalism. And development journalism in Ethiopia mostly focused on positive achievements, in the assumption of influencing others positively for development with some attempts to practice investigative journalism but the investigative stories are not satisfactory. Furthermore, the media organizations have no separate investigative departments; journalists had not been given specific investigative training, budget, promotion and journalists are assigned additional duties while they are conducting investigative reporting. On the other hand, the editorial policies of the media organizations have created a good environment for the practice of investigative journalism. This referred that, even though investigative journalism has given a good attention in paper level but the media organizations don't show practically investigative journalism as an important profession and helpful for development.

Moreover, even the support of government and the media organizations to investigative journalism tend to be insufficient, journalists do have enough time and freedom to do stories in the public interest. This indicated that if journalists are courageous enough, the practice of investigative journalism might show some improvements.

In the case of legal protection, the media organizations claim they take full responsibility for the action of journalists when necessary and offer legal protection of journalists on the editorial policy. This shows that the media organizations are responsible to protect their journalists from harm. Since the journalists are working for the organizations, the media has to protect the security of their workers.

The press proclamation 590/ 2008 which was designed based on the constitution has given full right and support for journalists to have access to information. But the proclamation 590/ 2008 has passed 10 years since it is not fully implemented in the ground. Because the government claimed that, it requires huge capital to modernize the system of the government and digitalizing

the documents found in all government bodies, in order to make easy access to information. This indicates that, the government is not fully committed in implementing the press proclamation. Therefore, this can affect the practice of investigative journalism because investigative journalists are involved daily in gathering of information.

In the case of confidentiality and legal protection, journalists are protected by the law and the editorial policy of the media with some exceptions. But for some case they might be obliged to give the information source by the criminal code especially if the case is a serious crime. Again if they refuse to provide information they will be accused by the criminal law. On the other hand, journalists have less knowledge about the existing media law in Ethiopia and they don't feel protected by the existing media law in Ethiopia. This inferred that the media law and editorial policies are creating a good environment a little bit to the investigative journalists but again the government and media organizations are weak in providing media law and related trainings. Similarly investigative journalists have less effort to know the media law and they don't have full trust on it.

The finding reveals that, there is commitment of journalists to practice investigative journalism. Especially investigative journalists are passionate and initiated to solve the problem of the society and expose these traitors with these all challenges of the practice. Their interest comes from the situation of the society's criticisms and complaints. However, journalists don't have sufficient knowledge and skill of investigative journalism. Consequently, investigative journalists could be passionate enough in practicing investigative journalism, especially if they get additional support in upgrading their knowledge and skill and if the necessary facilities are fulfilled.

Mainly there are two broad challenges to investigative journalists. Investigative journalists have internal challenges. They are weak in facing such challenges of the investigative practice and convince their bosses about the issue. In addition to the internal challenges, investigative journalists suffer in getting information from the public, government and non-government bodies. This shows us, journalists are doing for a living and there is culture of secrecy, phobia to media in the side of the information sources and the media culture is yet developed. Furthermore, the officials who refuse to provide information might be involved in corruption or they simply fear to be on the record.

Finally, the finding revealed that, different from the past times, media organizations are promising this time to improve the practice of investigative reporting from the previous times in different ways. Of course there are some developments too. This indicates that, the media organizations are starting to give equal attention to investigating wrong doings with reporting positive and success stories.

## **5.2 Recommendations**

In order to have a better investigative journalism practice in Ethiopia the following recommendations has been made. The recommendations are basically focus on investigative journalists, media organizations and government.

- Investigative journalists should quip themselves with knowledge, with facts, evidence and also confront challenges.
- The editorial policy of the media institutions must be practiced. All the media organizations should be committed and initiated truly in serving the public. There should be enough budget allocation, legal protection and organize well-equipped and full manpower of investigative journalists team or department. In addition there should be encouraging mechanisms to investigative journalists by fulfilling all the necessary facilities, providing investigative training and promotion.

In general the working system of media houses should be enhanced. The media should be run by professional who holds the knowledge, ethics and skill of the profession.

- Media organizations should give a solution for the out sourced programs in order to reduce the influence.
- In the part of the government, it should play its positive obligation. It should give due emphasis for investigative journalism in supporting and providing all necessary facilities. Professional association and democratic institutions should be strengthening. Frequent media law training should be provided for investigative journalists and government officials.

- And there should be a mechanism which held accountable for these government officials who aren't ready to provide information and mistreated journalists. In addition, there should be a way which punishes corrupt officials.
- Press freedom, should be ensured and media's have to be free and independent of any outside interference. Moreover, media law proclamations should be practiced and respected. Furthermore, there has to be legal protection of journalists and their sources.
- Investigative journalism should be also given due emphasis in the curriculum of journalism.
- The society should be cooperative or willing to provide information.
- In general all the concerned body should be committed to realize investigative journalism in Ethiopia.

## List of References

- Abayneh, Tilahun. (2017). The practice of development journalism in the Ethiopian media landscape. (Unpublished MA thesis), Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa
- Ali, A. (2015) Media Ownership and Control vs. Press Freedom in a Democratic Africa. *J Mass Communication Journalism* 5: 239.
- Akaranga, S. I., & Makau, B. K. (2016). The Hermeneutics of Education Management Information Systems for Kitinga Primary School in Mwingi Central-Kenya. *Journal of Education and Practice*, 7(35), 36-40.
- Alshenqeeti, H. (2014). Interviewing as a data collection method: A critical review. *English Linguistics Research*, 3(1), 39.
- Anyadike, D.(2013). Problems and Prospects of Investigative Journalism in Rivers State, Nigeria: A Study of *the Tide* and *Hard Truth Newspapers (Vol.17)*. University of Nigeria, Nsukka
- Asakitikpi, A. (2012). Investigative and interpretative reporting: COURSE CODE: MAC214. School of arts and social science, National Open University Of Nigeria
- Ashenafi Ararsa (2017). The status of investigative journalism during the first GTP (2011-2015): EBC and FBC in focus. (Unpublished MA thesis), Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa
- Babbie, E. (2010). Unobtrusive research. *The Practice of Social Research*, 12th ed., Wadsworth Cengage Learning, Belmont, CA, 331-361.
- Banda, F. (2009). Civic education for media professionals: a training manual. UNESCO Series on Journalism Education.
- Bassey, V., Brown, N., & Olajide, F. (2017). The challenges of development journalism in Nigeria. *International Journal of International Relations, Media and Mass Communication Studies*, 3(3) pp.16-25
- Bebawi, S. (2016). *Investigative Journalism in the Arab World: Issues and Challenges*. Springer.
- Bereket Yeheysh (2012). The practice of investigative journalism in the Ethiopia radio and television agency.(Unpublished MA thesis), Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa

- Berg, B. L. (2007). A dramaturgical look at interviewing. *Qualitative research methods for the social sciences*, 6.
- Center for Democracy and Governance Bureau for Global Programs.(1999). *The Role of Media in Democracy: A Strategic Approach*.Washington, D.C. 20523-3100
- Clean GovBiz, (2013(DRAFT)).Investigative media. <http://daytoendimpunity.org>.  
retrieved on 8/17/2017 and available at [www.cleangovbiz.org](http://www.cleangovbiz.org)
- Cohen, L., Manion, L., & Morrison, K. (2005). *Research methods in education*. British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data. ISBN 0-203-22434-5 Master e-book ISBN.
- Coronel, S.(2003) the role of media in deepening democracy.*NGO Media Outreach: Using the*.  
retrieved on 2/2/2018
- Coronel, S. (2010). Corruption and the watchdog role of the news media. *Public sentinel: News media and governance reform*, 111-136.
- Denscombe, M. (2010)*The Good Research Guide: For scale Social Research Projects (Open UP Study Skills)*. Mc Graw-Hill.
- Feldstein, M. (2006). A muckraking model: Investigative reporting cycles in American history. *Harvard International Journal of Press/Politics*, 11(2), 105-120.
- Forbes, D. (2005). A watchdog's guide to investigative reporting. *Johannesburgo: Konrad Adenauer Stiftung*.
- Fowler-Watt, K., & Allan, S. (2013). *Journalism: new challenges*. CJCR: Centre for Journalism & Communication Research, Bournemouth University.
- Gicheru, C. (2014). "The Challenges Facing Independent Newspapers in Sub-Saharan Africa. Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism."
- Gunaratne, S. (1996). Old wine in a new bottle: public versus development journalism in the US. *Asia Pacific Media Educator*, 1(1), 64- 75.
- Habtamu Alebachew (2014). 'The Developmental State and Developmental Journalism': Spotighting Ethiopia. (Unpublished )
- Herman, E.S., & Chomesky, N. (2010). *Manufacturing consent: The political economy of the mass media*. Random House.
- Houston, B. (2010). *The future of investigative journalism*. *Daedalus*, 139(2), 45-56.

*Chicago*

Hrvatín, S., & Petković, B. (2004). *Media Ownership and its Impact on Media Independence and Pluralism*.

International tests charter retrieved from <https://ukrainesecuritysector.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/International-texts-charters.pdf> 30/1/2018

Hudock, A. (1999). *The Role of Media in Democracy: A Strategic Approach. Technical Publication Series*.

Ismaeli, A. (2015). *The Role of The Media in Developing Democracy In Kurdistan: A study of Rudaw Journalists Perspectives, Notions and Attitudes* (Master's thesis).

Ismail, A., Ahmad, M.K. & Mustaffa, C.S. (2014). Conceptualization of investigative journalism: The perspectives of Malaysian media practionners. *Procedia- Social and Behavioral Sciences*, 155, 165-170.

James, B. (2005). *Media and good governance*. Paris: UESCO.

Journalism in Film (M.A, University of Augsburg, Germany). Retrieved from <https://www.ijpc.org/uploads/files/Journalistic%20Reality%20as%20Material%20for%20Hollywood%20-%20Cordula%20Nitsch.pdf>

Kaplan, A. D. (2008). *Investigating the investigators: Examining the attitudes, perceptions, and experiences of investigative journalists in the internet age*. University of Maryland, College Park.

Kaplan, D. E. (2013). *Global investigative journalism: Strategies for support*. Center for International Media Assistance.

Kefale Gemechu Nikus (2017) *The Practice of Development Journalism on TV Oromiya*

“Iftoomaa” in focus.(Unpublished MA thesis), Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa

Klapproth, D. (2005). *Investigative journalism as a means of resistance: A linguistic analysis*. B  
A Seminar Paper

Kumar, S. (2012). Gandhian concept of development journalism and its relevance in post-independence India. *Asian Journal of Multidimensional Research* , 1(7)

Limpitlaw, J.(2011). *The role of the media and press freedom in society*.Retrieved from [www.kas.de/wf/doc/4212-1442-2-30.pdf](http://www.kas.de/wf/doc/4212-1442-2-30.pdf) retrieved on 4/1/2018

- MacFadyen, G. 2008. The Practices of Investigative Journalism. In de BURGH, H. *Investigative Journalism*. London: Routledge. pp. 138-156.
- Marsh, K. (2013). Investigative Journalism: Secrets, Salience and Storytelling. In F. Karen & A. Stuart (Ed.), *Journalism: New challenges*. (p.222-241). Centre for Journalism & Communication Research Bournemouth University
- McChesney, R. (2000). *Rich media poor democracy*. <http://sites.psu.edu/comm292/wp-> Marsh, K. (2013). Investigative Journalism: Secrets, Salience and Storytelling. In F. Karen & A. Stuart (Ed.), *Journalism: New challenges*. (p.222-241). Centre for Journalism & Communication Research Bournemouth University  
[content/uploads/sites/5180/2014/08/McChesney-RichMedia\\_PoorDemocracy.pdf](http://content/uploads/sites/5180/2014/08/McChesney-RichMedia_PoorDemocracy.pdf)  
[30/1/2018](http://content/uploads/sites/5180/2014/08/McChesney-RichMedia_PoorDemocracy.pdf)
- Muluneh Zegeye (2015). Development Journalism In Ethiopia: Examining the Ethiopian Broadcasting's Watch Dogging Role of Fundamental Rights and Freedom /Unpublished Thesis/. Addis Ababa, Addis Ababa University
- Mustapha-Koiki, A. R., & Ayedun-Aluma, V. (2013). Techniques of Investigative Reporting: Public's Right to know and Individual's Right to Privacy.
- Nebiyu Yonas (2008). Self-censorship among print journalists in Ethiopian government media. (Unpublished MA thesis), Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa
- Negeri Lencho (2012). Communicating for Development and Democratization in Ethiopia: Journalistic Practices and Challenges. *Establishing, Enhancing and Sustaining Quality Practices in Education*, 20(28), 122.
- Nitsch, C., & Nitsch, C. (2005). Journalistic Reality as Material for Hollywood: Comments on Investigative Journalism in Film.
- Nkusi, F.K. (2014). Journalistic Privilege to Confidentiality Sources: Analysis of Rwanda's Media Law.
- Nwanne ,B., Onwubere , C. & Ofulue, C. (2012). *Investigative and interpretative reporting*. National Open University of Nigeria

- Ogan, C. L. (1982). Development journalism/communication: The status of the concept. *Gazette* (Leiden, Netherlands), 29(1-2), 3-13.
- Ongowo, J.O. (2011). *Ethics of Investigative Journalism* (Doctoral dissertation,) The University of Leeds).
- Ostini, J., & Ostini, A. Y. (2002). Beyond the four theories of the press: A new model of national media systems. *Mass Communication and Society*, 5(1), 41-56.
- O'Neil, P. H. (1998). *Communicating democracy: The media and political transitions*.
- Solomon Goshu (2015). *Freedom of Expression in the contenxt of Developmental State: the case of Ethiopia*.(Unpublished MA thesis), Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa
- Skjerda, T. S. (2011). Development journalism revived: The case of Ethiopia. *Ecquid Novi: African Journalism Studies* , 32 (2), 58-74.
- Skjerda, T.(2016). *Journalists in Ethiopia. World of journalism study*.
- Sturges, P. (2006). Freedom of access to information: a paradigm for the information professions. Chapter commissioned for a book that was not published< [http://www. ifla. org/files/assets/faife/publications/sturges/paradigm. pdf](http://www.ifla.org/files/assets/faife/publications/sturges/paradigm.pdf)
- Ukonu, M. O. (2005). Influences of Media ownership patterns on Media freedom and professionalism in Nigeria. *Nsukka Journal of the Humanities*, 15, 144-159.
- UNESCO (2011) *The right to know*. retrieved from <http://www.unesco.org/webworld>
- UNESCO (2015) *Safty Guide for Journalists: A handbook for reporters in high-risk environment*  
 Reporters Without Borders retrieved from [https://rsf.org/sites/default/files/guide\\_journaliste\\_rsf\\_2015\\_en\\_0.pdf](https://rsf.org/sites/default/files/guide_journaliste_rsf_2015_en_0.pdf) on 30/1/2018
- Uwakwe, O. (2015). *Investigative Journalism in Nigeria: The Press and Responsible Governance*. *International Journal of Innovative Research and Development*, 4(2).
- Waisbord, S. (2000). *Watchdog journalism in South America: News, accountability, and democracy*. Columbia University Press.
- Wegayehu Muluneh (2017). *The practice of investigative journalism in Fana Broadcasting Corporate: The case of “Teguaz Neqash”*. (Unpublished MA thesis), Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa
- Wimmer, J., & Wolf, S. (2005). *Development journalism out of date?*.

<http://www.unesco-ci.org/ipdcprojects/sites/default/files/ipdc-project-descriptions/Ethiopia%20-%20Training%20on%20Investigative%20Journalism.pdf>

- Transparency Ethiopia An organization devoted to fight all forms of corruption

[http://transparencyethiopia.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=87:investigative-journalism-and-court-reporting-training&catid=23&Itemid=101](http://transparencyethiopia.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=87:investigative-journalism-and-court-reporting-training&catid=23&Itemid=101) Investigative retrieved on 9/2/2018

# APPENDICES

## Appendix 1

### Crosstabs

#### Case Processing Summary

	Cases					
	Valid		Missing		Total	
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
Educational qualification * I believe I have the knowledge of investigative journalism	86	100.0%	0	0.0%	86	100.0%
Educational qualification * I believe I have the key skills of investigative journalism (interviewing, observing, chasing documents)	86	100.0%	0	0.0%	86	100.0%
Educational qualification * I have enough knowledge of my right and responsibility as a journalist	86	100.0%	0	0.0%	86	100.0%

#### Educational qualification of respondents \* I believe I have the key skills of investigative journalism (interviewing, observing, chasing documents) Crosstabulation

Count

		I believe I have the key skills of investigative journalism (interviewing, observing, chasing documents)				Total
		Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly agree	
Educational qualification	Diploma	0	3	4	1	8
	1st Dgree	5	9	51	6	71
	Masters and above	0	0	6	1	7
Total		5	12	61	8	86

**Educational qualification of respondents \* I have enough knowledge of my right and responsibility as a journalist Crosstabulation**

Count

		I have enough knowledge of my right and responsibility as a journalist					Total
		Strongly disagree	Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly agree	
Educational qualification	Diploma	1	2	3	2	0	8
	1st Dgree	4	1	3	54	9	71
	Masters and above	0	0	0	5	2	7
Total		5	3	6	61	11	86

**Educational qualification of respondents \* I have enough knowledge of my right and responsibility as a journalist Crosstabulation**

Count

		I have enough knowledge of my right and responsibility as a journalist					Total
		Strongly disagree	Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly agree	
Educational qualification	Diploma	1	2	3	2	0	8
	1st Dgree	4	1	3	54	9	71
	Masters and above	0	0	0	5	2	7
Total		5	3	6	61	11	86

**Case Processing Summary**

	Cases					
	Valid		Missing		Total	
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
Field study of respondents * I believe I have the knowledge of investigative journalism	86	100.0%	0	0.0%	86	100.0%
Field study of respondents * I believe I have the key skills of investigative journalism (interviewing, observing, chasing documents)	86	100.0%	0	0.0%	86	100.0%
Field study of respondents * I have enough knowledge of my right and responsibility as a journalist	86	100.0%	0	0.0%	86	100.0%

**Field study of respondents \* I believe I have the knowledge of investigative journalism Crosstabulation**

Count

		I believe I have the knowledge of investigative journalism					Total
		Strongly disagree	Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly agree	
Field study of respondents	Journalism and communication	0	0	0	3	0	3
		1	4	4	26	6	41
	Social sciences and Others	2	4	17	18	1	42
Total		3	8	21	47	7	86

**Field study of respondents \* I believe I have the key skills of investigative journalism (interviewing, observing, chasing documents)**

**Crosstabulation**

Count

		I believe I have the key skills of investigative journalism (interviewing, observing, chasing documents)				Total
		Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly agree	
Field study of respondents	Journalism and communication	0	1	2	0	3
		3	3	28	7	41
	Social sciences and Others	2	8	31	1	42
Total		5	12	61	8	86

**Field study of respondents \* I have enough knowledge of my right and responsibility as a journalist Crosstabulation**

Count

		I have enough knowledge of my right and responsibility as a journalist					Total
		Strongly disagree	Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly agree	
Field study of respondents	Journalism and communication	0	0	1	2	0	3
		0	2	4	29	6	41
	Social sciences and Others	5	1	1	30	5	42
Total		5	3	6	61	11	86

**Case Processing Summary**

	Cases					
	Valid		Missing		Total	
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
Experience in the media industry of respondents * I believe I have the knowledge of investigative journalism	86	100.0%	0	0.0%	86	100.0%
Experience in the media industry of respondents * I believe I have the key skills of investigative journalism (interviewing, observing, chasing documents)	86	100.0%	0	0.0%	86	100.0%
Experience in the media industry of respondents * I have enough knowledge of my right and responsibility as a journalist	86	100.0%	0	0.0%	86	100.0%
Experience in the media industry of respondents * I have received media law training frequently	86	100.0%	0	0.0%	86	100.0%

**Experience in the media industry of respondents \* I believe I have the knowledge of investigative journalism Crosstabulation**

Count

	I believe I have the knowledge of investigative journalism					Total
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly agree	
5 or below	1	4	9	18	5	37
6-10	0	1	8	13	1	23
Experience in the media industry of respondents 11-15	0	2	1	7	1	11
16-20	2	0	1	3	0	6
21-25	0	1	1	5	0	7
26-30	0	0	1	1	0	2
Total	3	8	21	47	7	86

**Experience in the media industry of respondents \* I believe I have the key skills of investigative journalism (interviewing, observing, chasing documents) Crosstabulation**

Count

		I believe I have the key skills of investigative journalism (interviewing, observing, chasing documents)				Total
		Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly agree	
Experience in the media industry of respondents	5 or below	3	6	22	6	37
	6-10	1	2	19	1	23
	11-15	0	1	10	0	11
	16-20	0	2	4	0	6
	21-25	1	1	5	0	7
	26-30	0	0	1	1	2
Total		5	12	61	8	86

**Experience in the media industry of respondents \* I have enough knowledge of my right and responsibility as a journalist Crosstabulation**

Count

		I have enough knowledge of my right and responsibility as a journalist					Total
		Strongly disagree	Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly agree	
Experience in the media industry of respondents	5 or below	1	2	2	27	5	37
	6-10	2	0	1	15	5	23
	11-15	0	0	1	9	1	11
	16-20	2	0	0	4	0	6
	21-25	0	1	1	5	0	7
	26-30	0	0	1	1	0	2
Total		5	3	6	61	11	86

**Experience in the media industry of respondents \* I have received media law training frequently Crosstabulation**

Count

		I have received media law training frequently					Total
		Strongly disagree	Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly agree	
Experience in the media industry of respondents	5 or below	5	16	4	10	2	37
	6-10	1	9	0	8	5	23
	11-15	0	2	1	7	1	11
	16-20	1	0	0	5	0	6
	21-25	0	2	0	5	0	7
	26-30	0	0	0	2	0	2
Total		7	29	5	37	8	86

**Case Processing Summary**

	Cases					
	Valid		Missing		Total	
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
Experience in investigative reporting * I believe I have the knowledge of investigative journalism	86	100.0%	0	0.0%	86	100.0%
Experience in investigative reporting * I believe I have the key skills of investigative journalism (interviewing, observing, chasing documents)	86	100.0%	0	0.0%	86	100.0%
Experience in investigative reporting * I have enough knowledge of my right and responsibility as a journalist	86	100.0%	0	0.0%	86	100.0%
Experience in investigative reporting * I have received media law training frequently	86	100.0%	0	0.0%	86	100.0%
Experience in investigative reporting * I have frequently been questioned for investigative stories I wrote	86	100.0%	0	0.0%	86	100.0%

**Experience in investigative reporting \* I believe I have the knowledge of investigative journalism Crosstabulation**

Count

	I believe I have the knowledge of investigative journalism					Total
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly agree	
Experience in investigative reporting 0	3	7	18	41	4	73
5 or below	0	1	2	6	3	12
6-10	0	0	1	0	0	1
Total	3	8	21	47	7	86

**Experience in investigative reporting \* I believe I have the key skills of investigative journalism (interviewing, observing, chasing documents) Crosstabulation**

Count

	I believe I have the key skills of investigative journalism (interviewing, observing, chasing documents)				Total
	Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly agree	
Experience in investigative reporting 0	5	11	51	6	73
5 or below	0	1	9	2	12
6-10	0	0	1	0	1
Total	5	12	61	8	86

**Experience in investigative reporting \* I have enough knowledge of my right and responsibility as a journalist Crosstabulation**

Count

	I have enough knowledge of my right and responsibility as a journalist					Total
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly agree	
Experience in investigative reporting 0	5	2	6	52	8	73
5 or below	0	1	0	9	2	12
6-10	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total	5	3	6	61	11	86

**Experience in investigative reporting \* I have received media law training frequently Crosstabulation**

Count		I have received media law training frequently					Total
		Strongly disagree	Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly agree	
Experience in investigative reporting	0	6	26	5	30	6	73
	5 or below	1	3	0	7	1	12
	6-10	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total		7	29	5	37	8	86

**Experience in investigative reporting \* I have frequently been questioned for investigative stories I wrote Crosstabulation**

Count		I have frequently been questioned for investigative stories I wrote					Total
		Strongly disagree	Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly agree	
Experience in investigative reporting	0	8	28	32	4	1	73
	5 or below	0	5	3	3	1	12
	6-10	0	0	0	1	0	1
Total		8	33	35	8	2	86

## Appendix 2

### Educational background of investigative journalists

Respondents	Educational background
Respondent one	Social work MA, international relations and diplomacy MA,
Respondent two	Management first degree, Sociology first degree
Respondent Three	Law first degree
Respondent Four	Foreign language first degree
Respondent Five	Amharic language and literature first degree
Respondent Six	Journalism and mass communication first degree

## Appendix 3

### In-depth Interview Questions

#### Interview questions for investigative journalists

1. How do you describe investigative journalism?
2. What are the supports provided by your organization to investigative reporting? E.g. budget, man power
3. How often does your organization provide you investigative reporting training in the past?  
Do your editors give you enough time to do your story?
4. How do you explain the freedom you have to write on any investigative issue?
5. To what extent you are committed for investigative reporting? why?
6. Do you believe you have enough skill and knowledge for investigative reporting? Why? / How
7. Do you have access to public information and sources?

Are your Sources of information always willing to go on the record?

7. Do you think the media law of Ethiopia provides protection for investigative journalists and their sources?
8. What are the managerial challenges you face in your investigative practice?
9. Do you sometimes conduct self-censorship?
10. Are there challenges from outside?

## **Appendix 4**

### **Interview questions for media managers**

1. What are the vision and mission of your organization?
2. What kind of supports do you provide for investigative journalism in your organization?
3. To what extent do you allocate finance for the investigative journalism compared to others?
4. Do you think your investigative journalism team has been equipped well? How?
5. What are the actions you take to improve your journalist's skill and knowledge in relation to investigative journalism?
6. How often do you provide short training for the investigative reporters?
7. To what extent do you think your investigative journalists are free to write on any investigative issue?
8. What are your criteria's to assign editors for investigative reporting in your organization?
9. What are your criteria's to choose or reject investigative stories?
10. Is there any attempt the organization has made to protect investigative journalists of your organization from any harm?

## **Appendix 5**

### **Interview questions for an educator from law department**

1. What are the freedoms of the press and access to information provided by the Ethiopian law?
2. To what extent the press laws of Ethiopia entertain investigative journalism?
3. What are the privileges Ethiopian media law give for investigative journalists?
4. Are journalists guaranteed to keep privacy of their information sources? If so, how can it be ensured?
5. Are journalists forced to expose anonymous sources to courts? Why?
6. Do the Ethiopian laws/ media laws protect the safety of individual journalists who expose corruption or investigate the interests of powerful private and public sector leaders? How?

## Appendix 6

### Questionnaire for Journalists

The aim of this study is to explore the presence of enabling environment for investigative journalism in Ethiopia developed for MA thesis to be submitted to the school of journalism and communication.

Therefore, the respondents for this questionnaire are journalists.

I want to assure you that the information you give for this questionnaire will only be used for the purpose of this study.

The information you provide is very helpful for the study to accomplish the desired goal. So please take some time and fill out this questionnaire honestly. If your answers are given with honesty and based on truth, the research result will be sound well-grounded. There is no right or wrong answers just feel free and answer what exactly you have experienced. And, please fill all the questions as you can.

*Writing your name is not necessary.*

Thank you in advance for your cooperation!!!

#### **Part one:** Background information

**Instruction:** *in this section you are required to provide information about yourself.*

1. Sex      Female \_\_\_\_\_      Male \_\_\_\_\_

2. Age \_\_\_\_\_

3. Educational qualification

Certificate or less \_\_\_\_\_ Diploma \_\_\_\_\_ 1<sup>st</sup> Degree \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree and above \_\_\_\_\_

4. Field of study \_\_\_\_\_

5. Experience in the media industry in years \_\_\_\_\_

6. Experience in investigative reporting \_\_\_\_\_

**Part two:**

**Instruction:** *in this part you are expected to indicate your agreement to the statements provided.*

*Mark in your preference. ✓*

The options are:

Strongly Agree, Agree, Undecided, Disagree, Strongly Disagree

<b>Questions related to information sources</b>		<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Undecided</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>
1	I can always access any information from the public					
2	I can always access any information from governmental organizations					
3	I can always access any information from Private organizations					
4	Sources are willing to provide any information for investigative reporters					
<b>Questions related to the organizational support to investigative journalism</b>						
5	I get enough support from my boss					

6	I believe I have the knowledge of investigative journalism					
7	I believe I have the key skills of investigative journalism (interviewing, observing, chasing documents)					
8	I am committed to work in investigative reporting					
9	I am free to write on any investigative topic					
10	Our organization gives great emphasis for investigative reporting					
11	The editorial policy of our organization is supportive for the journalist to work on investigative reporting					
12	We have enough budget allocation for investigative reporting in our organization					
13	My editor's attitude regarding investigative journalism is positive					
14	Our organization provides investigative training					
15	I have taken investigative course during my stay at university or college?					
<b>Questions related to the existing media law of Ethiopia</b>						
16	The Ethiopian media law provides protection for investigative journalists					
17	The Ethiopian media law provides protection for the information sources					
18	I have enough knowledge of my right and					

	responsibility as a journalist					
19	I have received media law training frequently					
20	I feel protected by the existing media law of Ethiopia					
<b>Questions related to investigative journalism</b>						
21	Investigative journalism is only the work initiated by the journalist					
22	I have frequently been questioned for investigative stories I wrote					
23	I believe there is investigative journalism practice in Ethiopia					
24	Ethiopian media have the capacity to practice investigative journalism					
25	Investigative journalism doesn't require huge economic capacity rather commitment of journalists and the organization					
26	Media ownership doesn't affect the content of the journalism practice					
27.	The ownership of our media doesn't influence in the practice of journalism					
28	I sometimes self-censor my stories					

**Part three:** Open ended questions

**Instruction:** *give your honest answers for the open ended questions in the provided space..*

1. Have you taken training on investigative journalism after graduation from university or college? If yes, how many times?
2. Do you believe there are indicators for presence of the practice of investigative journalism in Ethiopia? If your answer is yes, what are these indicators?
3. Do you have the desire to specialize in investigative journalism? 1, yes 2, No

Explain your reasons

4. What do you suggest in order to have a better investigative journalism in Ethiopia in the future?