



School of Journalism and Communication

Assessing the Practice of Investigative Journalism on
Broadcast Media in Tigray

By

Eden Niguse

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Assessing the Practice of Investigative Journalism on Broadcast
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By
Eden Niguse

Advisor
Mekuria Mekasha (Assistant Professor)

Addis Ababa University

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

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ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

This is to certify that the thesis prepared by Eden Niguse entitled: Assessing the practice of investigative journalism on broadcast media in Tigray and submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Degree of Master of Arts in Journalism and Communication complies with the regulations of the University and encounters the recognized standards with respect to originality and quality.

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Abstract

This research is conducted to investigate the practice of investigative journalism on broadcast media in Tigray. The study discussed legal protection, the practice of investigative reporting, professional investigative reporting standards, institutionalizing of investigative journalism, capacity building and challenges in the practice of investigative reporting. The research project is guided by fourth estate theory. Qualitative and quantitative approaches were applied. The data of questionnaire survey (193 respondents) was based on stratified sampling, the content analysis (53 semi investigative programs) and four case studies selected through snowball sampling while in-depth interview (27 interviewees) employed purposive sampling. Besides, the correlation between various variables of the practice of investigative journalism is computed by SPSS. The media institutions justified lack of budget and resources, limitations in human resource and defects in professional capacities of the journalists as reasons for compromising investigative reporting while most of the journalists described media partisanship as a main challenge. The media organizations and journalists coined their practice of critical reporting as “semi-investigative” reporting to mean exploring investigative issue with less depth, not fully researched agenda setting and limitations in follow-up reporting. The producers of semi-investigative programs are highly challenged by lack of information and harassment from externalities while discouragement through censoring and even ignoring their programs from dissemination by their editors and media managers took the lead intrusion in their daily practice. Therefore, the broadcast media in Tigray are expected to institutionalize and strategize investigative reporting so as to win the interest of the public.

Table of Content

| Content | Page |
|---|------|
| Acknowledgement | iv |
| Abstract..... | v |
| Table of Content | vi |
| List of tables..... | ix |
| List of Acronyms..... | xii |
| Chapter One..... | 1 |
| Introduction | 1 |
| 1.1) Background of the study..... | 1 |
| 1.2) Statement of the problem | 4 |
| 1.3. Objectives of the study..... | 5 |
| 1.3.1) General Objective | 5 |
| 1.3.2) Specific Objective..... | 5 |
| 1.4. Research Questions | 5 |
| 1.5. Significance of the study | 5 |
| 1.6. Scope of the Study | 6 |
| 1.7. Limitation of the study..... | 6 |
| 1.8. Organization of the study | 6 |
| Chapter Two..... | 7 |
| Review of Related Literature | 7 |
| 2.1) Investigative Journalism | 7 |
| 2.2) Investigative Journalism Ethics | 10 |
| 2.3) Standards of Investigative Journalism | 11 |
| 2.4) Social responsibility theory..... | 12 |
| 2.5) Watchdog journalism..... | 13 |
| 2.6) Legal protection for investigative Journalists | 14 |
| 2.7) Investigative journalism in Ethiopian Media | 15 |
| 2.8) Semi investigative reporting | 18 |
| 2.9) Theoretical framework: Fourth Estate Theory | 20 |
| Chapter Three | 22 |
| Research Methodology | 22 |

| | |
|--|----|
| 3.1) Research Design..... | 22 |
| 3.2) Research Method..... | 23 |
| 3.3) Sampling Technique..... | 24 |
| 3.4) Areas of the study..... | 26 |
| 3.5) Time Frame | 26 |
| 3.6) Unit of Analysis | 26 |
| 3.7) Data Collection Tools | 26 |
| 3.7.1) Primary Data Collection | 26 |
| 3.7.1.1. Survey Questionnaire..... | 26 |
| 3.7.1.2. In depth Interview..... | 27 |
| 3.7.1.3. Content Analysis | 27 |
| 3.7.1.4. Case Study..... | 28 |
| 3.7.2) Secondary Data Collection | 28 |
| 3.7.3) Ethical consideration | 28 |
| Chapter Four | 31 |
| Data Presentation and Analysis | 31 |
| 4.1) Introduction | 31 |
| 4.2) Demographic information | 31 |
| 4.2.1) Demographic information of questionnaire respondents..... | 31 |
| 4.2.2) General information about interviewees | 37 |
| 4.2.3) General information about content analysis..... | 39 |
| 4.3) Data Presentation and Analysis | 41 |
| 4.3.1) Legal protection for investigative reporting | 42 |
| 4.3.2) The practice of investigative journalism..... | 46 |
| 4.3.3) Professional investigative reporting standards | 52 |
| 4.3.4) Institutionalization of investigative journalism | 56 |
| 4.3.5) Challenges in the practice of investigative journalism in Tigray | 61 |
| 4.4) Correlation of variables | 69 |
| 4.4.1) Media environment in-relation to media freedom | 69 |
| 4.4.2) Legal protection in relation to freedom to report investigative issues..... | 69 |
| 4.4.3) Government interference against investigative reporting..... | 70 |
| 4.4.4) Media environment in relation to legal protection | 71 |
| 4.4.5) Production of follow-up stories in relation to media infrastructure | 71 |
| 4.4.6) Professional capacity in relation to investigative journalism standards | 72 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| 4.4.7) The interest of media owners in relation to media attention to investigative issues..... | 73 |
| 4.4.7) Freedom to report versus government interference | 74 |
| 4.4.8) Researching investigative report in ensuring accountability and transparency | 75 |
| 4.4.9) Media attention in relation to accountability and transparency | 76 |
| 4.5) Quantitative content analysis of semi investigative programs | 76 |
| 4.5.1) Semi-investigative programs | 77 |
| 4.2.2) Depth of the programs | 77 |
| 4.5.3) Sources of semi-investigative programs..... | 78 |
| 4.5.4) Number of sources of semi-investigative programs..... | 79 |
| 4.5.5) Areas of semi-investigative programs | 79 |
| 4.5.6) Identification of sources | 80 |
| 4.5.7) Ways of information gathering..... | 81 |
| 4.5.8) Follow-up stories | 82 |
| 4.6) Case studies | 82 |
| 4.6.1) Naming and Shaming..... | 82 |
| 4.6.2) Governance Smear..... | 83 |
| 4.6.3) That Hour | 84 |
| 4.6.4) Hospital and its Dilemma | 84 |
| 4.7) Discussion | 85 |
| Chapter Five | 95 |
| Conclusion..... | 95 |
| References | 98 |
| Appendix | 103 |

List of tables

| | |
|---|----|
| Table 1) Total population of journalist in broadcast media Tigray 2020 | 25 |
| Pie graph 2) Sex composition of respondents..... | 32 |
| Chart 3) Age group | 33 |
| Pie graph 4) Field of education..... | 33 |
| Chart 5) Educational qualification..... | 34 |
| Graph 6) Job category..... | 35 |
| Graph 7) Job experience | 36 |
| Pie graphs 8) Respondents' organization..... | 37 |
| Pie-graph 9) Sex composition of interviewees | 38 |
| Column 10) Job category..... | 39 |
| Column 11) Organizational affiliation of interviewees | 39 |
| Column 12) Number of programs..... | 40 |
| Bar-graph 13) Time frame | 41 |
| Graph 14) Journalists' legal guarantee | 42 |
| Chart 15) Protection of investigative journalists in practice..... | 44 |
| Chart 16) Protection of anonymous sources | 45 |
| Con 17) Investigative reporting as public interest issue in Tigray | 46 |
| Pie graph 18) Media attention to investigative issues..... | 47 |
| Graph 19) Freedom of media to report investigative issues | 49 |
| Table 20) Investigative reporting as usually used news and program format | 50 |
| Pie graph 21) Agenda selection | 50 |
| Pie graph 22) Coverage of investigative issues | 51 |
| Chart 23) Major sources of investigative reporting | 52 |
| Pie-graph 24) Investigative reporting guideline | 53 |
| Graph 25) Preliminary research..... | 53 |
| Chart 26) Research based investigative issue selection in Tigray | 54 |

| | |
|--|----|
| Graph 27) Production of follow-up stories | 55 |
| Table 28) Investigative programs in relation to professional standards | 56 |
| Con 29) Preparedness of the media for investigative journalists' initiatives..... | 57 |
| Pie graph 30) Institutionalization of investigative reporting department | 57 |
| Chart 31) Media infrastructure..... | 58 |
| Table 32) Investigative journalism in ensuring accountability and transparency..... | 59 |
| Pie graph 33) Journalists' capacity to handle investigative issues | 60 |
| Con 34) Capacity building in investigative reporting..... | 61 |
| Chart 35) Conduciveness of media environment to produce investigative issues..... | 62 |
| Pie graph 36) The impact of media ownership on investigative reporting | 63 |
| Chart 37) Influence of political and economic elites on investigative reporters | 64 |
| Con 38) Public willingness to provide information on wrongdoings | 65 |
| Chart 39) Government information access | 66 |
| Chart 40) Private sector information access | 67 |
| Table 41) Government interference in investigative programs | 68 |
| Con 42) The influence of economic interests on investigative programs..... | 69 |
| Table 43) Correlation between media environment and media freedom..... | 69 |
| Table 44) Correlation between legal protection and media freedom..... | 70 |
| Table 45) Correlation between media freedom and government interference | 71 |
| Table 46) Correlation between legal protection and media environment..... | 71 |
| Table 47) Correlation between media infrastructure and production of follow-up stories..... | 72 |
| Table 48) Correlation between professional capacity in relation to investigative journalism standards | 73 |
| Table 49) Correlation between media ownership and media attention to investigative reporting | 74 |
| Table 50) Correlation between media freedom and government interference | 75 |
| Table 51) Correlation between semi investigative reporting and accountability and transparency | 75 |

| | |
|--|----|
| Table 52) Correlation between media attention in relation to accountability and transparency | 76 |
| Table 53) List of semi investigative programs | 77 |
| Pie-graph 54) Depth of semi investigative programs | 78 |
| Chart 56) Sources of programs | 79 |
| Pie-graph 57) Number of sources | 79 |
| Graph 58) Areas of semi investigative programs | 80 |
| Pie-graph 59) Identification of sources | 81 |
| Pie-graph 60) Ways of information gathering | 81 |
| Pie-graph 61) Production of follow-up stories..... | 82 |

List of Acronyms

| | |
|------|---|
| DWET | Dimtsi Weyane Tigray |
| TMMA | Tigray mass Media Agency |
| FBC | Fana Broadcasting Corporate |
| SPSS | Statistical package for social sciences |
| IJ | Investigative journalism |
| UDHR | Universal Declaration of Human Right |
| ECHR | European convention on Human Rights |

Chapter One

Introduction

1.1) Background of the study

Investigative reporting is a reporting which embrace organizations to be accountable when unlawful doings has been occurred. Different scholars have defined investigative journalism in different ways. According to Yusha'u (2009, p.157) investigative journalism is needed whether the media is to be worthy of the fourth estate depiction.

As stated by Ismaila (et al, 2014, p. 165) 'it is also known as exposé journalism, adversarial journalism, in-depth journalism, muckraking journalism, advocacy journalism, public service journalism, watchdog journalism and journalism of outrage' .

As defined by Hansen (2018 p.1) fourth estate is about understanding how a democratic public sphere is cultivating in regards to the interactions between the governed and governors parallel with the gap of power. Carlyle (as cited in Hansen , 2018 p.2) outlined that the fourth estate was coined by Burke in 1787 (Schultz 1998,49) and explains it is the additional governmental estate out of the three in British Parliament; The Lords Spiritual, the lords Temporal and the Commons.

However in the 19th century, the media become an important part in the knit of democracy and freedom of expression Hansen (2018 p.2). As a result, the media introduced itself in terms of the 'Estates' (the executive, the legislative and the judicial) Hansen (2018 p.3). Therefore, investigative journalism is utilized by different countries on their fight against corruption. And it has power to encourage good governance and democracy. In some parts of Africa investigative journalism began to flourish regardless of the obstacles the journalists and the media organizations faced (Ntibinyan, 2018e p.33).

Different studies have revealed that several African countries suffer from different types of corruption. For example, Yusha'u (2009 p.158) conducted a research regarding corruption within the media which was one of the challenges the Nigerian press has been facing. The study indicates that journalists receive bribes for a job they are paid to do (Ibid). The main reasons for such was that the political situation of Nigeria from independence to date has not been scandal free (Yusha'u, 2009 p.161).

This shows that journalists and the media organization themselves were not economically rich. For both the journalists and the media firms, it is difficult to cover stories of corruption since it needs time, budget and other resources. To cover such stories, firstly they have to survive and feel a sense of confidence in their sustainability. According to the study political economy of the country had a negative impact on the performance of investigative reporting in the media organizations.

The study also indicated that in government owned media organizations, it is difficult for Nigerian journalists to publish stories against government officials because the journalists might be forced to resign or pushed to take other action. Corruption within the media itself is another additional challenge (Yusha'u, 2009 p.158). Some respondents on the study in Nigeria press says that the media institutions themselves are not willing to practice investigative reporting because of the financial constraints (Ibid).

Ethiopia is among the countries in Africa where feudal; authoritarianism and dictatorship structures had been embedded for a long period of time. In this time, it is a challenge for journalists to practice investigative journalism since the governors are using the media organizations to be their instrumental tool. As a result, the contents in the state media are giving a focus for protocol news, by transmitting authorized information originated from the public administration (Skerdal, 2008, p.105). Skerdal also states that investigative journalism has not get especial focus in Ethiopian state media channels.

In contrast, a study by Ashenafi (2017, p.72) indicates that 'Aynachin' program on ETV tries to practice investigative reporting, though it lacks follow ups but it is near the beginning stage. And 'Teguazh Neqash' program was also broadcasted as investigative journalism in Fana Broadcasting Corporation, but the study signifies, it is public commentary not investigative journalism (Ibid).

When the media organizations try to produce investigative programs, unnecessary interventions are observed from government officials. As a result, Ashenafi concludes that there is a need to get support from government in the vein of getting grants and trainings for both reporters and practitioners (2017 p.72).

There are two private and two state owned broadcast media organizations in Tigray. Tigray Mass Media Agency (state owned), Dimtsi Weyane Tigray (private), Mekelle Fana FM 94.8 (private), and 104.4 Radio FM Mekelle (state owned). According to Danial (2019 p.19) Dimtsi Weyane Tigray (ገገገ ገገገ ገገገገ) started its broadcasting service in Radio Hafash Eritrea with 30 minutes airtime in october11, 1979. The radio was commenced in the high mountains of Sahil , called Arag (1979-

1981), then transferred into Amberbebe (1981) and Shabayt (1982-1984). The reason why the station stayed in the mountains was to protect itself from the Derg regime. Years later, ‘Dimtsi Hafash Eritrea’ rejected the broadcast of Dimtsi Woyane Tigray programs after disparity in political programs observed between Tigray People Liberation Front and Eritrea People Liberation Front (Ibid).

In 1985 Dimtsi Weyane Tigray revitalized its transmission in ‘May Mussie, Wolkayit’. The station persistently continued its transmission in Tsegede (1987-1988), Ras Dashin, Hay (1988), Temben, Endagabir (1989-1990), Mekelle (1990), Addis Ababa (1990) and now its current city, Mekelle since 1998. The station was transmitted its messages using Tigrigna, Amharic, Oromifa and Afar languages (Ibid) while Saho and Kunamigna were added later. Exactly before a year, in 2019. Dimtsi Weyane Tigray opened a television station in addition to the national radio and FM channels (Danial, 2019 p .19). Tigray Mass Media was also established in 31, July 1990 with an hour Tigrigna Television news and programs in association with Ethiopian Television (Danial, 2019 p .20).

From 2006-2008 it continued its broadcast under the supervision of Tigray Information Bureau. Then after, Tigray Mass Media was formally established at agency level by the Tigray House of People’s Representatives Proclamation 142/2000. Since 2018 the medium began its 24 hours broadcast in Tigrigna, Saho, Kunamigna and lately Amharic languages (Danial, 2019, p.20).

104.4 FM Mekelle is a state media established by Mekelle City Administration in 22 February 2017. It is accessible in Mekelle and surrounding 100 kilo meter radius. It uses Tigrigna language for 18 hours broadcasting per day (Ibid). Mekelle Fana FM 94.8 established by Fana Broadcasting Corporate in April 2010 (Danial, 2019 p.20). It produces news and programs in Tigrigna language. Besides, other programs linked with Fana Broadcasting Corporate are disseminated in Amharic language (Danial, 2019 p.20).

The broadcast media stations in Tigray have variety of news and program formats designed to be addressed to the public at the region and country in-general. In recent times, the raising public concerns on government bureaucracy and maladministration as an obstacle to the current status of development. Hence, the public is demanding to mainstream its concerns in the media. Investigative reporting focuses on depth reporting of government, private and community wrongdoings so as to shape the development initiatives based on a legal landmark. Therefore, the research project assessed the practice of investigative journalism on broadcast media in Tigray.

1.2) Statement of the problem

The role that media can play as a watchdog is indispensable for democracy (Hunter, 2012 p.1). Besides, the role of media in fostering and sustaining development has been thoroughly discussed by many scholars (Sen, 1984; Stiglitz, 2002; Islam, 2002). The media serve as a platform of public debate that facilitates informed decision making among the public. The inclusive way to inform the public about the accountability and transparency of government and other influential elites is through the use of media. In this way, investigative journalism crucially contributes to freedom of expression and freedom of information (Hunter, 2012 p.1). Therefore, examining the practice of investigative journalism is worth intervention as much as public interest is a concern.

Media organizations want to maximize profits because of the sustainability they revitalize. On the other hand, they embark public interest through their theme as voice for the voiceless, voice of diversity, home of perspectives etc. But legal framework, media ownership, media environment, professional capacity, institutional commitment and related factors have higher impact on the extent of performance and quality of investigative journalism. Therefore, studies regarding the practice of investigative journalism need to be multi-perspective enough to measure the effects of various internal and external factors.

The practice of investigative journalism in Ethiopia is a recent phenomenon (Chala, 2019 p.3) while Bereket (2012 p. 3) revealed on his study “the practice of investigative journalism in the Ethiopian Radio and Television Agency (ERTA) is at an early stage although its importance for the country is well understood”.

As the century history of Ethiopia media is under the scrutiny of the government and the likeliness of quality investigative programs is tight. Many researches explained that among many factors the type of media ownership in Ethiopia affected the practicability of investigative reporting (Ashenafi, 2017; Bereket, 2012; Chala, 2019). However, there is no research that explains the context of investigative journalism in Tigray.

The motivation to conduct the present study is because of the researcher’s observation that the major challenge of the public is highly associated with limitations in accountability and transparency of governance in Tigray. As it is the main defect of the country’s development perseverance, Tigray is also confronted by limitations in governance, infrastructure allocation, justice, corruption and maladministration in-general. Therefore, the public is demanding to mainstream their concern in the media organizations. But the status of practicing investigative reporting in Tigray is not scientifically explored. Thus, there is a knowledge gap in the area.

Therefore, this research project attempted to fill the knowledge gap, assessed the practice of investigative journalism on broadcast media in Tigray. Specifically, it investigated the media practice, institutional capacity to handle investigative tasks and the internal and external challenges paused to the course of practice.

1.3. Objectives of the study

1.3.1) General Objective

The main objective of the study was to assess the practice of investigative journalism on broadcast media in Tigray.

1.3.2) Specific Objective

The specific objectives of the study were:

- ✓ To pinpoint whether there is legal protection for investigative journalists and their sources.
- ✓ To scrutinize the practice of investigative journalism on broadcast media in Tigray.
- ✓ To appraise whether the programs are incongruent with the professional investigative journalism standards.
- ✓ To pinpoint the extent of institutionalization in relation with the institutional capacity and capacity enhancement of investigative reporting department.
- ✓ To identify the challenges of the practice of investigative journalism on broadcast media in Tigray.

1.4. Research Questions

1. Is there a legal protection for investigative journalists and their sources?
2. What are the practices of investigative journalism on broadcast media in Tigray?
3. How far the programs are incongruent with the professional investigative journalism standards?
4. To what extent the investigative reporting tasks are institutionalized in relation to its institutional capacity of the media?
5. What are the challenges the media face when practicing investigative journalism?

1.5. Significance of the study

This research has served as a pawmarks to explain the status of investigative journalism on broadcast media organizations in Tigray. It also has contribution as a reference to the journalists, producers, reporters, media managers, policy makers, government officials and other responsible bodies in media and communication sector.

Besides, the study can help journalists and media organizations to understand the current status on the practice of investigative reporting; explore the strengths and weaknesses in it and raise the ways forward. Moreover, it has contribution as a cornerstone for further investigations in the field.

1.6. Scope of the Study

The study focused on private and government owned broadcast media organizations in Tigray. Dimtsi Weyane Tigray (DWET) and Mekelle Fana FM 94.8 (FBC) are privately owned while 104.4 Radio FM Mekelle and Tigray Mass Media Agency (TMMA) are state owned broadcast media organizations. Therefore, the study assessed the practice of investigative journalism on the specified broadcast media organizations in Tigray.

1.7. Limitation of the study

The study was limited while searching related literatures on semi investigative reporting programs since the practice of semi investigative reporting is still scholarly debatable.

1.8. Organization of the study

The research is organized in to five chapters. The first chapter deals with introductory part which includes background, statement of the problem, objectives, research questions, significance, scope, and limitation of the study. The second chapter discusses a review of related literature through taking prior knowledge from variety of previous studies which are assessed in relation with the practice of investigative journalism; theoretical framework, historical development and other concerns have also discussed.

The third chapter deals about the methodology used for data gathering and analysis. In chapter four findings are presented, analyzed and discussed. Finally, chapter five deals with conclusion and recommendations.

Chapter Two

Review of Related Literature

This chapter starts to review obtainable literature on the significance of investigative journalism. A definition given by different scholars for investigative journalism has been articulated and discussed in this chapter. Ethics of investigative journalism, standards of investigative journalism, social responsibility theory, watchdog journalism, legal protection of journalists, overview of Ethiopian media, and semi investigative reporting has been discussed. The study also used a Fourth Estate theoretical framework which helped the study to put concrete arguments and discussions.

2.1) Investigative Journalism

“Investigative journalism is distinct from routine journalism that relies on press conferences, press releases, interviews, and other conventional ways of news making, whose main aim is to convey the messages received through official proceedings” (Yusha’u, 2009, p.157).

Journalists are expected to absorb a crucial role by being keepers of the public through looking out the wrong doings of corrupt leaders. Thus, investigative journalism examines the value of justice and confirms the significance or if not the right and wrong, virtue and mistake by analyzing, condemning, and understanding the case with journalistic investigation (Ettema & Glasser, 1988 as cited in Yusha’u (2009, p.158).

Whereas Mc Quail (2005 p.244) on his book states that the linkage between media and society are sometimes mediated by more or less informal, however is structured. Pressure groups get to control in a straight line for what the media is doing particularly, by acting to put limits for what they should publish (Ibid). The above statement indicates, media organizations by themselves can directly have a direct linkage with different economic agencies to survive and get such operating funds. For this reason, the media content mostly reflects the interests of those who finance the media. Indirectly it means that the media’s content is under gaze of interest groups.

Different scholars also argue on the practice of investigative journalism as it is beyond its name. “Among the dangerous assignment in journalism investigative reporting takes the front role” (Ashenafi, 2017 p.7).

The main reason is it mainly focuses on revealing corruption, works to sustain good governance and of the need for disclosing wrong doings (Ibid). The profession of journalism has different principles which can help the media for practicing it. Those are impartiality, accuracy and honesty (Yusha'u, 2009 p.167). These principles are expected to be practiced for the interests of the public other than putting them as an ultimate depiction.

Yusha'u (2009 p. 169) states that the failure of the media in developing countries to perform investigative journalism in its "principle" might be related to the economic situations of the countries and government control of resources which makes media organizations unfeasible on their survival.

In contrast to the above study, a study has conducted in Ethiopia media platforms by selecting two media firms. Ashenafi (2017) examined his study on 'the status of investigative journalism during the First Growth and Transformation Plan, in EBC 'Aynachin' and FBC 'Teguazh Neqash' programs. The study indicates it is unsatisfactory while practicing the proper investigative journalism practice in EBC (Ethiopia Broadcasting Corporation) 'Aynachin' program mainly focused on land issues and government institutions which fail to promote democracy, good governance, fighting corruption and other malpractices (Ashenafi, 2017 p.iv). As a result, the study shows 'Aynachin' program lacked details, accuracy, depth, scope and follow up (Ashenafi, 2017 p.iv).

Moreover, Waisbord (2002, p. 380) mentioned that permanent press attention is particularly important in particular cases of unlawful activities when neither legislative bodies nor judiciaries illustrate attention in following up initial press disclosures. This shows that after practicing investigative journalism follow up reporting helps to put essential agendas which can remind the public and political officials about the continuation of the issue.

'Teguazh Neqash' program was also assessed on the study which is broadcasted as investigative journalism in FBC (Fana Broadcasting Corporate) Ashenafi (2017 p.iv) indicates that the program did not have a track, following the format of investigative journalism and lacks the standards of investigative journalism. The study concludes that it is 'completely public commentary not investigative journalism (ibid).

Thus, Ongowo (2011 p.10) put on his study that:

Classical examples of investigative journalism that resulted in official public investigations include the Washington Post's Watergate scandal investigation that forced the resignation of US President Richard Nixon in 1974 de Burgh(2000,78-79).

'This reporting was only possible through the protection of a source whose identity was kept secret for 30 years' *McFadyen 2008, p.140 as cited in (Ongowo, 2011, p.10).*

Waisbord (2002, p. 380) 'investigative journalism also contributes to accountability by monitoring the functioning of democratic institutions.' Investigative journalism can inspect how are the institutions currently performing their legitimate directives, which is particularly important in the result of press criticisms (Ibid).

In investigative journalism, the thing which journalists seek to get might have a touch with corruption, or hidden by those who have authority of power in which journalists forced to go and dig the obtainable information. According to the finding by Ashenafi (2007, p.iv) "the major challenges to practice investigative journalism in the media were government officials' intervention, lack of media managers' and government's commitment and lack of professionalism."

It indicates that media organizations and journalists are not independent enough in their political economy and not easy to articulate their freedom of expression. So that it makes difficult for them to break the challenge facing through those regulatory bodies. Government is expected to take positive steps to the rights of individuals to get and impart information freely rather than interfering and controlling the media firms.

On the other hand Leach (2013) states;

"The media has a duty to impart information and ideas of public interest, without overstepping certain bounds, and this duty is mirrored by the public's right to receive such information"(Leach, 2013, p.6).

This points out that the public have right not only to get information but also to reflect and participate on revealing issues of interest.

Leach (2013) also put some points regarding the safety of journalists. It states that

"If the state is aware of threats or intimidation perpetrated against journalists or media organizations, the state may be under a duty to take protective measures and to carry out an effective investigation into such allegations"(Leach ,2013 p .10).

Leach (2013 p 10-12) shows government's duty to protect life, Article 2 of the convention shows government is responsible on preventing journalists at risk from a deliberate and illegal taking of their life while in the duty to investigate fatalities, authorities should take reasonable steps to make

a safe and the evidence about the entity, in case if any absence happens which can challenge the investigation, straight lawbreakers or those who well-organized the crime, will hazard declining foul of this standard.

Finally, it has put a point regarding a prohibition of torture and ill treatment: it indicates that if a government or authorities use force to stop, for the journalist, it violates Article 3 of the convention which forbids torture or in human activities (Ibid). In addition, the report also assessed journalists have the right to protect their sources as it is part of their freedom; Sources have also the right to receive and impart information without any interference of authorities which has put as a safeguarding Article 10 of the convention (Leach, 2013 p.17). Therefore, the content of investigative issue is vital since it attracts the attention of people and officials to particular matters.

2.2) Investigative Journalism Ethics

The expression 'ethics' when linked with journalism practice has extracted different description. According to (Ward, 2006, p.100 as cited in Ongowo, 2011 p.12) it has defined "a set of principles and norms that, at least to some degree, guided journalistic practice". The, above statement indicates journalists are allowed to compact with the terms between what is moral or immoral before publishing it. They are also obliged to crosscheck the information they get from the public. It indirectly means that the practice of investigative reporting needs critical thinking.

"The basic ethical principle of journalism, however remain the same namely: to seek the truth, report it as full as possible, minimize harm, be accountable and act independently" (Chala, 2019 p.12).

As explained by Kovach and Rosenstiel (2001, pp.115-118 as cited in Bereket (2012 p .24) there are different forms of investigative journalism;

1. Original investigative reporting: This form of investigative reporting initiates journalist's involvement.
2. Interpretive investigative reporting: This form of investigation needs to interpret things in different ways.
- 3 Reporting on investigation: In this case Bereket (2012) pointed this cannot consider as a form of investigation since journalists are doing their report based on others investigation report. We can take an example like reporting crime cases based on police investigations.

But there are ethical issues which journalists should practice to respect the profession. There are basic principles of journalism (Forbes, 2005 as cited in Bereket (2012 p.47) “these are: seek the truth and report it as fully as possible; minimize harm; be accountable; and act independently.”

“When the media need to ensure the public’s right to know, it should also realize that the issue which is going to be investigated stands for public good”(Bereket, 2012, p.47).

An investigative journalist is expected to give respect for their people when they collect and host the news they get. All in all, ethics have a big role on making journalists undergo responsible and to serve the public regarding what is happening on the ground.

According to Ashenafi (2017 p.18-20) areas of investigative journalism can be good governance to check and understand the act of government activities in an assured social context; corruption so as to reveal inappropriate and illegal actions of public service officials; politics to verify politicians whether they are dominant and acting over the track given by the public’s and finally land as it is a great concern by the public and controversy on land for investment and farming is obviously observed among the government and people.

2.3) Standards of Investigative Journalism

Ashenafi (2017p.41) put the notes of Kovach and Rosenstiel (2007), Hargittai and Walejko (2008); Karaganis (2007) on the subject of the standards of investigative journalism that; it is *“presented in an in-depth and investigative format, requires more research, need more time, sensitivity is very high; investigate hidden issues”* (Ashenafi , 2017, p.41).

On the other hand he also explained the idea of those scholars as public commentary is different from investigative journalism since it promotes an issue with a discussion format, needs short period of time, gives more focus for problems raised from a society, it has lesser sensitivity, gives comments for an identified issue etc.(Ibid). As a result, a study by Ashenafi (2017 p.72) indicates that ‘Aynachin’ program on ETV attempted to practice investigative reporting is at early stage. ‘Teguazh Neqash’ program was also broadcasted as investigative journalism in FBC, but the study signifies, it is a public commentary not investigative journalism (Ibid).

According to Kovacic& Erjavec((2011 p. 330) argumentation is essential for journalism, and particularly for investigative reporting since it has a sensitive nature in issues to be discovered and investigated. Therefore, Mc Nair (1998 p.5) as cited in Kovacic& Erjavec (2011, p. 330) argued that “journalistic discourse in general lays claim to truthfulness and accuracy and De burgh (2009, P .9) as cited in Kovacic& Erjavec (2011, p 330) also argued that the duty of an investigative reporter is to

find out the truth and to recognize the drops from it. Thus, different studies also shows that when trying to practice investigative journalism, a reporter is expected to select a topic by developing a hypothesis for what to explore, and structured research questions should also be prepared to guide the investigation.

2.4) Social responsibility theory

It is a theory that allows free press but also calling for accountability in the press. Mc Quail (2005 p. 147) stated on his book that ‘social responsibility theory has main propositions.’

- ✓ The media have obligations to society, and media ownership is a public trust
- ✓ News media should be truthful, accurate, fair, objective and relevant
- ✓ The media should be free, but self-regulated
- ✓ The media should follow agreed codes of ethics and professional conduct
- ✓ Under some circumstances, government may need to intervene to safeguard the public interest (Mc Quail, 2005 p. 147).

Social responsibility theory states that a responsible press ought to ‘serve a full, honest, wide-ranging and clever explanation of the day’s events within a context which gives audiences meaning (Mc Quail, 2005p.146). The theory points out that the press is expected to serve as discussion forum for the exchange of comment and criticism which can create a public as a point of expressing their opinion. Therefore, in social responsibility theory, a media firm is expected to control itself other than entertaining government intervention. Accordingly, social responsibility theory indicates that media firms maintain responsibility of serving public interest issues in relation to the high standards of journalism.

As mentioned by Munilla and Miles (N.D p.373) Social responsibility is a vague idea and it is defined in different ways to be used within a management situation to pass on to businessmen’s decisions and measures taken for grounds at least to a degree outside the firm’s straight economic or technical interest”. The above phrase indicates that the main responsibility of media firms is to give priority to the public interest. Unlike their profit maximization or other political or economic measures, the society must be served first. As mentioned by Hansen (2018, p.3) “in the 20th century, the notion of the Fourth Estate was increasingly used in the sense of the ‘watchdog’ who investigates the established powers.”

It is been also gradually joined with the notion of social responsibility as this responsibility requires an area of entertaining different arguments and opinions. The journalist is not expected to transform

information only rather is expected to question and investigate hidden issues which can limit to the reach of those who are in power.

2.5) Watchdog journalism

Watchdog journalism is a practice of playing as a fourth estate on a significant analysis over the dominant ones to prevent their abuses, in which they might be government officials, company or other high-ranking spheres of society. As explained by Richard and Opoku (2018, p.68) “the media is described as the fourth estate of the realm.” This indicates that it’s great role in public since journalists are defined as watchdogs of the public because they watch as well as check the actions of policy makers.

Jebril (2013p.4) indicates the watchdog model’s relationship between the media and its structure that when authoritarian theories grasp that journalism should always be lesser to the interests of attaining political goals, the liberal press theory expects the press to offer a marketplace of thoughts and sees the government as the primary (if not only) hazard to press freedom.

Jebril (2013, p. 4) identified the three classical elements of the watchdog model; objectivity, factuality, and critical coverage.

1. Objectivity

McQuail (2005) cited in Jebril (2013, p.4) explains that objective journalists are essential to maintain neutrality toward the object of their reporting, to abandon partisanship and bias, and to accomplish severe affection to accuracy and other truth criteria, such as relevance and completeness.

2. Factuality: “The watchdog role is meant to distinguish between factual coverage and commentary” (Jebril, 2013, p.5).

3. Critical Coverage

As mentioned by Hallin and Mancini (2004: 271) as cited in Jebril, 2013 p.5) critical reporting begins from a move in journalism toward serious professionalism, shines a social change: riches, political constancy, and rising educational levels led to a general cultural shift towards ‘post-materialist’ principles of participation and free expression.

This practice of journalism can contribute to democracy by showing, through the press's unparalleled role as an agenda setter, issues that call for public inspection. In this case Journalism monitors the exercise of power. This theoretical background can help the study in which journalists working in

broadcast organizations in Tigray are demanded to reveal detailed information of hidden issues which left untouched and could harm the general public.

2.6) Legal protection for investigative Journalists

According to Nazakit & the KAS Media Program (2010 p.79) “laws that protect journalists- or lack thereof -vary from country to country, as does admissible as evidence in court.” However, it is journalists’ responsibility to recognize the rule, realize the jeopardies you accept and their thinkable penalties (Ibid).

As stated by Nazakit & the KAS Media Program (2010 p.79) asking an influential person for commentary on a serious issue can direct to legal, as well as physical, intimidations. Lawful intimidations may be intended to assemble your editor drop the story-and he or she possibly will do so. But if the facts are acceptable, try persuading your editor that these persons frequently do not open the offense suits they terrorized. The above phrase implicates that investigative reporters have internal and external pressures when they try to cover hard stories and pushed stop the program in accumulation with harassing them to feel fear of losing their life, that’s the reason for why legal protection is desirable for journalists.

As explained by Wiesand (2016p.206);

“In principle, the diverse forms of investigative journalists and the related protection of journalistic sources fall under the provisions of Article 19 UDHR (Universal Declaration of Human Rights) and Article 10 ECHR (European convention on Human Rights)(Freedom of expression and Information).”

In this framework, the ECHR perceived that ‘the vital public watchdog role of the press could be undermined “if journalistic sources are not protected” (GOODWIN, 1996 as cited in Wiesand 2016 p. 206). This incriminates that if an issue has public interest power holders might not love stories which reveal their wrong acts and journalists could be challenged in their private life. Constitution of Ethiopia (1995) Article 19 puts Right of Thought, Opinion and Expression. And it underlines that; “freedom of the press and other mass media and freedom of artistic creativity is guaranteed” Constitution of Ethiopia (1995) Article 19. In this case, freedom of the press mainly comprises elements like;

(a) Prohibition of any form of censorship and (b) Access to information of public interest

As the constitution clearly puts everyone's right to freedom of expression, to receive and impart information either orally, in print, in the form of art or via any media, though the ground is different and is debatable by Ethiopian journalists. The article also states for the sake of free flow of information, thoughts and views which are important to the operation of a democratic order, the press shall take pleasure in legal safety to ensure its equipped autonomy and its capacity to consider various ideas. The above statement also implies that a media organization is expected to entertain diversity of ideas in relation to the principles of journalism.

2.7) Investigative journalism in Ethiopian Media

A study by Nigussie (2014) reveals that, in history, previous ruling regimes in Ethiopia were using the media for their own political interest. Nigussie (2014 p.91) in his study of Media and Politics in Ethiopia also explains that media and politics in the country of Ethiopia is highly intertwined. The political history of the nation throughout all periods has dictated the development of Ethiopian media. The media has served the wishes and whims of those in power (Ibid).

All the empires one way or the other; directly or indirectly manipulated the media for the purpose of maintaining their status-quo and power patriarchy. That means, the previous governments have been said to stifle the press for their parochial interests, freedom of the press on the one hand and the people's right to free expression on the other were curtailed.

“The Ethiopian Empire (until 1974) saw the media as a means to reinforce feudalism as a divine ruling system, while the Marxist military junta (1974-1991) introduced strict censorship and treated the media as mere propaganda tools.”(Skjerdal, 2011,p .65).

This clearly indicates that there is an external political parallelism in the Ethiopian media landscape. Of course, there is a fact that media firms are reflections of the socio-economic and political life of a society. But the main question is whose interest is expected to be served by the media.

Therefore, media organizations of Ethiopia manifest many features of the polarized pluralist model as it has challenged by ownership and regulations. On the other hand, when we look the case of practicing investigative journalism in Ethiopia, Ashenafi (2017 p.12) notices 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” Ashenafi , 2017 p.12).

Therefore, observing some articles of the FDRE constitution, Access to Information and Media Freedom Proclamation 590/2008 and penal code 1957 (Ashenafi, 2017 p.12) which have importance with the subject is desirable for this issue.

The 1995 constitution of the FDRE visibly assured that press freedom is a basic democratic right of Ethiopians while the constitution publicly acknowledged freedom of expression as democratic right in article 29 (Ibid). But Ashenafi (2017 p.13) concludes that Ethiopian journalists are facing many authorized problems when they try to gather information and publish it, for instance stopping journalists from producing investigative programs and defending for people and organizations from interference. However, sustaining democracy, good governance and justice are the major initiatives of people. For this reason, political officials and other authorities are expected to be accountable for the people. Thus, to make accountable for what they are doing, people can use media as a tool. Otherwise when the media didn't have a watch and people didn't use it to express their opinions using their democratic rights; still the media can stay as an ideal picture.

As FDRE, 1995 Constitution; Draft Media Policy Document, 2008 cited in Negeri (2012, p. 122) “the media are entrusted the role of promoting development, democracy and good governance and a new journalism model, i.e. development journalism has been embraced”. Negeri (2012, p. 122) on his study explains the above sentence that in Ethiopia since poverty is a reality, the FDRE administration has adopted democratic developmental state political economy to convey socioeconomic and political revolution.

Moreover, Negeri (2012, p.125) also concluded that “development journalism is one which prioritizes the actual development problems of the people, i.e. pressing the socioeconomic, political and good governance issues so as to bring about improved living condition for all” (Negeri, 2012, p.125). On the other hand, Negeri (2012, p.125) argued that

In the Ethiopian context, issues related to urban land management, whether the people including farmers and the poor in urban areas are getting justice or in the contrary suffering at the hands of rent seeking government officials and corrupt private business elites ought to have been addressed as important content of development journalism.

Also the present study claims that the meanings of both development journalism and investigative journalism are confusing journalists on how and what to produce for investigative and development journalism practices since development journalism focuses on promoting the national development process and investigative journalism focuses on investigating hidden issues. For example Ashenafi

(2017, p.72) indicated on his study that ‘Aynachin’ program on ETV attempted to practice investigative reporting is at early stage. ‘Teguazh Neqash’ program was also broadcasted as investigative journalism in FBC, but the study signifies, it is public commentary not investigative journalism (Ibid).

However, as highlighted by Negeri (2012) those programs are also illustrated as indicators of development journalism.

There are 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 Aynachin/ Fitlefit and special program on good governance issues in Oromia Radio and Television Organization, Amhara Mass Media Agency and Debub Mass Media Agency. These programs have the objectives of ensuring accountability of public officials in discharging their responsibilities. Moreover, related programs from some of the private press and radio such as Fana Broadcast Corporate’s ‘Teguaj Neqash’ are promising attempts worth mentioning (Negeri, 2012, p. 126).

Yet, Negeri (2012, p.127) put the idea of the federal government media institutions’ editorial policy, as follows;

“The media have the obligation to broaden public understanding of democratic principles, rights and freedom, promote public participation in democracy, check whether government officials perform their duties in accordance with democratic principle and let the public know about it, expose corruption, promote transparency and accountability (Negeri, 2012, p. 126).

Thus, it can be concluded according to the above idea of different scholars that investigative reporting doesn’t get much focus than that of development journalism. Mukundu and Rasmussen (2018 p. 4) states that; after Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed inaugurated in April 2018; “The government led by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has initiated a number of positive actions pointing towards reform” (Mukundu and Rasmussen, 2018 p. 4).

Thus international media support (IMS) illustrated that an inclusive approach is needed to capacitate people to participate in different activities. As a result of this a release of political prisoners and journalists held in January and June, 2018. Inconsistently, according to the international media

development support contrasting incidence have been observed, Mukundu and Rasmussen (2018, P.5) explains it as follows.

While Prime Minister Ahmed appears in charge, the lack of political consensus on the path that Ethiopia should take may also threaten the pace and quality of reforms. In all these processes the media appear to have fallen victim to the changes with the “private” TV ENN TV having been shut down in July 2018, for allegedly not covering the prime minister’s activities (Mukundu and Rasmussen, 2018, P.5).

The main challenge stated by IMD report is because of the weakness media support groups and it makes uneasy to freely express as well as incapable instantly to fully express and signify the interests in the on-going media policy reform program (Ibid). Thus IMF concludes that there is a need to build up the expertise of media advocates either individually or in institutional level so as to entirely involve, own supply to the media policy improvements (Mukundu and Rasmussen, 2018, P.16).

2.8) Semi investigative reporting

Investigative reporting has crucial importance on flourishing democracy in all over the world, but motionless practice is observed in different developing countries like Ethiopia. As the concept has a vital role on a democratic society, but has poor implementation in Ethiopia broadcast media organizations in line with lack of legal protection for journalists, weak initiative to the practice of investigative journalism, unfavourable economic and political environment and less attention.

The media practioners on broadcast media in Tigray coined the practice of investigative journalism in Tigray as ‘semi investigative reporting’. Though the concept of semi investigative reporting is more likely to be new to the scholarly debate, it was used in the infancy of Slovenian investigative journalism at the 1980’s.

Kovacic (2009) cited in Kovacic & Erjavec (2011, p. 329) describes the quality daily press in Slovenia has been engaged in the so called semi investigative reporting. The scholars argue it classically engage journalists forming an illustration of investigative reporting rather than actually doing it (Ibid). Since investigative journalism plays an objective of watchdog role over any misuses of power, Slovenian press journalists were striving to preserve the impression of semi investigative.

The major reason for Slovenian daily press to create an image for investigative journalism with own interpretation of “semi investigative” was that, in times of socialism Slovenia was part of Yugoslavia

and the communist discourse was in a hegemonic position in Slovenian journalism (Kovacic & Erjavec, 2011, p. 330). In this case, the study implicates that the communist political party was controlling and ruling the media and society while blocking investigative reporting practices. Having this, in the second half of the 1980's, unique social movements begun criticizing communist ideology and wielding force on the authorities, while by the end of the 1980's oppositional assemblies began to be institutionalized political parties and struggle for power (Ibid).

As stated by Kovacic & Erjavec (2011, p. 330) "A discursive shift took place in news discourse, where topics which used to be prohibited started to appear, such as human rights, freedom of thought, etc. "The scholars also explained investigative reporting thrived as a fraction of the fight adjacent to the hegemonic place of the socialist discourse" Kovacic & Erjavec (2011 p 330). This indicates that Slovenian daily press gusted democracy within unusual wind of fresh air into their media. Efforts to produce investigative reporting shown by Slovenian daily press journalists and finally came out with own interpretations of semi investigative reporting.

Kovacic & Erjavec (2011, p. 331) asked on their study that what are the Slovenian reporters interpretations for semi investigative reporting? According to the finding of the study (Kovacic & Erjavec, 2011, p. 333-334) Slovenian reporters say the reports were lacking more depth, evidence and consequent economic and social meaning. This indicates that the journalists never breeze a complete free air of democracy and freedom which helps them to act confidently because of the prior dominance of the stagnant communist media orientation. Therefore, they constructed a semi investigative journalism practice that they have initiative to produce public interest issues but were tackled with lack of budget and inept working conditions. Jurancic (2007) as cited in Kovacic & Erjavec (2011 p 330);

"From the term of the millennium, the neo-liberal discourse of the new elites definitely assumed a hegemonic position. In accordance with ideology, journalists have been prevalently seen as an expense by the media owners, which resulted in poor working conditions, low salaries and irregular fees".

As stated by Kovacic & Erjavec (2011, p. 334) Slovenian press reporter wrote about a giant humiliation in which managers of a three largest Slovenian building companies were mistrusted of corruption, and the journalist tried to build the image that he had been examining this scandal by himself, stated in a phrase "in connection to the scandal, we have investigated". Nonetheless of the scandal, the investigation publicized it with lack of more depth, evidence, accusations and subsequent economic and social meaning.

“A reader only gets three pieces of new key information: if the managers are to be found guilty, their sentences will have no economic consequences for their companies; a broad scope of the business aspects of these companies is included; an indication of the companies’ parameters is also mentioned” (Kovacic & Erjavec, 2011, p.334).

Therefore, the last two instructions inhabit the majority of the report, yet never refer to the first part of the report since the reporter never offers such interpretations over the scandal. Thus, the reader never gets pieces of data rather detailed information on the scope of the company and more on economic data. But sometimes journalists are observed to limit their motivations on revealing investigative issues after public, official sources like police reveals a story.

2.9) Theoretical framework: Fourth Estate Theory

This theory is importantly used on this study to build concrete arguments and debate in relation to the theory and practice of media firms in Tigray. Media firms always understood as they looked as the fourth estate of political power. Peter et al. (2008 p.496) explains that there is a power relation between media and public as well as media and politics. Hansen (2018 p.5); states that the Fourth Estate can go around the watchdog function by forcing authorities to get them critically based on the revealed investigations.

In other way, Washboard (2002, p.377) agrees that;

“The role of investigative journalism can be understood along the lines of the "Fourth Estate" model under which the press makes the government accountable by publishing information about issues that are of public interest.” (Waisbord, 2002, p.377).

It also indicates that if conducting a study on the daily work of public officials is necessary for flourishing democracy, the media is responsible on providing information to make it achievable (Ibid).

Different scholars have also defined the Fourth Estate in different ways;

Waisbord (2002, p. 378) argues practicing investigative journalism in a press have major contribution on increasing democracy through checking the daily routines of democratic organizations. Waisbord also argues that not like the other Estates, a media firm is to be successful when its economic performance is independent (Ibid).

It is confirmed that the need for existing investigative journalism alone cannot make possible to make it happen. It is because the practice needs to keep government being in a distance

independently. Receiving financial funds from government can put the media contents to be censored and controlled. A media firm needs to be free and independent economically. This helps the media keep its critical reporting against the limitations in the government's activities; playing its watchdog role.

Hansen (2018 p.2) states:

“In the liberal tradition, the Fourth Estate is seen as ideally giving ‘voice to the voiceless’ in the public sphere in other words, counteracting coercive structures of silence (i.e. counteracting the unequal distribution of voices, the favoring of hegemonic voices over marginalized communities, etc.)” (Hansen, 2018, p.2).

In other words the Fourth Estate is often defined as it tells about a situation as it is, what has to be done and what has already done. In the 19th century the Fourth Estate was assumed to be practiced as a community discussion for debate, express the current public views and provide as a connection between the traditional powers and citizens (Hansen, 2018, p.3). Besides, in the 20th century the idea of Fourth Estate was highly used in the logic of watchdog which examines the recognized powers. This also can indicate that the media have an influence on how politicians interact with the society than on what they speak.

Chapter Three

Research Methodology

Research methodology entails a serious selection and application of the techniques used for data collection in order to room the general findings. The main concentration of this project stood to explore the practice of investigative journalism on broadcast media organizations in Tigray. As stated by Bryman (2012, p.164) to provide a measure of a concept, it is essential to have indicators that can stand for the concept and researchers can find indicators from a serious of questions.

Therefore, the research explored the practice of investigative journalism on broadcast media in Tigray by assessing whether there is legal protection for investigative journalists and their sources, examining the practicability of investigative journalism on broadcast media in Tigray, evaluating the causal measures whether the programs are incongruent with the professional standards of investigative reporting, extent of enhancing institutionalized investigative reporting tasks as well as institutional capacity and professional capacity building schemes to empower the practice of investigative reporting and identified the challenges of investigative reporting practices on broadcast media in Tigray.

Blumer (1984:43) as cited in Bryman (2012, p.163) explains concepts “are categories for the organization of ideas and observations”. “If a concept is to be employed in quantitative research, it will have to be measured Bryman (2012, p.163). “Once they are measured, concepts can be in the form of independent and dependent variables” (Ibid). Therefore, the research discussed the relationship between the causal measures of investigative journalism through correlation statistical measure, SPSS.

3.1) Research Design

As mentioned by Kothari (2004, p. 31) research design is a conceptual formation within which research is performed; it comprises the outline for the gathering, measurement and analysis of data. The study has assessed the practice of investigative journalism on broadcast media organizations in Tigray; Dimtsi Weyane Tigray (DWET), Tigray Mass Media Agency (TMMA), Mekelle Fana FM 94.8 (FBC) and 104.4 Radio FM Mekelle.

According to Igwenagu (2016, p.4):

“A methodology offers the theoretical underpinning for understanding which method, set of methods or best practices which can be applied to specific case, for example, to calculate a specific result”.

Thus, research methodology is a set of methodological procedure used in research and it basically means a guide to research and how it is performed (Ibid). Therefore, Igwenagu (2016, p.5) states that methodology is a wide-ranging research strategy which draws the way in which a research project is to be carried out and explains the methods to be used in it.

As a result, survey research strategy, combination of quantitative and qualitative methods, cross-sectional time horizon, questionnaire, content analysis, in-depth interview and case study; in addition to SPSS supported quantitative analysis and descriptive qualitative analysis have used in the study. Quantitative approach used since it compresses representative and measurable figures while qualitative approach used to emanate in depth understanding on the general study.

When researchers started to develop a research design, it needs to understand the research questions whether they are descriptive or explanatory. This study is therefore, an explanatory research since it answers the why and what questions in relation with the causal explanations. Johnson and Onwuegbuzie (2004) as cited in Mitchell (2018, p.106) also explains mixed methods research as matching to the usual qualitative and quantitative research and pragmatism contributes an attractive philosophical partnership for mixed methods research.

3.2) Research Method

To accomplish the main objective of the study a combination of quantitative and qualitative method has been used. Accordingly, Gunte (2002, p.236) explains that qualitative approach has three distinctive features firstly it has a concept of meaning, secondly, meaningful actions are expected to be studied in their naturalistic context and thirdly, is attached with the role of the researcher with an interpretive subject. Thus, the research utilized qualitative approaches; in-depth interview, case study and content analysis for the purposively selected programs. On the other hand, a quantitative approach questionnaire survey employed to journalists, editors and media managers.

Gunte (2002, p.210) stated that quantitative approach focuses on related modes of measurement, procedures and variables to analyze the relationships between such measurements like concepts and constructs. A concept signifies an abstract idea which defines the nature of observable phenomena, or interprets why such occurrence happened while construct is sometimes used to explain a defining attribute of individuals that is linked with their personality (Ibid). The second specific objective of

this research was to evaluate whether the programs are incongruent with the professional investigative journalism standards. As per Gunte’s (2002, p. 210) definition the concepts are the internationally recognized professional investigative journalism standards.

3.3) Sampling Technique

“Sampling is concerned with the selection of a subset of individuals from within a defined population to estimate characteristics of the entire population” (Igwenagu, 2016, p.32). The research employed stratified sampling. As stated by Igwenagu (2016 p.37) stratified sampling can be used by dividing members of the population into similar sub groups before sampling. In this research project the population comprises similar sub groups of journalists, editors and media managers.

As stated by Igwenagu (2016, p.37) “stratification is the process of dividing members of the population into homogenous sub groups before sampling.”

According to Igwenagu (2016, p.37) “in statistical surveys, when sub populations with in an overall population vary, it is advantageous to sample each subpopulation (stratum) independently by stratifying them”.

Therefore, simple random sampling for questionnaire is applied within each stratum. As explained by Bryman (2012, p.190) in random sampling, each unit of the population has the same probability of inclusion in the sample.

Therefore, the present study has chosen each individual randomly and entirely by chance. As explained by Igwenagu (2016, p.32) each individual has the same chance of being chosen at any step throughout the sampling process. Based on the data obtained from the broadcast media organizations in Tigray the total population of the study is calculated in the table as follows.

| No. | Name of media | No. of journalists | No. of media managers | Total Population |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Dimtsi Weyane Tigray | 161 | 15 | 178 |
| | Mekelle Fana FM 94.8 | 12 | 1 | 13 |
| 2 | | | | |
| 3 | 104.4 Radio FM Mekelle | 25 | 3 | 28 |
| 4 | Tigray Mass Media Agency | 120 | 20 | 153 |
| Total Population | | | | 372 |

Table 1) Total population of journalist in broadcast media Tigray 2020

After getting the total population what is left is calculating the sample size. The researcher will consider 95% confidence level which is universal and tolerable in many researches. Besides, the precession is $\pm 5\%$. A simplified population proportion method (Yamane, 1967) is a widespread equation for calculating sample size from smaller population (Yamane, 1967).

The equation is:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e^2)} \quad \text{(equation 2.3) (Yamane, 1967)}$$

Where n = sample size, N = population size, e = level of precision, we have $N=372$, $e=0.05$

Then the sample size will be calculated as follows: $n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e^2)}$

$$n = \frac{372}{1 + 372(0.05^2)}$$

$$n = \frac{372}{1 + 372(0.0025)}$$

$$n = \frac{372}{1 + 0.93}, \quad n = \frac{372}{1.93}$$

$n = 192.7461139896$ which is more than 0.5 that can be shifted into the next number, 193.

Thus, n is 193 with a non-response rate of 5%

$$\text{This means} = \frac{193(5)}{100} = 9.65$$

$9.65 + 193 = 202.65$ approximately $= 203$, Hence, the sample size for the quantitative questionnaire survey in the broadcast media in Tigray is 203, though the total responded rate for the questionnaire was 193.

Bryman (2012, p.187) stated non response that it is a source of non-sampling error which particularly probably to happen when while individuals are being sampled. As mentioned by Bryman (2012, p.187) it happens whenever some elements of the sample say no to collaborate or for some reason if they cannot provide the required data. Hence, the researcher rejected 10 questionnaires for the reason that 6 of them are missed and the remaining 4 are not filled in a complete way.

The research used purposive sampling to conduct interviews with journalists, producers, editors and media managers who are working on the broadcast media in Tigray. The journalists and media managers for in-depth interview were chosen based on their experience on semi investigative

reporting. On the other hand, case study and content analysis was used for the yield of quantitative data that explore the semi investigative programs.

3.4) Areas of the study

All the broadcast media organizations in Tigray, the study area of the research, are found in Mekelle. Dimtsi Weyane Tigray (Private owned) and Tigray Mass Media Agency (State owned) are widely accessible and transmitting their messages with different languages in Tigray and beyond. And 104.4 Radio FM Mekelle was established by Mekelle City Administration and is accessible in Mekelle and surrounding. Mekelle Fana FM 94.8 is also accessible in Mekelle and surrounding cities. Therefore, the research project assessed the practice of investigative journalism on Broadcast media organizations in the National Regional State of Tigray.

3.5) Time Frame

The research project assessed the practice of investigative journalism on broadcast media organizations in Tigray. The qualitative and quantitative data is collected once from February 18 to May 24, 2020. It is because Gunte (2002, p.217) states cross sectional surveys tries to launch an aspect of public opinion or actions at the time when the study is conducted.

3.6) Unit of Analysis

The unit of analysis on this study was the medium; four broadcast media organizations in Tigray, Dimtsi Weyane Tigray, Tigray Mass Media Agency, Mekelle Fana FM 94.8 and 104.4 Radio FM Mekelle were examined. Therefore, the sampling units were individuals (journalists, media managers and editors) from each media organizations. Besides, the unit of analysis for content analysis was the produced semi investigative program.

3.7) Data Collection Tools

3.7.1) Primary Data Collection

The data collection tools for the study were questionnaire, in-depth interview and content analysis. The use of diverse methods empowered the study to attain representative and contextualized data regarding the practice of investigative journalism on broadcast media in Tigray.

3.7.1.1. Survey Questionnaire

Survey questions help respondents by providing answer choices which covers the possible answers. Gunte (2002, p.214) says that surveys are the main type of quantitative research which does not engage any direction of participants or their situation in advance. Therefore, the study used survey to get information from respondents concerning their knowledge, attitude, beliefs, behaviors and values.

3.7.1.2. In depth Interview

This technique helps the study to understand how people experience their state of affairs. According to Fox (2009, p.4) interview is essential to gather a necessary data which uses verbal communication between the researcher and participant as well. Fox (2009,p.4) also added there are different approaches to interview which let participants talk freely and highly structured in which participants responses are limited to answer the direct questions. Therefore, the study employed an interview technique to get a contextualized and detailed data from the purposely selected journalists, editors and media managers.

3.7.1.3. Content Analysis

According to the results shown from the quantitative and qualitative data, most of the respondents were agreed there is no wholesome practice of investigative journalism on broadcast media in Tigray, and they coined their practice as semi investigative journalism. Having the result, the researcher chose to use non probability sampling/ purposive to select produced programs for content analysis from each media, as the media organizations confirmed there are semi investigative programs which can be pointers to practice an investigative program and conveyed some sample programs for the researcher.

Thus, snow ball sampling was employed. The journalists, editors and media managers recommended some programs as semi investigative programs and the same trend is used in all the broadcast media in Tigray. In this way 53 semi investigative programs were identified for content analysis. As mentioned by Anita et al (2013, P.332) in snow ball sampling procedure, the initial respondents are chosen by probability or non-probability methods, and then, additional respondents are obtained by information provided by the initial respondents.”

Therefore, the study analyzed 53 semi investigative programs with total length of 32 hour programs. The contents were measured based on depth of the programs (whether they are shallow or deep), sources of semi investigative agenda, story source, diversity of sources, type of sources (identified, anonymous) and the trends in production of follow up stories for previously produced programs.

The researcher took 53 available programs as of each three years (2018-2020) from the selected media organizations so as to examine the past experiences in charge with the current status of investigative reporting on broadcast media in Tigray. Thus, Out of the total 53 programs 32 (60.4%) are from DWET, 12 (22.6%) from TMMA, 8 (15.1%) programs from FBC and 1 (1.9%) from FM 104.4 were examined.

The majority of the sample programs taken for content analyses were from DWET 32 (60.4%) because of the media own national radio, FM and television stations. Therefore, 53 broadcast programs are analyzed so as to emanate quantitative and qualitative descriptions of the research statements.

3.7.1.4. Case Study

Through snow ball sampling the researcher identified four cases that explore the process of production of the so called semi investigative programs on the broadcast media in Tigray. From the recommendation of the producers, four case studies are selected justifying that they can manifest the context of the practice.

3.7.2) Secondary Data Collection

Archival documents have been used from the digital archival library of the institutions as a secondary data for content analysis. Thus, 53 semi investigative programs were collected from archives of the media stations.

3.7.3) Ethical consideration

In order to keep the ethical considerations in a research, a researcher is expected to seek a support letter from an ethics or research committee.

As stated by Bryman 2012, p.136;

The person seeking clearance for their research from an ethics committee may be encouraged to consider the possibility of physical or emotional harm through exposure to a fieldwork setting. Even if such a consideration is not stipulated in an ethics form, it is something that you should consider very seriously.(Bryman, 2012, p.136)

The researcher obtained support letter from Addis Ababa University, school of journalism and communication identifying that researcher is assessing the practice of investigative reporting on broadcast media organizations in Tigray. As a result the broadcast media organizations in Tigray showed their approval for the researcher to conduct the study and were willing to give the needed information even with identifiable names.

Therefore, to conduct a research, a researcher must consider the ethical principles in his/her ongoing study. For that reason, the researcher asked the consent of study participants before conducting interview and distributing questionnaires in the approaches of qualitative and quantitative methods.

In addition when selecting producers of semi investigative programs which included in the in-depth interview and case studies, the interviewees were willing even to write their names and the researcher did the study by taking their job title and name of their organizations for the interest of the research. The programs taken for content analysis which were collected from each archive of the broadcast media organizations also analyzed based on the consent of the media managers and producers working on broadcast media organizations in Tigray.

The issue of harm to participants is further addressed in ethical codes by advocating care over maintaining the confidentiality of records. This means that the identities and records of individuals should be maintained as confidential. This injunction also means that care needs to be taken when findings are being published to ensure that individuals are not identified or identifiable. Bryman (2012, p.136)

Therefore, the study participants in the interview and case study show consent for the researcher to be identifiable and the researcher used the study participants indicating with their job title and name of their organizations in the interview and case study.

In the survey questionnaire, the researcher asked subjects of the study participants not to mention their names to keep their anonymity and to get their general understanding in the issue of investigative reporting.

Therefore, the research is done to benefit the media workers in Tigray by addressing the problems and challenges which silence the practice of investigative journalism.

As the study was also employed quantitative approach to collect the data, reliability and validity were considered on the study while the qualitative data has crosschecked the applicability of the finding reflected based on the data.

According to Bryman (2012, p. 171) validity is whether an indicator which planned to measure a concept really measures that conception. Therefore the researcher used concurrent validity to cross check the data. This means that the researcher employs a decisive factor on cases which are identified to differ and relevant to the concept in question. For example, investigative journalism is less likely to contribute in ensuring accountability and transparency because investigative reporting did not get enough attention on broadcast media organization in Tigray. In this case, we might see how far accountability and transparency is less likely ensured since investigative reporting is not getting media attention. Therefore there was no doubt in the study participants to answer this question and the researcher checked the validity of the study since it really addressed the problem.

In case of reliability, as explained by Bryman (2012, p.173) “although reliability and validity are analytically distinguishable, they are related because validity presumes reliability. This means that, if your measure is not reliable, it cannot be valid.”

Therefore, the researcher followed all the ethical considerations throughout the research process.

Chapter Four

Data Presentation and Analysis

4.1) Introduction

The research project assessed the practice of investigative journalism on broadcast media in Tigray in relation to the professional standards of investigative journalism practices. It examined whether investigative reporting is legally guaranteed, institutionalized, the programs are incongruent with the professional standards and the challenges on the ground. Thus, the research assessed whether the practice of investigative reporting is contributing to the efforts of ensuring accountability and transparency in Tigray. The research employed a combination of quantitative and qualitative research methods. It used stratified sampling for the quantitative survey as well as purposive sampling for the qualitative in-depth interview and content analysis. Data collection tools like questionnaire, in-depth interview, case study and content analysis were employed in the research.

The quantitative data is analyzed through SPSS while the qualitative data is presented in description. Therefore, the quantitative discoveries are presented in terms of tables, graphs, pie graphs, diagrams and other statistical methods. The qualitative data is presented and interpreted in descriptive form side by side with the numeric graphs. The relationship among the variable is calculated by correlation, SPSS. The details of demographic information, data presentation and discussion are discussed as follows.

4.2) Demographic information

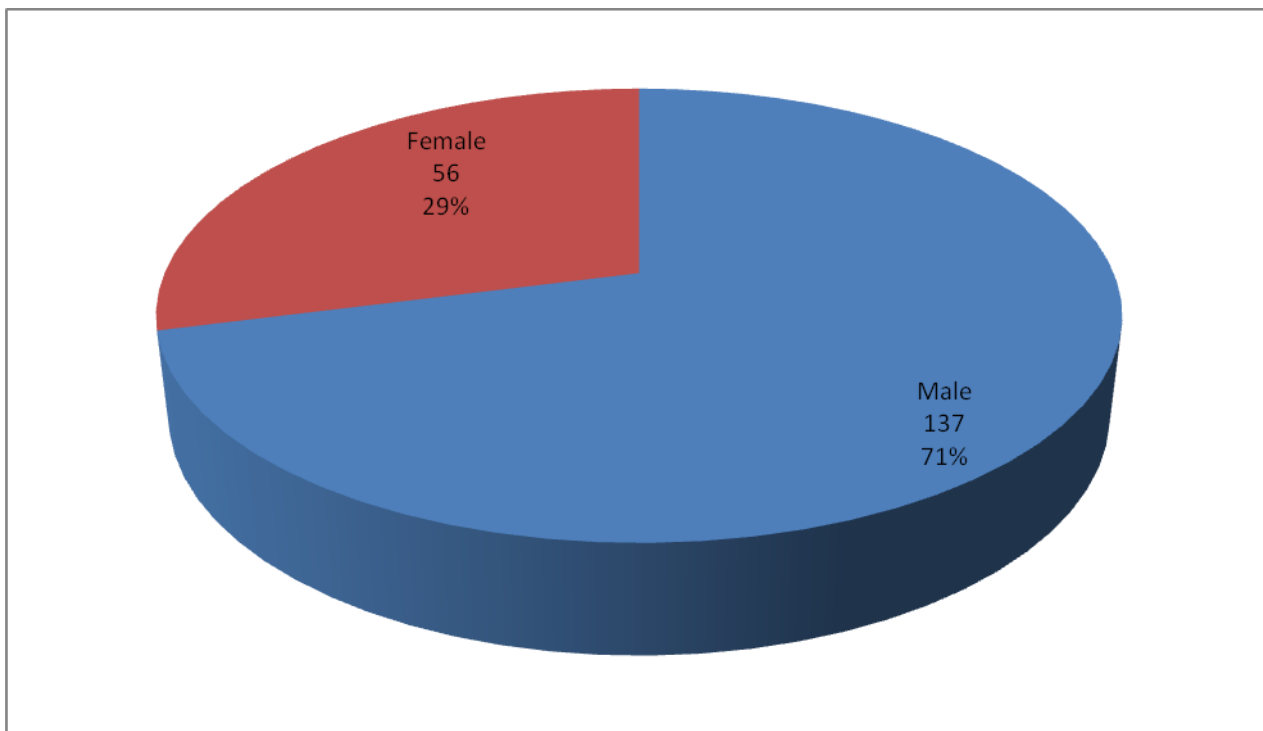
The demographic information of respondents and interviewees as well as the general information of the content selected for analysis is explained as follows.

4.2.1) Demographic information of questionnaire respondents

A total of 193 respondents from broadcast media in Tigray were participated in the questionnaire survey. The sex, age group, field of education, educational qualification, job position and the respondents' host organizations are discussed below.

4.2.1.1) Sex composition

The sex composition of the respondents shows that 137 (71.0%) of the total 193 respondents are male while 56 (29.0%) are female.



Pie graph 2) Sex composition of respondents

This indicates that the broadcast media organizations in Tigray are male dominated.

4.2.1.2) Respondents age group

Most of the respondents 98 (50.8%) are at the age group of 20-30 followed by 87 (45%) 31-40 while 7(3.6) respondents are at the range of 41-50 while 1 (5%) aged>51.

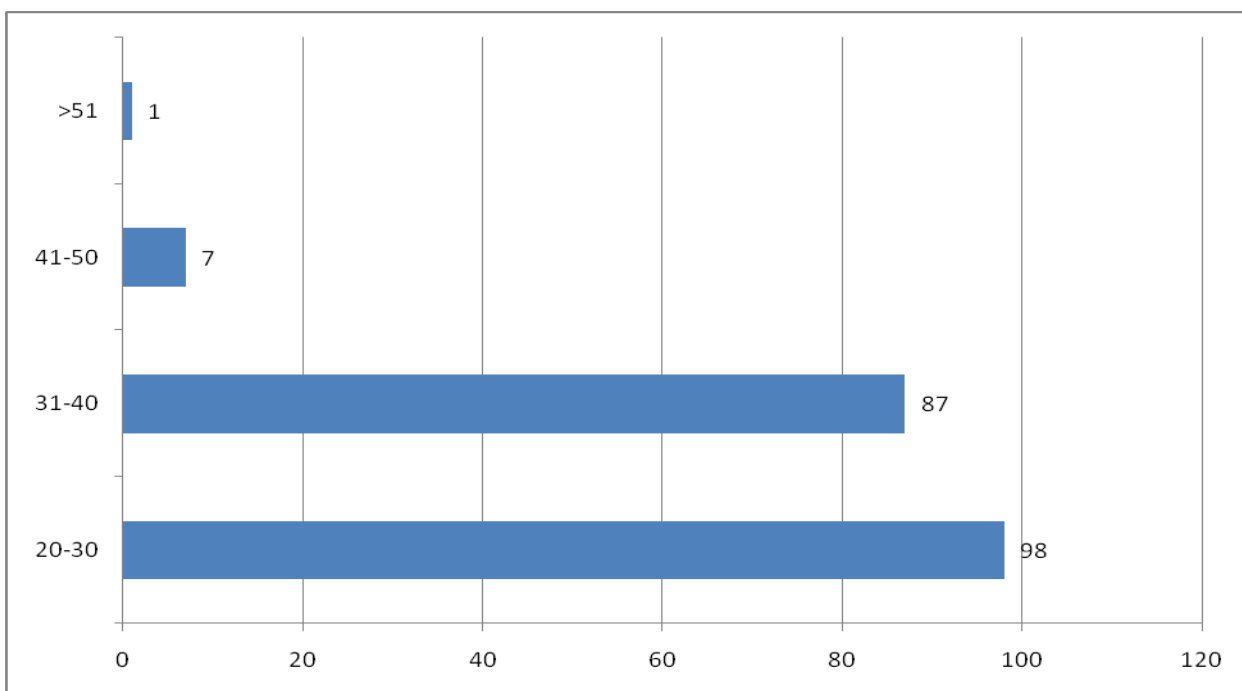
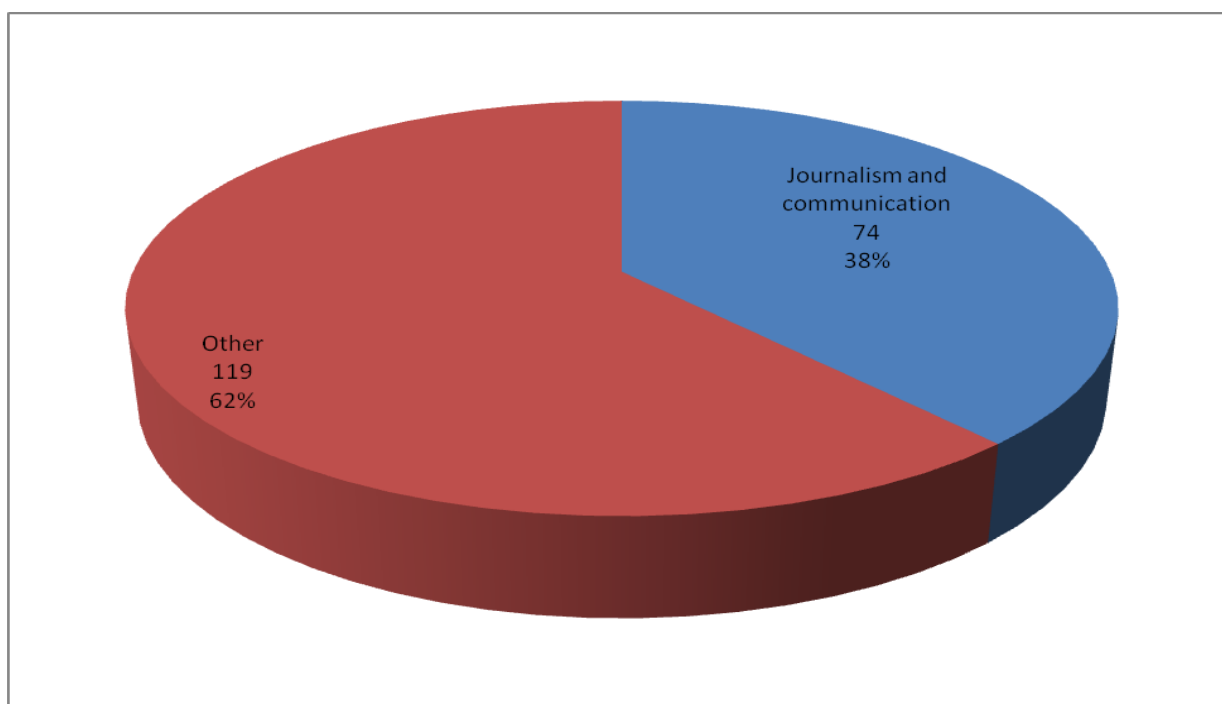


Chart 3) Age group

This indicates that majority of the media professionals are at the age range of 20-30 and 31-40. Thus most of the media practitioners are at younger age that paves an opportunity to enjoy the advantages of energetic and flexible with the dynamism of the global communication with sustained coaching and trainings.

4.2.1.3) Field of study

The table below shows respondents' field of study. Out of the total 193 respondents, 119 (61.7%) graduated in fields other than journalism while 74 (38.3%) graduated in journalism and communication.



Pie graph 4) Field of education

This implies most of the journalists in broadcast media in Tigray graduated in fields other than journalism. Such empirically supported lack of professionalism is one of the major challenges in the practice, management and conduciveness of the media environment in-general that are the pillars of institutionalizing investigative reporting in Tigray.

On the other hand, those who graduated in the other fields of trainings may have an opportunity for the media house to report on their subject demanded special reporting's in accumulation through capacitating them with continuous journalism instructions and drills.

4.2.1.4) Educational qualification

As indicated in the chart below, out of the total 193 respondents, 159 (82.4%) respondents are BA/BSC graduates, 32 (16.6%) are Masters Degree holders while 2 (1%) are still at Diploma level.

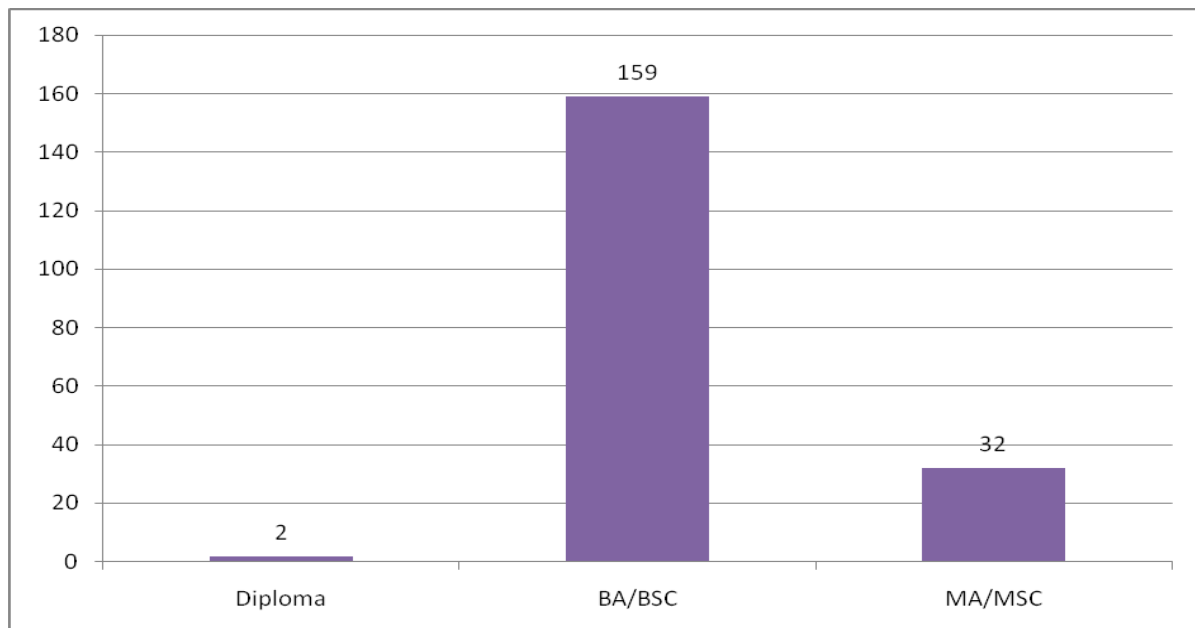
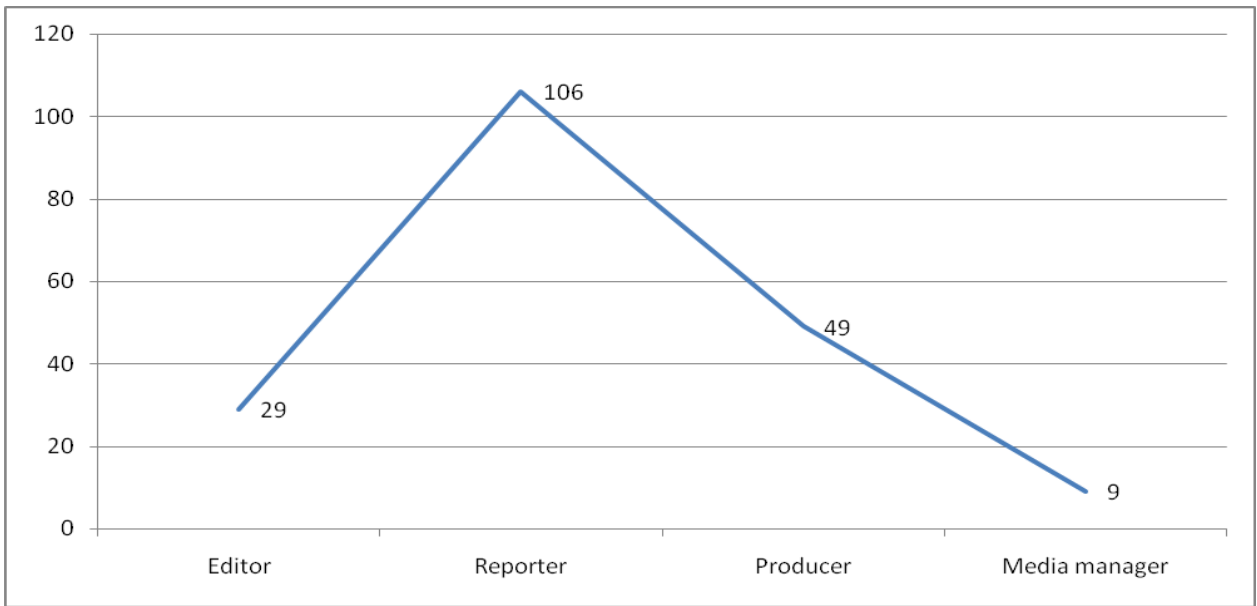


Chart 5) Educational qualification

This implicates that most of the journalists (82.4%) are at first degree level followed by (16.6%) second degree graduates while few (1%) are still at diploma level. This shows that the educational qualification of most of the respondents is appropriate to their current job except for few others still at diploma level. Thus, timely engagements are needed so as to upgrade the capacity of journalists in a sustained manner towards journalistic field of education.

4.2.1.5) Job category

Out of the total respondents, 106 (54.9%) are reporters, 49 (25.4%) producers, 29 (15%) editors while 9 (4.7%) are media managers.

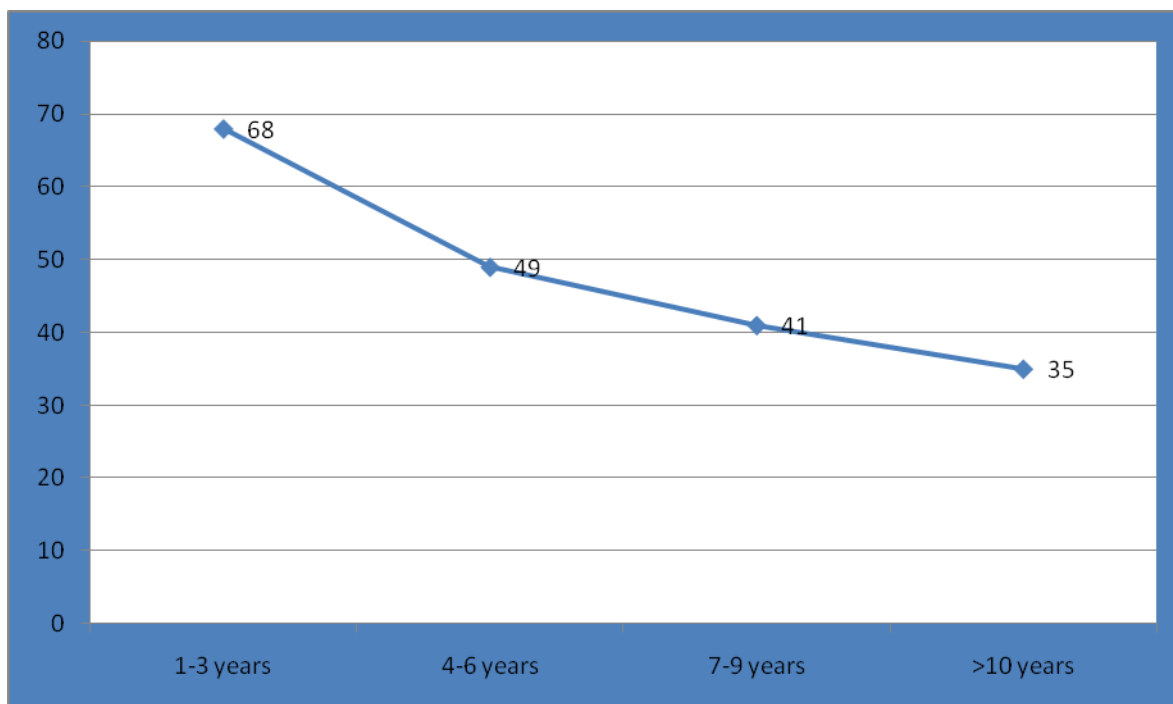


Graph 6) Job category

Most of the respondents (80.3%) are active participants of the day to day journalistic reporting, while few others (19.7%) are editor and low, medium and higher media managerial positions. This implies most of the respondents of the survey were reporters and producers.

4.2.1.6) Job experience

The graph shown below indicates work experience of the respondents. The table indicates that 68 (35.2%) respondents have 1-3 year experience level, 49 (25.4%) respondents 4-6 years while 41 respondents (21.2%) 7-9 year experience and the remaining 35 (18.1%) respondents have more than 10 year job experience.



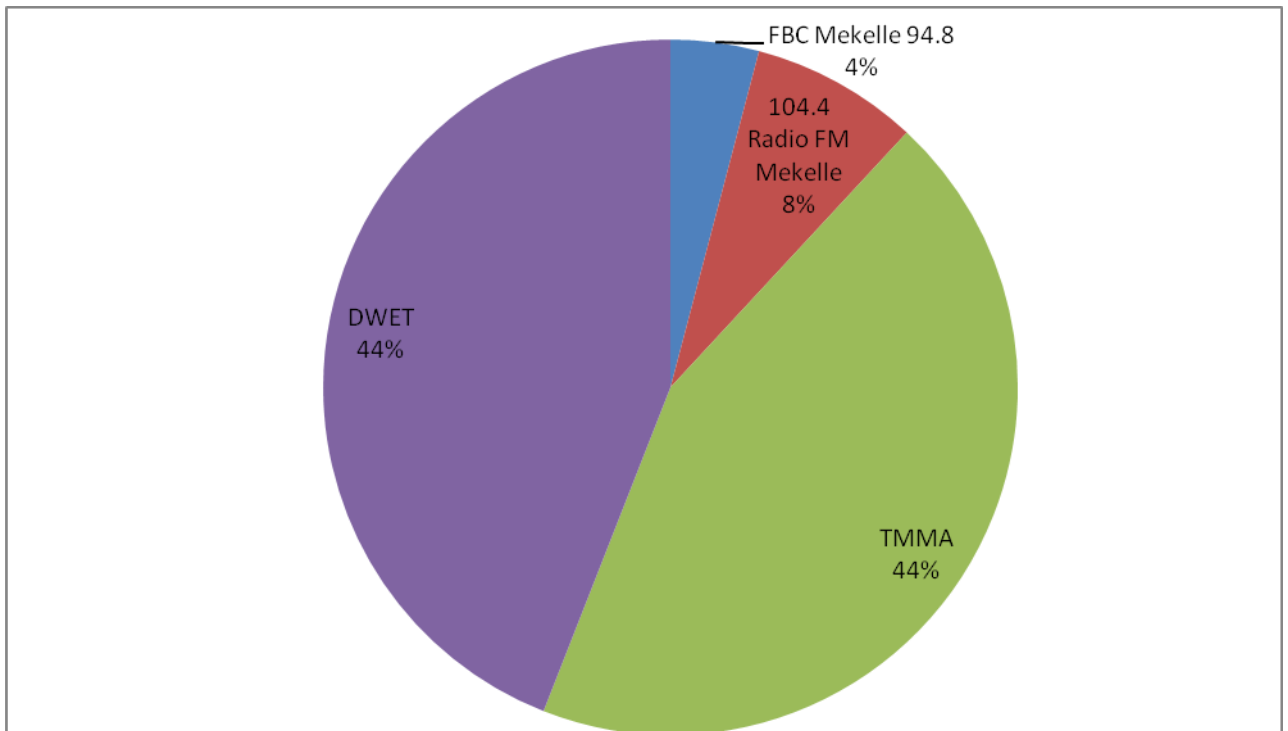
Graph 7) Job experience

This shows that the majority of the respondents are less experienced while the few others are more experienced. As indicated on the graph, as the year of experience increases the number of experienced respondent decreases. This may implicate a turnover of experienced practitioners. Thus, the broadcast media in Tigray shall strategize experienced staff retention mechanisms so as to institutionalize knowledge sharing in order to empower the majority of less experienced journalists.

4.2.1.7) Organization

The pie graph below explicates the organizational strata of media firms which the respondents participated in the quantitative questionnaire survey.

The main subjects of the study are the broadcast media in Tigray; FBC 94.8 Mekelle, 104.4 Radio FM Mekelle, TMMA and DWET. Out of the total survey participants 8 (4.1%) are from FBC 94.8 Mekelle, 15 (7.8%) are from 104.4 Radio FM Mekelle, 85 (44.0%) TMMA and 85 (44.0%) others are from DWET.



Pie graphs 8) Respondents' organization

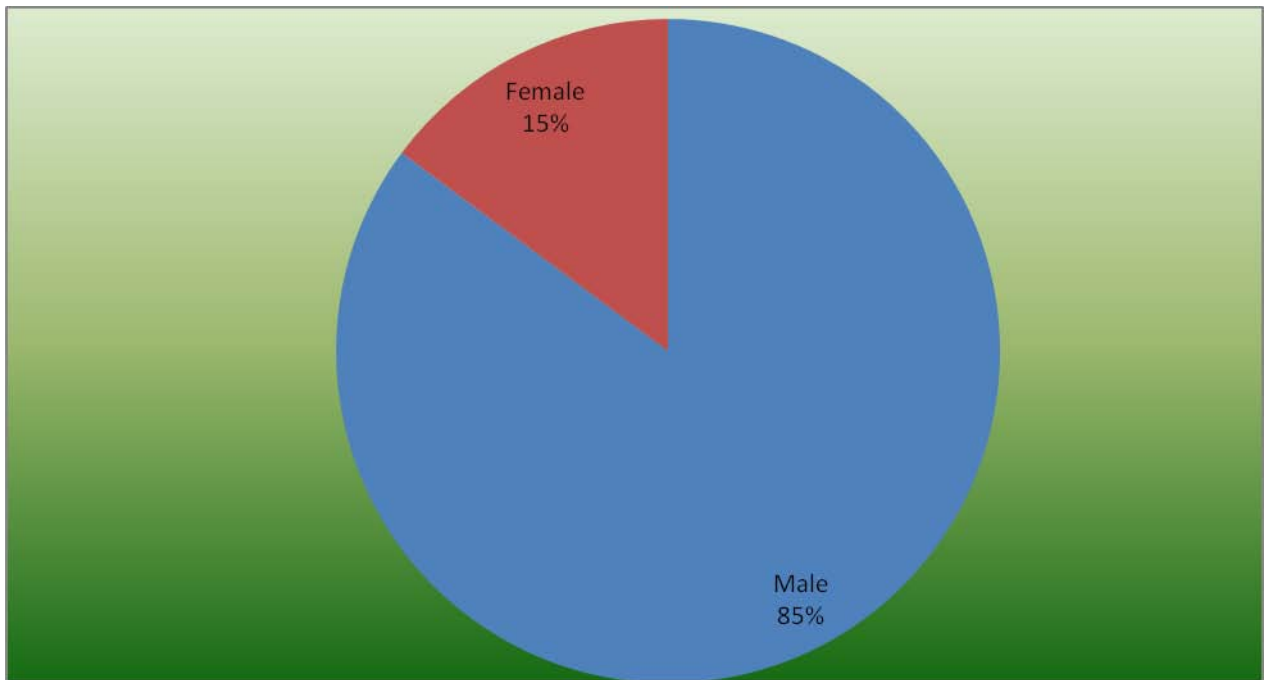
Accordingly, both TMMA and DWET took the highest share of respondents. This is because both media firms comprise the majority of media practitioners' population in Tigray.

4.2.2) General information about interviewees

A total of 27 individuals were interviewed from four mainstream broadcast media organizations in Tigray. The interviewees were purposely selected based on their professional and managerial experiences in relation to investigative reporting initiatives. The sex composition, job category and organization of the interviewees are described hereunder.

4.2.2.1) Sex composition

As clearly stated in the pie graph shown below, 23 (85%) of the in-depth interviewees are male while the remaining 4 (15%) are female.

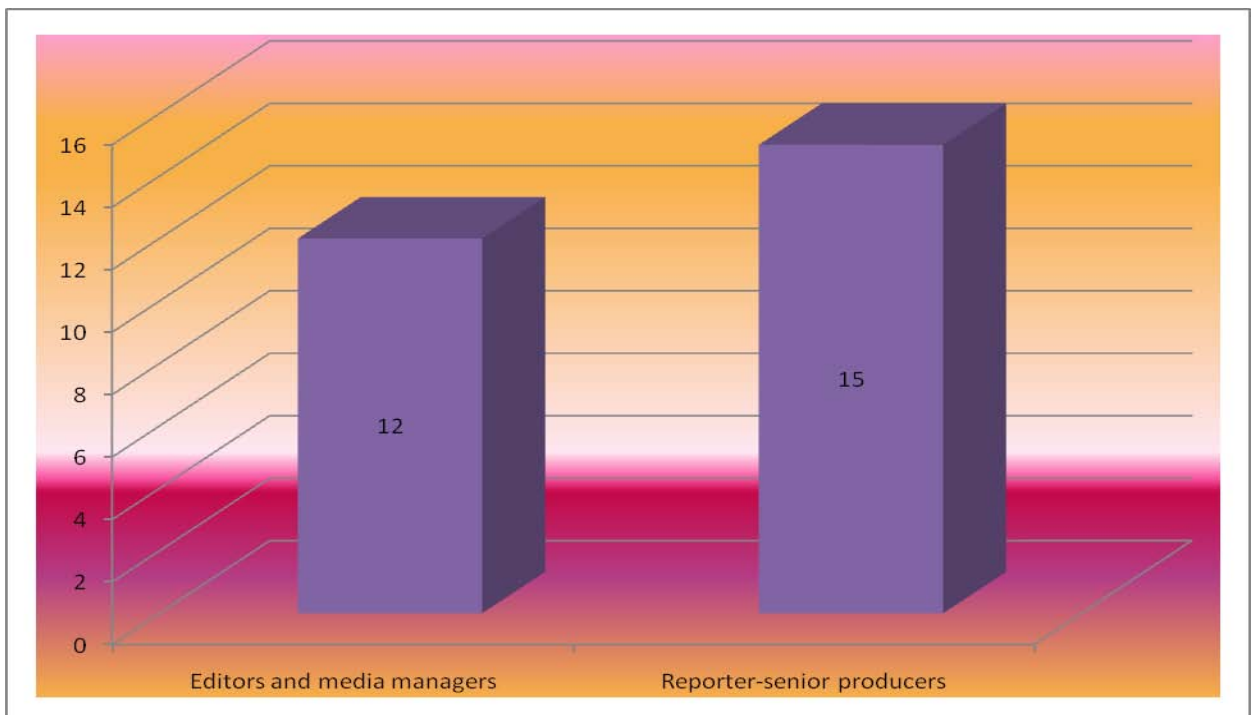


Pie-graph 9) Sex composition of interviewees

Accordingly, male took the highest share of respondents for the reason that most of the media management positions and majority of the professional positions are male dominated.

4.2.2.2) Job category

The column presented below describes the job category of the interviewees.

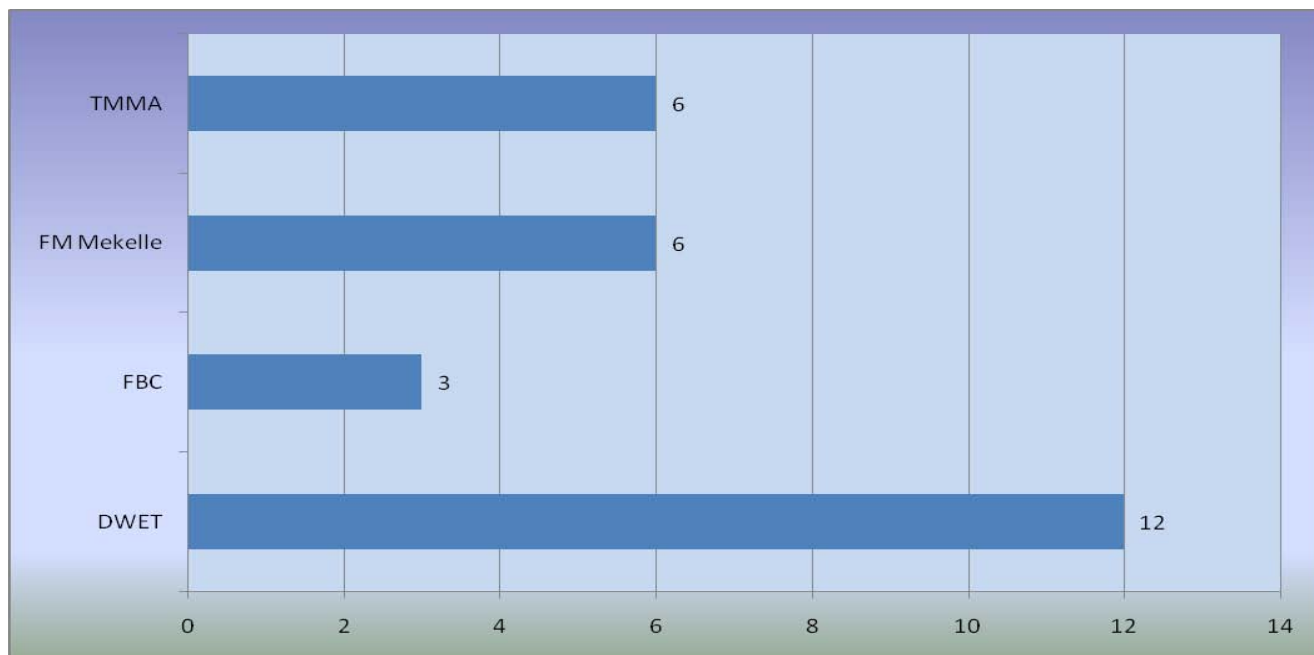


Column 10) Job category

Accordingly, 12 (44.5%) are editors and media managers while 15 (55.5%) others are professional practitioners; reporter up to senior producer position.

4.2.2.3) Organization

As stated in the graph below 12 interviewees were from DWET, 6 from TMMA, 6 from FM Mekelle while 3 from FBC.



Column 11) Organizational affiliation of interviewees

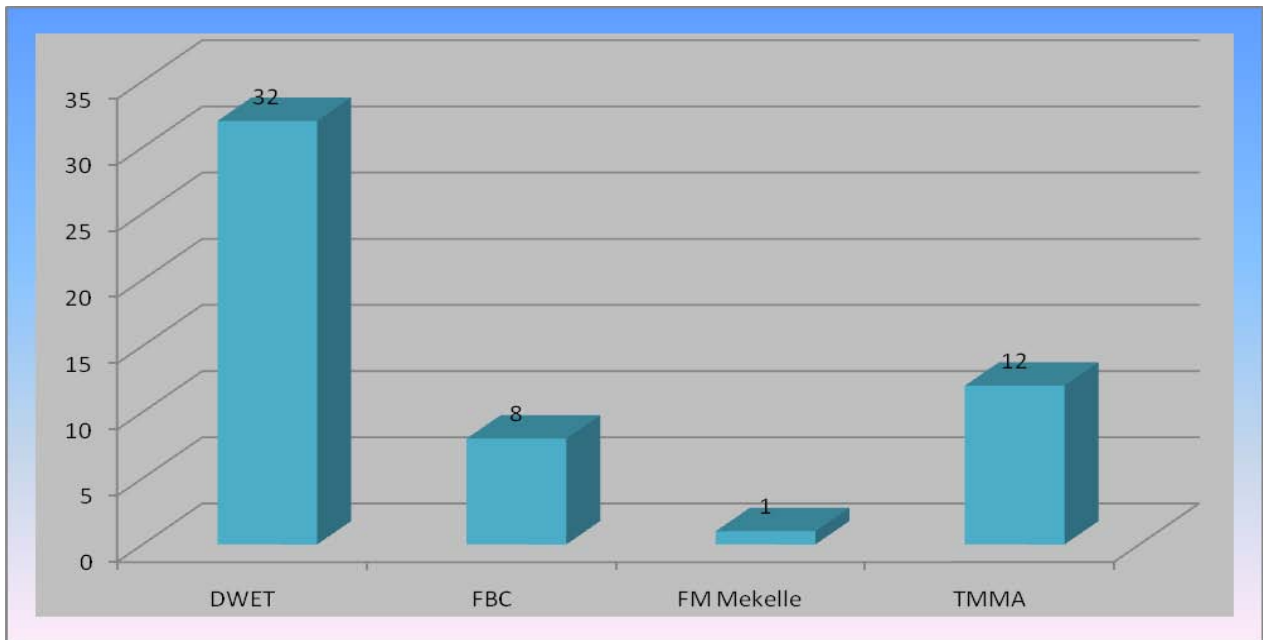
Accordingly, 44.4% are from DWET, 22.2% from TMMA while 22.2% from FM Mekelle and the remaining 11.2% are from FBC.

4.2.3) General information about content analysis

The researcher purposely selected 53 programs from four broadcast media organizations based on the media firms' recommendation as semi investigative programs. The media institutions confirmed that the programs may not fully accompany the criteria for investigative reporting while informing they are the footsteps towards investigative reporting.

4.2.3.1) Number of programs

Out of the total 53 programs 32 (60.4%) are from DWET, 12 (22.6%) from TMMA, 8 (15.1%) programs from FBC while 1 (1.9%) program is from 104.4 FM Mekelle.

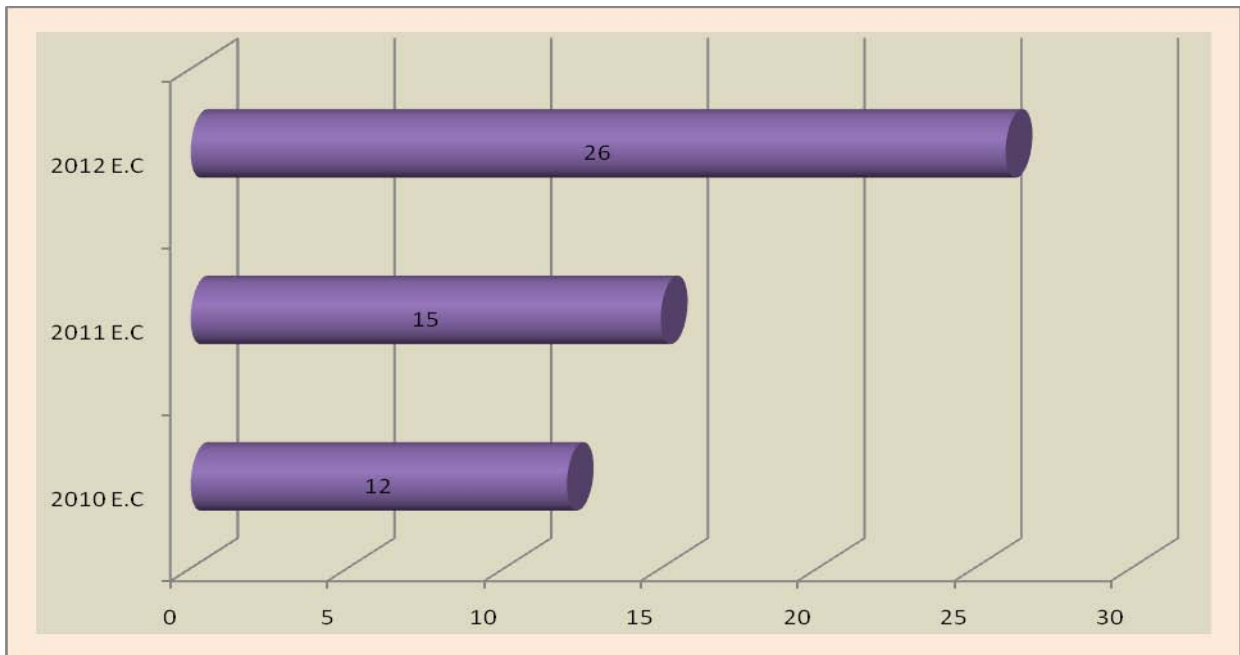


Column 12) Number of programs

Accordingly, the researcher took sample programs from each broadcast media organizations based on their recommendation as semi-investigative programs. Most of the programs (60.4%) were taken from DWET for the reason that it has three stations namely National Radio Station, 102.2 FM DWET and DW Television. Besides, 12 (22.6%) programs from TMMA, 8 (15.1%) from FBC and 1 (1.9%) from FM Mekelle were used for the content analysis.

4.2.3.2) Time frame

Based on the bar graph shown below, out of the total 53 programs 26 (49%) of the programs were produced in 2012 E.C., 15 (28.3%) in 2011E.C while 12 (22.6%) were produced in 2010 E.C.



Bar-graph 13) Time frame

This indicates that there is an increasing rate of semi investigative programs which shows there is a yearly increasing perseverance of journalists to produce semi-investigative programs.

4.3) Data Presentation and Analysis

The study explored the practice of investigative journalism on broadcast media in Tigray. The findings of the research are presented in five categories. The first category explained the legal verdict on investigative journalists and their anonymous sources.

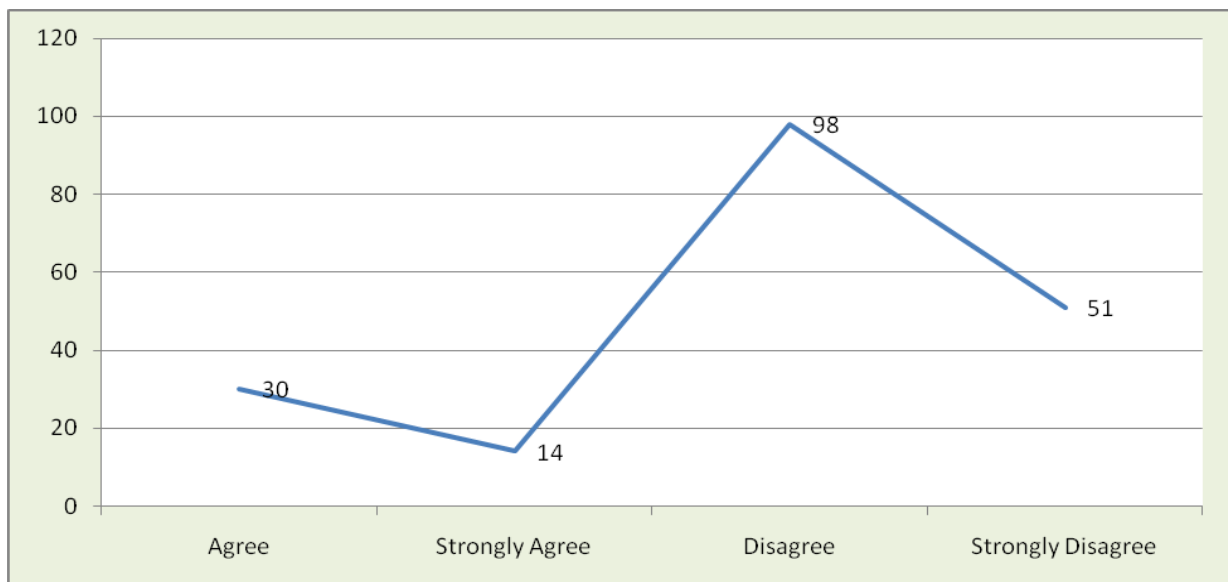
Secondly, it investigated practicability of investigative journalism in broadcast media in Tigray. The third measure enlightened whether the programs are incongruent with the professional investigative journalism standards. Fourthly, the study explored the extent of enhancing institutionalized investigative reporting tasks and institutional capacity and capacity building of the broadcast media in Tigray. And finally the study identified the challenges of investigative journalism practice in Tigray.

4.3.1) Legal protection for investigative reporting

The Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia on its 29th Article (3) underlined the prohibition of censorship while opening up the information access in the interest of the public. The respondents explored whether there is legal ground that encourages and supports the practice of investigative journalism in the interest of the public.

4.3.1.1) Journalists' legal guarantee

The following graph presents the respondents' view whether journalists have legal guarantee to produce investigative issues in Tigray. Out of 193 total respondents, 98 (50.8%) reply disagree, 51 (26.4%) strongly disagree while 30 (15.5%) agree and 14 (7.3%) strongly agree on it.



Graph 14) Journalists' legal guarantee

This implicates that, 77.2% of the respondents disagree or strongly disagree on the availability of legal guarantee for journalists. This indicates that most of journalists do not feel legally guaranteed in their public interest reporting.

The Constitution of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the respective Information Access and Free Press Proclamation 590/2000 prohibited censorship and allowed access to information of the public. But, article 29 (6) of the constitution states “legal limitation can be laid down in order to protect the well-being of youth, and the honour and reputation of individuals”. This indicates that the practice of investigative journalists which for many occasions infringes the right to privacy and may harm the reputation of officials at the interest of the public is challenged by the untouchable privacy and individual's reputation rights.

Accordingly, a member of media management in Tigray Mass Media Agency in an interview says “there is no well-built legal guarantee in Tigray and even in Ethiopia. This pilots the journalist to fear.”

Moreover, almost all the journalists agreed that though free expression is guaranteed at individual and at media level in article 29 of the Constitution of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, it doesn't devote any room for the trespass of privacy at the interest of the public.

A journalist from Dimtsi Weyane Tigray says “when there is no regular means of getting information, investigative reporting may demand encroachment of individual's privacy at the interest of the public while the F.D.R.E. Constitution and the respective Information Access and Free Press Proclamation 590/2000 didn't provide guarantee for investigative reporters.”

Therefore, the Constitution of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the respective information access and free press proclamation 590/2000 allowed information access while prohibiting censorship. But, the restrictive privacy and reputation rights made the legal protection investigative reporting catatonic. Thus, investigative journalists are not legally guaranteed in Tigray and in Ethiopia too.

4.3.1.2) Protection of investigative journalists in practice

The chart presented below shows the respondents' view whether there is a protection of journalists in their practical investigative reporting assignments. Accordingly, 97 (50.3%) disagree, 47 (24.4%) strongly disagree while 34 (17.6%) agree and 15 (7.8%) strongly agree to it.

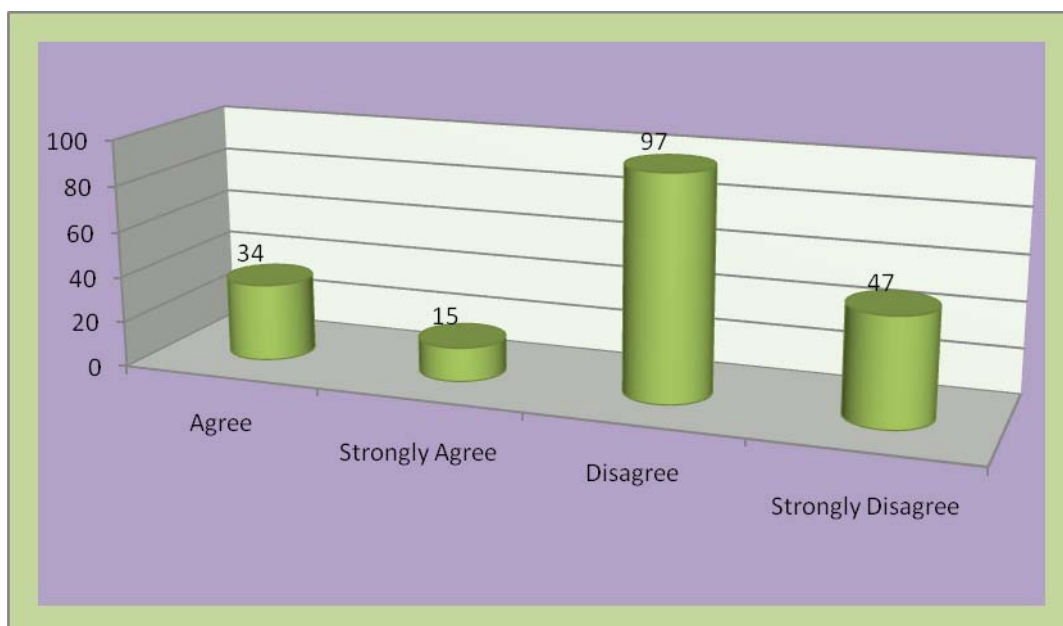


Chart 15) Protection of investigative journalists in practice

So, 74.7% of the respondents disagree or strongly disagree to the view that journalists are protected in their daily practical public interest reporting. This implies that most of the respondents disagree on the protection of journalists in their investigative reporting assignments. Thus, journalists in the broadcast media in Tigray do not feel safe in their daily journalistic reports.

Furthermore, the interviewees stated that the journalists and the media institutions in-general are in a position that they are challenged to access information about government and private organizations. They explained that information provision based on whether the officials are cooperative but not perceived as a duty of officials as stated in the constitution.

A senior producer from Tigray Mass Media Agency says “denial of access to information in critical issues is a routine challenge, that is because misunderstanding of the public interest information for one thing and no official is questioned for his/her denial for the other”.

Besides, a reporter from 104.4 FM Mekelle explained that some journalists are even arrested for hours for their request to access information government organizations. He added that insults, humiliations, physical attacks and harassment because of their critical reports instead of providing information are commonly observed. A senior producer from 104.4 FM Mekelle stated “I was arrested for an hour for my request to access information about a government organization”.

Therefore, journalists in the broadcast media in Tigray perceive that they are not legally protected to produce investigative issues. In addition to denial and procrastination of information access, journalists are subjected to insult, humiliation and harassments.

4.3.1.3) Legal guarantee for anonymous sources

The data shown in the following chart presents the level of agreement/disagreement whether there is a legal guarantee that protects anonymous sources of investigative issues. Accordingly, 96 (49.7%) of the respondents disagree, 45 (23.3%) strongly disagree, while 40 (20.7%) agree and the remaining 12 (6.2%) strongly agree on it.

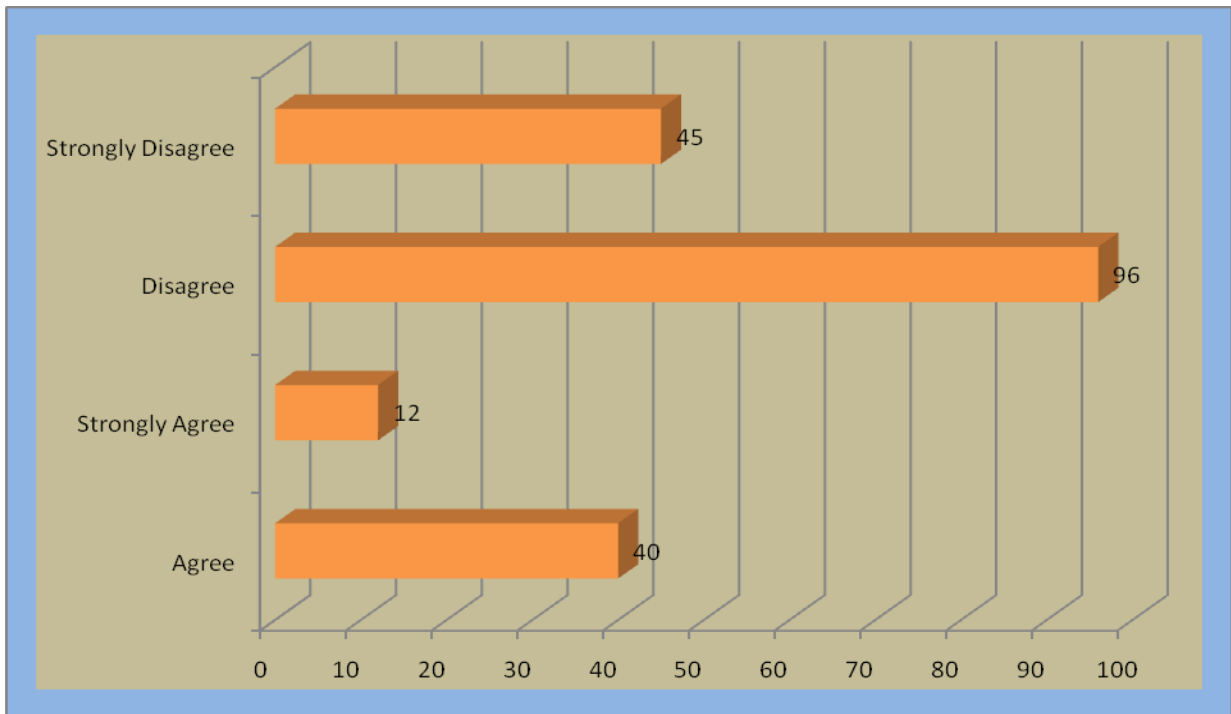


Chart 16) Protection of anonymous sources

Hence, 73% of the respondents disagree or strongly disagree to the view that anonymous sources of investigative issues are legally protected. This implies that most of the respondents believe that anonymous sources of investigative issues are not legally protected.

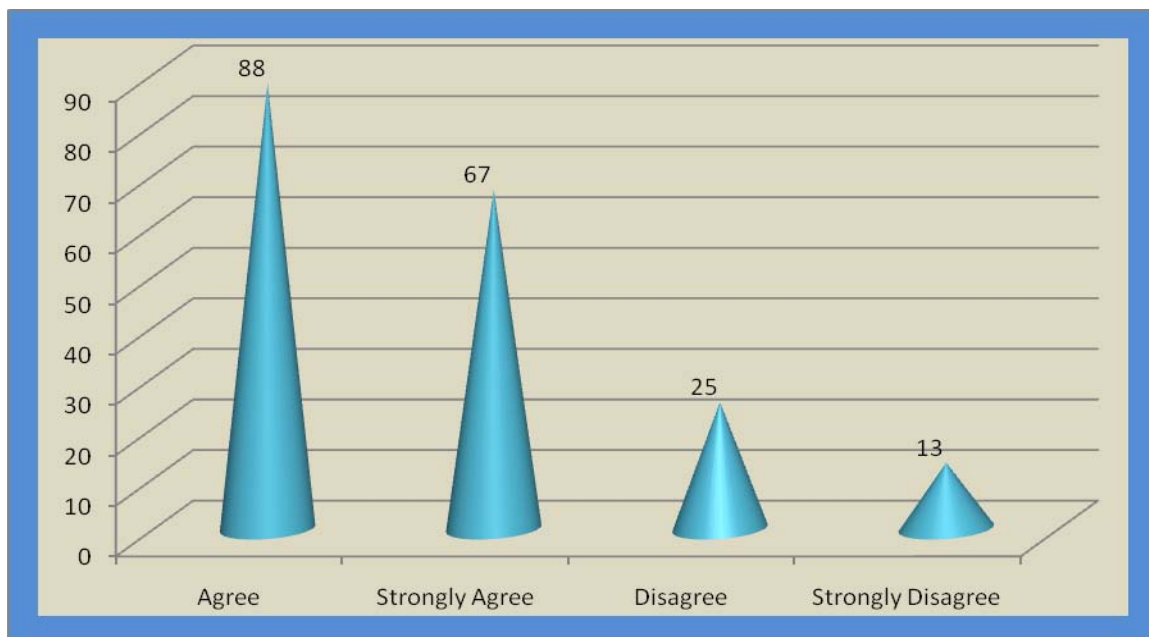
Similarly, most of the interviewees agreed that there is no legal document that clearly explains the protection of anonymous sources. The journalists explained that in cases when the use of anonymous sources is a must such lack of protection leads to retraction of the sources from providing information to the media.

Therefore, anonymous sources are not protected. This is one of the challenges that journalists are routinely facing in getting sources for their critical reports.

4.3.2) The practice of investigative journalism

4.3.2.1) Investigative reporting as a public interest issue

The con below shows the respondents' understanding whether the current political economy of Tigray bitterly demands the practice of investigative reporting to satisfy the public interest. Accordingly, out of the total 193 respondents, 88 (45.6%) agreed that the current political economy of Tigray demands the practice of investigative reporting while 67 (34.7%) also strongly agreed on it. In contrast 25 (13%) respondents disagree and 13 (6.7%) others strongly disagree on it.



Con 17) Investigative reporting as public interest issue in Tigray

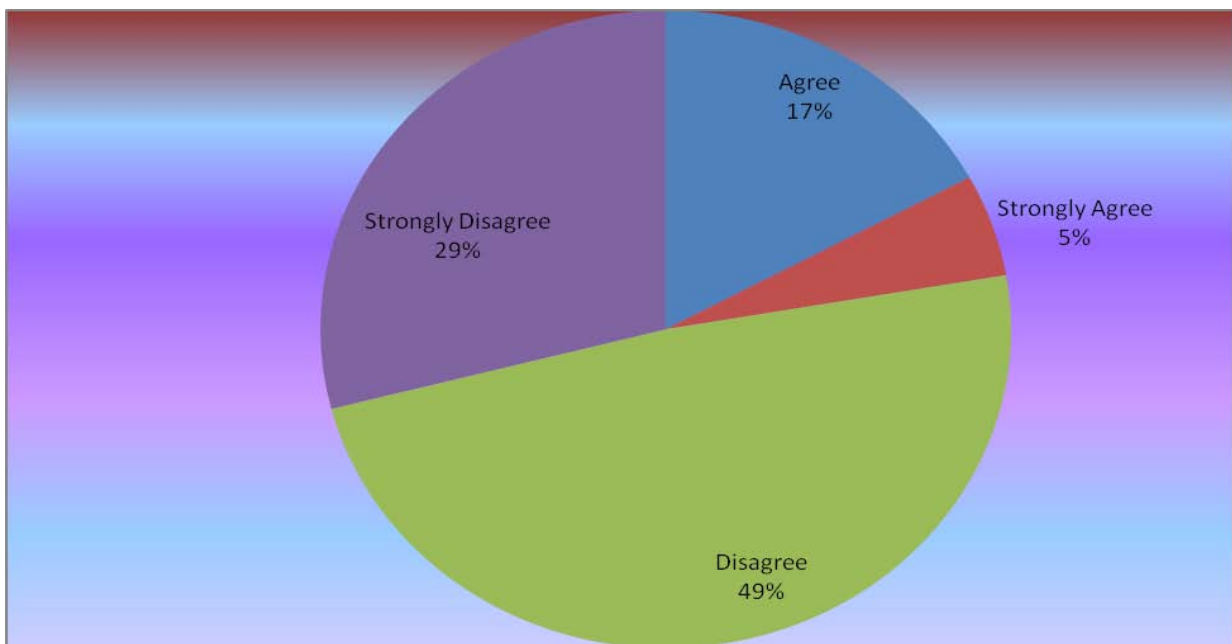
According to the empirical data, 80.3% of the respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the political economy of Tigray demands the practice of investigative journalism so as to ensure transparency and accountability in governance. This implicates that most of the respondents believe that the current political economy of Tigray demands to practice of investigative reporting as a public interest priority issue.

A member of management in Dimtsi Weyane Tigray explained “at the time that the public is being in a complaint about misallocation of government resources, corruption and ill-governance, investigative reporting is expected to be the core of the media reporting, though it is not yet in Tigray.” Almost all the interviewees confirmed that they consider investigative reporting has to be at the crest of media practice. Therefore, although it is not in a regular practice in the broadcast media

institutions in Tigray, investigative reporting is one of the most important public interest issues in Tigray.

4.3.2.2) Media attention for investigative issues

The following pie graph shows respondents' view whether investigative reporting got enough attention in the broadcast media in Tigray. Out of the total 193 respondents, 94 (48.7%) of them disagreed, 56 (29%) strongly disagreed while 33 (17%) agreed and the remaining 10 (5.2%) respondents strongly agreed to the statement that investigative reporting got enough attention in the broadcast media in Tigray.



Pie graph 18) Media attention to investigative issues

Accordingly, 77.7% of the respondents believe that the broadcast media in Tigray do not pay attention for investigative issues. This indicates that most of the respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed towards the view of investigative reporting got enough attention on broadcast media in Tigray. Thus, though it is one of the major public interest issues, the broadcast media in Tigray don't offer enough attention to investigative issues.

All the interviewees explained that although investigative journalism is a public interest issue, the media in Tigray are reluctant to go on through it and entice the public interest too. Members of management in Dimtsi Weyane Tigray, Tigray Mass Media Agency, 104.4 FM Mekelle and 94.8 FBC FM Mekelle mentioned lack of budget, limitations in professional capacity and human resource and the political economic context are the disabling conditions for investigative reporting.

Contrastingly, a senior producer in Tigray Mass Media Agency in the interview explained “the media are instruments of the executives and the leading political party, thus, the main challenge for being the media hesitant for investigative issues is not only the budget and capacity gaps but most importantly because of the media partisanship.”

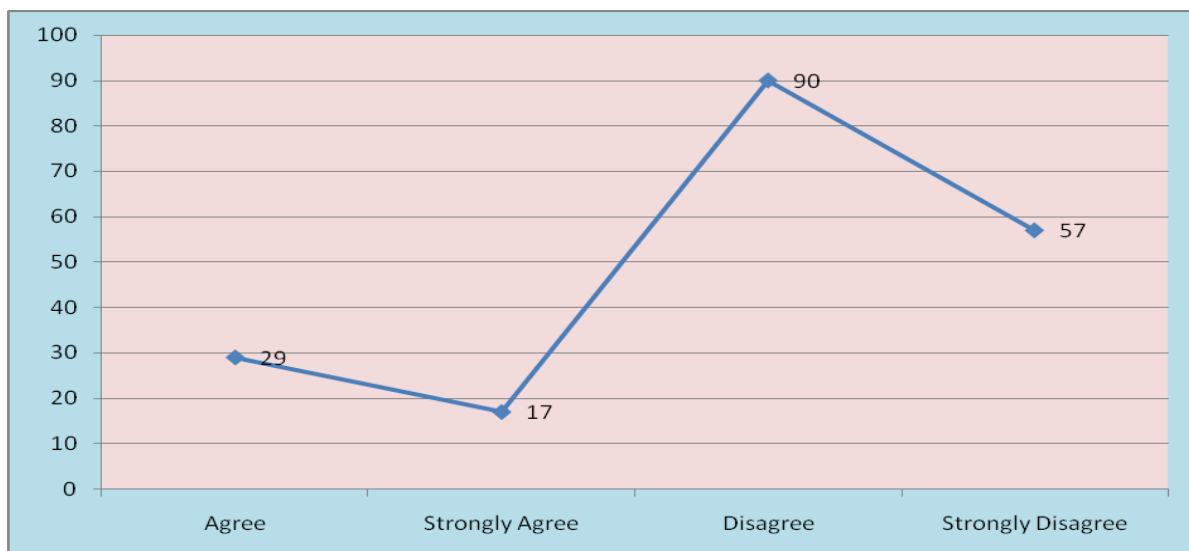
A reporter from Dimtsi Weyane Tigray says “in a context that the public is highly demanding accountability and transparency in the governance, prioritizing Educational, Entertainment, Sport, News, Documentary desks over investigative is a rejection to public interest issue.”

Most of the interviewees from Dimtsi Weyane Tigray and Tigray Mass Media Agency coined their practice as “semi-investigative reporting”. Based on their definition as stated by an editor in Dimtsi Weyane Tigray “semi-investigative reporting is a reporting that focuses on public complaints and ill-governance of local administrators with less depth and research; and of course with limitations in follow ups”.

Therefore, the broadcast media in Tigray are in less attention to investigative issues. This is a denial of public interest issue. The justification by the media are lack of budget, limitations in professional capacity and human resource while the journalists revealed that media partnership is the paramount challenge that the media are facing in their investigative reporting startups.

4.3.2.3) Freedom to report investigative issues

The following graph describes the respondents’ view on whether broadcast media in Tigray are free to report investigative issues or not. Hence, 90 (46.6%) replay disagree, 57 (29.25) strongly disagree, 29 (15%) agree and 17 (8.8%) others agree that the broadcast media in Tigray are free to report investigative issues.



Graph 19) Freedom of media to report investigative issues

This implicates that majority of the respondents (75.85%) disagree or strongly disagree to the view that broadcast media in Tigray are not free to report investigative issues. Thus, though investigative is of high importance public interest issue, the broadcast media in Tigray are not free to report investigative issues.

In addition most of the interviewees stated that the media in Tigray are in partisanship of the executive and its ruling party. A producer in Dimtsi Weyane Tigray says “the main focus of the media is building and sustaining of the hegemony of the views of the ruling party at the expense of entertaining diverse public interest issues.”

Besides, a reporter from 104.4 FM Mekelle explains “the media reports are highly confined in magnifying the accomplishments of the offices while ignoring the public complaints.” Other journalist from Tigray Mass Media Agency explained that the agenda setting of the media is highly centralized. The journalists whom call themselves as semi-investigative producers in Tigray Mass Media Agency and Dimtsi Weyane Tigray stated that are highly challenged by lack of information and harassment from outside while demoralization through censoring and even ignoring their programs from dissemination from their editors and media managers. Therefore, semi-investigators are not free to report critical issues.

4.3.2.4) News and program formats in broadcast media in Tigray

The table shown below indicates that whether investigative issues are usually reported on news and program formats in Tigray. Accordingly out of the total 193 questionnaire survey participants, 78 (40.4%) disagree, 56 (29%) strongly disagree, 39 (20.2%) agreed while 20 (10.4%) others strongly agreed on it.

Investigative issues are of the usually reported news and program formats in Tigray

| | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Agree | 39 | 20.2 | 20.2 | 20.2 |
| Strongly Agree | 20 | 10.4 | 10.4 | 30.6 |
| Disagree | 78 | 40.4 | 40.4 | 71.0 |
| Valid Strongly Disagree | 56 | 29.0 | 29.0 | 100.0 |
| Total | 193 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

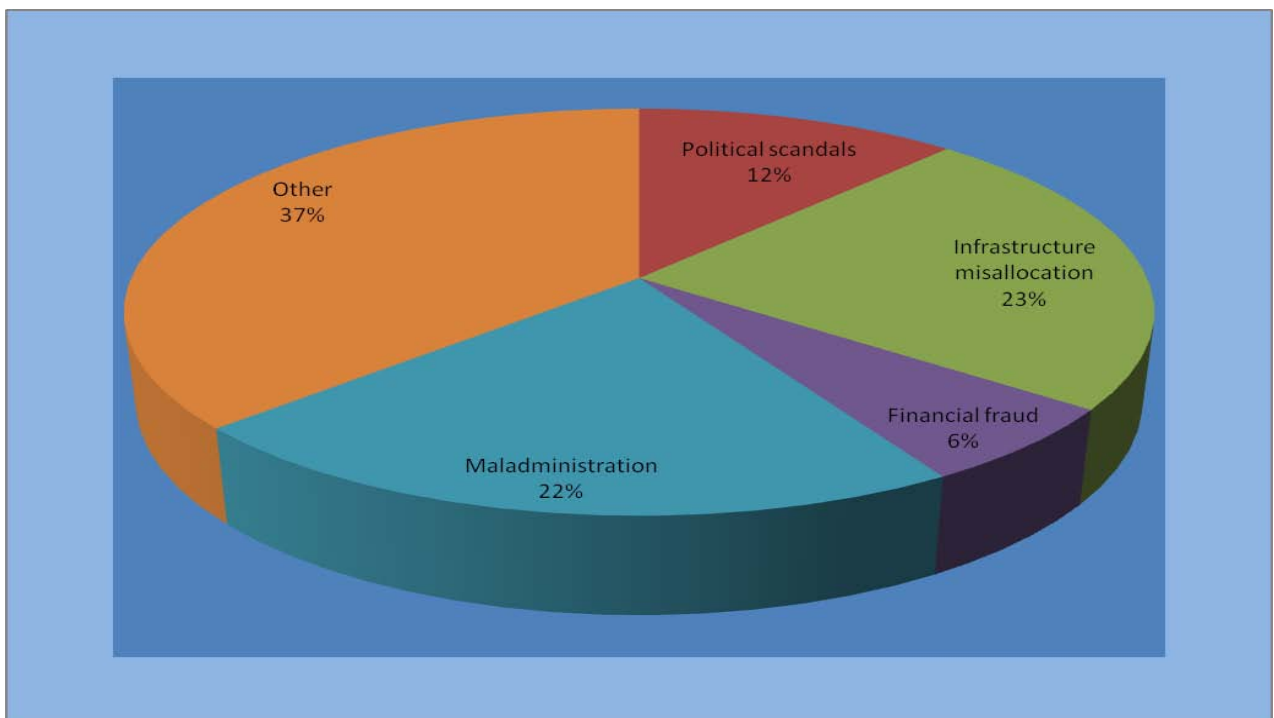
Table 20) Investigative reporting as usually used news and program format

This implies that most of the respondents (69.4%) disagree or strongly disagree to the view that investigative issues are of the usually reported news and program formats in broadcast media in Tigray. This shows that the broadcast media in Tigray are reluctant to use investigative reporting as news and program format in a sustained manner.

The interviewees explained that investigative reporting is a rare in use news and program reporting format. The media managers justified lake of budget, limitation of human resource and professional inefficiency while the journalists contrastingly stated that the partisan nature of the media is challenging them significantly over the scarce resources. Thus, investigative reporting is not a usually used news and program format.

4.3.2.5) Agenda selection for investigative reporting

The pie graph shown below indicates respondents' view on the selection of agenda to cover in the investigative reports on broadcast media in Tigray. Out of the total 193 respondents, 45 (23.3%) responded infrastructure misallocation, 42 (21.8%) responded maladministration 23 (11.9%) responded political scandals and the remaining 12 (6.2%) responded financial fraud and 71 (36.8%) responded other.



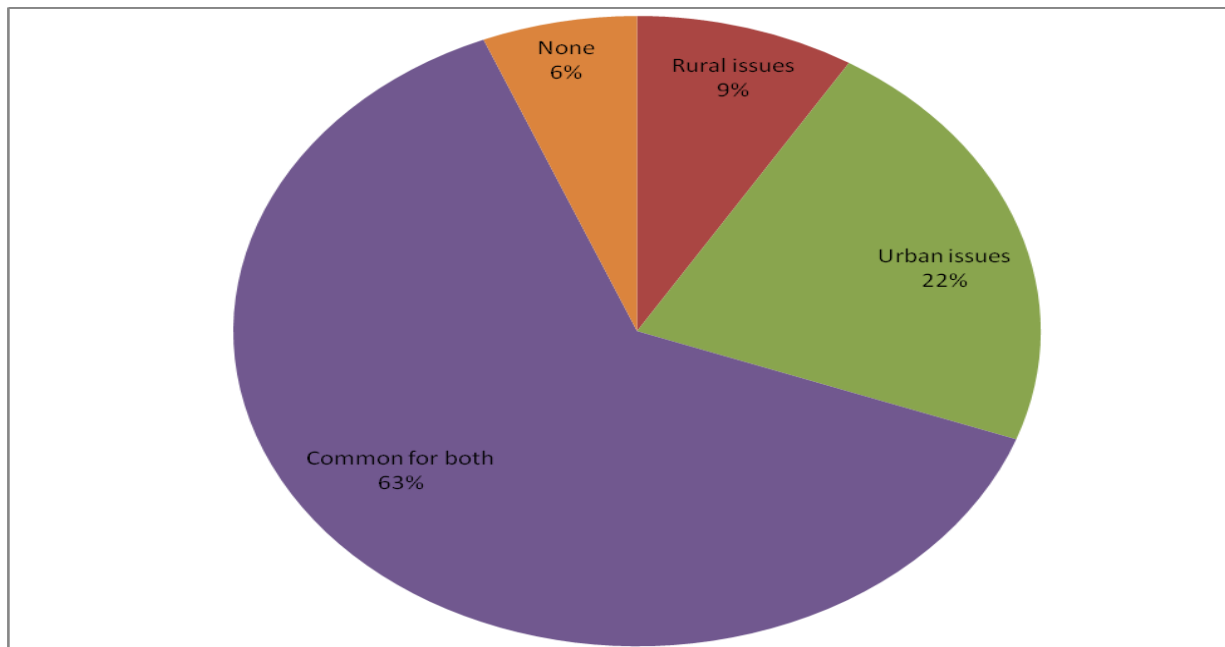
Pie graph 21) Agenda selection

This indicates that most of the respondents responded that the agenda selected for investigative reporting are out of the mentioned variables while 45 (23.3%) responded infrastructure misallocation

is mostly selected to cover for investigative reporting. Therefore, infrastructure misallocation, maladministration, political scandals and financial fraud are the major agendas of investigative reports.

4.3.2.6) Coverage of Investigative reporting issues

The pie graph shown below indicates that respondents’ view on the issues covered as investigative reporting on the broadcast media organizations in Tigray. Accordingly out of the total 193 respondents, 122 (63.2%) responded the investigative reports comprise both urban and rural issues, 42 (21.8%) responded urban while the remaining 17 (8.8%) replied that rural issues and the remaining 12 (6.2%) replied that there is no investigative reporting practiced which covered both urban and rural issues.



Pie graph 22) Coverage of investigative issues

This indicates that most of the respondents responded most of the investigative reports cover both rural and urban issues. Therefore, the critical reports in the broadcast media in Tigray cover both rural and urban issues.

4.3.2.7) Sources of investigative reporting

The following chart indicates respondents’ view on the major sources of investigative reporting in broadcast media in Tigray. Accordingly, 66 (34.2%) replied public grievances, 30 (15.5%) responded government official 23 (11.9%) cited documents and the remaining 9 (4.7%) said influential people while 65 (33.7%) responded others.

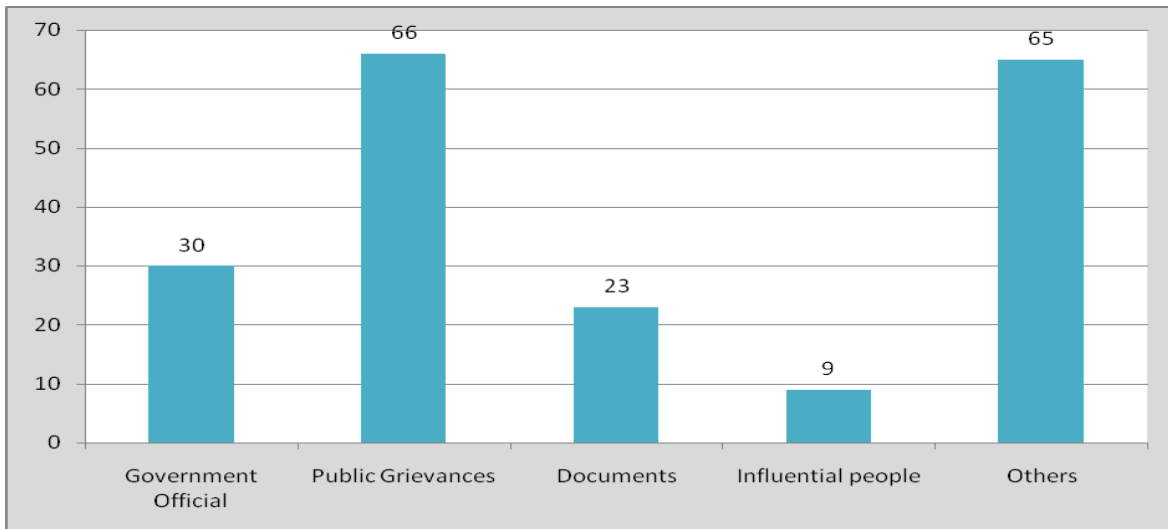


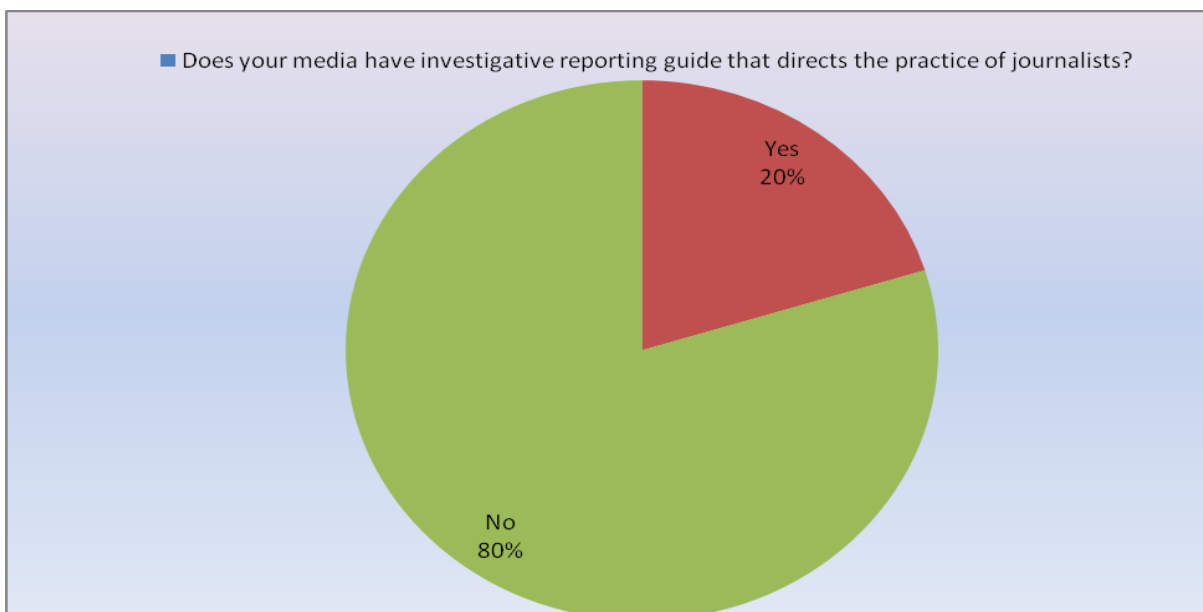
Chart 23) Major sources of investigative reporting

This implicates that the major respondents relied the main sources of investigative reporting are public grievances. Therefore, public grievance is the major investigative reporting agenda followed by government officials, documents and influential people respectively.

4.3.3) Professional investigative reporting standards

4.3.3.1) Guide of investigative reporting

The following pie graph explains respondents’ view whether the broadcast media in Tigray have investigative reporting guide that directs the practice journalists. Out of the total 193 respondents, 154 (79.8%) responded their media do not have investigative reporting guideline while the remaining 39 (20.2%) replied their media have it.



Pie-graph 24) Investigative reporting guideline

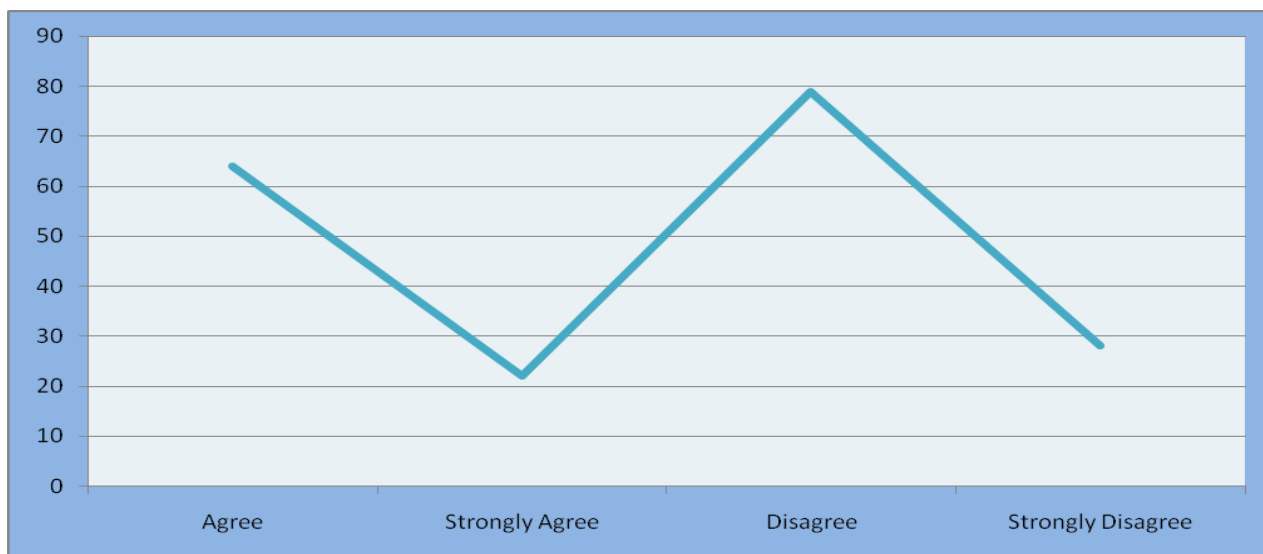
Accordingly, most of the journalists explained that their media don't have investigative journalism guidelines. This implicates that the broadcast media in Tigray have no a guideline that directs the handling of investigative reporting.

Besides, all the interviewees explained that there is no investigative reporting guideline in their respective media firms. Therefore, the broadcast media in Tigray do not have investigative journalism directive. For the reason that investigative reporting demands extra professional caliber, the media organizations shall prepare contextualized investigative journalism guide based on the professional standards.

4.3.3.2) Preliminary research

The data in the following graph describes respondents' view on whether the procedure of investigative issue selection is based on preliminary research.

From the total 193 respondents, 79 (40.9%) of them disagreed, 28 (14.5%) strongly disagreed to the view that the procedure of investigative issue selection is based on preliminary research. While 64 (33.2%) respondents agreed and 22(11.4%) others strongly agreed to it.



Graph 25) Preliminary research

Accordingly, 55.4% of the respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed to the view that the procedure of investigative issue selection is based on preliminary research. This implicates that majority of the respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed to it.

All the interviewees confirmed that the semi-investigative reports in the broadcast media in Tigray are based on the public complaints. They stated that the media are not in a position of digging out the real governance challenges through research.

Thus, the procedure of investigative issue selection is less likely to be based on preliminary research. The investigative issue selection in the broadcast media in Tigray should be based on scientific and grounded research of the issue.

4.3.3.3) Researching investigative issues

The chart below represents the respondents' view if broadcast media in Tigray select investigative issues based on research. Accordingly, 86 (44.6%) respondents disagree, 48 (24.9%) others agree while 46 (23.8%) respondents strongly disagree and 13 (6.7%) respondents strongly agree to the view that the broadcast media in Tigray select investigative issues based on research.

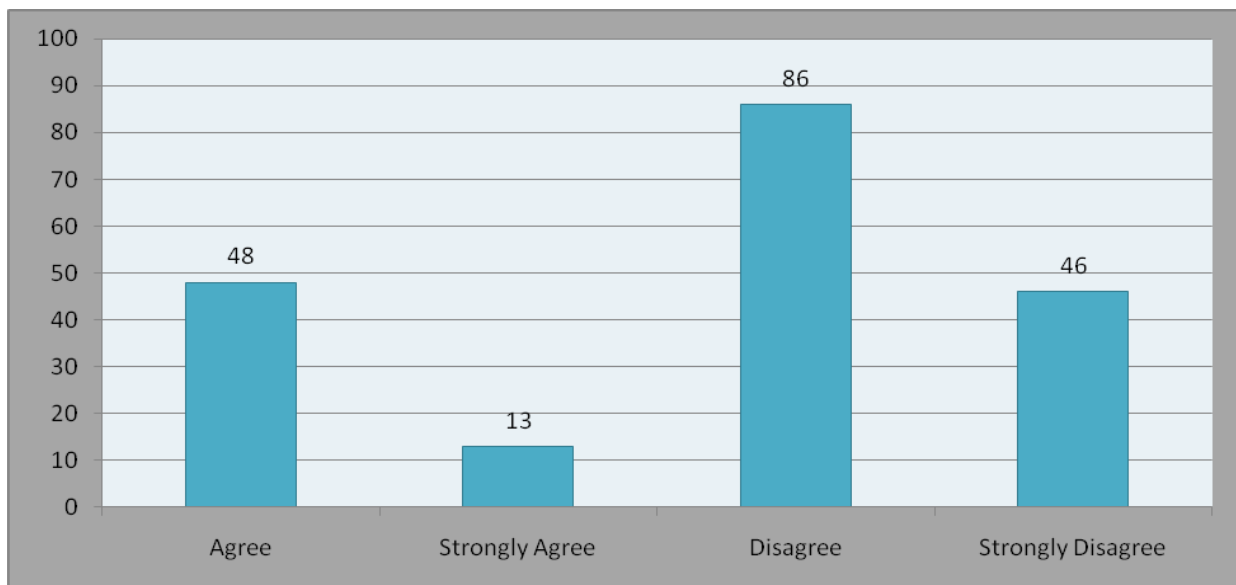


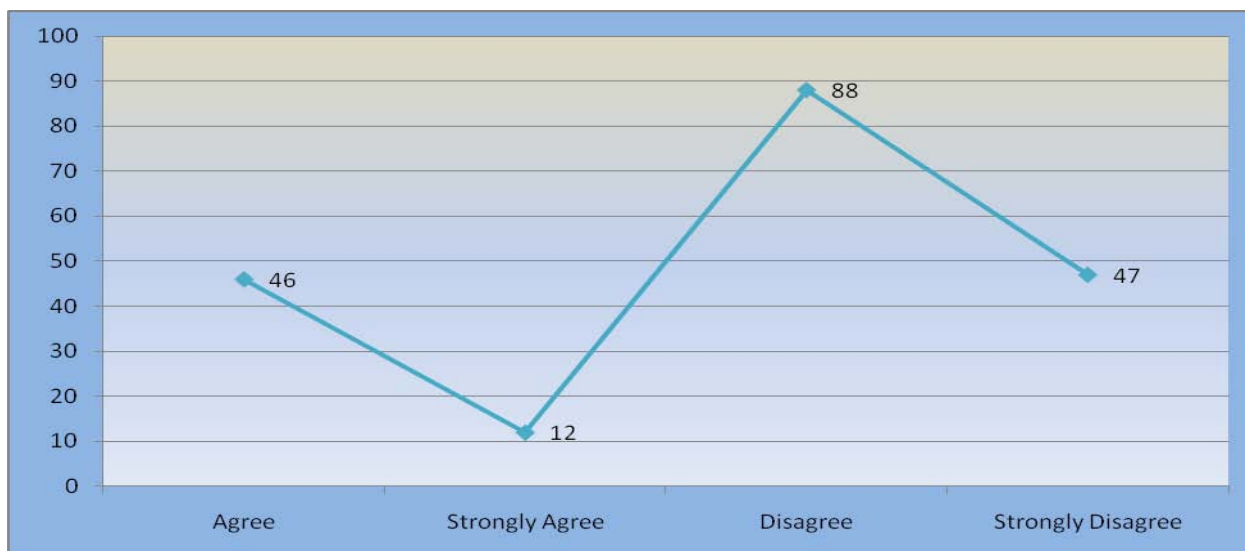
Chart 26) Research based investigative issue selection in Tigray

This indicates that most of the respondents view disagreed to the point that the broadcast media in Tigray select investigative issues based on research. Furthermore, most of the interviewees agreed that selection of semi-investigative issues in the media in Tigray is not based on research.

Thus, though the verve of investigative reporting is highly dependent on research, the broadcast media in Tigray are not in a standard to undertake research as a pillar to their investigative reporting efforts.

4.3.3.4) Follow up stories

The following graph indicates respondents' view on whether the media produce follow-up stories for previously disseminated investigative programs. Out of the 193 total respondents, 88 (45.6%) disagreed, 47 (24.4%) replied strongly disagreed while 46 (23.8%) responded agree and others 12 (6.2%) strongly agreed to it.



Graph 27) Production of follow-up stories

Accordingly, 70% of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed to the issue in discussion. Based on the data, most of the respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed to the view that the media produce follow up stories for previously disseminated investigative programs.

Most of the producers of the semi-investigative reports stated that they are in the rush to cover several issues at a time while less concern to follow the previously produced programs. They justified that for one case it is because limitation in human resource and absence of structured system of follow-up reporting.

Thus, the media are less likely to produce follow-up stories for previously disseminated investigative programs. Therefore, the media shall create a regular system to follow-up priority produced critical programs.

4.3.3.5) Standards of investigative journalism

The table presented below shows the level of agreement/disagreement of respondents on whether the investigative programs are incongruent with the standards of investigative journalism.

Accordingly, 87(45%) respondents disagreed, 51 (26.4%) others strongly disagreed while 40 (20.7%) respondents agreed and 15 (7.8%) others strongly agreed that the investigative programs are incongruent with the standards of investigative journalism.

The investigative programs in your media are incongruent with the standards of investigative journalism.

| | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|----------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid Agree | 40 | 20.7 | 20.7 | 20.7 |
| Valid strongly agree | 15 | 7.8 | 7.8 | 28.5 |
| Valid Disagree | 87 | 45.1 | 45.1 | 73.6 |

| | | | | |
|-------------------|-----|-------|-------|-------|
| strongly disagree | 51 | 26.4 | 26.4 | 100.0 |
| Total | 193 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

Table 28) Investigative programs in relation to professional standards

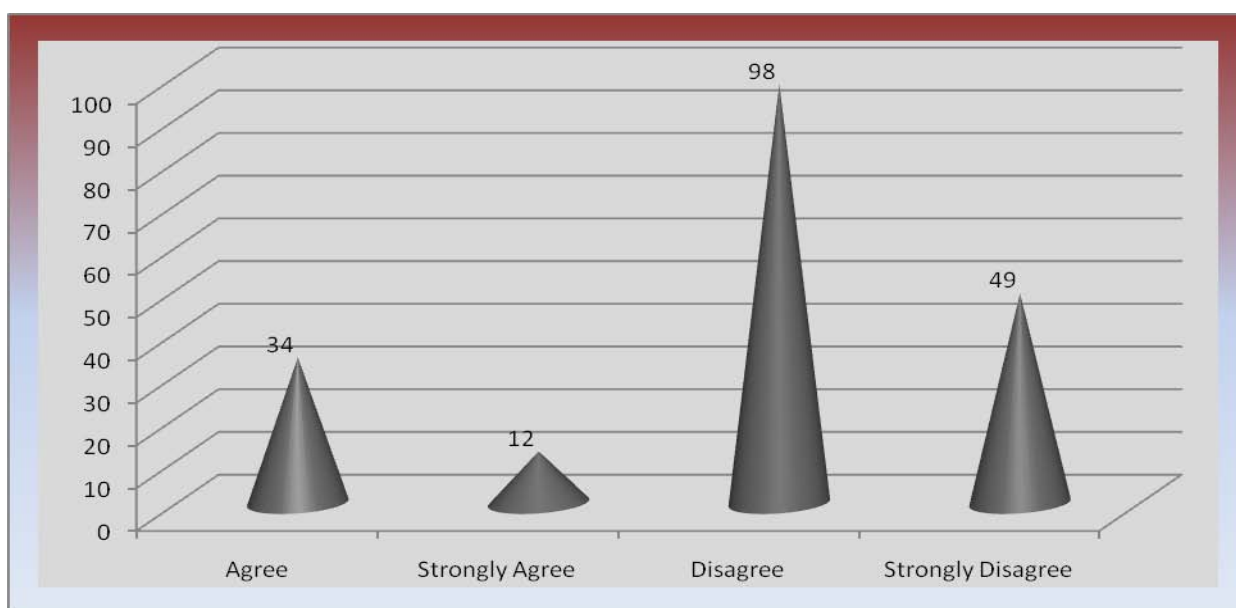
Hence, 71.4% of the total respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed to the point that explains the investigative programs in broadcast media in Tigray are incongruent with the standards of investigative journalism. This implicates that most of the respondents believe that the content of investigative programs on broadcast media in Tigray do not meet the basic standards of investigative journalism.

Moreover, most of the media managers and journalists in the interview stated that the broadcast media in Tigray are institutionally by far behind the standards of investigative reporting. They explained that the media don't have the tradition of identifying investigative agenda through research and there is no a regular system of follow-up reporting. Therefore, the broadcast media in Tigray shall structure their semi-investigative tasks in an organized manner as per the professional investigative journalism standards.

4.3.4) Institutionalization of investigative journalism

4.3.4.1) Preparedness of the media for investigative journalists' initiatives

The following con indicates the respondents' view whether the media hearten their professionals to come-up with investigative tips and researches. Accordingly, 98 (50.8%) respondents believe that the media are not welcoming for investigative reporting initiatives. Besides, 49 (25.4%) others strongly disagree to the view that the media are welcoming to investigative journalism initiative.



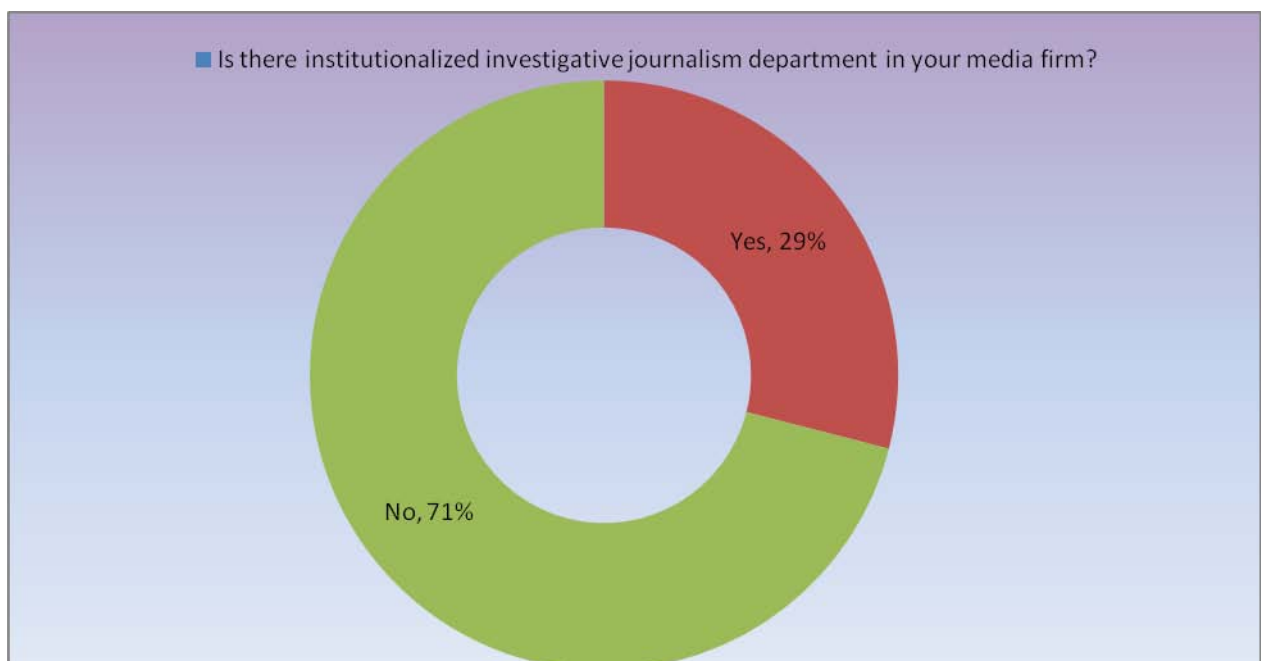
Con 29) Preparedness of the media for investigative journalists' initiatives

In contrast, 34(17.6 %) others agree and 12 (6.2%) strongly agree that the media in Tigray are welcoming for investigative reporting enterprises. Accordingly, 76.2% of the respondents believe that the media in Tigray are not welcoming for their professionals' investigative report tips. This implicates that most of the respondents disagrees to the view that media in Tigray are welcoming for investigative issue tip offs from their professionals.

Moreover, all the interviewees confirmed that there is no organized investigative reporting engagement in their respective media. As a result, the media are not in a favorable condition to promote journalists' investigative reporting initiatives and tip-offs. Therefore, the broadcast media in Tigray are not well-prepared to support investigative journalists' initiatives.

4.3.4.2) Department of investigative reporting

The following pie graph explains respondents' view whether there is investigative journalism department on broadcast media organizations in Tigray. Accordingly, respondents 137 (71%) answered no while the remaining 56 (29%) respondents confirmed yes.



Pie graph 30) Institutionalization of investigative reporting department

Most of the respondents answered that there is no institutionalized investigative reporting department on the broadcast media organizations in Tigray. Based on the findings in the interview, Dimtsi Weyane Tigray, 104.4 FM Mekelle and 94.8 FM FBC Mekelle do not have investigative journalism department.

A member of Tigray Mass Media Agency management explained that his media has an investigative reporting desk under the Directorate of Governance, Political Affairs and Investigative Programs. Contrastingly, a senior producer in Tigray Mass Media Agency says “though it is organized as sub team, it is not supported by regular researched agenda setting and follow-up reports are rare.” Therefore, almost all the broadcast media in Tigray did not institutionalize investigative journalism.

4.3.4.3) Media infrastructure

The data presented in the chart below the level of agreement/disagreement on whether the media infrastructure in the broadcast media in Tigray is effective to practice investigative journalism. Accordingly, 101 (52.3 %) disagreed, 53 (27.5%) strongly disagreed while 31 (16%) agreed and 8 (4%) strongly agreed that the media infrastructure in the broadcast media in Tigray is effective for the practice of investigative journalism.

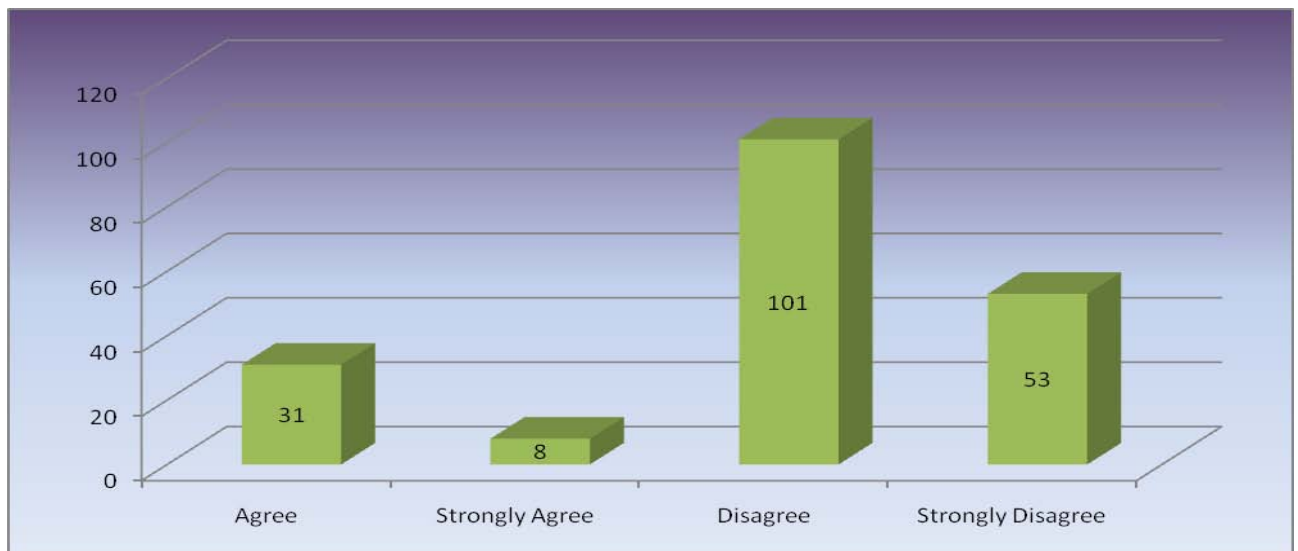


Chart 31) Media infrastructure

Hence, 79.8% of respondents reflected that there is no enough media infrastructure in Tigray. The data implicates that most of the respondents disagree or strongly disagree on the effectiveness of media infrastructure for the practice investigative journalism.

Besides, most of the interviewees stated that lack of financial and material resource, limitation of human resource is also challenging the practice of semi-investigative reporting. Therefore, the media infrastructure in Tigray is poor that is unable to support the practice of investigative journalism in the broadcast media.

4.3.4.4) Accountability and Transparency

The data shown in the following table explores whether investigative journalism contributes in ensuring accountability and transparency in Tigray. Out of the total 193 respondents, 68 (35.2%) of them responded disagree while 33 (17%) strongly disagree to it. In contrast, 34 (17.6%) strongly agreed and the remaining 58 (30%) agree that investigative journalism contributes in ensuring accountability and transparency in Tigray.

Investigative journalism contributes in ensuring accountability and transparency in Tigray

| | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Agree | 58 | 30.1 | 30.1 | 30.1 |
| Strongly Agree | 34 | 17.6 | 17.6 | 47.7 |
| Valid Disagree | 68 | 35.2 | 35.2 | 82.9 |
| Strongly Disagree | 33 | 17.1 | 17.1 | 100.0 |
| Total | 193 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

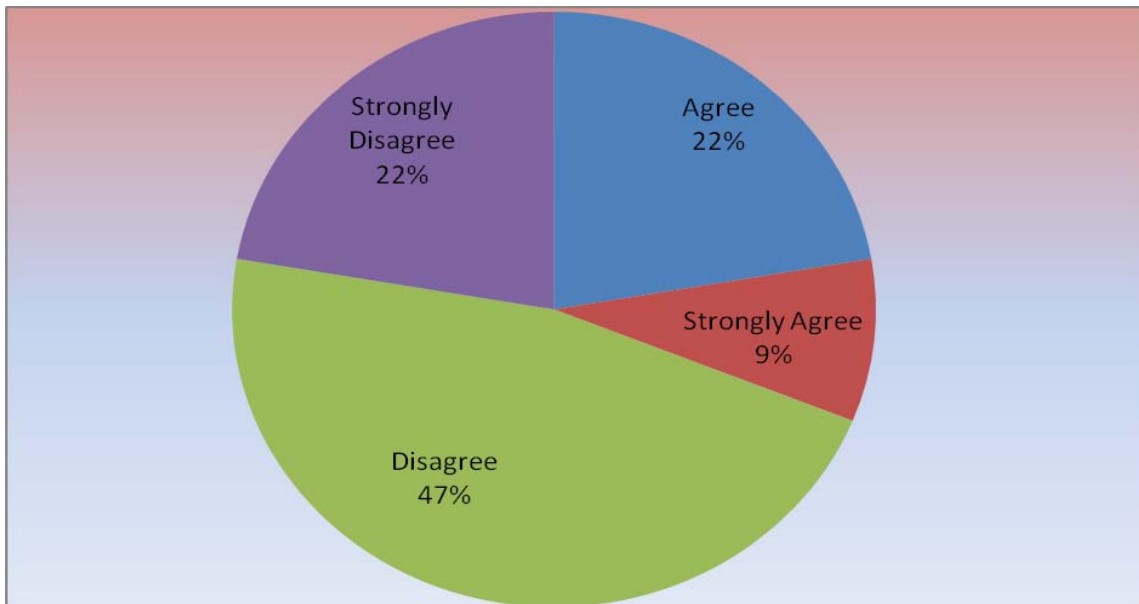
Table 32) Investigative journalism in ensuring accountability and transparency

Accordingly, 52.2% of respondents believe that as practice of investigative journalism in Tigray is at infant stage it is superficial to conclude on its contribution in ensuring accountability and transparency. The remaining 47.8% respondents explained that the few startups here and there are having encouraging impact in ensuring accountability and transparency in Tigray.

According to the interviewees the media are not in the sphere of investigative reporting. Therefore, for the reason that investigative journalism is a uncommon and not institutionalized practice in Tigray, it is hard to measure its contribution in ensuring accountability and transparency because investigative reporting is an assignment yet to be done in the broadcast media in Tigray.

4.3.4.5) Professional capabilities of Journalists

The pie graph indicated below presents respondents' view whether the journalists working on broadcast media in Tigray are professionally capable to handle investigative issues. Out of the total 193 respondents, 90 (46.6%) disagreed, 43 (22.3%) strongly disagreed while 43 (22.3%) others agreed and 17 (8.8%) strongly agreed that the journalists working on broadcast media in Tigray are professionally capable to handle investigative issues.



Pie graph 33) Journalists' capacity to handle investigative issues

Accordingly, 68.9% of respondents refuted the view that the journalists working on broadcast media in Tigray are professionally capable to handle investigative issues. This implies that most of the respondents disagree or strongly disagree to the view that the journalists working on broadcast media in Tigray are professionally capable to handle investigative reporting.

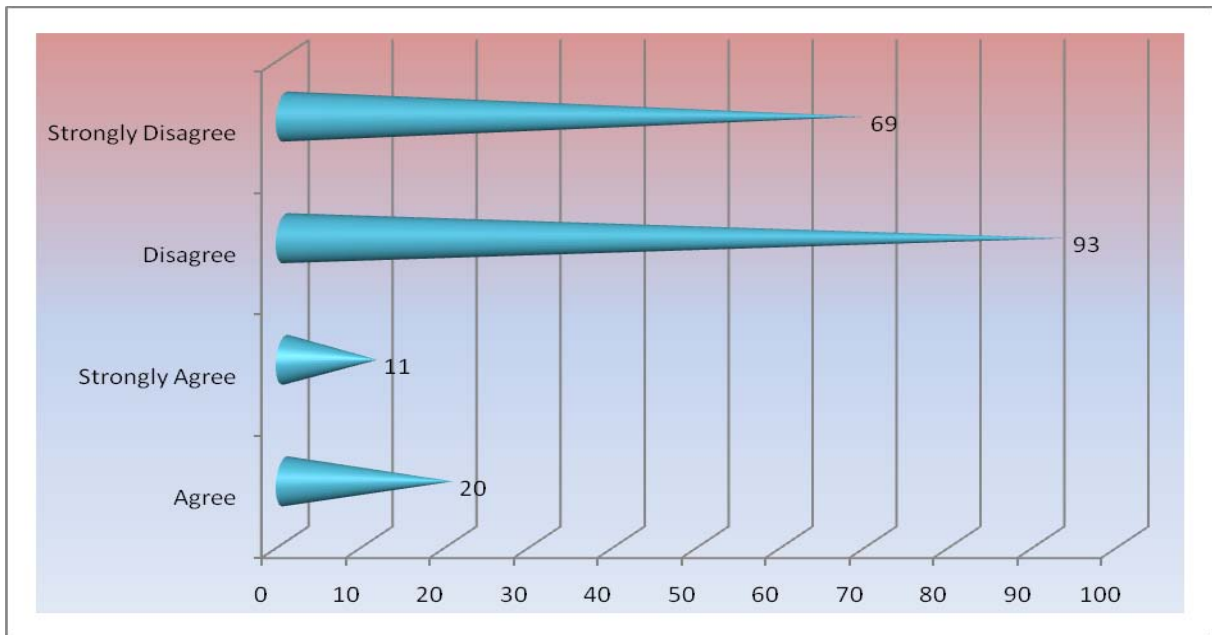
Besides, the interviewees confirmed that most of the journalists and media managers are a graduate of fields other than journalism. In addition to this, for the reason the media system in Tigray has not been opened up for serious debates of diverse views and critical reports, the practioners need experience so as to research, handle and follow-up investigative issues.

Thus, most of the journalists in broadcast media in Tigray are incapable to handle investigative issues for various reasons. One of the justifications for such a challenge is that most (62%) of the practitioners graduated in fields other than journalism and communication. Besides, the media institutions do not have sustained capacity building engagements in investigative reporting.

4.3.4.6) Training of investigative reporting

The data in the following con explains the level of agreement/disagreement whether there is continuous capacity building and enhancement trainings on investigative reporting.

Accordingly, the data presents that 93 (48.2%) respondents disagreed, 69 (35.8%) strongly disagreed while 20 (10.4%) agreed and 11 (5.7%) strongly agreed that there is continuous capacity building and enhancement trainings on investigative reporting.



Con 34) Capacity building in investigative reporting

This implies that most (84%) of the respondents disagree /strongly disagree to the view that continuous capacity building and enhancement trainings regarding investigative reporting in the broadcast media in Tigray.

Most of the interviewees stated that they didn't get an opportunity of getting training in investigative reporting. Therefore, the broadcast media in Tigray do not have sustained capacity building schemes in investigative reporting. Thus, the media shall work to continuously empower their professionals through sustained capacity building schemes.

4.3.5) Challenges in the practice of investigative journalism in Tigray

4.3.5.1) Conduciveness of media environment to produce investigative issues

This section examines the level of agreement/disagreement of the respondents view whether there is an encouraging media environment to produce investigative issues in the broadcast media in Tigray or not. Accordingly, 94 (48.7%) respondents disagree, 48 (28.5%) strongly disagree about the availability of conducive environment to produce investigative issues in Tigray. While 28 (14%) agree and 16 (8.3%) strongly agreed on it.

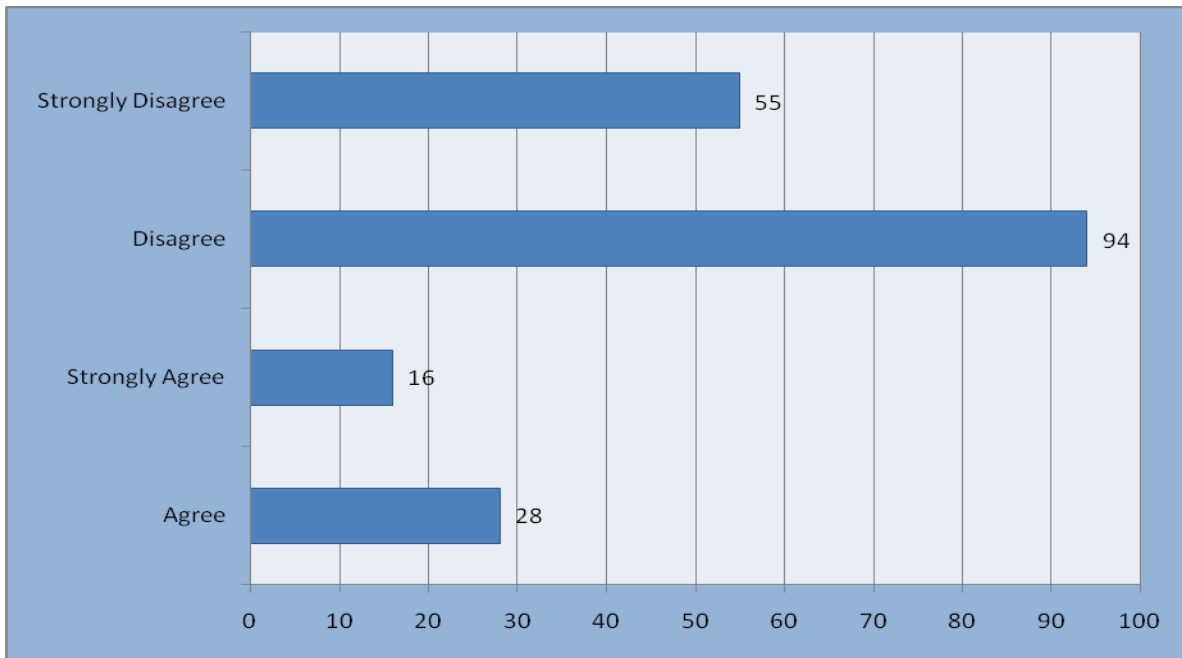


Chart 35) Conduciveness of media environment to produce investigative issues

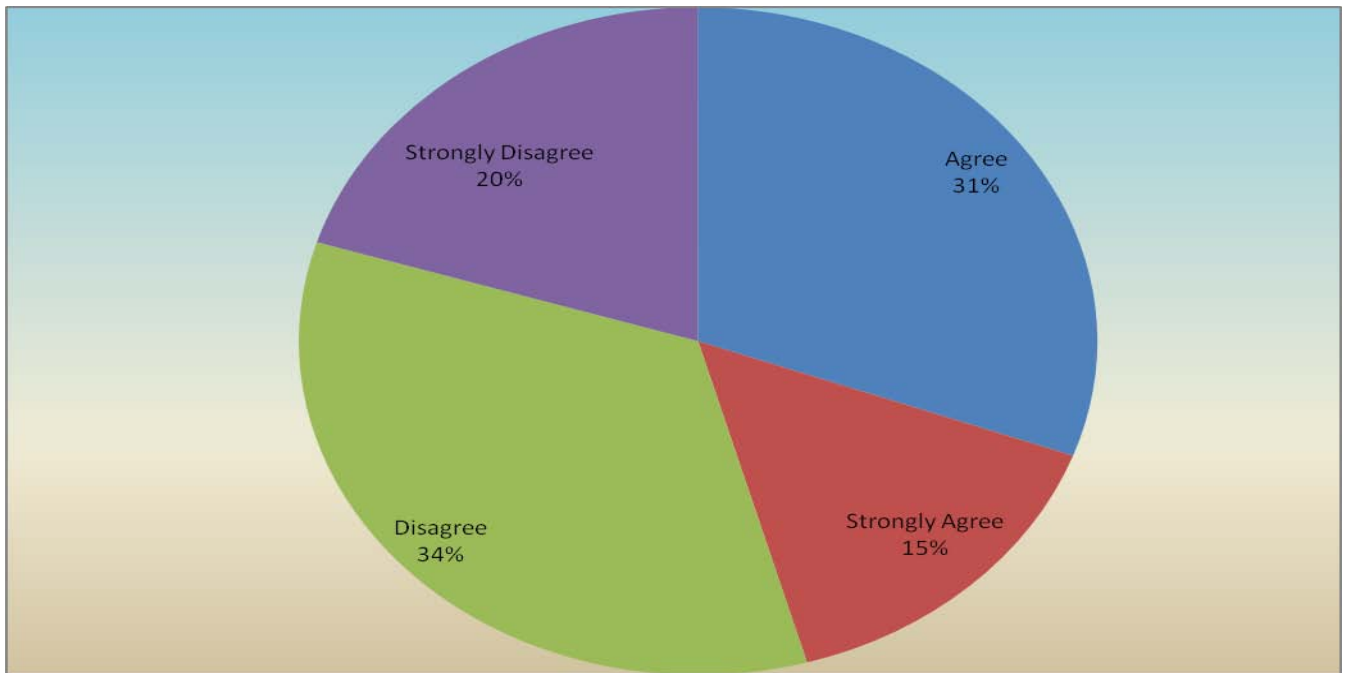
The empirical data shows that, 77.2% respondents decline the view that there is encouraging and conducive media environment to produce investigative issue in Tigray.

Besides, a senior producer from Tigray Mass Media Agency says “the political economy is restrictive for critical reporting; partially it is because the media is under a restraining outlook of the ruling party political elites and the media by itself is submissive for such intrusions.” A producer from Dimtsi Weyane Tigray also states “some programs are ignored through a single phone call of the political elites.”

This indicates most of the respondents refute the view on the availability of conducive media environment that encourages investigative reporting. Thus, the discouraging media environment (including lack of access to information) and highly government affiliated and partisan media system challenged the practice of investigative journalism in Tigray.

4.3.5.2) Impact of media owners

The pie graph below shows respondents’ view whether media owners have significantly impact on the practice of investigative reporting on broadcast media in Tigray. Out of 193 respondents, 66 (34.2%) of them disagreed, 39 (20.2%) strongly disagreed while 59 (30.6%) agreed and the remaining 29 (15%) agreed on the issue.



Pie graph 36) The impact of media ownership on investigative reporting

This implies that the majority of respondents (54.4%) disagreed or strongly to the view that the interest of media owners has significantly impacted the practice of investigative reporting on broadcast media in Tigray.

A producer from 94.8 FBC FM Mekelle explained that media ownership as a dominant factor in determining the focus and even the content of media. He adds that the top media managers of headquarter of Fana Broadcasting Corporate were in a continuous interference and influence against our critical reports on the government. A member of media management in 94.8 FBC FM Mekelle says “we were sharing programs with FBC headquarter, but they began purposely ignoring critical reports on the government and news about the sustained peace, security and regional integration of Tigray are void by the editors.”

A senior producer from Tigray Mass Media Agency says:

“The firing of our prior CEO, Mr. Birhanu Abadi, is a clear example of the influence of media ownership at the cost of the public interest. It is because Mr. Birhanu was ignoring the daily interferences of the political elites of the governing party.”

He states “any party doesn’t have the right to hire and fire a media manager to a public media; it is the role of the Parliament of Tigray, though violated in a daytime.”

Moreover, a producer in Dimtsi Weyane Tigray described that the broadcast media in Tigray are in a highly centralized agenda setting through party affiliated media committee at the expense of the diverse public interest issues. This implies that the broadcast media in Tigray are in a direct or indirect surveillance of the governing party which contributed to disregarding diverse views and

critical reports. Therefore, media owners have significant impact on the practice of investigative journalism in Tigray.

4.3.5.3) Influence of political and economic elites

The data presented below indicates respondents' view whether investigative reporters are humiliated by political and economic elites. Out of the total 193 respondents, 60 (31%) of them agreed, 51(26.4%) strongly agreed while 50 (25.9%) disagreed and the remaining 32 (16.6%) strongly disagreed to it.

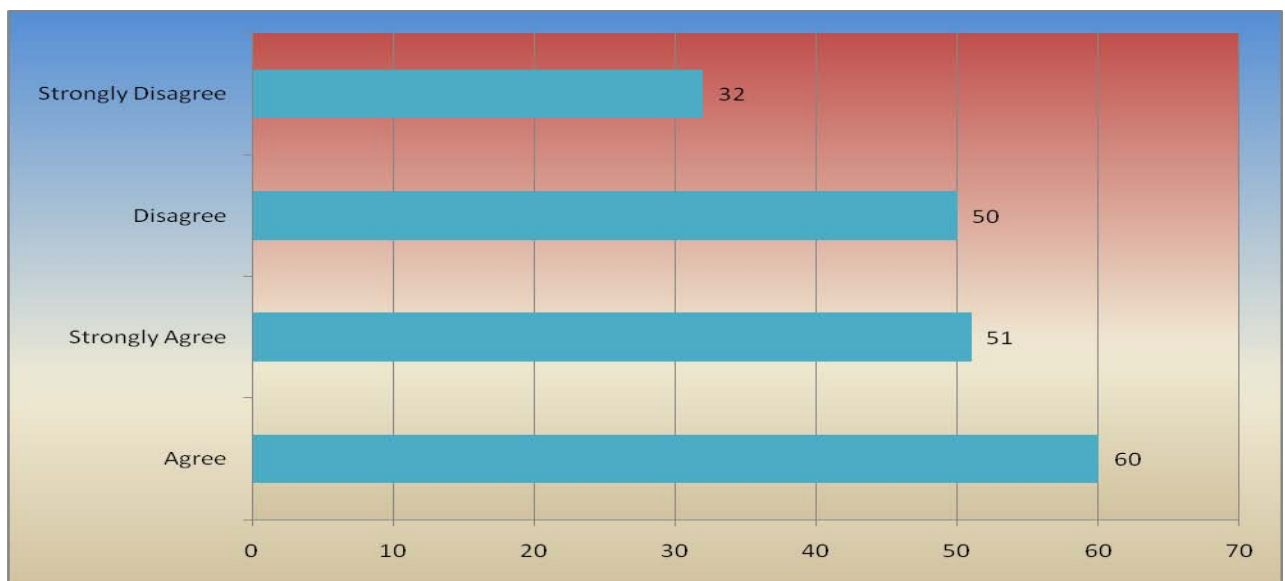


Chart 37) Influence of political and economic elites on investigative reporters

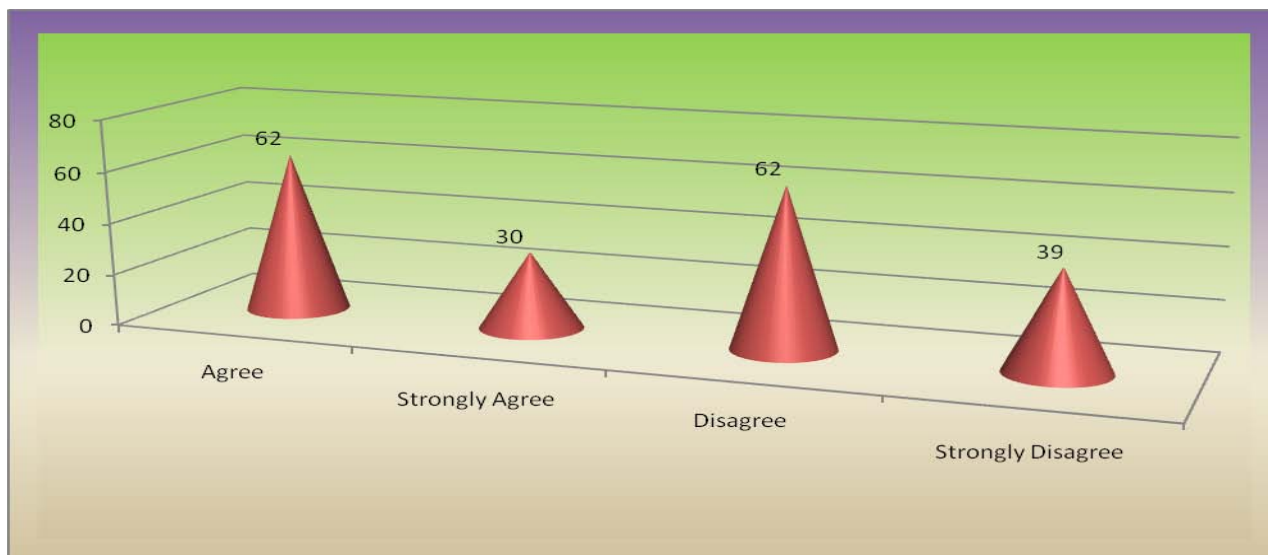
Based on the data 57.4% of the respondents agreed or strongly agreed to the view that investigative reporters are humiliated by political and economic elites. This entails that most of the respondents agreed or strongly agreed to the statement that investigative reporters are humiliated by political and economic elites.

The interviewees stated that the broadcast media in Tigray are in a direct and or indirect control of the government. They justified that for one thing they are politically under continuous monitoring of party officials and economically their revenue generation is highly dependent on government sponsorships and advertisements. A producer from 104.4 FM Mekelle says “in a condition that our monthly salaries are dependent on the government sponsorship our critical reporting attempts are becoming a self suicidal.”

This implies that the broadcast media in Tigray are at the strong political and economic hold of the government. Therefore, investigative reporters in the broadcast media in Tigray are challenged by political and economic elites.

4.3.5.4) Public's willingness to provide information

The following con explains the respondents' view whether the public is willing to provide information on wrongdoings. Accordingly, 62 (32%) agreed and 30(15.5%) strongly agreed that the public is willing to provide information on wrongdoings. While 62 (32%) respondents disagreed and the remaining 39 (20%) strongly disagreed to it.



Con 38) Public willingness to provide information on wrongdoings

Accordingly, 52.5% of the respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed while 47.5% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed to the statement that the public is willing to provide information on wrongdoings. This implies that there are two contrasting perceptions of journalists on the issue.

Most of the interviewees stated that the public is willing to provide information about ill-governance, misallocation of government infrastructure, corruption and related wrongdoings. They stated that in many cases the public is the main source of getting information for the semi-investigative programs. Therefore, the public is obliging to provide information for the semi-investigative programs in the broadcast media in Tigray.

4.3.5.5) Government openness for information access

The following chart presents respondents' view whether government institutions are open for information access. Accordingly, 102 (52.8%) disagreed on the issue, 51 (26.4%) strongly disagreed while 26 (13.5%) agreed and 14 (7.3%) strongly agreed that government institutions are open for information access.

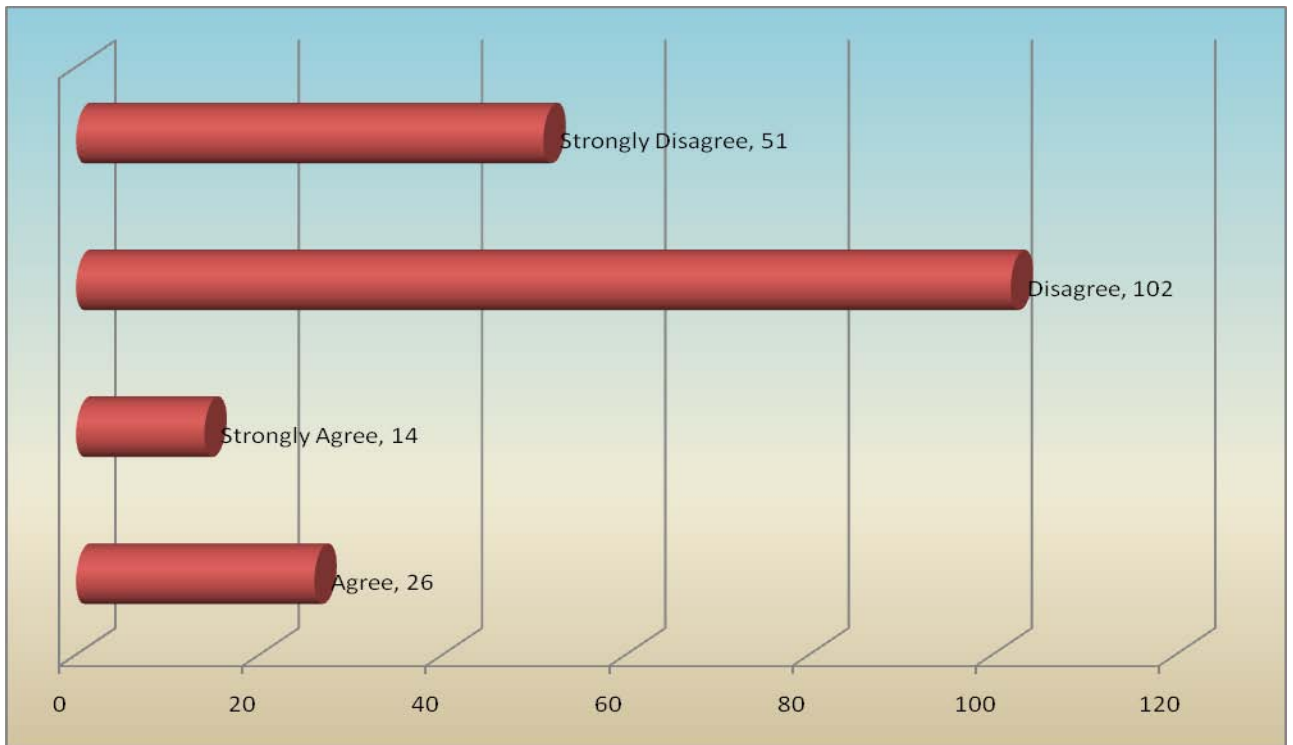


Chart 39) Government information access

Hence, 79.2% of the respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed to the statement that government institutions are open for information access. This implies that most of the respondents disagree/strongly disagree on the issue of government’s openness for information access.

Most of the journalists explained in the interview that the government posts are not organized in a way that information is easily provided to the media. They added that the provision of information is dependent on whether the officials are interested. Reporters and producers in the interview stated that although the information access proclamation is there, many officials are observed neglecting their information request. A journalist from Dimtsi Weyane Tigray says “I have once arrested for hours for my request of information for my semi-investigative program in a wereda. And they were not questioned for their illegality.” Therefore, though proclamation 590/2000 calls government to provide information to the public in a timely manner, journalists are challenged to access the information in government offices.

4.3.5.6) Private sector information access

The chart shown below indicates respondents’ level of agreement on whether journalists are challenged by lack of information on private sector investigations. Out of the total 193 total respondents, 73 (37.8%) of them agreed, 46 (23.8%) strongly agreed while 43(22.3%) disagreed and 31(16%) strongly disagreed to the statement that journalists are challenged by lack of information on private sector investigations.

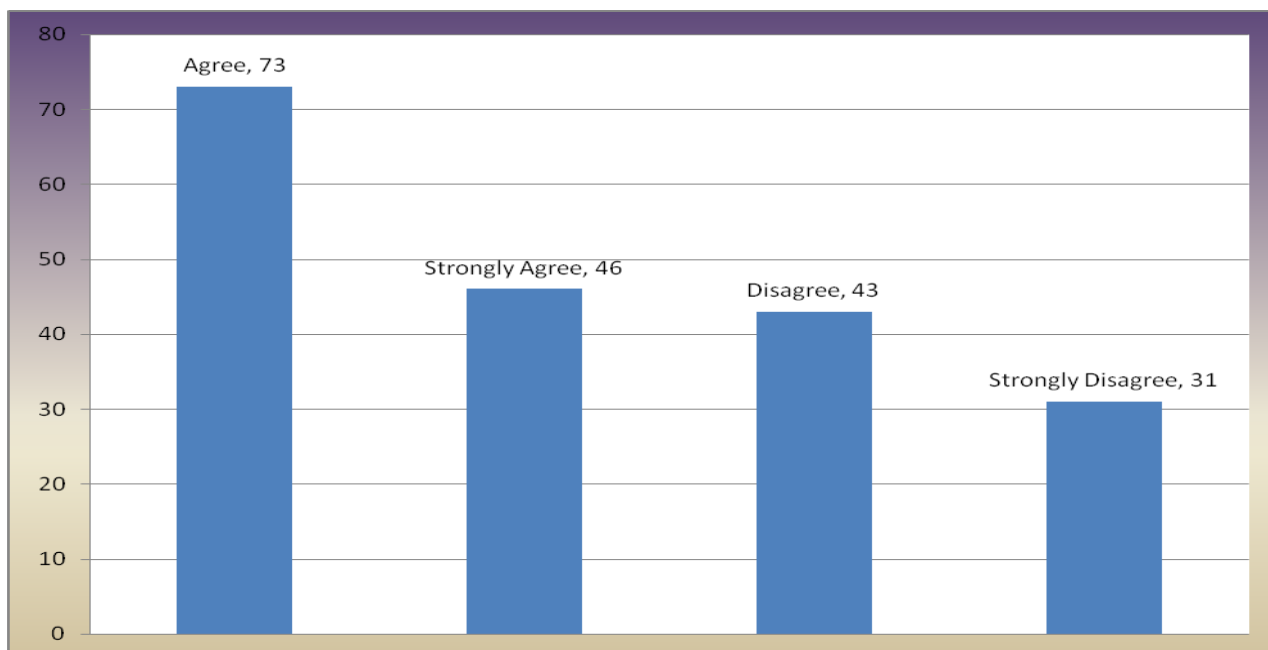


Chart 40) Private sector information access

So, 61.6% of the respondents agreed or strongly agreed to the view that journalists are challenged by lack of information on private sector investigations. This implicates that majority of the respondents believe that journalists are challenged by lack of information on private sector investigations.

According to most of the interviewees the private sector in Tigray doesn't have significant contribution in the media practice. They added that the information about private sector is not structured in a way that the public has to be informed. Therefore, journalists in the broadcast media in Tigray are challenged by lack of information on private sector investigations.

4.3.5.7) Government Interference

As indicated in the table below 94 (48.7%) of the 193 respondents disagreed to the statement that investigative programs are free from government interference. Besides, 72 (37.3%) responded strongly disagree while 17 (8.8%) agreed and the remaining 10 (5.2%) strongly agreed to it.

The investigative programs are free from government interference.

| | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Agree | 17 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 8.8 |
| strongly agree | 10 | 5.2 | 5.2 | 14.0 |
| Valid Disagree | 94 | 48.7 | 48.7 | 62.7 |
| strongly disagree | 72 | 37.3 | 37.3 | 100.0 |
| Total | 193 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

Table 41) Government interference in investigative programs

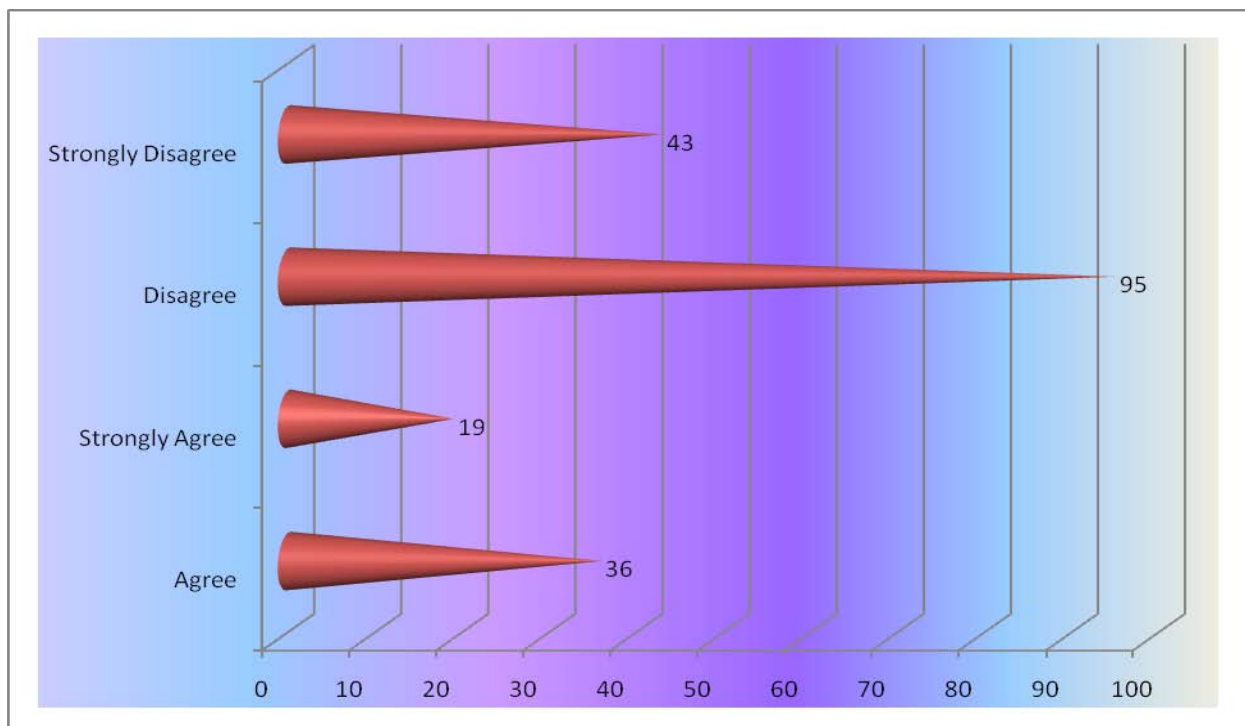
Based on the data provided, 86% of the respondents believe that investigative programs are not free from government interference. This implicates that most of the respondents disagree or strongly disagree to the statement that investigative programs are free from government interference.

Furthermore, a producer from Tigray Mass Media Agency says “Tigray Tv is public media but it is directed by a ruling party elites through the dictation of the media committee.” A reporter from 104.4 Radio FM Mekelle states “because our media is economically dependent on government sponsorship, agendas which are in the interests of the executive are prioritized, and diverse views are neglected.”

This implies that the broadcast media in Tigray are highly disputed by the intervention of officials. Therefore, investigative programs in the broadcast media in Tigray are subject to government interference.

4.3.5.8) Economic interest

The data shown in the con below indicates respondents’ view whether the investigative programs are free from economic interests. Out of the total 193 respondents, 95 (49.2%) replied disagree and 43 (22.3%) replied strongly disagree to it. In contrast, 36 (18.7) respondents agreed and 19(9.8%) others strongly agreed that investigative programs are free from economic interests.



Con 42) The influence of economic interests on investigative programs

Accordingly, 71.5% of respondents believe that investigative programs are challenged by economic interests. This entails that the majority of respondents disagree or strongly disagree to the statement that investigative programs are free from economic interests.

Besides, most of the interviewees confirmed that the media economy in Tigray is dependent on government subsidy and sponsorships. They added that at the interest of the financial sources critical report initiatives of journalists are not welcomed by the media. Therefore, investigative programs are challenged by different economic interests.

4.4) Correlation of variables

4.4.1) Media environment in-relation to media freedom

According to the table shown below, the correlation coefficient for the correlation between the variables; there is no conducive environment to produce investigative issues in Tigray and broadcast media in Tigray are not free to report investigative issues is 0.489.

| | | Correlations | |
|---|---------------------|---|---|
| | | There is no conducive environment to produce investigative issues in Tigray | Broadcast media in Tigray are not free to report investigative issues |
| There is no conducive environment to produce investigative issues in Tigray | Pearson Correlation | 1 | .489** |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | | .000 |
| | N | 193 | 193 |
| Broadcast media in Tigray are not free to report investigative issues | Pearson Correlation | .489** | 1 |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | .000 | |
| | N | 193 | 193 |

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Table 43) Correlation between media environment and media freedom

This indicates that there is a positive correlation between media environment and media freedom. Therefore, the broadcast media in Tigray are not free to report investigative issues for the reason that there is no conducive environment to produce investigative issues in Tigray.

4.4.2) Legal protection in relation to freedom to report investigative issues

As presented in the table below , the correlation coefficient for the correlation between the attributes journalists are not legally guaranteed for investigative reporting and Broadcast media in Tigray are

not free to report investigative issues is 0.463 . This denotes that there is a positive correlation between the variables.

Correlations

| | | Journalists are not legally guaranteed for investigative reporting in Tigray | Broadcast media in Tigray are not free to report investigative issues |
|--|---|--|---|
| Journalists are not legally guaranteed for investigative reporting in Tigray | Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N | 1 193 | .463** 193 |
| Broadcast media in Tigray are not free to report investigative issues | Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N | .463** .000 193 | 1 193 |

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Table 44) Correlation between legal protection and media freedom

Thus, the correlation points broadcast media organizations in Tigray are not free to report investigative issues because journalists are not legally guaranteed to cover investigative issues.

4.4.3) Government interference against investigative reporting

The table indicated below, examines the correlation coefficient for the correlation between broadcast media in Tigray are not free to report investigative issues and the investigative programs are not free from government interference is 0.372. This entails that there is a positive correlation between the two variables.

Correlations

| | | Broadcast media in Tigray are not free to report investigative issues | The investigative reporting initiatives are challenged by government interference. |
|--|---|---|--|
| Broadcast media in Tigray are not free to report investigative issues | Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N | 1 193 | .372** 193 |
| The investigative reporting initiatives are challenged by government interference. | Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N | .372** .000 193 | 1 193 |

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Table 45) Correlation between media freedom and government interference

Therefore, the broadcast media in Tigray are not free to report investigative issues because the investigative reporting initiatives are challenged by government interference.

4.4.4) Media environment in relation to legal protection

The table presented below indicates, the correlation coefficient for the correlation between journalists are not legally guaranteed for investigative reporting in Tigray and the media environment is not welcoming for investigative reporting is 0.536.

Correlations

| | | Journalists are not legally guaranteed for investigative reporting in Tigray | The media environment is not welcoming for investigative reporting |
|--|---------------------|--|--|
| Journalists are not legally guaranteed for investigative reporting in Tigray | Pearson Correlation | 1 | .536** |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | | .000 |
| | N | 193 | 193 |
| The media environment is not welcoming for investigative reporting | Pearson Correlation | .536** | 1 |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | .000 | |
| | N | 193 | 193 |

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Table 46) Correlation between legal protection and media environment

This implicates that there is a positive correlation between the media environment and legal protection of journalists. Consequently, journalists are not legally guaranteed hence the media environment is not welcoming for investigative reporting.

4.4.5) Production of follow-up stories in relation to media infrastructure

Correlations

| | | The broadcast media in Tigray are less likely to produce follow up stories for previously disseminated investigative programs | The media infrastructure is not effective for investigative journalism initiatives |
|---|---|---|--|
| The broadcast media in Tigray are less likely to produce follow up stories for previously disseminated investigative programs | Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N | 1 193 | .417** .000 193 |
| The media infrastructure is not effective for investigative journalism initiatives | Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N | .417** .000 193 | 1 193 |

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

As revealed in the table, the correlation coefficient for the correlation between the broadcast media in Tigray didn't produce follow up stories for previously disseminated investigative programs and the media infrastructure is not effective for investigative journalism initiatives is 0.417.

Table 47) Correlation between media infrastructure and production of follow-up stories

This infers that there is positive correlation between media infrastructure and production of follow-up stories. For that reason, there is limitation in media infrastructure; consequently, the broadcast media are not producing follow up stories for previously disseminated programs. Therefore, the limitation in media infrastructure challenged the production of follow-up stories.

4.4.6) Professional capacity in relation to investigative journalism standards

The table shown below presents the correlation between professional capacity of journalists and investigative journalism standards. The correlation coefficient between variables; journalists in the broadcast media in Tigray are not professionally capable to handle investigative issues and the investigative programs in the media organizations in Tigray are not incongruent with the standards of investigative journalism is 0.374. This implies that there is positive correlation between the two variables.

Correlations

| | | Journalists in the broadcast media in Tigray are not professionally capable to handle investigative issues | The investigative programs in broadcast media in Tigray are not incongruent with the standards of investigative journalism |
|--|---------------------|--|--|
| Journalists in the broadcast media in Tigray are not | Pearson Correlation | 1 | .374** |

| | | | |
|--|---|-----------------------|-------------|
| professionally capable to handle investigative issues | Sig. (2-tailed) N | 193 | .000 193 |
| The investigative programs in broadcast media in Tigray are incongruent with the standards of investigative journalism | Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N | .374** .000 193 | 1 193 |

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Table 48) Correlation between professional capacity in relation to investigative journalism standards

The investigative programs in the media organizations in Tigray are not incongruent with the standards of investigative journalism because journalists in the broadcast media in Tigray are not professionally capable to handle investigative issues. Therefore, the limitations in professionalism of journalists influenced the practice of investigative reporting based the professional standards.

4.4.7) The interest of media owners in relation to media attention to investigative issues

According to the table indicated below, the correlation coefficient for the correlation between the interest of media owners has significantly impacted the practice of investigative reporting in broadcast media in Tigray and investigative reporting didn't get enough attention in the broadcast media in Tigray is 0.320. This shows the variables comprising positive correlation.

Correlations

| | The interest of media owners has significantly impacted the practice of investigative reporting in broadcast media in Tigray | Investigative reporting didn't get enough attention in the broadcast media organization in Tigray |
|---|--|---|
| The interest of media owners has significantly impacted the practice of investigative reporting | Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N | 1 .320** .000 193 |

| | | | |
|--|--|---------------------------|------------------|
| Investigative reporting didn't get enough attention in the broadcast media organization in Tigray | Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N | .320** .000 193 | 1 193 |
|--|--|---------------------------|------------------|

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Table 49) Correlation between media ownership and media attention to investigative reporting

Therefore, the practice of investigative reporting didn't get enough attention in the broadcast media organization in Tigray for the reason that media owners have significantly impacted the practice of investigative reporting in broadcast media in Tigray.

4.4.7) Freedom to report versus government interference

The table presented below shows the correlation coefficient for the correlation between broadcast media in Tigray are not free to report investigative issues and the investigative programs are not free from government interference is 0.373. This indicates that there is a positive correlation between

Correlations

| | | Broadcast media in Tigray are not free to report investigative issues | The investigative programs are not free from government interference. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Broadcast media in Tigray are not free to report investigative issues | Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N | 1 193 | .372** .000 193 |
| The investigative programs are not free from government interference. | Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N | .372** .000 193 | 1 193 |

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

the variables.

Table 50) Correlation between media freedom and government interference

As a result, broadcast media in Tigray are not free to report investigative issues for the reason the investigative programs are not free from government interference. Therefore, the government interference in investigative reporting initiatives challenged the practice of investigative reporting in Tigray.

4.4.8) Researching investigative report in ensuring accountability and transparency

The table presented below explains the correlation between researched investigation agenda selection and its role in ensuring accountability and transparency in Tigray. The correlation coefficient for the correlation between the procedure of investigative issue selection is not based on preliminary research and investigative journalism is less likely to contribute in ensuring accountability and transparency in Tigray is 0.377.

Correlations

| | | The procedure of investigative issue selection is not based on preliminary research. | Investigative journalism is less likely to contribute in ensuring accountability and transparency in Tigray |
|---|---|--|---|
| The procedure of investigative issue selection is not based on preliminary research. | Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N | 1 193 | .377** 193 |
| Investigative journalism is less likely to contribute in ensuring accountability and transparency in Tigray | Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N | .377** .000 193 | 1 193 |

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Table 51) Correlation between semi investigative reporting and accountability and transparency

This indicates that there is positive correlation between both variables. Thus, investigative journalism is less likely to contribute in ensuring accountability and transparency in Tigray because the procedure of investigative issue selection is not based on preliminary research.

4.4.9) Media attention in relation to accountability and transparency

The table shown below indicates the correlation between media attention to investigative issues and its role towards accountability and transparency. The correlation coefficient of the variables; investigative reporting did not get enough attention in your media organization and investigative journalism is less likely to contribute in ensuring accountability and transparency in Tigray is 0.326.

Correlations

| | | Investigative reporting did not get enough attention in broadcast media in Tigray | Investigative journalism is less likely to contribute in ensuring accountability and transparency in Tigray |
|---|---------------------|---|---|
| | Pearson Correlation | 1 | .326** |
| Investigative reporting didn't get enough attention in broadcast media in Tigray | Sig. (2-tailed) | | .000 |
| | N | 193 | 193 |
| Investigative journalism is less likely to contribute in ensuring accountability and transparency in Tigray | Pearson Correlation | .326** | 1 |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | .000 | |
| | N | 193 | 193 |

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Table 52) Correlation between media attention in relation to accountability and transparency

This implies that there is positive correlation between the two variables. Therefore, investigative journalism is less likely to contribute in ensuring accountability and transparency because investigative reporting did not get enough attention in media organization in Tigray.

4.5) Quantitative content analysis of semi investigative programs

This research used quantitative content analysis as part of a research methodology. The researcher purposely selected 53 programs based on the recommendations from the media firms as semi-investigative programs.

4.5.1) Semi-investigative programs

The data shown below indicates the number of programs taken for content analysis from each broadcast media organizations in Tigray. Thus, 32 (60.4%) programs are from national radio, FM radio and Television DWET, 12 (22.6%) from TMMA, 8 (15.1%) programs from FBC and 1 (1.9%) from FM 104.4.

List of program from each broadcast media organizations in Tigray

| | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|--|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Abey Betsihe (TMMA) | 1 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 1.9 |
| Abziama (TMMA) | 2 | 3.8 | 3.8 | 5.7 |
| Andi Netsa Rieto (DWET National Radio) | 12 | 22.6 | 22.6 | 28.3 |
| Bokra Triet (DWET TV)) | 1 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 30.2 |
| Dahsas Zedlyo Das 1 (DWET TV)) | 1 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 32.1 |
| Dahsas Zedlyo Das1 (DWET Tv) | 1 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 34.0 |
| Demer (DWET TV) | 1 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 35.8 |
| Ghumi Do Sugmi (DWET TV) | 2 | 3.8 | 3.8 | 39.6 |
| Guramra (TMMA) | 2 | 3.8 | 3.8 | 43.4 |
| Kalin Tegbarn (TMMA) | 3 | 5.7 | 5.7 | 49.1 |
| Kireta (FBC) | 8 | 15.1 | 15.1 | 64.2 |
| Mekan Meriet (TMMA) | 1 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 66.0 |
| Mekuleb (FM DWET102.2) | 12 | 22.6 | 22.6 | 88.7 |
| Melsi Nhtotatkum (FM 104.4) | 1 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 90.6 |
| Meseretawi Meseretawyan (TMMA) | 1 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 92.5 |
| Wushatena (TMMA) | 1 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 94.3 |
| Zeytehabeie Hibuie 1 (DWET TV) | 1 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 96.2 |
| Zeytehabie Hibue 2 (DWET TV)) | 1 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 98.1 |
| Zeytekelie Gud (TMMA) | 1 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 100.0 |
| Total | 53 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

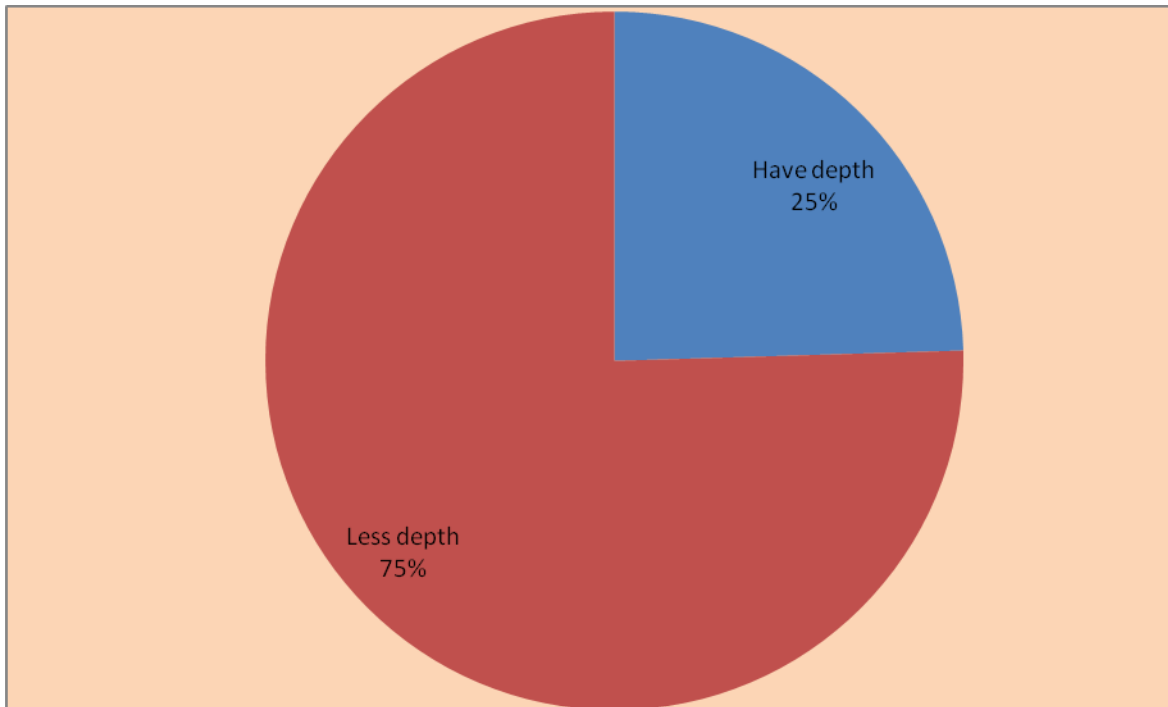
Table 53) List of semi investigative programs

This indicates that majority of the sample programs are from DWET. This is because the media organization has National Radio DWET and 102.2 FM Radio and DWET Television stations.

4.2.2) Depth of the programs

Investigative reporting demands rigorous research so as to come-up with depth of justifiable and logical evidences that reflects the issues under investigation. The pie-graph shown below indicates the depth of the semi-investigative programs produced in the broadcast media in Tigray. In examining the depth of the selected semi-investigative programs, 40 (75.5%) of the programs lacked

depth in their analysis while the remaining 13 (24.5%) programs are observed to have depth of justifications.



Pie-graph 54) Depth of semi investigative programs

Accordingly, most of the semi-investigative programs are in a less depth lacking justifications and logicity. Thus, most of the semi-investigative programs in Tigray lack depth in their body of report.

4.5.3) Sources of semi-investigative programs

The chart shown below indicates the sources used in the sample programs. Hence, 40 (75.5%) of the semi-investigative programs used complaints and government officials as a source, 8 (15.1%) used complaints and experts while the remaining programs used a mix of all sources.

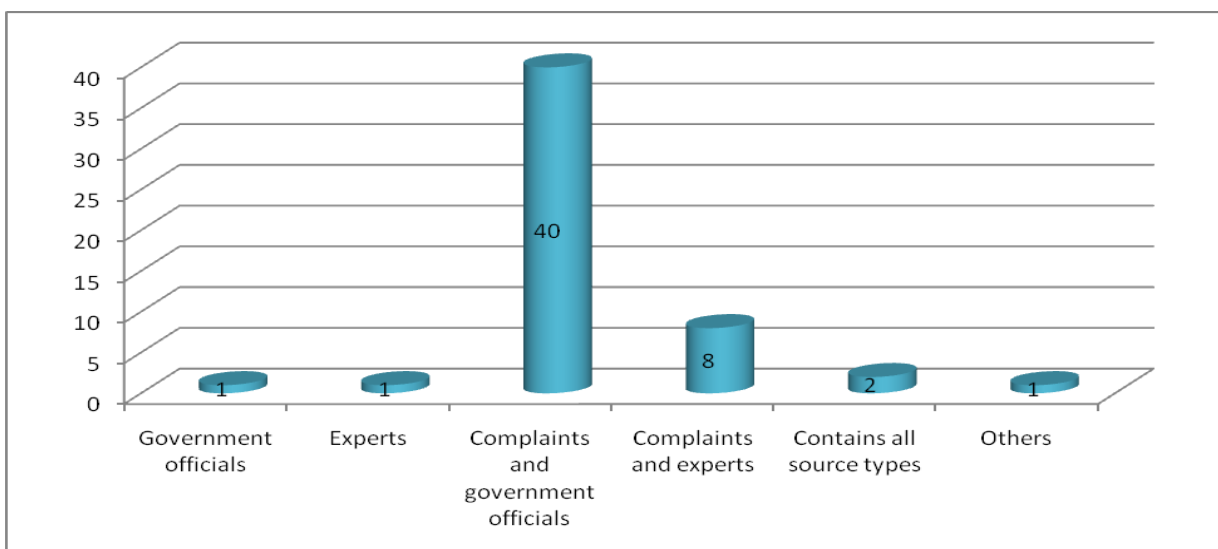
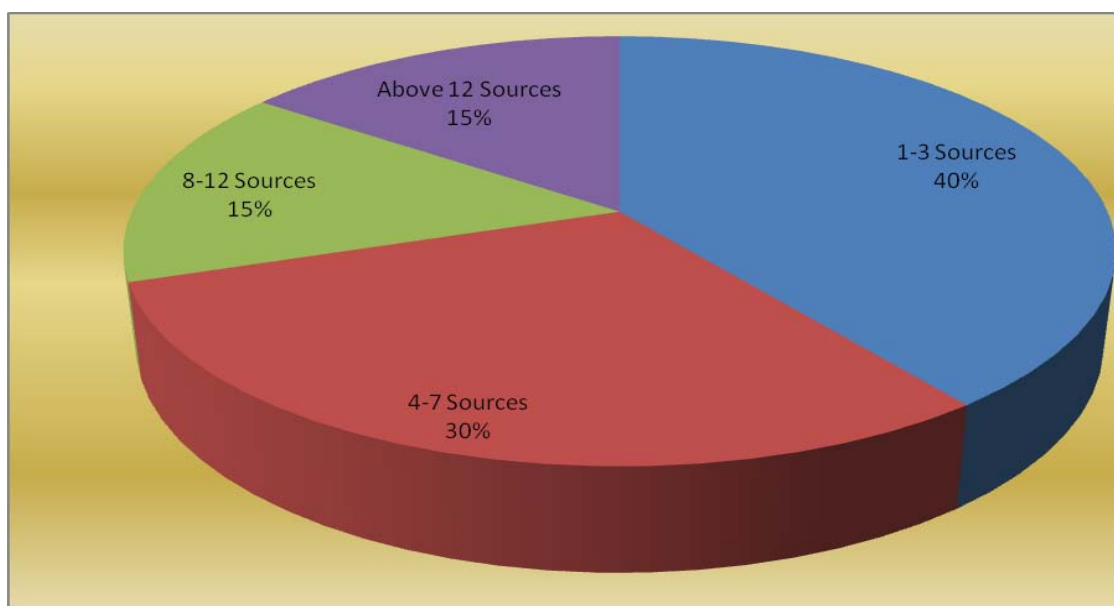


Chart 56) Sources of programs

This indicates that most of 40 (75.5%) programs used complaints and government officials as a main sources of information. Therefore, public complaints and responses from government officials are the dominant sources of the semi-investigative programs in broadcast media in Tigray.

4.5.4) Number of sources of semi-investigative programs

The pie-graph shown below indicates the number of sources used in the programs. Accordingly, 21 (40%) programs used 1-3 sources, 16 (30%) programs used 4-7 sources, 8 (15%) other programs used 8-12 and the remaining 8 (15%) programs used more than 12 sources of information.



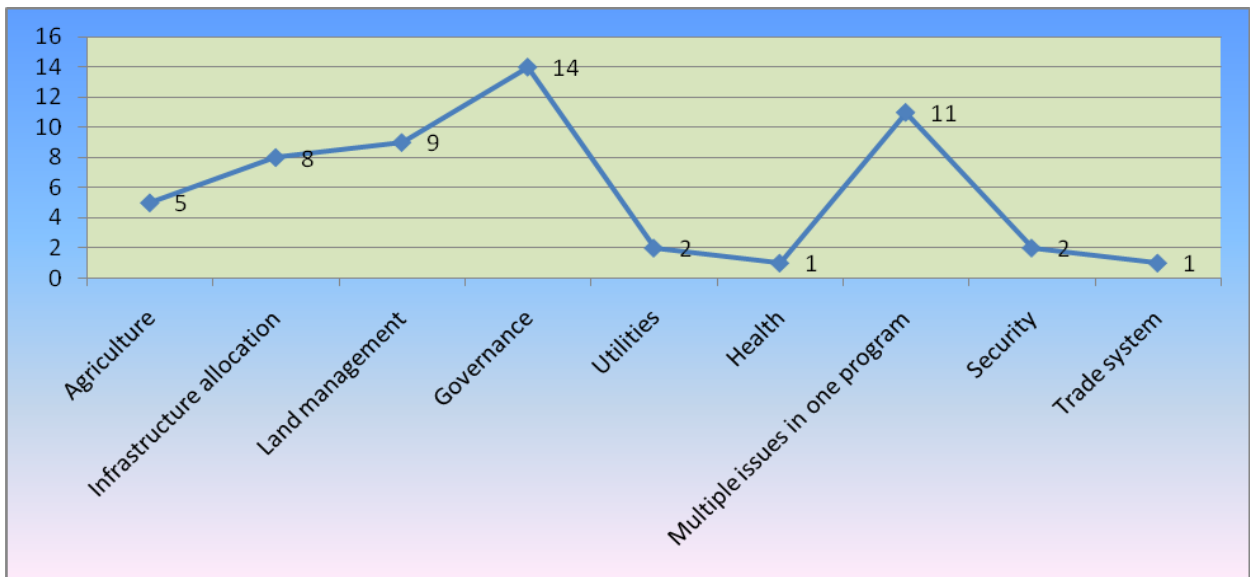
Pie-graph 57) Number of sources

This indicates that most of the programs used 1-3 sources of information. Hence, the media are less likely researching to identify diverse sources of information for issues under investigation. Thus, most of the programs are using limited (1-3) number of sources of information, though investigative reporting demands examining the correctness of the claims and responses from diverse sources of information in-charge of the issue.

4.5.5) Areas of semi-investigative programs

The graph shown below indicates areas of investigation of the semi-investigative programs. Accordingly, 14 (26.4%) are issues of related to governance, 9 (17%) concentrates on land management, 11 (20%) are multiple issues in a program, 8 (15%) are infrastructure allocation issues, 5 (9.45) focuses on agriculture, 2 (3.8%) on utilities (telecommunication, electricity, water etc.),

2(3.8%) security issues, 1 (1.9%) health and the remaining 1(1.9%) program focuses on trade system.

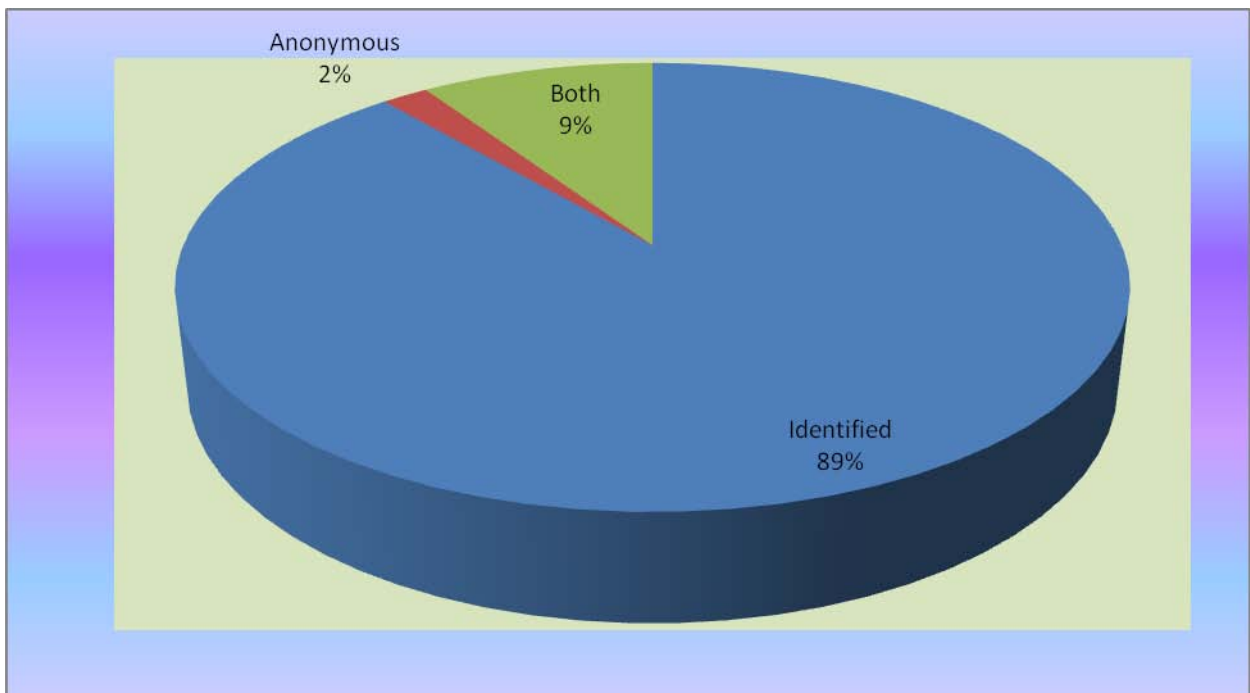


Graph 58) Areas of semi investigative programs

This implies that majority of the issues focus on governance, land management, infrastructure allocation and agriculture.

4.5.6) Identification of sources

The pie-graph presented below indicates the type of sources used in the produced programs. Accordingly, 47 (88.7%) sources identified themselves in the programs, 5 (9.4%) programs used both identified and anonymous sources while 1 (1.9%) used one anonymous program.

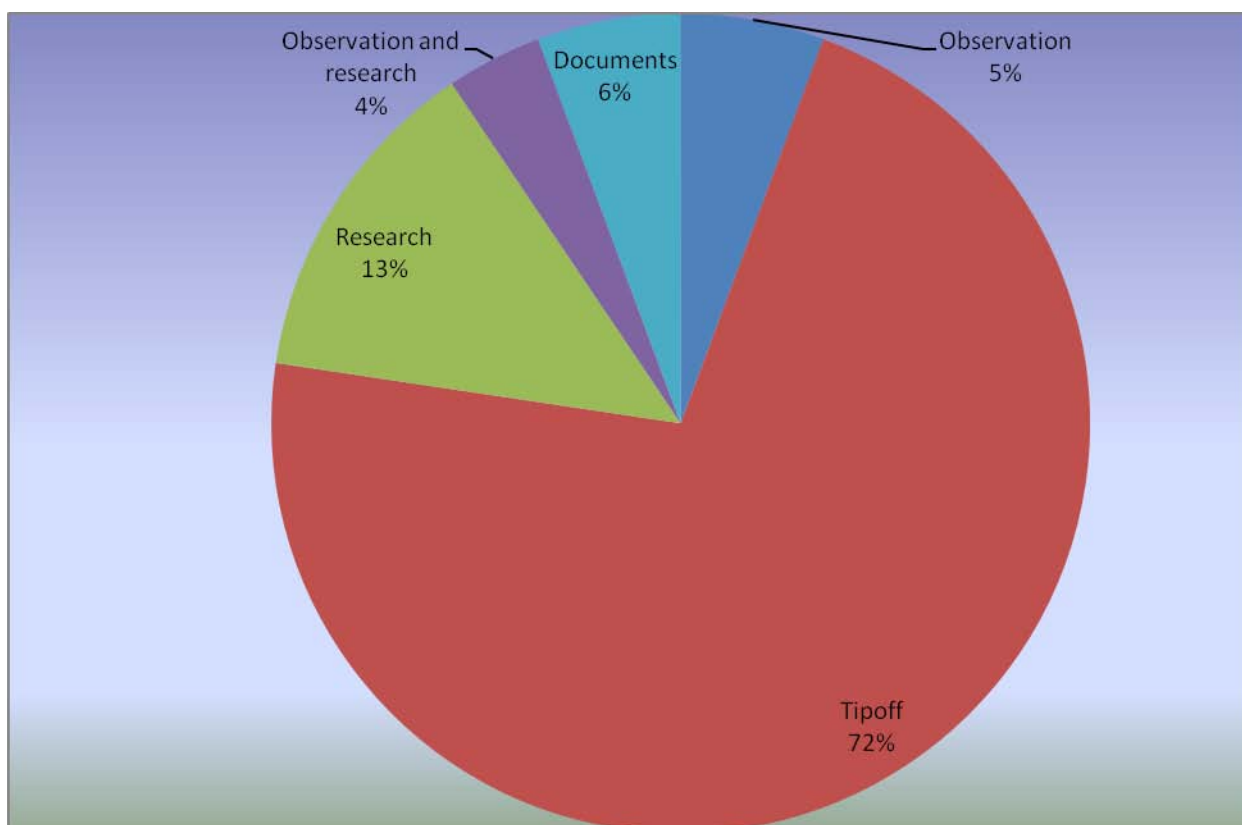


Pie-graph 59) Identification of sources

Thus, most of the programs used identified sources of information. This implicates that the society is open to provide information for investigation.

4.5.7) Ways of information gathering

The data shown below indicates that the story sources used in the semi-investigative reporting in broadcast media in Tigray. Accordingly, 38 (71.7%) information sources are tipoff, 7 (13.2%) information gathered through research, 3 (5.7%) sources from documents, other 3 (5.7%) from observation and the remaining 2 (3.8%) through observation and research.

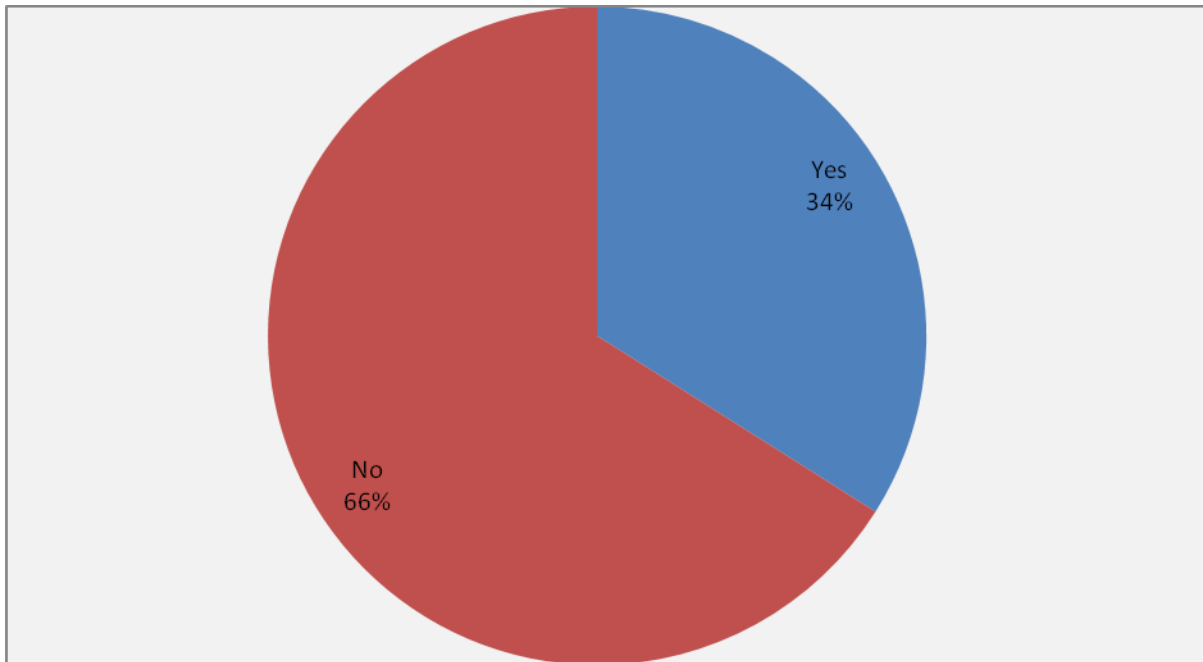


Pie-graph 60) Ways of information gathering

This indicates most of the information sources of the programs are from tipoff. This implicates that the media institutions depends on tipoff at the expense of research based public interest reporting. Therefore, the broadcast media in Tigray are highly dependent on tipoff while selection of investigative reporting agenda is expected to integrate the tipoff with thoroughly research, observation of the media practioners. Thus, the media are expected to come-up with grounded investigative programs based on exploration of actualities.

4.5.8) Follow-up stories

The data shown below indicates that 35 (66%) of the programs are not supported with follow-up stories while 18 (34%) other programs included follow up stories for previously produced programs.



Pie-graph 61) Production of follow-up stories

Accordingly, most of the programs are not supported with follow-up stories. Therefore, the broadcast media in Tigray are not in a position and attention to produce follow-up stories for the promises of priory produced programs. Thus, such a setback of the media is a lapse in ensuring the culture of accountability and transparency in Tigray.

4.6) Case studies

4.6.1) Naming and Shaming

A Journalist in 104.4 Radio Fm Mekelle was informed about one unfamiliar occasion. Mr. Weldu Deres, the complainant, explained to the station that his land was intentionally grabbed. The way the snatch was conspired is even bitter.

Following the 1997 E.C. unrest in the capital, Addis Ababa, Mr. Weldu's home was destroyed. Then after, he requested a support to the government of Tigray Regional State. His request owed a positive request and he was teamed with people with a similar case. A while after they got the land argumentations rose among group members. A mid of such a situation Mr. Weldu went back to Addis Ababa until the group agrees after he received certificate of ownership from Mekelle Municipality.

Then after the team disseminated misinformation as Mr. Weldu was dead. They sold his ownership too when he was in Addis Ababa. The journalist who was following Mr. Weldu's complaint got a confirmation that the land was registered in the name of the compliant. The media station continued cross-checking documents.

Some officials in the municipality tried their best to hide documents, but the station strived getting information through various ways and triangulating each other. While the station requests the office of Ethics and Anticorruption to comment on it they responded that it is not their job, rather they suggested contacting police.

The journalist adds "the officials who had affiliation with the buyer began defaming me as someone who is working for a deviant political interest." Though the decision was lastly in favor of the complaint, 104.4 Radio FM Mekelle produced 21 follow-up programs for the reason that its implementation was intentionally too late.

Through all these paces the journalist in-charge of gathering information for this case was many times going to the offices here and there on foot. The producer of the program says "I was exposed to harassments; they were trying tactics like naming and shaming me so as to keep silence on the issue." But finally, officials refuted the buyer's claim because the original ownership certificate was in the name of Mr. Weldu.

4.6.2) Governance Smear

Farmers from Aynalem locality, Wukro Kiltewulaelo, were conserving the natural resource based on the locality leaders promise that will be offered foodstuffs in return. The farmers mobilized their human and material resource in order to get their job done effectively. They quarried and collected stones and other resources to finalize their tasks. Then after, the farmers requested Dimtsi Weyane Tigray to investigate why they did not get their dividend of foodstuffs.

The time Dimtsi Weyane Tigray began investigating the issue the leadership Aynalem Locality besmirched the journalist whom investigating the case. Instead of responding to the complaints they campaigned to harass and attack the journalists through words like enemy, anti-development and so on. The intention was to make the journalist uncomfortable with case and refrain from the case. Therefore, their purpose was to destruct the information gathering environment so as to cover-up their defects through such dishonors. The journalist kept investigating through gathering information from diverse sources.

The report showed that the support that was expected to be delivered to the public was hijacked by the locality leaders. Besides, the higher government offices especially the Wereda's effort to ensure transparency and accountability was minimal. The producer says "the political economic is not in a position that accountability and transparency are onboard." The journalist adds "I never follow and crosscheck where it reaches, this kills your motivation to practice the concept of investigative journalism."

4.6.3) That Hour

Melsi Nihitotatkum (literally responding your questions) is one of the long lived programs in 104.4 Radio FM Mekelle. The producer received a complaint from owners of vehicles as many taxi were jammed transport service. The journalist went to examine the issue and understood that a fuel seller was mixing water in to the fuel. Then based on the data he had the journalist produced and disseminated the program. What happened the next day? The producer was arrested for an hour because of the program. But after times some workers were jailed for their illegal act after the program was aired.

In a similar note people were nicking spare parts of a car as a team. The producer got such a rumour and went to it. The producer says they asked me to negotiate among each other. The producer adds they want me to receive money and stop the program." The journalist says "I felt offended and rejected their request". Contrastingly, after gathering relevant information the producer began announcing that the program will be broadcasting at 6:30 local time.

The journalist says "I don't know who is but somebody called to the media management and stopped the program from dissemination after the promo/teaser/ was transmitted. The producer says "I cried a lot like a baby; it was the result my six weeks continuous investigation." The journalist questions "I don't understand why the program was cut".

4.6.4) Hospital and its Dilemma

A journalist from Dimtsi Weyane Tigray explored the service delivery of Adwa Hospital. The journalist planned to get representative from all the concerned bodies. Accordingly, users, staff members and management members of the hospital are interviewed in order to get the full image of the hospital and its defects in the service delivery.

The journalist produced the program and teaser/montage/announcement/ was disseminated indicating the program will be broadcasted on Friday 3:00 pm local time. As indicated in the announcement 6 infant children were dead in a day in Adwa Hospital and total of 22 children in six months.

Unfortunately, the announcement was deleted from YouTube shortly. The dissemination of the announcement of broadcasting time set for Friday 3:00 pm local time indicates that the program was passed through the editorial system. But lately, the management was heard claiming the program lacks 'balance'. The question is how it can be feasible to claim lack of balance for a program that was produced in consultation with editors. Besides, the management didn't respond after the production team incorporates the points in the 'balance' concern they have had. But the program is not disseminated until this research document is compiled. This indicates that the program is intentionally censored by the management and/or beyond.

This implicates that the media management is concerned working to guard the interest of the government officials at the expense of the public interest. Posting and sharing the 1 minute 54 second announcement/montage on Facebook, journalists, civil societies, political parties and activists are calling the media to disseminate the public voice since last month. This is one of the investigations that strict censorship and partisanship of the media management is outstandingly observed.

4.7) Discussion

Many researches explained that among many factors the type of media ownership in Ethiopia affected the practicability of investigative reporting (Ashenafi, 2017; Bereket, 2012; Chala, 2019). The present study focused on the practice of investigative reporting on broadcast media in Tigray. As is observed all over Ethiopia, Tigray is also challenged by limitations in governance and infrastructure allocation, injustice, corruption and other related problems which resulted in public dissatisfaction in the government that demands investigative reporting as one way that contributes ensuring accountability and transparency.

“The role of investigative journalism can be understood along the lines of the "Fourth Estate" model under which the press makes the government accountable by publishing information about issues that are of public interest”(Waisbord, 2002, p.377).

For this reason, the media is expected to debut to reveal the challenges the public is facing through investigative reporting endeavors. Accordingly, the study stood to assess the practice of investigative journalism in Tigray. It examined six objectives namely legal protection for investigative reporting, assessing the current status on the practice of investigative reporting, professional investigative reporting standards, institutionalization and capacity building of investigative journalism and challenges in the practice of investigative reporting in Tigray.

The finding on the legal protection for investigative reporting shows, though, the Constitution of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the respective Information Access and Free Press Proclamation 590/2000 prohibited censorship and allowed access to information of the public.

But, most of journalists are not feeling guaranteed in their public interest reporting. A member of media management in Tigray Mass Media Agency in an interview says *“there is no well-built legal guarantee in Tigray and even in Ethiopia. This pilots the journalist to fear.”*

As article 29 (6) of the constitution states “legal limitation can be laid down in order to protect the well-being of youth, and the honor and reputation of individuals”. This decree challenges the practice of investigative reporting for the reason that investigative reporting activities in many cases may rupture the right to privacy and may challenge the reputation of officials for the interest of the public.

Commenting on parallel circumstance, majority of the study respondents underlined that there is no protection of journalists in their investigative reporting activities. Likewise, a reporter from 104.4 FM Mekelle explained that some journalists are even arrested for hours for their request to access information in government organizations. He also mentioned that insults, humiliations, physical attacks and harassment because of their critical reports instead of providing information are commonly observed.

But as explained by Wiesand (2016, p.206);

“In principle, the diverse forms of investigative journalists and the related protection of journalistic sources fall under the provisions of Article 19 UDHR (Universal Declaration of Human Rights) and Article 10 ECHR(European convention on Human Rights)(Freedom of expression and Information).

A senior producer from 104.4 FM Mekelle says “I was arrested for an hour for my request to access information about a government organization”. The finding also indicates, majority of the respondents believes anonymous sources of investigative issues are not legally protected.

Bringing this argument further, most of the interviewees confirm that there is no legal document that clearly explains the protection of anonymous sources. This can lead sources not to provide needed information for the media. And this is a serious challenge for journalists in getting sources for their investigative reports.

The Constitution of F.D.R.E. didn't left any space for investigative journalism to limit the privacy and individual's reputation rights if for sure it is at the interest of the public. Therefore, the field is confronted by the invulnerable privacy and individual's reputation rights. Moreover, Information Access and Media Freedom Proclamation 590/2000 is challenged to avert the denial and procrastination of information access. Therefore, journalists and their anonymous sources are not

legally protected in their investigative reporting engagements. In addition, the result shown in the correlation indicates that lack of legal protection for investigative journalists is correlated with media's lacking freedom to report investigative issues (correlation coefficient=0.463). The correlation denotes that broadcast media in Tigray are not free to report investigative issues because journalists are not legally guaranteed to cover investigative issues.

Secondly, the findings on the status of investigative reporting practice on broadcast media organizations in Tigray reveals that the current political economy of Tigray demands a sustained practice of investigative reporting to conquer the public interest and contribute towards transparency and accountability in governance. Almost all the interviewees confirmed that the practice of investigative reporting has to be at the crown of media practice since there are many public interest issues in Tigray which are desirable to be revealed. However, the broadcast media organizations in Tigray do not give adequate attention to investigative reporting.

Hansen (2018, p.5) states that the Fourth Estate can go around the watchdog function by forcing authorities to get them critically based on the revealed investigations. Contrastingly, this research reveals that lack of media attention for the practice of investigative reporting is correlated with the limitations in the contribution of media towards transparency and accountability in governance (correlation coefficient= 0.326).

Members of management in Dimtsi Weyane Tigray, Tigray Mass Media Agency, 104.4 FM Mekelle and 94.8 FBC FM Mekelle mentioned lack of budget, limitations in professional capacity and human resource and the political economic context are the disabling conditions for investigative reporting.

In contrast to the above idea, a senior producer in Tigray Mass Media Agency in the interview explains:

“The media are instruments of the executives and the leading political party, as a consequence, the main challenge for being the media tentative for investigative issues is not only the budget and capacity gaps but most importantly because of the media partisanship.”

A reporter from Dimtsi Weyane Tigray also says “in a context that the public is highly demanding accountability and transparency in the governance, prioritizing Educational, Entertainment, Sport, News, Documentary desks over investigative is a negligence to public interest issues.”

On top of this, the broadcast media organizations in Tigray don't have a specific investigative reporting department let alone attention towards establishing well organized crew of researchers, journalists and editors that investigative journalism is expected to be capacitated.

Moreover, most of the interviewees from Dimtsi Weyane Tigray and Tigray Mass Media Agency coined their practice as "semi-investigative reporting". Based on their definition as stated by an editor in Dimtsi Weyane Tigray:

"Semi-investigative reporting is a reporting that focuses on public complaints and ill-governance of local administrators with less depth as well as research and of course with limitations in follow ups".

Although the term semi investigative reporting is new to the scholarly debate Slovenian journalists used the term to represent their less depth critical programs in 1980's. Kovacic (2009) as cited in Kovacic & Erjavec (2011, p. 329) describes that the quality daily press in Slovenia has been engaged in the so called semi investigative reporting. And the scholars argue "it typically involves journalists creating an image of investigative reporting rather than actually performing it (Ibid).

In a similar note, the findings in the content analysis in the research on the broadcast media in Tigray indicated that most of the semi-investigative programs are in a less depth; lacking justifications and logicity. Thus, most of the semi-investigative programs in Tigray lack depth in their body of report. Since investigative journalism plays an objective of watchdog role over any misuses of power, broadcast media organizations in Tigray are dogged on the practice of semi investigative journalism as similar as Slovenian press journalists were striving to preserve the impression of semi investigative.

Given that, the main reason for Slovenian daily press to create an image for investigative journalism with own interpretation of "semi investigative" was as stated by Kovacic & Erjavec (2011, p. 330) that the communist political party was controlling and ruling the media and society while blocking investigative reporting practices. While, broadcast media organizations of Tigray are in less attention to investigative issues justifying lack of budget, limitations in professional capacity and human resource while the journalists revealed that media partnership is the paramount challenge that the media are facing in their investigative reporting start ups.

The journalists whom call themselves as 'semi-investigative' producers in Tigray Mass Media Agency and Dimtsi Weyane Tigray stated that they are highly challenged by lack of information and harassment from externalities while discouragement through censoring and even ignoring their programs from dissemination by their editors and media managers took the lead intrusion in their daily practice.

As stated by Nazakit & the KAS Media Program (2010 p.79)

“Asking a powerful person or entity for comment on a grave issue can lead to legal, as well as physical, threats. Legal threats may be designed to make your editor drop the story-and he or she may do so. But if your facts are sound, try convincing your editor that these individuals often do not launch the defamation suits they threaten”

But majority of respondents on the study explained the context of the broadcast media organizations in Tigray that first and for most they are not legally and practically free to report investigative issues. As the result indicated on the news and program formats, majority of the respondents stated that investigative issues are not among the usually reported news and program formats on broadcast media in Tigray. In addition, interviewees explained that investigative reporting is a rare in use news and program reporting format.

Based on what is done so far, majority of the questionnaire survey respondents believed that infrastructure misallocation, maladministration, political scandals and financial fraud are the major agendas of the semi-investigative reports. Whereas most of the respondents also added that most of the semi-investigative reports cover both rural and urban issues.

Similarly, a research by Ashenafi (2017 p.18-20) revealed on his study that areas of investigative journalism in Ethiopia can be good governance to check and understand the act of government activities in an assured social context, corruption so as to reveal inappropriate and illegal actions of public service officials, politics to verify politicians whether they are dominant and acting over the track given by the public's and finally land as it is a great concern by the public and controversy on land for investment and farming is obviously observed among the government and people. Based on the finding in the content analysis major topics of the semi investigative programs in broadcast media in Tigray are governance, land management, infrastructure allocation and agriculture.

Furthermore, most of the respondents of the survey disclosed that the main sources of investigative reporting are public grievances followed by government offices, documents and influential people correspondingly. In a similar note, the finding in the content analysis disclosed that public complaints and responses from government officials are the dominant sources of the semi-investigative programs in broadcast media in Tigray.

More to the point, in the content analysis, most of the semi investigative programs used identified sources of information. This implicate that the society is open to provide information for investigative reporting initiatives. But, the finding in the content analysis divulges that most of the programs used limited (1-3) number of sources of information, though investigative reporting needs

examining the correctness of the claims and responses from diverse sources of information in charge of the issue. This indicates that though the public is open to provide information most of the semi-investigative programs used three and below sources of information.

Therefore, though investigative reporting is one of the public interest issues in Tigray it is not institutionalized in a way that contributes towards accountability and transparency in governance as well as in the development process in-general. The media institutions justified lack of budget and resources, limitations in human resource and defects in professional capacities of the journalists as reasons for compromising to investigative reporting while most of the journalists described media partisanship as a main challenge. The media organizations and journalists coined their practice of critical reporting as semi-investigative reporting to mean investigative issue with less depth, not fully researched agenda setting and limitations in follow-up reports. The producers of semi-investigative programs are highly challenged by lack of information and harassment from externalities while discouragement through censoring and even ignoring their programs from dissemination by their editors and media managers took the lead intrusion in their daily practice.

Thirdly, the findings on professional investigative reporting standards show that, although, investigative reporting demands extra professional quality, the broadcast media in Tigray have no guideline that directs the handling of investigative reporting. Along with, majority of the respondents believed the procedure of investigative issue selection is not based on preliminary research.

All the interviewees also confirmed that the semi-investigative reports in the broadcast media in Tigray are based on the public complaints. They stated that the media are not in a position of digging out the real governance challenges through research. Besides, in the content analysis, the broadcast media in Tigray are highly dependent on tipoff while selection of investigative reporting agenda is expected to integrate the tipoff with thoroughly research and grounded observation of the media practitioners.

On the other hand, most of the producers of the semi-investigative reports stated that they are in the rush to cover several issues at a time while less concern to follow-ups the previously produced programs. They justified that it is because of the limitation in human resource and absence of structured system of follow-up reporting. Besides, in the content analysis, broadcast media in Tigray are not in a position and attention to produce follow-up stories for the promises of priory produced programs. Thus, such a setback of the media is a lapse in ensuring the culture of accountability and transparency in Tigray.

According to the result, most of the respondents believe that the content of investigative programs on broadcast media in Tigray do not meet the basic standards of investigative journalism. Moreover, most of the media managers and journalists in the interview stated that the broadcast media in Tigray

are institutionally by far behind the standards of investigative reporting. They explained that the media don't have the tradition of identifying investigative agenda through research and there is no a regular system of follow-up reporting.

Therefore, the practice of critical reporting in broadcast media in Tigray is not as per the standards of investigative journalism. The broadcast media in Tigray have no guideline that directs the handling of investigative reporting. Besides, the investigative issues selected as agenda of the programs are not well researched. For the reason that the investigative issues are not selected based on research, the semi investigative programs are in a position that have less contribution in ensuring accountability and transparency in Tigray (correlation coefficient=0.377). The media firms do not have a system and tradition of follow-up reporting. As a result, the limitations in producing follow-up stories is correlated with the ineffectiveness of media infrastructure (correlation coefficient=0.417).

Fourthly, the findings on the institutionalization of investigative journalism show that the desert in media preparedness for investigative journalists' initiatives is not welcoming for investigative reporting. Furthermore, all the interviewees confirmed that there is no strategized investigative reporting approach in their media. As a result, the broadcast media in Tigray are not well-prepared to support investigative journalists' initiatives.

Most of the respondents also stated that there is no institutionalized investigative reporting department on the broadcast media organizations in Tigray. Based on the findings in the interview, Dimtsi Weyane Tigray, 104.4 FM Mekelle and 94.8 FM FBC Mekelle do not have investigative journalism department.

A member of Tigray Mass Media Agency management explained that his medium has an investigative reporting sub desk under the Directorate of Governance, Political Affairs and Investigative Programs. Contrastingly, a senior producer in Tigray Mass Media Agency says "though it is organized as sub team, it is not supported by regular researched agenda setting and follow-up reports are rare." Therefore, almost all the broadcast media in Tigray did not institutionalize investigative journalism.

While, majority of respondents reflected that there is no enough media infrastructure in Tigray. Besides, most of the interviewees stated that lack of financial and material resource, limitation of human resource is also challenging the practice of semi-investigative reporting. Therefore, the limitation in media infrastructure is one of the setbacks for the practice of investigative journalism in the broadcast media. Whereas most of the respondents' believed that practice of investigative journalism in Tigray is at infant stage and it is shallow to conclude on its contribution in ensuring accountability and transparency.

As confirmed by all interviewees participated on the study, the broadcast media in Tigray are not in the sphere of investigative reporting. They concluded that it is hard to measure its contribution in ensuring accountability and transparency because investigative reporting is an assignment yet to be done in the broadcast media in Tigray.

Further, majority of respondents' believes journalists working on broadcast media in Tigray are not professionally capable to handle investigative issues. Besides, the questionnaire survey confirmed that most (62%) of the journalists and media managers are graduates of fields other than journalism.

In addition, majority of the respondents' confirms to the above idea that there is no continuous capacity building and enhancement trainings regarding investigative reporting in the broadcast media in Tigray. Most of the interviewees also state that they didn't get an opportunity of getting training in investigative reporting.

Therefore, almost all the broadcast media in Tigray did not institutionalize investigative journalism. Moreover, there is no strategized investigative reporting approach in the media firms. The result revealed that limitations in financial and material resource, limitation of human resource and media infrastructure in-general are the setbacks for the practice of investigative journalism in the media. Moreover, most of the journalists working on broadcast media in Tigray are not professionally capable to handle investigative issues. For one thing most of them are graduated in a field other than journalism and there is no institutionalized investigative reporting training in for the other. Hence, the media system in Tigray has not been opened up for serious debates of diverse views and critical reports, since the practitioners need training and experience so as to research, handle and follow-up investigative issues. Thus, lack of professional capacity building is correlated with the incongruence of standards of investigative journalism (correlation coefficient=.374).

Thus, the haphazard semi investigative engagements here and there are less likely to have sound contribution in ensuring accountability and transparency because investigative reporting is an assignment yet to be done in the broadcast media in Tigray.

Finally, the findings on the challenges of the practice of investigative reporting in Tigray show that there is no conducive media environment for investigative reporting. A senior producer from Tigray Mass Media Agency says "the political economy is restrictive for critical reporting; partially it is because the media is under a restraining outlook of the ruling party political elites and the media by itself is submissive for such intrusions." A producer from Dimtisi Weyane Tigray also states "some programs are ignored from dissemination through a single phone call of the political elites."

This implicates the discouraging media environment and highly government affiliated and partisan media system challenged the practice of investigative journalism in Tigray. Majority of respondents

also say that the interest of media owners has significantly impacted the practice of investigative reporting on broadcast media in Tigray.

A producer from 94.8 FBC FM Mekelle explained that media ownership as a dominant factor in determining the focus and even the content of media. He adds “the top media managers of headquarter of Fana Broadcasting Corporate are in a continuous interference and influence against our critical reports on the government.” A member of media management in 94.8 FBC FM Mekelle also says “we were sharing programs with FBC headquarter, but they began purposely ignoring critical reports on the government and news about the sustained peace, security and regional integration of Tigray are void by the editors.”

A senior producer from Tigray Mass Media Agency says “the firing of the prior Chief Executive Officer of Tigray Mass Media Agency, Mr. Birhanu Abadi, is a clear example of the influence of media ownership at the cost of the public interest.”

He states “any party doesn’t have the right to hire and fire a media manager to a public media; it is the role of the Parliament of Tigray.” Moreover, a producer in Dimtsi Weyane Tigray described that the broadcast media in Tigray are in a highly centralized agenda setting through party affiliated ‘Media Committee’ at the expense of the diverse public interest issues that has to be investigated by the journalist.

Based on the finding, majority of the respondents’ believed that investigative reporters are humiliated by political and economic elites. The interviewees also stated that the broadcast media in Tigray are in a direct and or indirect control of the government. They justified that for one thing they are politically under continuous monitoring of party officials and economically their revenue generation is highly dependent on government sponsorships and advertisements.

A producer from 104.4 FM Mekelle says “in a condition that our monthly salaries are dependent on the government sponsorship, our critical reporting attempts are becoming a self suicidal.”

Majority of the respondents believed that public is willing to provide information on wrongdoings. And most of the interviewees stated that the public is willing to provide information about ill-governance, misallocation of government infrastructure, corruption and related wrongdoings. They stated that in many cases the public is the main source of information for the semi-investigative programs. In contrast to the above idea, majority of the respondents’ believed that government institutions are not open for information access. Most of the journalists explained in the interview that the government posts are not organized in a way that information is easily provided to the media. Reporters and producers in the interview stated that although the information access proclamation is there, many officials are observed neglecting their information request. A journalist from Dimtsi

Weyane Tigray says “I have once arrested for hours for my request of information for my semi-investigative program in a wereda. And they were not questioned for their illegality.”

Therefore, though proclamation 590/2000 calls government to provide information to the public in a timely manner, journalists are challenged to access the information in government offices. Meanwhile, majority of the respondents also believed to the view that journalists are challenged by lack of information on private sector investigations. According to most of the interviewees the information about private sector is not structured in a way that the public has to be informed. Therefore, journalists in the broadcast media in Tigray are challenged by lack of information on private sector investigations.

In other case, based on the finding, majority of the respondents’ believed that investigative programs are not free from government interference. Furthermore, a producer from Tigray Mass Media Agency says “our media is coined as a public medium but it is directed by ruling party elites through the dictation of the ‘Media Committee’.”

A reporter from 104.4 Radio FM Mekelle states “because our media is economically dependent on government sponsorship, agendas which are in the interests of the executives are prioritized, and diverse views are neglected.” This implies that the broadcast media in Tigray are highly disputed by the intervention of officials. As a result, investigative programs in the broadcast media in Tigray are subject to government interference.

Besides, majority of respondents’ believe that investigative programs are challenged by economic interests. Further, most of the interviewees confirmed that the media economy in Tigray is dependent on government subsidy and sponsorships. They added that at the interest of the financial sources critical report initiatives of the journalists are not welcomed by the media.

Thus, journalists are challenged by lack of information on in government organizations and private sector investigations. There are occasions that journalists are arrested for hours for their information request. Besides, insults, humiliations, physical attacks and harassment because of their critical reports instead of providing information are observed.

Moreover, the broadcast media in Tigray are at the strong political and economic hold of the government. As a result, lack of freedom to report investigative issues is highly correlated with government interference (correlation coefficient=.372). These interferences are manifested by hiring politically loyal media managers who are in charge of gate keeping the interest of the executives. As a result, semi investigative programs are censored and even ignored some programs from dissemination. Besides, the media committee is criticized for centralizing the agenda setting and monitoring the media at the interest of the ruling party. Consequently, investigative reporters in the broadcast media in Tigray are challenged by political and economic elites.

Chapter Five

Conclusion

The study focused on assessing the practice of investigative reporting on broadcast media in Tigray. The research is carried out to pinpoint five specific objectives. Legal protection for investigative reporting, assessing the current status on the practice of investigative reporting, professional investigative reporting standards, institutionalizing as well as capacity building schemes of investigative journalism and challenges in the practice of investigative reporting in Tigray.

The finding on the legal protection for investigative reporting shows that though, the Constitution of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the respective Information Access and Free Press Proclamation 590/2000 prohibited censorship and allowed access to information of the public. But because of its nature the data collection methods for investigative journalism occasionally violates individual's privacy and reputation at the interest of the public.

But as indicated in the finding the Constitution of F.D.R.E. didn't left any space for investigative journalism to limit the privacy and individual's reputation rights if for sure it is at the interest of the public. Therefore, the field is confronted by the invulnerable privacy and individual's reputation rights. Moreover, Information Access and Media Freedom Proclamation 590/2000 is challenged to avert the denial and procrastination of information access. Journalists and their anonymous sources are not legally protected in their investigative reporting engagements. In addition, the result shown in the correlation indicates that lack of legal protection for investigative journalists is correlated with media's lacking freedom to report investigative issues (correlation coefficient=0.463). The correlation denotes that broadcast media in Tigray are not free to report investigative issues because journalists are not legally guaranteed to cover investigative issues.

Though investigative reporting is one of the public interest issues in Tigray it is not institutionalized in a way that contributes towards accountability and transparency in governance as well as in the development process in-general. The media institutions justified lack of budget and resources, limitations in human resource and defects in professional capacities of the journalists as reasons for compromising to investigative reporting while most of the journalists described media partisanship as a main challenge. The media organizations and journalists coined their practice of critical reporting as semi-investigative reporting to mean investigative issue with less depth, not fully researched agenda setting and limitations in follow-up reports. The producers of semi-investigative programs are highly challenged by lack of information and harassment from externalities while discouragement

through censoring and even ignoring their programs from dissemination by their editors and media managers took the lead intrusion in their daily practice.

Moreover, the practice of critical reporting in broadcast media in Tigray is not as per the standards of investigative journalism. The broadcast media in Tigray have no guideline that directs the handling of investigative reporting. Besides, the investigative issues selected as agenda of the programs are not well researched. For the reason that the investigative issues are not selected based on research, the semi investigative programs are in a position that have less contribution in ensuring accountability and transparency in Tigray (correlation coefficient=0.377). The media firms do not have a system and tradition of follow-up reporting. As a result, the limitations in producing follow-up stories is correlated with the ineffectiveness of media infrastructure (correlation coefficient=0.417).

Furthermore, almost all the broadcast media in Tigray did not institutionalize investigative journalism. Moreover, there is no strategized investigative reporting approach in the media firms. The result revealed that limitations in financial and material resource, limitation of human resource and media infrastructure in-general are the setbacks for the practice of investigative journalism in the media. Thus, the haphazard semi investigative engagements here and there are less likely to have sound contribution in ensuring accountability and transparency because investigative reporting is an assignment yet to be done in the broadcast media in Tigray.

Besides, most of the journalists working on broadcast media in Tigray are not professionally capable to handle investigative issues. For one thing most (62%) of them are graduated in a field other than journalism and there is no institutionalized investigative reporting training in for the other. Hence, the media system in Tigray has not been opened up for serious debates of diverse views and critical reports, since the practitioners need training and experience so as to research, handle and follow-up investigative issues. Thus, lack of professional capacity building is correlated with the incongruence of standards of investigative journalism (correlation coefficient=.374).

Additionally, journalists are challenged by lack of information on in government organizations and private sector investigations. There are occasions that journalists are arrested for hours for their information request. Besides, insults, humiliations, physical attacks and harassment because of their critical reports instead of providing information are observed. Moreover, the broadcast media in Tigray are at the strong political and economic hold of the government. As a result, lack of freedom to report investigative issues is correlated with government interference (correlation coefficient=.372). These interferences are manifested by hiring politically loyal media managers who are in charge of gate keeping the interest of the executives.

As a result, semi investigative programs are censored and even ignored some programs from dissemination. Besides, the media committee is criticized for centralizing the agenda setting and monitoring the media at the interest of the ruling party. Therefore, investigative reporters in the broadcast media in Tigray are challenged by political and economic elites.

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| No. | Questions | Answer: Strongly Agree=1 Agree=2 Disagree=3 Strongly Disagree=4 |
|-----|--|--|
| 1 | Based on the current political economy of Tigray, investigative reporting is a public interest. | |
| 2 | Investigative issues are of the usually reported news and program formats in Tigray | |
| 3 | Broadcast media in Tigray are free to report investigative issues. | |
| 4 | Broadcast media in Tigray select issues for investigative programs based on research. | |
| 5 | There is a conducive environment to produce investigative issues in Tigray. | |
| 6 | Journalists are legally guaranteed for investigative reporting in Tigray. | |
| 7 | Journalists in Tigray are practically protected in their investigative reporting assignments. | |
| 8 | There is a legal guarantee that protects anonymous sources for investigative issues. | |
| 9 | The media environment is welcoming for investigative reporting. | |
| 10 | The media produce follow up stories for previously disseminated investigative programs. | |
| 11 | Journalists in the broadcast media in Tigray are professionally capable to handle investigative issues. | |
| 12 | The media infrastructure is effective for investigative journalism initiatives. | |
| 13 | There are continuous capacity building and enhancement trainings on investigative reporting. | |
| 14 | The investigative programs in your media are incongruent with the standards of investigative journalism. | |
| 15 | The interest of media owners has significantly impacted the practice of | |

9) What has to be done to enhance the knowledge and capacity of journalists practicing investigative journalism?

10) What has to be done to empower investigative journalism as a pillar of development and democracy?

11) What are the challenges the media are facing while producing follow up stories?

12) What do you think the ways forward to qualify the practice of investigative journalism?

13) What is the data collection tool used when producing investigative issues?

14) What improvements are needed to enhance the performance of investigative journalism?

A) Budget

B) Human resource

C) Leadership

D) Capacity enhancement

15) What is expected from the government so as to empower the practice of investigative journalism?

Thank you for your cooperation.

Interview Questions

- 1) How do you understand investigative journalism?
- 2) How many departments are institutionalized in your media organizations?
- 3) Do you have institutionalized investigative reporting department?
- 4) What kind of issues is still produced with investigative reporting?
- 5) Did you accompany the programs by follow up stories on the issue produced?
- 6) Is there any capacity building scheme in your media organization that enhance the knowledge and capacity of journalists in practicing investigative journalism?
- 7) What are the major focuses of the program?
- 8) What are the data collection tools you use when you investigate a given issue? Documents/survey/interview or other else?
- 9) What are the sources of information for investigative issues?
- 10) Do you think you are legally guaranteed for investigative reporting? Why?
- 11) Do you think your anonymous sources are legally guaranteed when they provide investigative reporting?
- 12) What internal and external challenges are you facing when practicing investigative journalism?
- 13) How did you overcome the challenges?
- 14) What has to be done to empower investigative journalism as a pillar of democracy?
- 15) What has to be done to empower investigative journalism as a pillar of democracy?