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**THE PRACTICE AND CHALLENGES OF ETHIOPIAN BROADCASTING
CORPORATION COURT NEWS REPORTING: IN THE CASE OF
ETHIOPIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION NEWS CHANNEL**

By

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The practice and challenges of Ethiopian Broadcasting corporation court news reporting: in the case of Ethiopian Broadcasting corporation news channel

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Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

DECLARATION

To the best of my knowledge, this thesis does not contain any previously published material by another person other than where appropriate credit has been given in the text. I hereby declare that it is my original work and has not been submitted for a degree at any other university.

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September 2022

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that Adanech Alemayehu has carried out her research work entitled: “**The practice and challenges of Ethiopian Broadcasting corporation court news reporting: in the case of Ethiopian Broadcasting corporation news channel**” for the partial fulfillment of Master of Arts in Broadcast Journalism at Addis Ababa University, School of Journalism & Communication This work is original and it is suitable for the submission of the degree of Master of Arts in multimedia Journalism.

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Chair of the Department of Graduate Coordinator

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Acronyms

EBC: Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation

ERTA: Ethiopia Radio and Television Agency

ETV: Ethiopia Television

EBS: Ethiopian Broadcasting Service

ABSTRACT

The goal of this study was to explore the practice and challenges of court news reporting in Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation news channel. The study was informed by theories of social learning, agenda setting and media's social responsibility role. Qualitative and quantitative methodological approach has been applied in order to address the study topics posed. Twenty reporters, producers and editors filled the questions that are designed to answer the research goal. Furthermore, five reporters and editorial bodies from EBC's news channel were interviewed. The findings of the study indicated that EBC provides minimal attention to court news. The specific legal proceedings that are being reported on by the media are ones that are either in the best interest of the media or in the best interest of the government. And also the media is far from its declared standards of story selection, as few types of court stories have dominated the total story coverage. The media has given a frequent attention to the coverage for terrorism and corruption. corruption crime accounted for 55 percent of television coverage. 40 percent of the coverage dealt with terrorism. In contrast, the subjects that were arguably most significant and whose outcomes had the most impact on a broad number of people which are murder, robbery, sexual assaults and other civil rights issues combined took up barely less of all the coverage. The research also revealed that journalists wholly depend on court authorities and documents as sources. There have been a number of challenges in which court reporters have stated that the difficulties they confront in their line of work is internal and external. One of the issues is that the organization does not pay the deserving attention to court news. There is also information gap, which is another area that needs improvement. Finally, recommendations are made based on the research findings. Based on the finding the researcher recommended that, the coverage of court stories on EBC ought to alter its focus away from the coverage of cases involving corruption and terrorism and toward other court tales that risk the safety and tranquility of society. This would take the place of the primary emphasis that is currently placed on providing consistent coverage of instances involving corruption and terrorism.

Key words: court news, court cases, court categories, plaintiffs, hearings and media coverage

CHAPTER I

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The mass media are the prominent form of social communication in our contemporary societies which provide individuals and groups with a steady and continuous flow of information that is rich in depth and breadth of content. When information is disseminated via mass media, it conveys certain connotations and contributes to the formation of a particular picture of the world (Lippmann, 1922). Therefore, it is possible to say that the values, hierarchies, and social norms that are promoted by the media, as well as the meanings that are determined by them, could influence the way in which someone thinks.

This indicates that the mass media functions as a creator of an agenda for the mass audience. The term "agenda setting" refers to this hypothesis, which was developed by M. McCombs and D.L. Shaw, two researchers from the United States (Maxwell E. McCombs, Donald L. Shaw, David H. Weaver, 1997). According to the theory of agenda setting, the media are more than just a conduit for information; rather, they shape both the content of people's thoughts and the way in which they think about it. For, based on the communication theories of agenda setting, mass media information influences one's behavior and ways of thought when delivered in certain specific methods. Besides, considering the potentials of subjects to set an agenda and influence thought processing capacity of an individual there are called unobtrusive and obtrusive classification of issues.

Agenda-setting effects have been supported across numerous topics and media types, although agenda setting does not work in the same manner across individuals. The extent to which people engage in information seeking may vary; and some people are more susceptible to agenda setting effects than others. The concept of need for orientation provides a psychological explanation for these differences and is "the most prominent of the contingent conditions for agenda-setting effects, those factors that enhance or constrain the strength of these effects (McCombs, 2003). Although we conceptualize an agenda existing at a point in time, clearly agendas are the result of a dynamic interplay. As different issues rise and fall in importance over time, agendas provide snapshots of this fluidity (James W. Dearing and Everett M. Rogers, 1996).

On the other hand, one of the most important things that can be done today is probably going to be improving public education. To put it the other way, the media serve to inform the general public. Individuals are only able to witness a limited number of the events that took place in a particular year, month, or day. This is a fact that cannot be avoided. This gap is bridged by the media, which provides coverage of the news. Therefore, the media can instruct the public in a variety of ways. Reporting about legal happenings in the news is one of the methods of educating the general public about justice, court procedures, law reinforcements and premises and/or logical rationale behind a given law. In every instance, the public is should stand aware of their rights and obligations in relation to the rule of law. The media's coverage of the criminal justice system demonstrates, among other things, that justice is done and that those who commit crimes are punished. The responsibility of the news media to report on the legal system is an essential one for a variety of reasons (Jhonston, 1998).

To begin, the branch of government that deals with law and justice is known as the judiciary. As a consequence of this, the watchdog function of the media is partially satisfied by coverage of the judicial system (Smith A.T.H, 1999). Second, there is likely to be a lot of interest from the general public in the decisions that the courts make. In addition to this, coverage has the potential to aid in the prevention of injustices by shedding light on the actions of judges, legal experts, and other individuals working within the judicial system. The impact is significantly greater than anticipated whenever this is applicable in public media. Because in the context of Ethiopia the penetration of television is still slightly higher.

According to a research that was published in 2017 by the Ethiopian Herald, over 7 million households in Ethiopia have at least one television set, and approximately 55 percent of the population has access to watch television in their homes. The contents are denoted by the various visual aspects of the media. Television is a form of artistic expression that can be broken down into so many different levels. It has the power to stir both our hearts and our minds; it may bring us together in joy as well as in sorrow. It has the power to take us to amazing locations, both real and fictional. It is capable of both engaging and mitigating. It has the ability to demarcate territories while establishing long-lasting ties. Rachel Ward's words are used here.

The fascination of the general public with tales from the court is not a recent phenomenon. It has been a source of amusement for a long time prior to the advent of news and other programming

in the mass media. In this day and age of widespread connectivity, true crime narratives continue to be a popular form of narrative storytelling. According to the findings of studies on the relationship between justice and the media, the amount of coverage that the media provides has dramatically expanded over the previous few decades (Freedman & Owens, 2011).

A number of scholars highlight the constructive effect that the media can have in modifying and downplaying the significance of crimes. Their primary priority should be determining the best way to educate and inform the general audience (Robinson, 2014).

Other academics that highlight the significance of court news are in agreement that responsible media have the capacity to serve as instruments of social education. These instruments include the reporting of underlying causes and societal factors, as well as the facilitation of discussions on crime with the active participation of the public in the generation of efficient policy responses. As a result, the primary responsibility of the media should be to fulfill their role of keeping the public aware about occurrences of criminal activity while also providing an in-depth, analytical discussion of the issues surrounding casual and contextual factors.

The coverage of court cases through follow-ups in ways that show the fulfillment of justice and maintain the public's trust and confidence in the state must be the primary goal of the mass media in their coverage of court cases and stories. This must be the case because it is the only way to ensure that the public will continue to trust and believe in the state. In its consequence, the media needs to devote a greater amount of attention to accurately report legal concerns and present them in an appropriate manner. The public's view of the justice system is bound to be altered as a direct consequence of this development. According to (Kellner, 1995), the images that are presented by the media to their audiences shape the majority of their audience's view of the world and the setting of social values, such as what is considered to be good or bad, positive or negative, morally good or evil.

And this study evaluates the practice of court news reporting of the local state-owned television medium EBC/ETV News department, determining to what extent and how television delivers the narrative, which assists the audience in comprehending the manner in which justice is done in the nation.

In the case of Ethiopia, media crime reporting began in 1953 E.C. with the publication of the journal “Police Ena Ermijaw”. And according to the findings of several pieces of study, “police

ena hibreteseb” was the first television show that offer information regarding legal matters in the narrative form. The organization formerly known as ERTA and now known as EBC broadcast a “polic ena hibreteseb” program together with the Addis Ababa police. The program focuses primarily on police investigation stories rather than the court docket. In addition to that, the various Ethiopian broadcast media each have their own program that covers stories from the court system. From those television stations Ethiopian Broadcasting Service (EBS) can be taken as an example. EBS, one of Ethiopian private television media treated legal issues in the form of drama and narrative description called “Yetezegaw Dose”. The presentation mostly focuses on how the crime is committed and police undertakes investigation rather than court proceedings.

EBC is a broadcasting media house that reaches its audience with various forms of outlets not only just through television. One of it is a well-known Ethiopian radio and FM radio station FM 97.1. the national radio has a program called "Yeheg neger", which presents the goings-on in court with a somewhat unique perspective. The program addresses several legal concerns in a roundabout way by virtue of its live style. The news broadcast also touches on a few of the latest happenings in the courts.

Nowadays, the transmission coverage and accessibility of the visual medium is significantly growing. Over the past ten years, one of the media industries that have experienced meteoric growth in popularity is television. People now have the ability to watch live and recorded or uploaded their favorite programs. Watching television has never been simpler or easier than it is now thanks to all technological advancements that enable the audience to watch it in their convenient time. As a result, it is of the utmost importance to investigate how and to what degree the television medium covers court news, as well as the influence that television has on the operation of the legal system and the establishment of the rule of law. Since visual medium has a strong influence on the recipient by nature, reporting the court stories through television will have a very significant impact. EBC as a television medium reaches its audience via terrestrial, satellite or online platforms resulting in the potential high ratings of audience.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The purpose of this study is to investigate the practice and challenges of EBC court news reporting. In spite of the fact that court cases and their proceedings in the concerned judicial or legal executive bodies are interesting to the public, there are persistent complaints that the media

are not giving court stories a due attention; rather, the media are busy reporting only daily crimes and acts of violence. Because of this, the researcher decided to concentrate solely on court instances, given that, ideally, every instance of criminal activity or violent story should go through the judicial system. In addition to this, the EBC news channel has not undertaken any research that is comparable to this situation on the topic that is being discussed.

Taking all of the aforementioned situations into consideration, this study addresses a gap in the research findings about the EBC court reporting. In addition, the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the research will have a substantial amount of vitality for the media house in terms of improving, refining, or maintaining its involvement on the subject. In general, given that Ethiopia is one of the African nations that strive in its quest to attain justice and the rule of law, the media in Ethiopia need to play a constructive part in the country's justice system. This reality is starting to get greater attention, in particular from outlets that are owned by the state. This, in turn, will give the study's demand for its endeavors a suitable broad meaning that will be appropriate.

On other hand, according to the findings of a poll conducted by Electoral Reform International Services (ERIS) in 2011, programs covering news and current events get the largest audience across the country. An Ethiopian broadcasting corporation asserts that it has the ability to reach a potential audience of 25 million people. Therefore, television is gradually becoming an appropriate medium for correspondence in the process of obtaining social change. As a result of the aforementioned factors, the court news coverage that is carried on the news channel of the Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation was selected to be the focus of this research. In this method, the publication would be able to supply greater bearings to the media itself, just as other people do by attempting to get extra expertise in the examination field and upscale the enormity of the medium. When it comes to Ethiopia, it's difficult to get studies on media coverage of court news. Aside from that, there is no research that has been done so far that establishes a consistent link between courts and the dynamics of intra-institutional agenda setting. Additionally, there is no research that has been done so far that provides in-depth analyses of court tales coverage of the media.

1.3 Objective of the Study

1.3.1 General objective

The purpose of this research is to assess the practice and challenges of court news reporting at Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation.

1.3.2 Specific objective

- Find out to what extent did EBC covers court news.
- Identify the court cases that the EBC news primarily addresses or gives priority to.
- Discover the major sources of EBC court news
- Identify the factors that orient the media's court news coverage, selection and presentation styles and examine the media's issue selection principles based on the media social responsibility roles
- Describe major challenges that are faced by EBC reporters while covering court proceedings.

1.4 Research questions

In order to accomplish the anticipated objectives of the research, the following research questions are developed:

RQ: To what extent did EBC covers court cases?

RQ: What categories of court news dominate in EBC?

RQ: what are the major sources of EBC court news?

RQ: what are the factors which determine EBC court issue selection and presentation?

RQ: How far is the media's social responsibility role prioritized as EBC covers court news?

RQ: What are the main challenges of journalists in covering judicial proceedings?

1.5 Significance of the Study

This study helps in identifying the level of coverage of judicial hearings in EBC news and current affairs channel as well as the manner in which it presents the stories. So it will be

importance for the media itself to know the status of court news and give an input for the media to conduct further research, manuals and editorial reform. As a consequence of this, it may be of value to professionals working in the media industry, and it may also set the stage for future research endeavors in the field of court reporting and other initiatives that are in some way related to this field. In addition to this, by drawing attention to the significance of legally required reporting, it may be possible to encourage various stakeholders to collaborate.

1.6 Scope of the Research

Nowadays a number of television stations are on air and continued to flourish. However, the scope of this research is only extending to one of the state-owned media outlets the Ethiopian Broadcasting Cooperation- ETV News Channel (EBC). EBC provides a relatively more comprehensive service to its audience by ways of its three television channels, one national radio station, and two FM radio stations and in as many as its new media/social media platforms. The presentation has a multilingual approach and covers topics pertaining to both domestic and international affairs. As a consequence of this, various forms of media are in a position to raise awareness about the manner in which justice is administered in the nation by making their content accessible to a greater proportion of the people.

In addition to the researcher's choice of visual medium for the purpose of the study, only EBC news and current events channels is selected as the primary area of focus for the investigation. This was done since these channels mostly cover court and criminal cases. The newscast on EBC is shown continuously throughout the entire day and night on a nationwide basis. However, the primary news hour is classified into three parts: the morning show *tena yesteleagne Ethiopia*, *arat maezen* and *ETV57*. But the research focuses on “*arat maezen*” and “*ETV 57 news show*” as basically the court stories are presented on those news hours.

1.7 Limitations of the Study

Every study has certain caveats or restrictions. Time restraints, limited access to resources, an absence of prior experience on conducting research, and dearth of pertinent material and literature in the field all contribute to the difficulty of the situation. On the other hand, it can be challenging to acquire documents that are adequately documented on the coverage of legal procedures by Ethiopian broadcast media. Additionally, there hasn't been much research done on

this subject. Those few researchers concentrated on the reporting of general crimes and violent acts (Fitsum, 2017).

1.8 Organization of the Study

The research is presented in five separate chapters. In the first chapter we deal with the background history of the subject matter including the explanation of the problem, the research objectives, the research questions, and the relevance of the study. In the second chapter will do the literature review on topics pertaining to the court and the media, including the theoretical frameworks. The methodological facets of the study are dissected in greater detail in chapter three. The findings of the study which are analyzed from both the quantitative and qualitative data as the course of the research executes mixed methods, as interpreted by the interviewer and via the lens of relevant literature, are the subject of the discussion that takes place in chapter four. Based on the findings of the study, as well the recommendations and conclusions are presented in the very last chapter (Chapter 5).

CHAPTER II

2. REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

2.1 Conceptual Frameworks

2.1.1 The news media and society

Every human society may be broken down into three distinct but interconnected systems: the cultural system is comprised of ideas, the social system is comprised of actions, and the material system is comprised of artifacts (Lipset, 1959) . The cultural system of ideas is the one that has its roots the deepest in human history. Obviously, in the factual reality that we experience, ideas, deeds, and artifacts are all connected to one another through a tangled web of various relationships. As a direct consequence of this, it may be exceptionally challenging to differentiate between the thoughts, behaviors, and material components of a scenario (Lipset, 1959).

In theory, any society may be characterized using the three systems, and in fact, any society can be characterized using any one of the systems (and from either the structural or the procession side of the system, or from both sides). It is however a practical technique that is commonly employed that considers societies to be shaped primarily by a central element in the ideational and cultural system. This approach is frequently used. The cognitive/normative value orientation and the expressive/instrumental value orientation are two sets of very fundamental value orientations that can be used to describe any and all societal institutions. Therefore, all societal institutions are the product of these two sets of value orientations, and they continue to develop within the context of these two sets of value orientations today. Television and radio have proven to be powerful tools, as Scannell noted in his pioneering studies of radio, for extending the domain of 'what can be discussed' simply by their banal practice of converting other people's everyday lives into social reference points. This is because television and radio are commonplace media for representing social life (Scannell, 1991).

Media institutions are involved in the definition of "insiders" and "outsiders" in social discourse, as well as possibly in international political discourse. While media outlets are concerned with representing the social and its boundaries, media institutions are involved in the definition of

"insiders" and "outsiders" in social discourse. For an illustration of this, see (Pan and Kosicki ; Cappella and Jamieson, 1993).

According to Latour, in his iconoclastic explanation of "modernity," describes a hidden relationship between networks and space. This relationship, which is particularly important in this context, is detailed by Bruno Latour. When we think of the media as "technological networks" that are laid out in space, the temptation to adopt a functionalist interpretation of how the media relate to social space is removed entirely from the equation. This is because when we think of the media as "technological networks" that are laid out in space, in Latour's view. Technological networks are similar to nets that are cast over places; yet, these nets only capture a small number of dispersed aspects of the areas that they are cast over. Contrary to what the name may lead one to believe, they are not surfaces but rather connected lines.

Even if they reach over a very long distance and envelop surfaces without covering them, they cannot be considered complete, global, or systematic in any way. According to Latour, ideas and information are comprehended in the same manner. He asserts that "reason today has more in common with a cable television network than it does with Platonic ideals" (Lator, 1993). The relevance of Latour's metaphor serves to bring to our attention the fact that media are, first and foremost, geographical; that is, they are a spatial distribution of ideas and pictures; and that this is what media are all about.

Latour simplifies the complexity of the media by referring to it as "a net thrown over social space from precise anchoring points based on concentrations of symbolic power." This interpretation, however, does not accurately reflect the nature of the medium. According to the authors, media power comprises systemic aspects of how the social environment is created for all of us, making other potential "socials" "invisible, inconceivable, and unrepresentable." This is in addition to individual lack. This phenomena (Lator, 1993), may be linked back to a variety of characteristics of contemporary media culture, including film and television.

2.1.2 The press and the legal system

The principles of open justice are essential to the functioning of our judicial system, and their application is reflected in the architecture of our courts. Unless another course of action is warranted by the circumstances, the administration of justice is often carried out in public courtrooms, to which the general public has unfettered access. Of course, there are always going

to be exceptions to this rule. Courtrooms, by their very nature, have space for just a certain number of viewers, and in the vast majority of instances, the only people there are those who are directly involved in the proceeding. Despite the fact that this is true, it is necessary to adhere to the principle of transparency since it serves to promote public confidence in the fair and impartial administration of justice. When something like this occurs, the news industry jumps in to help fill the information gap (Surette, 1984). Over the past two decades, most countries have generally adopted an increasingly more open attitude toward the practice of courtroom broadcasting via both text and video. However, courtroom broadcasting is still in its explorative stage, and concerns remain regarding its ramifications.

Policies regarding cameras in courtrooms vary. Countries such as Germany, France, and Japan are among those that strictly prohibit any form of courtroom broadcasting to the outside world (Code of Criminal Procedure of France, 2006; Jin, 2018; Courts Constitution Act, 2019). In contrast, Brazil allows cameras in the courtroom during the entire trial process. Both Australia and the United Kingdom have made significant progress in opening the court trial process to the public. In 1999, the Federal Court of Australia became the first Australian court to broadcast live sound and images of judgment on the Internet (Federal Court of Australia, 2017; Mason and Stepniak, 2000). In Britain, filming has been authorized in the Supreme Court since it was created in 2009, and in some English and Welsh Court of Appeal cases since 2013 (The New York Times, 2020). Now, Australian and British courts have increasingly engaged with social media, allowing social media reports of court proceedings (BBC News, 2010; Federal Court of Australia, 2017).

The United States has been actively experimental in the use of courtroom broadcasting. After two longitudinal pilot projects on video recording courtroom proceedings (conducted 1991–1994 and 2011–2015, respectively), nearly every state in the union has provisions to allow the media to use video cameras and microphones in courtrooms in some circumstances, and cameras are a routine sight at the trial court level in some states (Radio Television Digital News Association, 2020).

China has witnessed the most drastic reform in judiciary openness in the world. The interim measures of the Supreme People's Court's Publication of Judgment Documents in 2013 required all documents of the Supreme Law's judgments, rulings, and decisions to be published online

(except for special circumstances stipulated by law). Following that, in 2015, the Supreme People's Court of China instructed all courts at different levels to broadcast all trials (except those disallowed by law) on its official website. It achieved the goal of having full access to and the coverage of 3521 courts across the country. By the end of 2019, over 6 million court trial videos had been broadcast on this website (about 150 daily), with a total visit volume of more than 21 billion people. This official website has become the largest live video website of government affairs in the world.

Despite the great global progress in judicial transparency in terms of broadcasting courtroom proceedings to the public, arguments about its ramifications and opportunities persist. In support of its positive impact, there is a consensus view that the live broadcast of court trials is conducive to regulating trial conduct, promoting judicial transparency and justice, and protecting the public's right to know and the media's freedom of expression. According to a longitudinal survey conducted from 2010 to 2014 in the United States by the Conference of Court Public Information Officers (CCPIO), more courts and judges use social media each year, more than half of court officials believe media should be allowed, and relatively fewer concerns about potential ethical problems, such as privacy, were expressed (CCPIO, 2014).

Despite the fact of open trail, when media tries to bridge the gap, their capacity to provide coverage is restricted by the lack of resources that are available. The magnitude to which these constraints, which are imposed by the available resources, may be experienced differently depending on the size of the news company. For instance, it was discovered in a previous study of newspaper coverage of the California Supreme Court (Hale, 1978). That the circulation of the newspaper was the most important factor in determining whether or not a case received coverage. In this particular study, the circulation of the newspaper was the most important factor. According to the findings of the study, smaller metropolitan newspapers had around half as likely of a chance of covering state Supreme Court cases as the three papers with the highest circulation in the state. Despite this, major newspapers with substantial circulations only reported on thirty percent of the judgments handed down by state supreme courts.

As a consequence of this, choices need to be made regarding the events that are worthiest of receiving coverage. A strategic decision will be made regarding the institutions and issues that will be discussed, as well as the combinations of these that will be covered. It is in the best

interests of the press to act sensibly in order to maximize their impact on society while also increasing their earnings. This can be accomplished by growing their circulation numbers. In order for journalists to accomplish these goals, they need to focus their coverage on the occurrences that have the most significant influence on the political process and public policy. The coverage that the media gives to the government ought to be dependent on a variety of different criteria, according to practical applicability. To begin, the significance of a topic need to have some bearing on the possibility that it will be discussed. If a subject is already widely discussed and highly charged, more news coverage of that subject should begin as soon as it is practically viable to do so (Hale, 1978).

This assertion is neither innovative nor ground-breaking in any way. When deciding whether or not to cover decisions made by the Supreme Court, news reporters may take into account the level of contemporaneous issue salience in their coverage decisions. This is something that could be argued if, for example, you are trying to figure out how to create a measure of the importance of Court issues. When two topics are of similar significance, the media should dedicate a greater amount of time and resources to the actions of the branch of the government that has the most sway over the way in which public policy is formulated about the more significant of the two concerns. Using the terminology of (Jones, Frank R. Baumgartner and Bryan D., 1993), we can say that media outlets look to policy venues, or institutions with the authority to make decisions over a particular issue, to make decisions on the events that deserve to be covered most extensively by the media. This is the case because policy venues have the ability to determine which events deserve the most coverage. The relevance of the matter on a more regional scale should also be taken into account by the media. Readers and viewers are more likely to see significance in matters that are locally noteworthy because they believe that these occurrences have an effect on their day-to-day life.

News organizations that are not owned by a corporate conglomerate or that have competition in their local market should give particular regard to the importance of a specific problem in the community in which they operate. There is a possibility that locally owned news stations will rely more on reporters from their immediate community and less on national news staff. Reporters that specialize in covering a certain geographic area are also more likely to be knowledgeable about the happenings that will have the most significant influence on the residents of that area. This holds true when compared to the conclusions of a substantial amount

of earlier studies on various aspects of news coverage (Schaffner, Brian and Jennifer Segal Diascro, 2007).

The functioning of the judicial system and that of the media couldn't be more different. In addition, you and I would have different cultural expectations, closure dates, business imperatives, historical improvements, language, and etiquette than they would. There are three main categories of activities that can be used to broadly categorize news stories: routine, staged, and impromptu. Reporting from the courtroom is often regarded as routine information due to the fact that court proceedings take place on a regular basis, with predictable timing, assets, and venue, as well as predictable outcomes (Gans, 1980).

Reporting from inside of courtrooms is something that the vast majority of news organizations do on a regular basis for a number of different reasons. When it is expected of a reporter to seek out opposing points of view, the courts will offer those points of view within the context of their opposing position. In most cases, reporters will obtain the information they need from those who work in the judicial system.

Crime scenes and trial testimony usually involve issues that are upsetting, horrifying, or surprising. Additionally, many of the facts can be quite personal and intimate, which makes them "newsworthy." According to Emily T. Metzgar of Indiana University Bloomington and Stella M. Rouse of the University of Maryland, the Supreme Court places a significant amount of importance on the media in order to amass support and exert influence over policy. For its part, the Court places a significant amount of importance on the media. In spite of the fact that there were so few of them, a group of Ethiopian media professionals and researchers made an effort to investigate and check how the media reports on court news. For instance, a study that was carried out by Gizachew (2013) entitled "the function of state media they performed in representing crime and justice" which is focused on police program.

Studies on "how gender violence has been represented in Ethiopian print media" (Addis-Admas, Police na Ermijaw, and clinical newspaper) were also carried out by Bruktawit's (2008), who discovered that the bulk of the pieces were more informational than they were educational. In several of the studies, rather than concentrating on the news component of the study, the researchers looked at government-sponsored programs. Fitsum (2017) also stressed on general crime and violence reporting on radio medium.

2.1.3 Court reporting to television

As television has its own distinct feature appealing and combining vision and sounds, the impact it can bring upon the audience very strong compared to other forms of medium. So that the professional and ethical considerations in the matters of court and judiciary reporting will have a very high significance not to adversely affect both the system and persons in the case.

2.1.4 Court Reporting: what makes it unique

In general in our judicial system the followings are major establishments for different cases of court proceedings. criminal courts hear evidence, make decisions and impose sanctions for offenses ranging from parking fines to murder and treason. civil hearings deal with arguments over contracts and noncriminal wrongs by one party resulting in loss or harm on the other. Claims for compensations for personal injury caused by negligence or damage to reputation from defamation fall in to this category. family break-ups and surrounding issues are another. A range of behavior involving children is administered by a separate court, although the more serious offences can be heard in the adult system.

Besides, what first appearance in court, bail application, committal hearing, summary cases, arraignment, trial, pre-sentence submissions and sentence and appeal are the other frequent steps of case proceedings in a court that need to be conceived in the minds of a court reporter.

Inculcating this in mind, when journalists report judicial cases must be vigilant of basic concepts and facts of course of a case. Court reporting might be categorized as one of the beat reporting journalisms that need paramount prudence. The ABCs of journalism: accuracy, brevity and credibility, here need their due and apt application.

Courts are society's mechanism for enforcing its laws. their purpose is to protect individuals and their property to let our economic and parliamentary frameworks cooperate for and protect the community as a whole.

The need for accuracy, the desire to listen and the ability to translate the legalese into ordinary language are still prized skills. Today, the job in our press room was to reduce 251 page judgement in to an eleven paragraph story. It is impossible to retain the detail and breadth of argument in such a reduction. The aim was to find the essence of the case and convey it while recording the result (gregory, 2005).

The other features that give court reporter a hard work to be done is legalese terms and jargons have different interpretation contradicting with our prior knowledge of definitions of our common terms leading to a slopy roads of error.

Being accused, found guilty, convicted of the crime/verdict given and being suspect, defendant and criminal and bunches of other terms with their conceptions compels the reporter to possess the appropriate skill.

Rather, the harm inflicted on the parts of the judicial proceeding and persons involved can but undermine both the justice system and individuals who have their rights protected by different applicable laws unless renounced by the law.

2.1.5 Court reporting: ethics and using pictures of the picturing through television

The legal system on the assumptions that it is open to the public. thinkers, judges and lawyers have argued this principle. It means that members of the public have the right to see how justice is administered in their name. In nations like the US, Britain, Australia and other commonwealth judicial system derivatives compel court hearings to be public unless restricted by some case sensitive obligations. However, based on one's legal boundaries and narratives of cases to be public and confidential, a reporter must look after all applicable laws that can lead him to be responsible for. Or, as journalism is one of the professions that needs one's moral judgement in dealing with different types of issues that have morally sensitive areas particularly in persons cases, publicity of court cases and persons involved in it needs a very careful decisions. when the case under hearing is very sensitive and has adverse impact on witnesses, juries, defendants and prosecutors anonymity must sustain throughout the course of the system. cases that goes against the norms, values and the existing modes of social bonds and legal concerns some proceedings are restricted for publicity; the likes being the child related cases, sexual assault, marriage cases, country's national interest cases.

Though here lies the conflict between the profession of journalism and the law enforcement mechanisms. courts and tribunals have powers to demand information. they can ask all parties information if they think is relevant for the process. By making and enforcing demand for information, the court can do justice based on all available and relevant material. refusal to comply or hiding or destroying information sought by the court can be punished as contempt of court. attached to this power is a major source of conflict between journalism and the law.

Journalists can be given privilege in the court but regarded having no special rights over those of ordinary citizens. If a judge asks for the source of information a story, the reporter is compelled by the law to comply. Similarly, the reporter has the right to ask for an explanation for the rationale of the law if he/she does not have a clear premise or not convinced for the confidentiality or anonymity of the parties involved by again not forgetting the need to comply the court. Aim to attribute sources or make public the proceeding and the participants of the case. Where a source or a player seeks or is granted anonymity, do not agree without first considering the motives and any alternative for attribute or publication (Gregory, 2005).

When reporting for television, using pictures of the court proceedings and the participants in it should be in accordance with the aforementioned concerns and judicial and moral concerns and laws abiding by. Some courts allow journalists to capture pictures and sounds in the court freely even for important cases if noted in advance. Some may pose a discomforting environment for proper capture of sound and pictures. Some may totally prohibit it and hire a sketch artist to depict the scenario of the court room then to be used by the reporters

Television news needs pictures to present stories and courts traditionally provide few. Cameras are not usually allowed in courtrooms, although there are many examples of judges and lawyers filmed at the start of hearings. Camera access is strictly controlled and usually do not extend to the filming of witnesses or an accused at a criminal trial. A long stand-up (the reporter stands or walks while reading part of the script for the story) outside court can help, as can an artist's sketch from inside the courtroom (Gregory, 2005).

Television compared with other media outlets like newspaper, magazines and radio, is a limited scope both in time and numbers of cases covered for that focuses only on vital ones as the nature of medium compels. Provided that an intelligent television court reporter is brief, good at stand-up exploitation and minimizing the exposure of the sensitive parts of both the subject and the actors (Mason, 2003).

2.1.6 The importance of reporting on matters pertaining to the legal system

The activities of both the executive branch and the legislative branch of government are constantly reported by the news media. On the other side, the judicial system is not given much attention by the mainstream media (Amber E. Boydston; Graber, 2013; 2010). Since the news media is the general public's primary source of information about courts and, as a result, the most

important channel through which to gain knowledge about the justice. (Lee Epstein and Jeffrey A. Segal , 2000), claim that citizens are better able to determine whether or not a case is relevant to their lives as a result of media coverage of court cases. (collins and copper, 2015), suggest that media coverage of court cases "makes cases real" for the general public. The "making of cases real" for the general public is accomplished through media coverage of legal proceedings.

According to (James L. Gibson and Gregory A. Caldeira, 2009) the public's awareness of the courts and the public's support for the courts are linked, with the public's awareness of the courts having an influence on the public's support for the courts (Vanberg, 2004).

Even if it is needed to be read in its entirety by the common person, a court decision is not typically read in its whole by the courts. While court deliberations are kept in the strictest confidence, and courts prefer to 'talk through' their decisions rather than explain them to the general public, the public's awareness of court decisions is largely due to the fact that court decisions are inherently written in complex legal language. This is because courts prefer to "talk through" their decisions rather than explain them to the general public. In this case media plays significant role by telling the public what it is meant by.

Andreas Voßkuhle makes the observation concerning lawyers in Di Lorenzo and Wefing, 2020 that "the judicial system is actually not very prepared to talk openly. Lawyers have a propensity to be conservative, and lawyers are frequently uncomfortable speaking in front of the media," he continues, "It's true that the legal system isn't very willing to speak openly with the public. According to the aforementioned article, citizens "rely on the media to carry out this duty for them" rather than actively scrutinizing political institutions and elites.

Specifically, the press is more likely to report on decisions that have specific characteristics. Davis (1994) describes general trends in media coverage of the Supreme Court of the United States, making reference to (Hale, 1978) and demonstrates that decisions are frequently misinterpreted by the media in a number of cases, including the case of McDonald v. United States. Hale's study was published in 1978, and Davis's study was published in 1994. (an argumentation which Staton, 2010, used as a starting point for his analysis). As Davis (1994) demonstrates, the profession of legal reporting understands its duty largely as one of explaining decisions rather than one of critiquing them.

This uncritical self-perception, according to (Linos, K. and Twist, K, 2016), can lead to a situation in which "journalists may wind up presenting one-sided, mainly uncritical coverage," which is detrimental to the profession as a whole. (Davis, 2011) as part of his research, investigates the relationship between the Supreme Court of the United States and the general press in order to shed light on the Court's current and historical strategies, as well as incentives for the Court to become more visible. He does this in order to shed light on the Court's current and historical strategies, as well as incentives for the Court to become more visible.

According to (Bhattacharjee, 2012), in his seminal study of the ability of the United States Supreme Court to effect social change, neither the quantity nor the quality of media coverage played a role in the ability of the United States Supreme Court to affect social change. Its findings, on the other hand, are somewhat exceptional, considering that the vast majority of studies arrive at the conclusion that decisions made by the Supreme Court do have an effect on media coverage and that certain case characteristics increase the likelihood of receiving media coverage. The findings of this study, however, are somewhat unique. In order to realize why particular case characteristics can have an impact on media coverage, it is vital to comprehend the notions of news values and newsworthiness.

It would appear that political actors change their behavior in order to comply with the logic of various media outlets. It has also been shown that political players influence news values in order to get themselves into the news (Jesper Strömbäck and Peter Van Aelst, 2013). There is no exception when it comes to the case of the courts, as various studies have shown that the courts employ case features deliberately in order to attract attention to their rulings and to their decisions.

On the other hand, news values that are discovered to be essential for the coverage of court decisions include conflict or negativity, familiarity and continuity as well as follow-up. According to the findings of a study that was conducted by (Alexander Denison, Justin Wedeking, Michael A. Zilis, 2019) and released in the year 2020, newspapers are more inclined to report court cases that exhibit evidence of conflict and hostility (Alexander Denison, Justin Wedeking, Michael A. Zilis, 2019).

The decisions that uphold the status quo, on the other hand, have little to no impact on media coverage in the United States and overseas since these cases do not involve a disagreement

between the Supreme Court and the other branches of government. The public and the news media are interested in the findings of more research that detail various aspects of the chase. An investigation into the television coverage of Supreme Court decisions in the United States found, according to Slotnick and Segals (1998), that decisions involving high-profile issues, such as disputes over the First Amendment, or decisions in which a political or social actor has filed an amicus brief are more likely to be covered by the media.

For instance, Sill and colleagues (2013) found that aspects such as dissents and decisions from the 11th Circuit were frequently referenced in pieces regarding Supreme Court decisions published in the New York Times over a period of 54 years. These articles were published in the newspaper. It is utilized for a variety of purposes, one of which is to illustrate the ambiguity of terms used within the scientific community as well as the extensive variety of research notions that are at one's disposal.

It is more likely that the status quo will be disrupted, which will result in media coverage being generated. According to (Christopher A. Cooper and Toody A. Collins, 2011), there is a considerable impact on media coverage whenever there is a change to the status quo or when precedent cases are reversed. Furthermore, (Strother, 2017) demonstrates that the engagement of interest groups in the form of amicus curiae briefs has an effect on the likelihood of media coverage both before and after a decision is made. This is the case regardless of whether the verdict was positive or negative. Linos and Twist believe that the Supreme Court has the ability to intentionally employ case characteristics to bring attention to specific rulings (Katerina Linos and Kimberly Twist, 2016). The data also imply that instances that are politically significant are more likely to be reported by the media. Cases that are more politically significant are more likely to be covered by the media. Vining and Marcin agree with this finding and argue on page 100 that coverage in the media is more likely for relevant decisions and that "a number of characteristics of Supreme Court decisions render them newsworthy despite rational ignorance among citizens (Richard L. Vining Jr and Phil Marcin, 2014).

In the instance of decisions handed down by state supreme courts in the United States of America, conclusions that are comparable have been uncovered. According to (Richard L. Vining Jr and Teena wilhelm, 2010), the likelihood of a decision receiving media coverage increases when the decision has case-specific characteristics including dissenting opinions,

amicus briefs, and changes to the status quo. In light of the circumstances, there are two different scenarios that could occur. When it comes to the initial reporting of decisions made by the Supreme Court, news values, which might be characterized as follows, play a role.

As was mentioned earlier, there is very little evidence that can be found regarding the coverage of judicial decisions in the media. For instance, the edited volume that was authored by (Davis R, Taras D, 2017) includes chapters that provide brief descriptive overviews of general trends in media coverage of various constitutional review courts around the world, as well as public relations efforts that have been undertaken by selected constitutional review courts from around the world.

2.2 Theoretical Structures and the Applications

2.2.1 The social responsibility that the media is expected to uphold in their reporting of court

Research conducted in academic settings, as well as observations and experiences gleaned from the real world, provide evidence that media corporations are social institutions in addition to being commercial enterprises. The social responsibility theory, which is a subset of critical theory, provides the theoretical underpinning for the interaction that exists between society and the media is the focus of this theoretical examination.

For a complete comprehension of the structural principles and media dynamics (in addition to other features), it is also necessary to take into account socio-cultural aspects in addition to economic, political, and sometimes even technical-judicial aspects (McQuail's, 2005). According to him, the social responsibility theory is essentially a modified form of the free press idea, with a larger focus placed on keeping the media accountable in the community at large. He makes this argument in one of his articles. Even while media outlets are free to operate, they should be aware that they have a duty to serve the best interests of the general public.

The purpose of the media is to provide information to the general people and that in order to do so effectively, there should be no interference from the government. High standards should be maintained by the media in terms of their level of objectivity, level of professionalism, the truth, and level of accuracy. The diversity of the peoples and cultures that are represented by the media should be accurately reflected in those sources.

The audience has a duty and a right to anticipate that the performers will deliver work that is of a professional standard. (Those who advocated for this idea placed a lot of faith in the general population's ability to tell the difference between right and wrong and to behave in a way that was beneficial to the general populace whenever it was essential to safeguard the general welfare.)

The fact that the needs of society can be expressed in a direct manner by claims made in the media is the most significant benefit of a well-developed public responsibility framework. Additionally, the fact that these claims can be directly translated into actions to meet those needs is another significant advantage of such a framework. In addition to this, the idea that the media and society have a dynamic, ever-changing interaction is engrained in the conceptual framework that we have been discussing.

Given the available evidence, it is not difficult to draw the conclusion that social responsibility theory makes it possible for free media to exist apart from the requirement for censorship. A public panel should be used to discuss the content of the media, but at the same time, the media should be willing to take any obligations that may arise as a result of public interference or professional requirements. In addition, the idea established a high level of accuracy, honesty, and impartiality, all of which contributed to the growth of professionalism in the media. As a consequence of this, it is the responsibility of the media to prioritize the requirements of their audiences for accurate information, to provide the government with feedback that is pertinent and succinct, and to maintain a commitment to the fulfillment of the organizational values and ethical principles of the profession.

It is true that the social responsibility of the media and the gatekeeping function of the media follow a regular schedule in terms of delivering selected and organized information to the general public in a way that can make a contribution to the day-to-day lives of the recipients or targeted audiences. In addition, it is also true that the media has a duty to inform the public about issues that are important to them (Owens-Ibie, 1994). Even though it may appear that the role of media gatekeepers is in conflict with the belief that the media must provide clear and unambiguous records to the public, as well as the dedication to a goal presentation of social statistics and activities, the majority of media remain steadfast in their belief that the media must provide what the public already knows, rather than what they need to know.

Additionally, they increase social obligation in relation to the ideological framings, socio-financial, and political situations of the states in which they establish themselves, and they serve as decisive factors in the selection, clearing out, and manipulation of the records contents of the mediums and reconstructed with the intention of acquiring the dreams that the mediums have set as a top priority for themselves. In addition, they increase social obligation in relation to the ideological framings of the states in which they establish themselves, and they increase in terms of its social responsibility and gatekeeping function, which is to provide selected and organized records to the public in a way that could make contributions to the day-to-day lives of receivers or centered audiences, the media adheres to a consistent schedule. This schedule is designed to ensure that the media fulfills its social responsibility and fulfills its gatekeeping function (Owens-Ibie, 1994). Although media gatekeepers appear to be at odds with the perception that media must provide sincere data to the public and commitment for goal presentation of social facts and activities, the majority of media organizations are steadfast in their belief that media must offer what the public needs to know rather than what they want to realize.

Additionally, they enhance social responsibility in relation to the ideological framings, socio-financial, and political situations of the states in which they establish themselves, and they serve as decisive factors for them in selecting, filtering out, and controlling the statistics content of the mediums and reconstructed with the aim of achieving the goals that the mediums have set as their top priorities for themselves. In addition, they serve as decisive factors for them in selecting, filtering out, and controlling the statistics content of the mediums.

2.2.2 The conceptual structure underlying social learning

Learning that takes place in a social setting or environment is the focus of the field of study known as social learning theory. The concept that people pick up new skills from one another is taken into account, and concepts such as imitation, modeling, and watching others are incorporated into the discussion (Bandura, 1971) . Albert Bandura, a psychologist, is credited with the development of a theory known as the social learning theory. This theory proposes that observation and modeling are the two most significant aspects of the learning process. Bandura's theory goes beyond behavioral theories, which assert that all behaviors are learned through conditioning, and cognitive theories, which take into account psychological influences such as

attention and memory. Both types of theories take into account the idea that all behaviors are learned through conditioning.

The behavioral schools of psychology became the most influential school of thought in the field of psychology throughout the first half of the twentieth century. The behaviorists argued that every individual's mastery is the consequence of a direct delight with the environment, which the behaviorists attained by utilizing association and reinforcement strategies. Bandura held the belief that direct reinforcement could not adequately explain all forms of learning, despite the fact that his theory was founded on one of the most fundamental tenets of traditional learning theory

Bandura's social-learning principle proposed that learning can also take place virtually through the observation of the actions of other individuals, as opposed to the behavioral theories of learning, which advocated that all learning is the result of associations formed through conditioning, reinforcement, and punishment. In contrast, behavioral theories of learning advocated that all learning is the result of associations formed through conditioning, reinforcement, and punishment. His idea incorporated a social aspect, and he contended that individuals are able to acquire new information and ways of behaving by witnessing the activities and responses of other people. This form of learning is referred to as observational learning, and it is capable of explaining a wide variety of behaviors, including some that are commonly unaccounted for by various learning theories.

The idea of social research is founded upon three primary criteria that work together to form the basis of the discipline. The first idea to be discussed is one that may be investigated by people by making use of a statement. After that, there is the concept that the inner intellectual states of the practitioner are an essential part of this approach. This principle acknowledges that simply because something has been discovered does not mean that it will automatically result in a change in behavior. In other words, just because something has been found does not mean that it will result in a change in conduct.

"Learning would be incredibly tough, not to mention dangerous, if folks were to rely exclusively on the outcomes of their own acts to inform them what to do," asserts Albert Bandura in his book *Social learning theory* (Social learning theory), published in 1971. by studying others, one can document a notion of how new behaviors are performed, and on following occasions, this coded

information acts as a handbook for action. Fortunately, the vast majority of human behavior can be discovered through observation and modeling.

We can also study the motions of characters in novels and movies by listening to their movements, visually witnessing their movements, or evaluating their movements ourselves. The concept of social learning has a number of potential applications, some of which can be discovered in the real world. It could be used as a tool to assist researchers in their investigations, for instance, if they are interested in determining how aggressive behaviors and violent acts are passed down through generations via observational mastery.

However, human beings can also be educated through the process of social getting to know in order to learn how to engage in positive behaviors while they are in social settings. Researchers are able to evaluate and recognize strategies that can be utilized to encourage suitable behaviors and to facilitate social change by making use of the social mastering principle. One example of such a strategy is the utilization of positive role models.

According to (Skinner, 1953) within the realms of psychology and criminology, there have been different hypotheses presented seeking to explain why individuals participate in criminal. One such theory is a social learning theory, which has evolved as a critical tool for understanding traditional criminal behavior. Both psychology and criminology disciplines have played a part in the development of social learning theory (Fox, Kathleen A., Nobles, Matt R. and Akers, Ronald L., 2011). The research indicated that Bandura concentrated on several fundamental components of the operant conditioning theory: reinforcement, punishment, and motivation to characterize, explain and predict criminal behavior. According to Bandura there are three dimensions of motivation: external reinforcement, vicarious reinforcement, and self-reinforcement. External reinforcement is akin to B.F. Skinner's theory of reinforcement and refers to cues in the environment that influence the possibility of a response occurring (Cochran, 2017).

Vicarious reinforcement is obtained by observing other people's behavior being either encouraged or penalized. Self-reinforcement refers to one's sense of pride, or to the meeting of standards in one's own behavior (Bossan, 2015). Although Bandura's contributions to the development of social learning theory are of major importance, Bandura tended to focus on general criminal behavior and deviance. Other scholars focused on how to apply the theory to specific criminal actions.

However, according to the four level socio-ecological models (SEM) for violence prevention to categorize the causes of crime and their related strategies as: individual, relationship, community, and societal. According to the SEM, “each level of influence” is also a key point for intervention. As stated by (Palmary, 2001), “no one risk factor or environmental opportunity leads directly to criminal activity. Rather, the complex interaction of a range of factors leads to an increase in crime.

The SEM claims that "each degree of impact" is likewise a crucial area for intervention. No single risk factor or environmental opportunity directly causes criminal action, according to (Palmary, 2001). Instead, a spike in crime is the result of the intricate interaction of several different causes.

On other hand, Social learning theory has formed the basis for certain preventative efforts (Jason Nicholson and George E. Higgins, 2016). If the assumption is made that delinquent behavior is transferred through the social learning process. Then managing and altering the process or the environment that permits social learning to occur can minimize crime and victimization. Media can have the potential to transform the social situation in a way that the society can learn from it. As an example rather than focusing on criminal situation, praising the crime repercussions and the punishment assist the audience to learn and not to participate in the crime.

Any modern society has a strong media presence. They give us news and other important information that helps mold our reality and our own worlds. The mainstream media affects almost all of us on a daily basis in both a social and cultural sense. The media has the power to shape our thoughts and the way we perceive the world around us. (Altschull, 1995) Argues in favor of the premise that the mass media has a significant impact on our lives. He argues that the media plays a part in politics, as a tool for educating the public, and above all as an agent of power, politics, and business.

In his study of media and culture, (Baran, 2004)distinguished between the micro and macro levels of the media's influence. Baran goes on to say that while media has very few direct effects on individuals at the micro level, they have a significantly greater influence at the cultural or macro level. According to popular belief, the macro level, or cultural environment of society, is greatly influenced by the mass media. According to (Hanson, 2005), media influence can be cognitive, attitudinal, behavioral, and psychological.

A psychological effect is the ability of media content to arouse emotions such as fear, joy, revulsion, happiness, or amusement. Cognitive effects are the short-term learning of information obtained from the media. Attitudinal effects are the feelings generated about something on the basis of media content.

2.2.3 The power of media in setting agenda on justice system

The agenda setting theory is a theory that deals how the mass media may impact the public view of a specific subject by placing it on the public agenda. Specifically, this theory looks at how the mass media can do this by putting the subject in question on the agenda. In particular, the theory analyzes the various ways in which this can be accomplished. The term "public agenda" refers to the most important matter or matter of primary interest that members of society or the general public are concerned about. It is generally agreed that McCombs and Shaw were the ones who first conceptualized the phrase agenda setting theory. This is commonly attributed to (McCombs, 2003). In terms of relationships, the goal of this theory is to clarify the relationship between the importance that the mass media places on a particular subject and the reactions or characteristics that media audiences or the general public place on such an issue. The theory focuses on the importance that the mass media places on a particular topic in order to accomplish this goal.

The agenda setting hypothesis starts with an explanation of how the pattern of political behavior during elections may be changed by the mass media in the form of a shift in the voting pattern. This explanation is where the hypothesis gets its name from (Cohen, 2011).

Since that time, the concept has been responsible for sparking and nurturing the creation of hundreds of different pieces of research into the various ways in which the mass media pre-frames and primes themes for the audiences that consume it. Not only is it restricted to this, but the problem will also involve the manner in which the mass media present a particular event for the members of their audience to take in through the media. This puts a limit on what can be covered in the conversation, so to speak (Matsaganis and Payne: 2005). Therefore, it is legitimate to consider the mass media to have a considerable role to play when it comes to the process of forming and influencing public opinion as well as public policy.

According to the findings of a research project that was carried out at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the media has the ability to successfully influence the public agenda if they persistently and publicly push a select group of issues in their reporting. The research that

(Cobb RW and Elder, 1973), have been carrying out has the purpose of determining the factors that play a role in the formation of the policy agenda, which they define as the "broad set of concerns that are presented in a hierarchy of priority at a point in time. The research conducted by (Cobb RW and Elder, 1972 and 1983) is focused on determining the components that contribute to the formation of the policy agenda.

Covering one topic in the news while ignoring coverage of other topics is one strategy that the mass media utilizes to direct attention to some areas of politics at the cost of other aspects of politics (James DW, Rogers EM , 1996). Legitimacy for ruling is contingent on the consensus of those who are controlled, and it is generally considered that policymakers should not consider actions that are outside of the constraints that have been imposed upon them by those they serve. This is due to the fact that legitimacy for ruling is contingent on the consensus of those who are controlled. This is due to the fact that the legitimacy of rule is contingent on the agreement of those who are being governed. As a consequence of this, the point of view of the general population is an important factor that should be taken into consideration by decision-makers working in public administration (James S, Michael B, MacKuen, Erikson RS, 1995).

(Cohen, 2011) proposes a categorization system that makes a distinction between issues that are of a spectacular, noticeable, and governmental nature. When sensitive issues are brought to light as a result of dramatic occurrences and considerable media coverage, it is more difficult for politicians to ignore those issues because of the visibility that the topics provide. Problems that people and politicians have their own personal experiences with and that receive a moderate amount of publicity in the media are regarded as prominent issues. Prominent topics also receive a lot of coverage in the media. In addition, the media has a tendency to focus a great deal of emphasis on problems that are already in the public eye. Both the general public and the media have a very limited level of interest in the highly technical topics that are dealt with by the government.

According to the findings of research carried out by (Kurt, 1948), "reality for the individual is determined by what is socially regarded as reality." Lewin presents three distinct grounds of contention, which can be summed up as follows:

The topics that will be covered by the media as well as the significance of individual pieces of news are determined by the media, which in turn influences the decisions and policies that are implemented by governments.

The media also determines the significance of individual pieces of news. In addition to this, it guides the mindset of the public as well as the degree of faith that the public has in the governments that represent them.

The decision of the media to set the agenda and prioritize specific topics will have an effect on how the general public views the social concerns that are emphasized by the media, and this view will be influenced by the media's decision.

The establishment of particular positions on economic news inside the agenda would attract the attention of both the government and the public, and as a result, their perspectives might be altered afterward.

According to the findings of a number of studies, the fundamental method by which the mass media exerts its influence on societal attitudes of the criminal justice system is the manipulation of public opinion and public policy. This is because the mass media is able to reach a large number of people. (Eamonn, 2008) makes the remark that the coverage of criminal concerns in the news at all hours of the day and night, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, contributes to the general feeling of fear that penetrates throughout the culture. During this stage of the process, people's perceptions of issues connected to crime and the ability to carry out activities designed to prevent crime might be negatively influenced by depictions of criminal activity in the media. This can also make it more difficult to carry out those efforts.

On contrary, according to the findings of one study (Danilo, 2001)"the portrayal of violent crime in the media leads to a stronger awareness of crime and justice, which ultimately translates into public policies." This assertion was made in light of the fact that the media frequently reports on such crimes. Practitioners in the field of crime prevention place a significant amount of emphasis on the significance of preventative strategies that are characterized by long-term activity and that are based on a reliable diagnosis that takes into consideration the complexity of the crime. Practitioners in the field of crime prevention also place a significant amount of emphasis on the significance of long-term activity. In addition, they think that these measures ought to be put into action in a way that takes into account the fact that the crime has already been carried out.

(Canadian Criminology: Strategies & Perspectives (4th Edition) , 2006) investigates the many different kinds of crimes, such as white collar and environmental crimes, that are ignored by the media in Canada. Particularly, he is preoccupied with the offenses that are made against the natural environment. He argues that the politicization of crime, which leads to false perceptions of crime and inappropriate policy decisions, which leads to inadequate crime control strategies, is primarily to blame for the media's careful avoidance of reporting on these incidents. He argues that this is because the politicization of crime leads to false perceptions of crime and inappropriate policy decisions. He contends that this is due to the fact that the politics of crime leads to erroneous views of crime as well as decisions regarding policy that are incorrect. ((Roberts J, Stalans L, Indermaur D, Hough M, 2003). The opinions of the general public toward delinquent behavior and the application of punishment play a significant effect in the creation of legislation relevant to the field of criminal justice.

It is absolutely essential for the general population to have faith in the criminal justice system of our society if justice is to be carried out in an acceptable manner. The public's perspective on crime and the appropriate response is molded, for the most part, by the media. A lack of faith in the system that regulates the administration of criminal justice has resulted from the dissemination of false views about criminal behavior and the appropriate responses to it by the media. As a direct result of this, an increasing number of members of the general public are asking for tougher punishments for individuals who commit crimes (Cullen FT, Fisher B, Applegate, 2000).

According to Hayward and Young (Hayward K, 2007), both the media and the general people are constantly preoccupied with the wrongdoing perpetrated by others. A ready audience is ensured by the reportage of crimes in the news, and a fixation with criminality has been a recurrent motif in popular culture for the entirety of the 20th century. The concept of criminality has been increasingly prevalent in today's popular culture, which has contributed to this trend. Before continuing with the process of developing a public policy, it is necessary to first acknowledge that there is currently a problem in order to continue forward with the process. This is essential in order to move forward with the process. A number of steps and processes have to be carried out to their completion before genuine policy can be formulated.

Among these are the processes of constructing an agenda, coming up with policy demands, and developing issues. The tendency of the media to sensationalize criminal actions may help increase sales of newspapers in the short term, but in the long run, it skews the public's perspective of criminal activity as a significant societal burden (O'Connell, 2002). There is a correlation between the definitions of crime that are utilized in a community and the percentage of a community's content that is produced by the media that is consisting of pieces regarding criminal behavior. This effect can be seen in the instance of the percentage of material that is constituted of articles concerning criminal conduct. More and more stories are being published regarding criminal activity.

The topic of social deviance was the focus of research that was conducted by Richard Ericson and his colleagues (Ericson R, Baranek P, Chan J, 1987), specifically the role that journalists play in the process of recognizing and developing social deviance. According to one definition of the term "deviance," "deviance" refers to "the behavior of an object or person that strays from the conventional organizational procedures and violations of common-sense understanding." When we talk about "deviance," we mean "the behavior of an object or person that strays from the conventional organizational procedures and violations of common-sense understanding." In order for something to be of significance to journalists, it must be significantly different from the way things are often done in order for that something to be considered noteworthy.

2.3 Review of Empirical Analysis

According to Morgan et al. (2012), the media's priority of court stories is not a recent development; rather, throughout the previous 50 years, it has served as a source of entertainment for the vast majority of the population. According to Morgan, Maguire, and Reiner (2012), "It seems that crime stories have been a mainstay of popular entertainment throughout the modern period.

Numerous social scientists have questioned the public's fascination with crime news (crime as both entertainment and information), consumer preferences (whether media increases the population's worries and their influence on audiences' attitudes), and the capacity of media to create public agendas as a result of the popularity and high preference for crime stories among large media audiences, particularly over the past century (Graber, D. A., 1980; Schlesinger, P., Tumber H., 1994).

Research on crime and the media reveal that, in addition to the rise in crime rates over the past few decades, the media has been devoting more time to crime cases. For instance, compared to most newspapers, TV news pays even greater emphasis to crime stories (Greer, C., 2009). In Toronto, 45-71% of the quality print and radio news, according to Ericson et al (1991), focused on various types of deviance. Moreover, Williams and Dickinson (1993) noted that crime takes up 30% of the news space in British publications.

Also, the media's portrayal of the events was found to be serious and menacing, which is not how they actually happened. Several academics examine how closely media portrays objective truth (Fishman, 1980) and contrast media reality with genuine social reality. The phrase "law of opposites" was coined by Reiner, Livingston, and Allen in 2003 to describe the disparity between statistics and the contradictory character of media accounts with real events. the existence of various types of crimes, victims, and offenders as depicted in the news media and the official crime records kept by law enforcement entities (Morgan, Maguire & Reiner, 2012). Consequently, variances in statistical data demonstrate the media's propensity to exaggerate crime dangers and over represent crime occurrence, which in turn causes social fear through the terrifying images of reporting.

The media's portrayal of offenders implies that they were wrongly categorized based on their ages and social classes, which is at odds with the statistics. For illustration: The idea that "offenders featured in news coverage are often older and higher status than those handled by the criminal justice system" is supported by research by Roshier (1973), Graber (1980), and Reiner (2001). (Maguire et al. 2012, p-385). Also, statistics on crime reporting in the media shows that criminals with the highest records are between the ages of 20 and 40, despite the highest records on the official level being held by offenders under the age of 21, which is highly inconsistent (Maguire et al 2012).

However, most of the stories' key ideas depended on illustrating the anguish and pain of the victims rather than outlining the socioeconomic issues that drive crime. These stories also showed how effective law enforcement agencies were at keeping the peace. Researchers who studied how the media covered court news claimed that the focus on the crime's description was increased by the media's lack of attention to the discussion of its causes.

Ethiopian media practitioners and researchers also tried to investigate and conduct assessments on how the state-run broadcast media (Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation) and Fana radio covers crime and violence issues, which is not focused on courts. On the other hand, most of the researches which were made on judicial proceeding and media choose to take specific types of crimes and how they were represented by visual and print Mediums. Bruktawit's (2008) research on 'how gender violence been represented by the state and privately owned Ethiopian print media (Addis-Admas, Police ena Ermijaw, and Medical newspaper), revealed that most of the reports were informative rather than being educative. The study also pointed out print Media's failure in creating public awareness. Moreover, the focus of the media was on human interest and empathy rather than covering the socio-economic and cultural reasons for crimes to occur (Bruktawit, 2008).

CHAPTER III

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

To gain an understanding of the study's methodological development, this chapter describes the researcher's approach, which includes, among other things, the data collection methods, analytical tools used, sampling strategies and processes, data processing and analysis procedures, and data storage and retrieval procedures. Specifically, the purpose of this research is to investigate the practice and challenges of Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation court news stories reporting in its news packages. Besides, the subject of this study looked into how and to what extent the media covers court news. As a result, this chapter will focus solely on the methodologies, which are the design, data sources, and data collection tools, sampling techniques, data presentation and analysis.

3.1 Research Design

The evaluation component of the research approach is descriptive. In order to determine the practice and challenges of EBC court news reporting, thorough study is launched on the subject. Also discussed how EBC can fulfill its social responsibilities when it comes to reporting on court proceedings, among other things. In this paper,

The selection of an appropriate research design, as a result, is critical to the achievement of its objectives. When deciding on a research method or design, it is important to consider the trade-offs that must be made between time, cost, favorable conditions, and confidence in the expected results. Researchers should also keep in mind that the nature of their research problem dictates the design of their study, which is an additional consideration. If you're trying to solve a research problem, there is no such thing as a one-size-fits-all solution. For the purpose of increasing the overall reliability and validity of the study, a variety of data collection methods, including both qualitative and quantitative components, were employed in this study.

For the vast majority of situations, (Cresswell, J. W.: Vicki L Plano Clark, 2011) believes that using a mixed method of research is preferable to using either qualitative or quantitative methods. Therefore, because the researcher has been provided with a more complete picture of the subject matter, the researcher's conclusions are less likely to be influenced by personal biases when analyzing the data collected. Qualitative method of research fundamentally is very appropriate to

examine subjective behavioral elements that cannot statistically be traced. Rather, analyzing and interpreting certain domains and elements of behavioral changes that are stimulated or reinforced by certain actions are fitting.

Critical and interpretivist perspectives are more concerned with understanding how people interact with and make sense of the media through reference to various communities, which represent membership, or reference group from which they drive their values and standards. These things can be difficult to quantify and may be better understood through qualitative methodologies (Gunter, 2000). Moreover, when combined with quantitative methods that need some descriptions of quantifiable variables, the outcome can be successful. There are nuances when you might want when you want to combine methods of audience research to get a more nuanced picture of a phenomenon (Stokes, 2003).

The rationale that it will contribute non-numerical information as well as a deep comprehension of the problem brought about by investigating a phenomenon that is not simply reduced to numerical form. This understanding will be gained through the use of in-depth interviews (Berg, 2007). The qualitative research gives an alternative, more methodical approach of investigation, which can help achieve the objectives of the study and provide answers to the research questions posed by the study. The explanations and descriptions of issues that were brought up by respondents during the course of the interviews were formerly utilized in order to derive interpretations.

To close any gap that may exist, this study used a quantitative approach to collect data in an attempt to bridge those gaps as well. The findings of this study are more credible as a result of the design choice, which is due to the fact that it incorporates both of these approaches. In the end, an accurate evaluation of court news coverage of EBC is achieved through the use of the two methodological approaches described, which is completed in the following manner: To mitigate or compensate for the weaknesses of one method, it is common practice to employ both qualitative and quantitative methods at the same time, a practice known as triangulation (Gray, 2004). When a variety of research methods are used, rather than relying on a single method of analysis, it is more likely that the results will be accurate.

3.2 Instrument of Data Collection

The collection and analysis of data are critical components of any research project's overall success. There are two types of information that used in the research: primary data and secondary data. When an investigator works with data that has been derived from first-hand observation or investigation, this is referred to as working with a primary source of information (Mackintosh, Lucy. "Remenyi, D., Williams, B., Money, A., and Swartz, E., 1998). It is through questionnaires and in-depth interviews with journalists and editors from media outlets, as well as newsroom management bodies are the vast majority of the primary data sources.

It was necessary to gather, synthesize, and evaluate the information gathered from a variety of secondary sources such as EBC's own website, various books, and the internet in order to compile, synthesize, and evaluate the information before drawing conclusions from it.

3.2.1 An in-depth interview

An important method used in this study is individual's in-depth interviews, which proved to be one of the most effective. In this respect, in-depth studies like the present one can bring forward the audience's perspective on how well media institutions fulfill a public-service mission in the sphere of political information. Similarly, such studies can provide new insights into processes of communication and reception, which is important for curriculum development as media literacy increasingly, becomes a central element of modern education (Janckowsky, 2002).

A more informal setting was chosen in order to provide participants with the opportunity to express their thoughts and opinions more candidly. Semi-structured questions, as a result of the interviewee's responses, allow the researcher to make changes to the questions, making them more adaptable in the real world. Interviews with those who are involved in the evaluation of media content are required in order to address issues such as social and environmental influences on media content and presentation style, as well as other related issues (Stokes, 2003).

Information can be gathered through conversations, which can be a very effective method. Participants may be willing to provide information verbally even if they are apprehensive about providing written responses to questions, in part because of the nature of the interview. The goal of in-depth interviews is to get to the heart of the matter and the root of the problem at hand. A detailed interview can be an extremely useful tool in the early stages of a large-scale research

project, helping to narrow down and concentrate on the most important aspects of the study's design.

In-depth interviews, for example, can be extremely useful when you need to understand the context of a problem and evaluate various solutions in order to manage the research process and supplement the data analysis. Through an interview, it is possible to gain a comprehensive understanding of someone's thoughts and actions. In the case of (Roger D. Wimmer, Joseph R. Dominick, 2006) for example, "The information gleaned from in-depth interviews can be extremely valuable in determining the motivations behind the responses provided by interviewees during the course of the interview.

The researcher can dig for information and get a sense of respondents' perspectives using qualitative methods such as in-depth interviews, which is precisely what applied in this study. It is possible to obtain a clear picture of respondents' professions, expectations, and challenges in a short period of time by using this method of interviewing. According to (Roger D. Wimmer, Joseph R. Dominick, 2006) , an in-depth interview can yield a great deal of useful information if conducted properly.

3.2.2 Questionnaires'

In order to gather information from media practitioners, a structured questionnaire approach is executed. As a result, the questionnaire's structure should be straightforward, simple, and unambiguous in order to allow respondents to easily answer the questions in the questionnaire. According to the survey, respondents are asked for basic information about them, such as their education level, age and work experiences.

The information is collected in order to determine the extent to which court news is being reported in the media. To get an accurate picture, a thorough attention must be paid to what journalists are saying about it. According to Fisher (2007), in order to be considered valid, a complete picture of the phenomena that occurred must be presented and quantified in some way. Consequently, as part of the research process, twenty surveys are distributed to journalists working in the television newsroom. It is anticipated that the results of the questionnaires closed the gap that an in-depth interview might have created.

3.3 Sample and Sampling Techniques

"A subset of the population that is representative of the entire population," according to (Roger D. Wimmer, Joseph R. Dominick, 2006), defines a sample. What matters is how large a sample is if the results cannot be applied to the entire population from which they were drawn because the sample does not represent the entire population. A significant amount of primary data is used in this study, which was gathered through interviews and questionnaires administered to members of the news channel's staff. As a result, only the news about the courts is discussed outside of the newsroom.

This study is conducted in a scientific manner owing to purposive sampling executed in the research. Purposive sampling is a method of gathering data that is frequently used by researchers. This method involves selecting a sample from a population that contains individuals who have characteristics that are distinct from one another. It is most often one of the seven factors listed below that influences the size of a study's sample: (1) the type of project being undertaken; (2) the purpose of the project; (3) its complexity; (4) the amount of error tolerable; (5) time constraints; (6) financial constraints; and (7) previous research in the area. To put it another way, when conducting a preliminary search for general indications, it is not always necessary to involve a large number of participants (Roger D. Wimmer, Joseph R. Dominick, 2006).

The technique known as purposeful sampling is used instead, and it involves selecting subjects who the researchers believe are relevant to the research question. It was decided that a small sample size would be used in order to meet the needs of the research while also maximizing the use of available time and resources. 20 individuals were included in the data collection through questionnaire. Participants in this study were those who have a significant involvement on the court news broadcasts on television, as determined by the researchers.

In terms of demographics who participated in the survey, the majority of those who answered the surveys were male (75%) and female (25 %). Most of them are under the age of thirty (60 % of respondents aged between 20-30). Respondents were divided into three groups based on their work position: reporters (45%) and producers (30%), with the remaining (25%) working in editor positions. The researcher achieved its target of respondent selection include people at different professional levels. This also helps to reach a better result by bringing diversified ideas. 50% of the respondents are working 6 up to ten years in the corporation. So, most of the respondents had

average work experience. This helps to get respondents who have a better understanding of the professional rapport of the institution. On the other hand, it allows the researcher to find reliable information.

Category	variables	Frequency	Percentage	Mode
Gender	1=Female	5	25	Male
	2=Male	15	75	
Total		20	100	

Category (age)	variables	Frequency	Percentage	Mode
	20 – 30	12	60	20 – 30
	31– 40	6	30	
	40-50	2	10	
Total		20	100	

Work position

Category	variables	Frequency	Percentage	Mode
	Reporter	9	45	Reporter
	Producer	6	30	
	Editor	5	25	
Total		20	100	

Work Experience

Category	Variables	Frequency	Percentage	Mode
	1-5	6	30	6-10
	6-10	10	50	
	10-20	4	20	
Total		20	100	

Table 1: Demographic characteristics of the respondents

Apart from the survey 5 interviewees would be interviewed based on their direct experience in the production and editing of court-related news reports. As a result of this, department head of the Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation's (EBC) news channel, the head of politics, government

and good governance team, two journalists who assigned for court reporting and one daily duty news editors are included in the interview.

3.4 Methods of Data Analysis

SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) is applied to evaluate the questionnaires', and the researcher describes the result accordingly. Whereas the data that were collected from interviews first transcribed to describe the core idea. Data are then realized by putting into consideration how themes relate to the objectives, research questions and literatures reviewed.

The researcher is able to match several responses from respondents with objectives and the already reviewed literature. In addition, the analyses are presented in a way to handle the research objectives and questions. Finally, the results were arranged based on the objectives of the study.

3.5 Key Informants

Key informants are distinguished from "regular" informants in that they have more information to share and are more conspicuous.

According to (Payne, G., & Payne, J, 2004), "key informants are those whose social positions in a research setting provide them with specialist knowledge about other people, processes, or happenings that is more extensive, detailed, or privileged than ordinary people, and who are thus particularly valuable sources of information to a researcher, not least in the early stages of a project."

As a result of this the researcher conducted in- depth interview with two journalists who assigned for court reporting, one daily news editor and the head of politics, government and good governance team (the team which is assigned for court news reporting).

3.6 Ethical Considerations

This research is conducted with best possible check of ethical standards in order to make the result relevant without harming anybody during the course of the study. Persons involved takes part in with their own will and autonomy. Encouraging and explaining the participants to understand the intention of the research is only for all the good motives and beneficial output, initiation will be stimulated than any sort of enforce or coercion.

The right of privacy and personal dignity are mindful by the researcher to oblige. Especially, since this research is carried out by the employee of the organization in the case, informants' privacy and their response confidentiality must strongly be looked after. the researcher also believes that detaching himself from the personal interests and employment security and benefit issues, dedicates himself to deliver the truthful, balanced and valuable output of the study.

CHAPTER IV

4. DATA ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION

This chapter shows and evaluates the data that has been gathered so far. The practice and challenges of EBC court news is the subject of this presentation and analysis of data, which focuses on specific pieces of information. In-depth interviews and questionnaires are used to collect data from participants in the study. 20 respondents were chosen from news department. All of the questionnaires were completed and returned on time. In order to substantiate the data that was obtained through the process of quantitative analysis, an in-depth interview session was conducted with two journalists, editor, team leader, and member of the editorial managing body. The purpose of this section is to analyze the subject qualifying by in-depth interview and supplement and correlate quantified finding. The information that is obtained through the questioner is also going to be validated with the help of this section. Within a reasonable amount of time, the researcher is able to finish all of the interviews that needed to be done.

Each of the reporters and editorial monitoring officers who had worked in the media for at least five years prior to being invited to take part in the interview were offered the opportunity to participate in it. That is to say, they are familiar with the operational concerns, and they have previous competency in the subject matter of the study project. Additionally, they have the ability to communicate effectively. Those interviewees are, the head of EBC news department, the head of politics, government and good governance team, daily news duty editor and two court news reporter who are in the position of senior producer and senior editor.

This mix of methods was deliberately preferred to triangulate them and thereby also, increases the reliability of the findings.

4.1 General reflection on EBC Court News Status

The Likert scale is used to gauge people's attitudes and beliefs. It is one of the most accurate techniques to gauge a person's beliefs, attitudes, and actions towards a given problem. Using it, to get the opinion and attitudes of the respondents the researcher used this Likert scale. According to the result, 65 % of the respondents indicated EBC does not give proper attention to court news. Regarding to training, most of them 45 % expressed their disagreement on whether EBC offers training for the court reporters. And also 45% of the respondents disagree on EBC

court reports are free from external pressure and 40 % of the respondents express their disagreement on EBC is on the status of setting agenda in the legal system of Ethiopia. 50 % of the questionnaire participants remain neutral on the role of EBC in understanding judicial system. the status of EBC in encouraging the journalists to engage in court reporting 45 % of the participant favors to be neutral, 50 % of the response marked on neutral in the questions of EBC has strong connection with courts and 40 % on the fairness of court reporting. 50 % of the answers on journalist's satisfaction on their reporting favor being neutral.

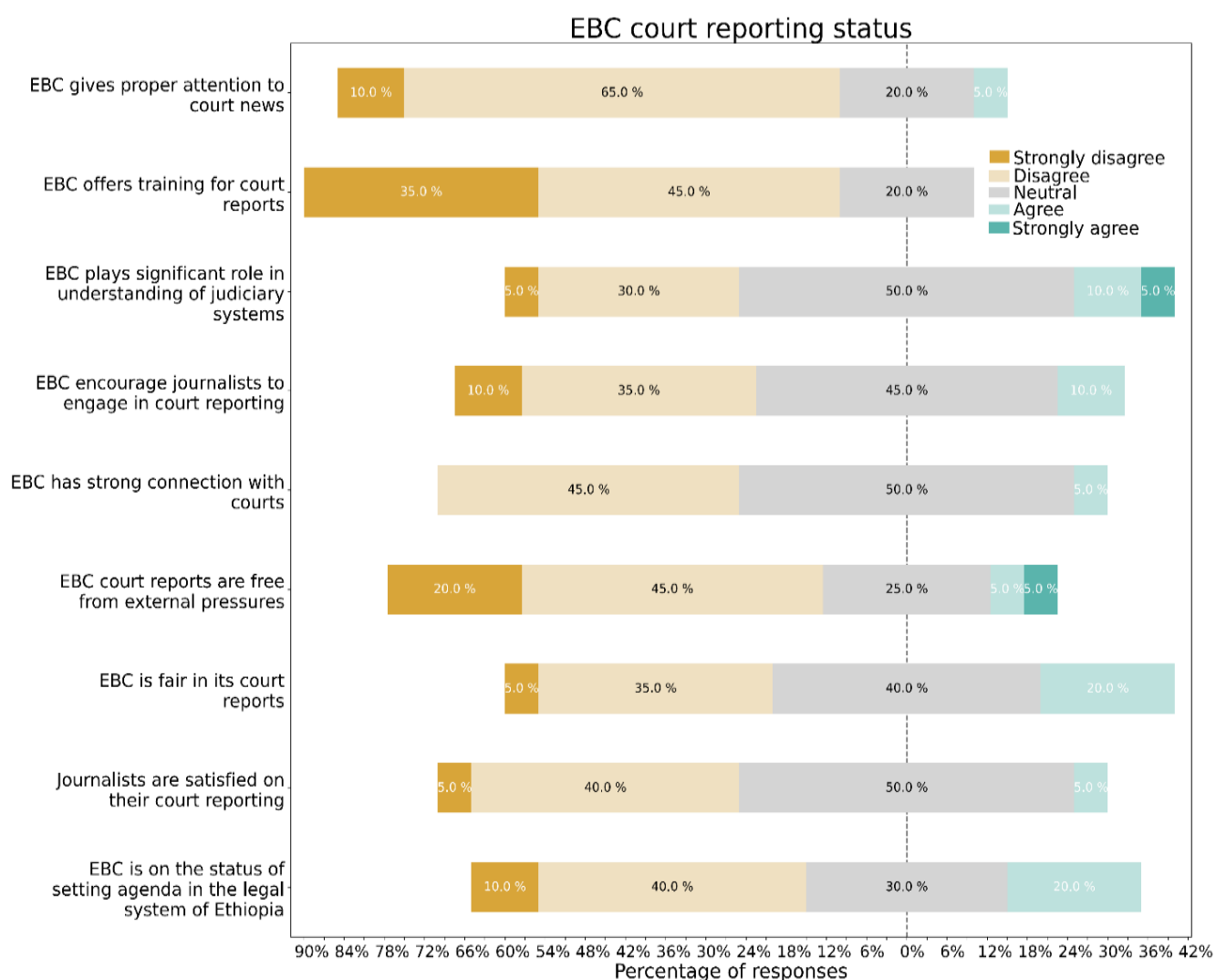
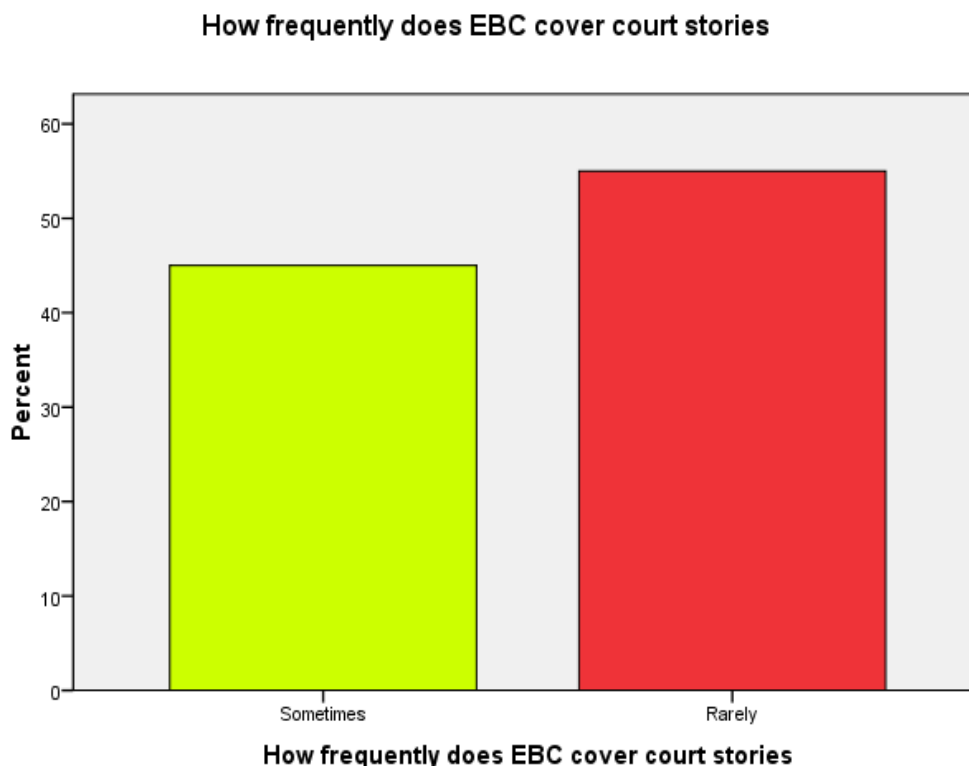


Chart 1: EBC court news status

4.2 The extent of court news coverage in EBC

ETV news channel is administered by the Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation and is responsible for regularly airing news reports and news programs. The most crucial hours of the day provide coverage of a wide range of different types of news is the afternoon (12:00 -2:00 pm) and the evening news hours 7:00- 9:00 pm). In those news hours some of the news presented in the form of a package news. Reports from the judicial system are not considered to be part of a comprehensive news package; hence, they will not be broadcast on a daily basis.

According to the survey, the Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation (EBC) is claimed to include court news rarely (55%) as stated by respondents regarding the frequency with which court news is aired. 45% of the respondents also answered that EBC covers court stories sometimes.



Graph 1: The frequency of EBC court news coverage

In the interview session the first questions that were raised by the researcher was, *Does EBC cover court stories and How often EBC covers court news?* According to the interviewees the

organization does not have a predetermined time frame for reporting on issues related to the courts. The specific legal proceedings that are being reported on by the media are ones that are either in the best interest of the media or in the best interest of the government. And also there are no news packages pertaining to the legal system to be seen on EBC's news. a little attention that is devoted to a matter due to the relevance of the matter as well as the urgency with which it must be dealt with. The head of the News Department at EBC shares his idea for this question as follows:

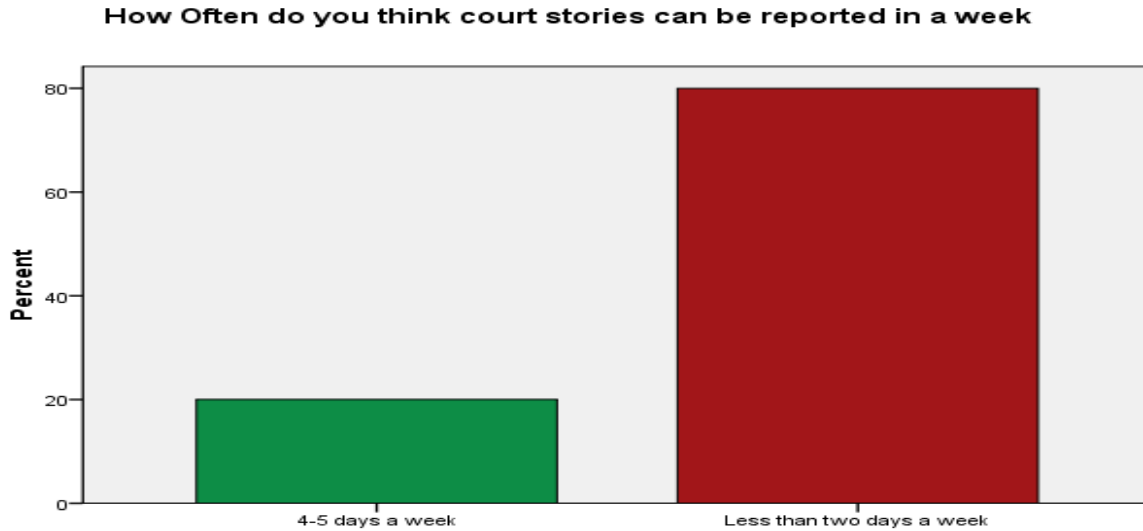
The institution does not take reports of this kind seriously. This happens because of the media gives much attention to legislative and executive branch of the government resulting in the media to be limited by certain news content.

This would imply that EBC does not invest as much of its time to reporting on court news as it does on other news stories. The respondents of the questionnaires are also in line with this fact. 85% of the respondents agreed that EBC lacks attention on court news.

Does EBC sufficiently cover court related stories					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	3	15.0	15.0	15.0
	No	17	85.0	85.0	100.0
	Total	20	100.0	100.0	

Table 2: Response on time allocation for EBC court news

The above finding shows that the respondents rejects the assumption that EBC sufficiently covers court news. Of the designed questioner the respondents also asked: *how often does the court news can be reported?*, the following graph shows their responses.



Graph 2: Response gave for time interval for court news

From the above graph the response indicated that most of the respondents have consensus on the importance of court news coverage. Their difference is the days that spend to court news. So, 80% of the response support the idea that if court news can be reported less than two days in a week. And 20 % of the questioner result indicated court news can be reported 4-5 days in a week.

In most people's minds, the media play the role of public informants. In order for the media to maximize both their effect on society and their financial gain, they have every motivation to operate in a logical manner. This will allow them to maximize their potential. These goals can be accomplished by focusing coverage on the events that have the greatest influence on the formulation of public policy and the political process as a whole.

This suggests that in order for the media's coverage to be realistic, it should depend on a variety of distinct factors. For instance, (Lee Epstein and Jeffrey A. Segal , 2000) argue that news reporters take current issue salience into consideration when selecting whether or not to cover Court decisions and how to cover them effectively if they do choose to do so. Second, if there are two issues that are of comparable significance, the media should give a greater amount of attention, space, and resources to the activities of the branch that has the most control over the way public policy develops in that issue area. This should be the case even if there are two concerns that are of comparable significance. According to (Jones, Frank R. Baumgartner and Bryan D., 1993), the media look to policy venues, which are entities that have the potential to

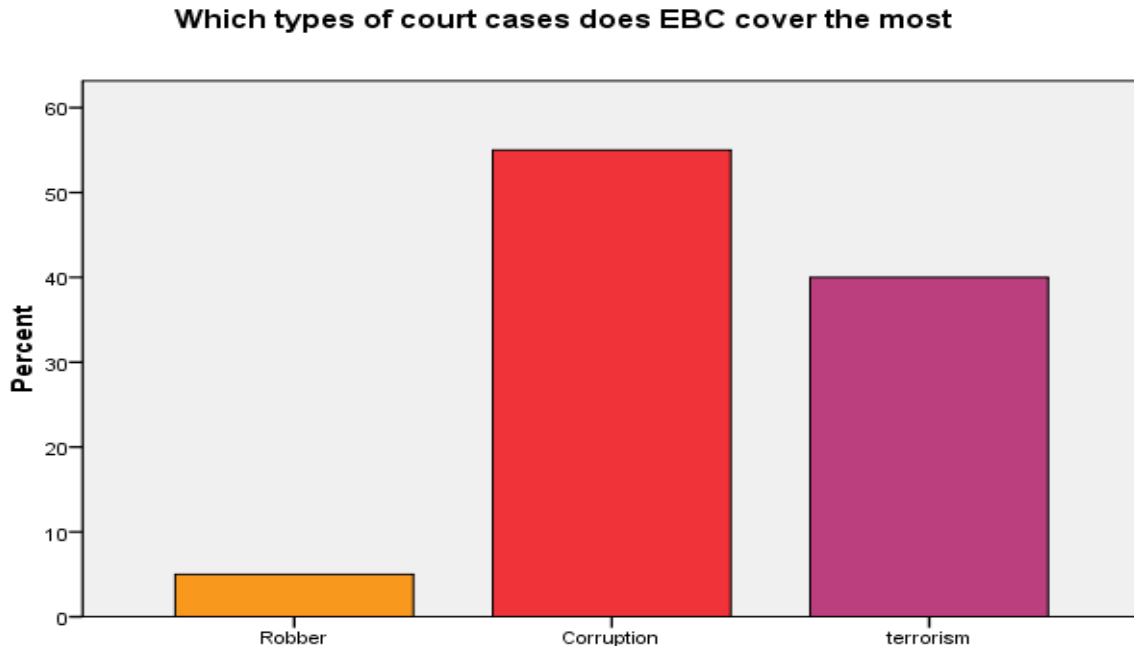
make decisions regarding a certain topic, to assess which events most merit the attention of the news media.

Any civilized society must have the rule of law, which is arguably the most fundamental necessity. An impartial court that all citizens may access is a necessary component of the rule of law. In a democratic society, where the judiciary and the media play crucial and complementary institutional responsibilities, freedom of expression is likewise essential. Together, they monitor each other and keep authority accountable while upholding individual rights and shedding light on issues of public concern.

The media has been said to as the watchdogs of democracy, identifying democratic shortcomings and calling elected authorities to account. The rule of law is upheld when a judicial system is properly calibrated and the media plays its part in accordance with that. The courts are often the only avenue through which this can be achieved, in the light of their unique powers and their institutional separation from the legislature and the executive. This can be realized when media gives the more attention to justice executive bodies.

4.3 The dominant court issues in EBC Court News Coverage

After having the surveys from the study examined, the researcher has found that instances involving corruption and terrorism were the most prevalent in the institution's court news. The types of cases and the subjects of court reporting usually fall in favor of what the government value most. Coverage primarily focuses on Corruption and other terrorism crimes rather than crimes which have a greater impact on the public's daily life. Corruption crime accounted for 55 percent of television coverage. 40 percent of the coverage dealt with terrorism. More than two-thirds of all stories dealt with some exceptional type of violent crime. In contrast, the subjects that were arguably most significant and whose outcomes had the most impact on a broad number of people which are murder, robbery, sexual assaults and other civil rights issues combined took up barely less of all the coverage.



Graph 3: The dominant cases of EBC court news

Crime has been regarded as a topic covered by news organizations, whether national or local, since editors and journalists believe their audience is interested in it. Court coverage often concerns criminal rather than civil matters (Tunstall 1971, Chibnall 1977, Pape & Featherstone 2005). This is especially true with violent and sexual offenses, which are disproportionately prevalent in publications (Ditton & Duffy 1983, Moore 2014). In addition to an overemphasis on deviance (Ericson, Baranek & Chan 1987), rare and sensational cases (Wardle 2007, 2008), and trials that involve extraordinary or salacious details (Rodrick 2014), those who rely on their local paper for crime information are more pessimistic about crime matters (Smith 1984).

Crime stories provide an opportunity for media organizations, like local newspapers, to warn about the repercussions of deviance and commend established norms of behavior (Chibnall 1977, Wykes 2001). Crime reports often adopt a pro-police stance (Marsh, 1991). Despite being updated for the contemporary media environment, works by Chibnall and Galtung on news values in the context of crime from 1977 and the classic study of news values by Galtung and Ruge from 1965 both continue to be important. This includes the frequently cited piece by Harcup & O'Neill (2001).

Since then, academics have placed more attention on the value of share ability on social and online platforms (Harcup & O'Neill, 2017), crimes involving minors (Jewkes, 2015), and the availability of visual material for use in crime stories (Greer, 2009). In their most recent typology of news values, Harcup & O'Neill (2017) similarly placed "exclusivity" first, giving "scoops" more weight while recognizing that this idea reveals more about the journalistic process than any intrinsic newsworthiness in a given story.

For Harcup (2020), crime news is "arguably among the more obvious examples of how the stories that tend to be packaged and delivered by the news industry are not always the news items that citizens most need." Interview responses indicated that court reporters are often under pressure to cover proceedings in several courtrooms within a court complex at the same time, and will often instead choose to focus on those involving guilty pleas, to allow for a greater volume of completed stories in a given day. A shorter hearing with a guilty plea, and freedom to report all details of the case heard in open court, is more likely to offer what a reporter would consider a publishable story.

That is, one that allows the reporter to finish it fast as a cohesive package, even if it is marginally newsworthy (Brighton & Foy 2007) or has fewer detail overall (Soothill, 2009). Attempting to capture even a spectacular cross-examination from a trial in a brief piece is a lot more difficult undertaking, and would normally necessitate the reporter spending a half-day or longer sitting through those proceedings on the off chance that something noteworthy occurred. Reporters also emphasized that the mere fundamentals of a court case may provide little indication of its potential news worth, which would frequently feature comments or some other type of unexpected occurrence that occurred during the proceedings.

Some reporters recognized the "pot luck" component as the way they came up with memorable stories accidentally discovering an interesting story almost by chance, perhaps while waiting for another case. These factors suggest that court reporters should prioritize efficiency in their work over other cases that may more closely uphold the normative values of court reporting, as well as the commercial considerations of covering exclusive or entertaining stories.

Tuchman (1978) wrote extensively about the value of taking time factors into account when producing daily journalism, noting that the news media imposes structures on time and space to enable better planning. Courts typically convene at the same time every day, giving journalists

covering that beat some consistency in how to organize their job. For instance, they can take notes while the court is in session and write up their reports during breaks or after the day's events are through. This might thus give an editor the assurance that a court reporter will deliver stories for publication at specific times, encouraging a newspaper to continue investing in a full-time court reporter even in the age of more stringent editorial standards. Even so, it would undoubtedly put pressure on the reporter to ensure that they returned from court each day with a particular number of items to write, regardless of whether they all adhered to conventional notions of newsworthiness.

On other hand, recent researches indicated that media are naturally drawn to covering ongoing or potential conflicts; especially those are shocking and sensationalize (Tuman, 2010). Terrorism and corruption inherently has a political motivation in this dimension. The rapid spread of information regardless of its veracity is especially common when focusing events occur. A focusing event is a sudden, attention-grabbing event that draws public awareness to an issue (Kingdon, 1995). In addition to being attention-grabbing and easy to politicize, focusing events are also relatively uncommon, reveal a cause of harm or potential harm, and are depicted as being particular to certain areas or groups (Kingdon, 1995). When something becomes a focusing event, debates and discussions surrounding certain policy topics markedly increase and receive greater media attention (Kingdom, 1995). When news media spends time on an issue, this suggests to the public that the topic is valid and important for understanding the world around them. The amount of attention that a story gets is an indicator of its importance (McCombs, 2003).

The vast majority of terrorist incidents are covered by the media very briefly, if at all, whereas a chosen handful are sensationalized and given substantial publicity (Steven M. Chermak and Jeffrey Gruenewald , 2007) There is a clear correlation between the amount of attention that a topic receives from the media and the degree to which it is relevant (Carthy, 1996). The fact that certain terrorist attacks are intrinsically political, have the potential to be a centering event, and garner more attention than others.

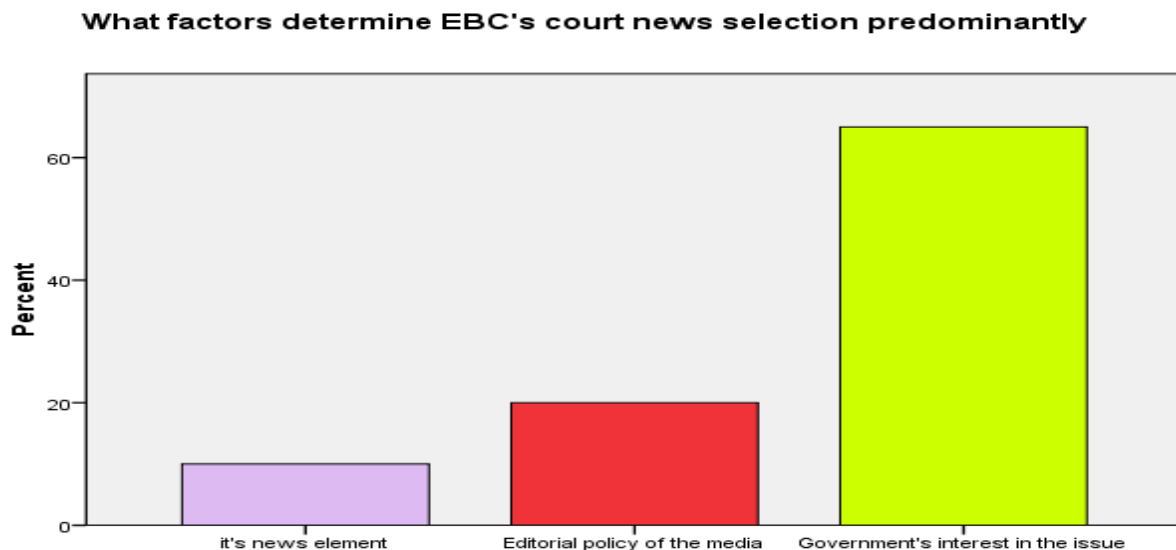
It is not necessary that the fact that a topic has been mentioned in the media to imply that it is relevant, either subjectively or objectively, for a particular person or for the broader public as a whole. This is true for each person as well as for the group as a whole. It is conceivable for

something to grab people's attention, but then for it to rapidly lose its bearing on their lives as they go about their daily routines.

4.3.1 Determinant factors of court news

After having the surveys from the study examined, the researchers found that EBC court news selection is predominantly dominated by government interest on the issues. 65 % of the respondent agreed that. 20 % of the respondents said editorial policy of the media determines EBC court news selection. Less than 10% of the respondents agreed that news value determines the story selection.

The quantity of media attention given to a certain event is a good indicator of how important that event is to the government. The reporting of court news is also subject to the influence of the officials from the relevant government agencies. In this case the media serve as a tool of propaganda rather than information and education. It can be possible to conclude that EBC court related reports are based on the heartbeat of the government.



Graph 4: The factors which determine EBC court news selection

After conducting additional research, it is discovered that more than 65 % of individuals who responded stated that the news channel of the Ethiopian broadcasting corporation presents court stories based on primarily information and briefings of court authorities. Following that, 25% of individuals who responded claimed that EBC's build court narratives by contacting all

participants of the verdicts. 5% of the respondents also claimed that EBC uses criminals and prosecutors as the source of court news.

In the designed questionnaire also, respondents were asked to answer EBC's court and crime related news selection criteria and responded that it follows the right principles and the following table shows their response.

Do you think EBC's court and crime related news selection follows the right principles?					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	6	30.0	30.0	30.0
	No	14	70.0	70.0	100.0
	Total	20	100.0	100.0	

Table 3: Response on EBC court news selection principle

As can be referred from the above table on the question of whether respondents agree that EBC news selection procedures are apt with its editorial purposes and measures. 70 % of them responded negatively while 30 % of respondents agreed.

4.4 Tone of the Total Coverage of Court Issues

People's responses to the media are partially self-determined, and how they react to its content depends on the group they identify with. The roles that the media play for society can be used as an example of the influence, effects, and significance of the media. These roles include surveillance, status conferral, interpretation of social issues, social connections, and transmission of societal values through socialization and entertainment. It is undeniable that the world we live in is influenced by the media and that the mass media are social influencers and agents of power that can be used for the benefit of society. On other hand the media influence can be positive or

negative. This determined by the content treatment or its consistency. Most of EBC court stories were unadorned presentations of the facts of the case, especially on television.

The duty editor asserted this:

Almost all of the stories fell into information category. Those news focus on the facts and what had happened in court. And also almost all stories don't offer any explanation of relevant laws. The possible penalties also neglected.

And also the high percentage of stories that were straightforward presentations of facts suggests that coverage mostly informs us about what takes place in the courts. The head of news department added this:

Those stories lack consistence reporting. This means that the start of trail will be reported and the subsequent proceedings will remain unreported. Sometimes only the judgment is reported. In fact, it can be concluded that the court decision mostly forgotten.

There is little attention paid to court news, the reporting simply focused on feeding the information in addition with lack of consistent reporting, it's possible to conclude that EBC court news cannot be on the status of bringing a change in the society.

4.4.1 Court news issue selection principles and the media effectiveness in agenda setting

It has been established, both by the coverage that was provided by EBC as well as by the concept that is at the core of the selection of court stories, that the media places a higher value on judicial procedures that have the potential to have tremendous repercussions for the nation. According to the interviewees as a direct consequence of this development, inquiries into acts of terrorism and corruption are currently being accorded the highest priority. Second, if the organization is in the opinion that the concerns that are currently being considered do have the most importance to the government, and then it will give the highest priority to the cases prevailed in the time. They assign significance to these topics not only due to the fact that they consider the general public to be their audience, but also due to the fact that they feel the general public is interested in learning about these topics. Besides, it is preconceived that they pose a threat to the entirety of the nation.

Another of interviewed court reporter who is in the position of senior producer states the following:

Anytime there are cases of court news, the major discussion that is surfaced is 'does the case and its embed denotations are trending or is the agenda of the

government currently'. Even though the media framed the issue as a threat to the nation and sensitive of its negative consequences, it is inevitably covered if it is the government agenda. It's difficult to remember the story weighed in difference to this reality.

However, there is an idea which is contradicting the above interviewee's response. The respondent doesn't agree with the news selection principles stated by him since EBC news selection principle is not far from the basic principles of news selection criteria which are also applicable to court cases. All the news values judgments the journalists regarded as extremely important were among the factors mentioned by him as criteria for news selection: timeliness or novelty, importance or impact, influence, prominence, unusualness, conflict or controversy. Here is court reporter in the position of senior editor argument:

Although the selection of the news precedes the government's interest, they are not fundamentally different from the principles of news selection. Their relevance is significant in terms of timeliness and impact.

Another point raised here was did EBC is effective in agenda setting on those selected stories. According to the team head of the politics, government, and good governance:

Issues associated with politics, governments, and good governance continue to remain at the forefront of news reporting. Beside the professional parameters of news value judgment these are something to be taken into consideration while deciding whether the court news should be covered or not. It is possible that court reporting will a due attention if the subject matter has a political effect or a direct tie with the governance of the country; however, this will not be of vital importance if the subject matter is only about defining an agenda for the judicial system, the public or the nation.

In addition, three of the respondents added that even those stories that are given attention, do not get a consistent coverage. The case may be reported at its first appearance or commencement of the trial, however no follow-up report at the later stages. It's also possible that the charges brought against them never disclosed. Consequently, it is challenging to present a comprehensive picture of the criminal justice system. This is because that news mainly dependent on the need of the government.

In order for a topic to continue to be relevant, it needs to be spoken about in the public arena continuously over a stretch of time that can range anywhere from one to eight weeks at a time before it loses its currency (Coleman, McCombs, Shaw & Weaver, 1972).

The length of time that passes after a certain incident without it being discussed in the media causes the public's impression of the significance of the event to drop.

This is because the public does not hear about the event in the media (Coleman, 2009). The news stories that are covered are chosen for coverage after consideration of the amount of attention they are likely to get if they are published. This is because the news media are today organized in the form of "infotainment," which is why this is the case (Yi Xiang, Miklos Sarvary, 2007).

However, the findings of the research, which were drawn from an examination of interview data, suggested that even with the court news that the media pays attention, EBC has not made much of an attempt to create a public agenda on those topics. Because, the media is considered to be doing nothing to effect systemic change by reporting on follow-up news and undertaking impact assessments that may be used to establish linkages between similar instances and advocate for further legislation improvements to be adopted. Nearly every person who works in the media who was asked their opinion about the media's role in bringing about change in the legal system and in the jurisdictions that it covers argues that the media has not done very much to bring about this change by elevating urgent and pressing criminal justice concerns to the forefront of the state's and the public's attention.

4.4.2 Court news presentation and how the media fulfills its social responsibility of court reporting

During the course of an in-depth interview, every interviewee expressed their agreement that the manner in which they construct the court story reports obliges listening to the arguments presented by both the left and the right and incorporates the judge's response. They employ a number of emblems related with the legal system as the background image for their news broadcasts because cameras are not allowed inside the courtroom. The comments from journalists are unanimous in their conviction that they place a significant amount of reliance on court documents and seek technical assistance from court officials or lawyers with whom they have made close links while engaging. In addition, the journalists are of the opinion that they rely significantly on court documents. Instead of making their own efforts to add any new data and making their reports more interesting, the primary purpose of the reporters is to make certain that none of the vital information from the court file is missing.

The court reporter who is in the position of senior editor, provides the following additional information:

I have handled the majority of the court news reported in the news room. I'm very careful on the terms and jargons that I employ in any court reports. Besides, I made an effort to acknowledge and respect the rights of both the plaintiff and the defendant in the cases. But can't deny assistance from court workers is invariably required in every case.

Court reporters' work depends heavily on the relationships that exist between journalists and the courts. Since the 1930s, courts in various jurisdictions have employed press officers to manage their interactions with journalists (Davis & Strickler 2000, Johnston 2018), and as journalists have become more critical of judges and their decisions, some jurisdictions, like Canada (Harada 2018) and some Australian states, have become even more proactive in their media management (Spencer 2018).

The fact that it can be challenging for reporters to obtain court records and lists and to bridge the gap between the media and the judiciary (Brooke 2010, Perrin 2012, Davis & Strickler 2000, Moran 2014) suggests that courts have not necessarily responded to the potential decline in court coverage by making it simpler for journalists to do their jobs. The courts beat is one of the most challenging ones a journalist may be given because they have to deal with complicated legal and ethical issues with little help (Hochberger 2006).

As a result, court reporters frequently rely on casual connections with participants, like court personnel and attorneys, for direction and story leads (Whitaker 1981, Drechsel 1983). The reporters believed that one of the main benefits of physically visiting a courthouse was the chance of receiving a tip about a case from someone working there. "Reporters who had spent more time covering the courts in their area and had developed those personal relationships appeared to encounter this more frequently.

On other hand, EBC is of the opinion that it is necessary for the general public to be aware of the latest court news, and it is also the obligation of the EBC to educate the public regarding the manner in which justice is administered throughout the nation. Taking this into consideration, one of the content modifications that the institutions made three years ago added a court report as part of the news package. In addition to this, it was made accountable for politics and governance team. As the matter of fact, this is in no way the situation should have been at all.

The head of the news department adds on that:

EBC's coverage of court reporting and other legal issues has been put under a significant amount of pressure as a result of a lack of skilled journalists in the report, a lack of connections with the courts, and a lack of attention paid to the report. He bases this assertion on the fact that the EBC has not been paying enough attention to the report. According to him, each of these issues had a role in the decline in the coverage of court-related stories. The deficiencies are substantially tied to EBC. When it comes to its function as an informant, the EBC does not take the position that it is achieving its social responsibility by providing coverage for legal processes.

In addition, daily duty editor asserted that:

Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation (EBC), in its capacity as a public informant media outlet, is obliged to inform the general public about the procedures by which justice is carried out in Ethiopia. However, there is a significant amount of work that has to be done, since the institution is not up to the standards of fulfilling its social responsibilities that has levied on it.

Many people think of the media as the fourth estate in the governmental system. However, the public is the focus of both their foundation and their work. Because of this, members of the media have a responsibility to ensure that the general public is aware that all three branches of government are successfully carrying out their respective responsibilities. However, a significant amount of attention is paid only to the legislative and executive branches of the government by the institution. In its consequence, the judicial system receives less attention; coverage.

All social actions and interactions within a society are founded on the system communication, which is a fundamental component of society. In other words, communication and society are interwoven. Therefore, communication is essential to the existence of all societies (Ravi, 2012).

The public expects media to further the common good. In order to achieve this, it is anticipated that the media teaches as well as informs. The public wants the media to serve as a watchdog, an example for the neighborhood, an agent of change, and many other newly developing redemptive roles (Abubakar, 2012). These fundamental rules for conducting journalism came out of the renowned report of the Commission on Freedom of the Press, led by Robert Hutchin, in 1947. But the most important queries are: to whom should the press be accountable? Are the owners, the government, or the general public the media's primary stakeholders? However, (Ravi ,2012) asserts unequivocally that the society that grants the media their freedom of operation is obligated to them.

The majority of the information that we learn about the world that is not directly applicable to our immediate surroundings comes to us from various forms of media. Therefore, the role that the media plays in the way that we acquire perceptions about people, places, and things that we have not personally seen is one that plays an enormously essential role in our society today (McCombs, 2003) The media should perform such a role within the context of the notions of social responsibility in order to fulfill their responsibilities. due to the fact that the fundamental responsibility of public media is not to concentrate on the interests of the government, but rather to safeguard the safety of the general population by bringing awareness to the true threats that are faced by the majority of people in the country.

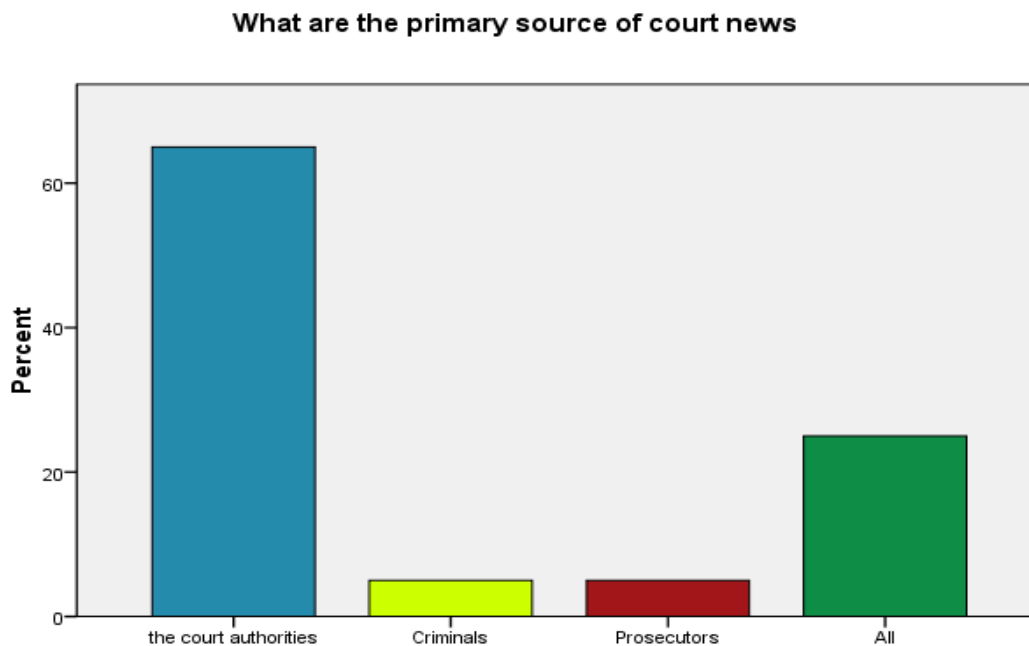
When it comes to determining the tone of public conversation and, as a consequence, shaping public opinion about the degree to which personal freedoms and civil rights should be restricted or safeguarded, the media wield an outsized amount of power. This is the case as a result of the media's tendency to feature and elevate particular political storylines and points of view above others. According to (Chermak, S.M. and Gruenewald, J, 2007), in order to determine the interests of the general public, political parties communicate with various members of the media. This lends credence to the idea that the biases that exist in the reporting of the media may have repercussions in the actual world. In a nutshell, public opinion and perceptions of the world are influenced by media coverage, which in turn can have an effect on how the general public perceives major personalities, policies, and organizations.

4.5 Court News Sources

After conducting additional research which is listed in graph 5, discovered that more than 65 % of individuals who responded stated that the news channel of the EBC presents court stories based on primarily information and briefings of court authorities. Following that, 25% of individuals who responded claimed that EBC's build court narratives by contacting all participants of the verdicts. 5% of the respondents also claimed that EBC uses criminals and prosecutors as the source of court news.

The primary causes for the practitioners' reliance on courtroom happenings and files of convicted criminals are their lack of understanding on how to build up their stories, the underlying historic tendencies of reporting court and crime tales, and their dependency on information sources. The inability of journalists to provide a critical and analytical dimension to their reporting may also

be attributed, at least in part, to a lack of familiarity with relevant legal concerns and an absence of relevant advice on those topics within the media itself. Therefore, rather of being instructive and causing a shift in listeners' perspectives, the news has become more of a story-telling medium that conveys information to its audience.

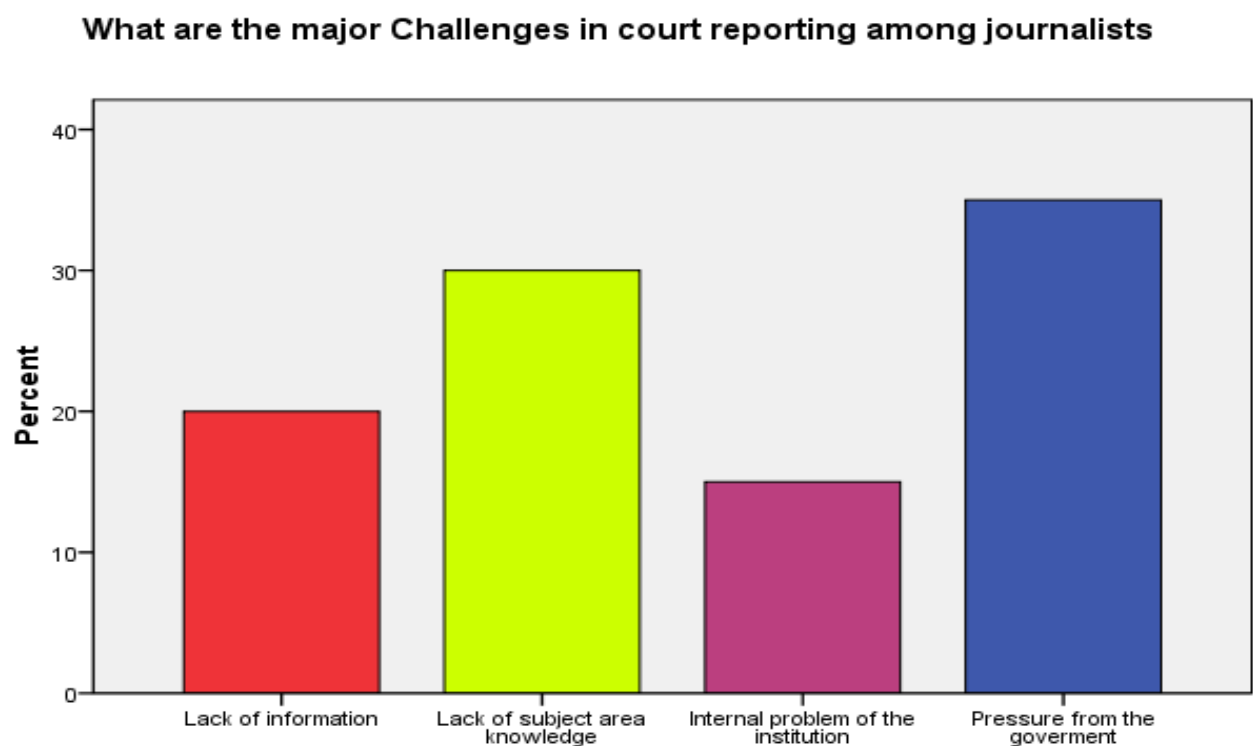


Graph 5: Primary source of EBC court news

Data from the in-depth interview also indicated that journalists wholly depend on court authorities and documents as sources. When asked how they manage sources on court news, all respondents who works in the media approached that are filed in the courthouse docket. One of the reasons for this, the respondents explained, is that court news coverage requires a very critical caution and tries to avoid any sort of erroneous presentation that can result in unwanted and unexpected consequences. The respondents added also they are not familiar with legal words, since they are not coming from law background. As court news is related to law, it requires legal knowledge. However, the journalist's field of study is not related to law and they don't get enough training, so they mostly use court sources.

4.6 Challenges of Court News Reporting

The challenges that journalists encounter when covering court hearings are diverse and varied. More than 35% of individuals who responded claimed that pressure from the government is tricky in this type of reporting making it one of the obstacles they encountered. 30 % of those who answered the survey claimed that they were challenged by lack of competence in the area of court reporting. Another short-coming is lack of information accounting 20% of the respondents. Internal problem of the media was also one of the challenges that journalists faced. 15 % of the poll remarked on it.



Graph 6: Major challenges of EBC court news reporting

Moreover, there have been a number of reports in which court reporters have stated that the difficulties they confront in their line of work is internal and external. One of the issues is that the organization does not pay the deserving attention to the news coverage that the media provides regarding the court. As a result, it has the effect of compelling journalists who want to extend their careers to report on other sources rather than on stories of this nature.

There is a gap in the information that is provided at the second level of the organizational structure, which is another area that needs improvement. Since the media unable to develop a

trustworthy and fruitful working relationship with the court system, the information does not reach the general public at the appropriate time and clarity. This will have direct effect of preventing the reporting of a great number of courtroom stories.

Another controversial issue is the widespread belief that the public holding media are the mouse piece of the government. This view has led to a number of heated debates. This frequently results in journalists becoming the targets of harassment, intimidation, and various other types of intimidation. It is difficult to overestimate the difficulties that are presented by specific situations, such as terrorism and corruption, in particular.

Court reporter in the position of senior producer stated this:

I personally suffered an insult during the time that I was attending court proceedings concerning charges of terrorism and corruption. An unsettling letter that carried a threat against my wellbeing was also sent to me.

According to those who provided feedback on the interview session, the fact that no television cameras are present throughout any of the court hearings or proceedings is problematic. As a result of this, the journalist is required to present what he or she attended as the only first-hand source of the news. As a direct result of this, the reporters were forced to concentrate their coverage on a selected stories relating to the proceedings. To the direct consequence of this, a series of questions are posed on the organization's ability to maintain its credibility (personal interview, 2022).

Television is an image-based medium; thus this aspect of programming should take precedence. It is challenging to consider this kind of story in the same light as other kinds of news. This is due to the fact that the legislation in Ethiopia prohibits the use of any photos in the courtroom. Therefore, the reports need a different strategy. The reporter narrates the story by using different court related logo as a background images. The material that was collected via the interview and questionnaires suggests that EBC's court news most of the time is presented on the cases on the side of the plaintiff. This is due to the fact that the majority of the lawsuits are brought by the government as the institution predominantly focuses on those court reports which are set as government agenda.

According to EBC court reporting, the most often used type of crime news presentation is to describe criminal episodes first then the motives behind the crime and neglected the punishment.

On other hand, majority of court tales have a noticeable flaw in their ability to provide audiences with balanced viewpoints. This is due to the fact that the voices of the criminals, such as their defense and emotions to the incidents, are not integrated into the narrative. The majority of the court news is constrained to the presentation of courtroom incidents and the use of files of court authorities as the only source of information, according to the data that was gathered through interviews and questionnaires' revealed.

CHAPTER V

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary

The researcher decided to focus entirely on court cases because every criminal conduct or violent story should go via the courts. EBC hasn't done comparable study on the topic being discussed particularly the news department.

This study tackles a gap in the research findings about the practice and challenges of EBC court reporting. The research's results, conclusions, and recommendations will help the media house improve, refine, or sustain its involvement. Ethiopia is one of the African nations striving for justice and the rule of law, thus its media should play a constructive role in its judicial system. This is gaining attention, especially from state-owned media. This gives the study's demands a broad, appropriate meaning.

To fulfill research goals, choosing a suitable research method design is crucial. When choosing a study method or design, consider time, cost, favorable conditions, and confidence in projected outcomes. The nature of the research problem also determines the study design. There's no one-size-fits-all research solution. This study used both qualitative and quantitative data collection approaches to increase its reliability.

The study found that EBC doesn't regularly cover court proceedings; coverage depends on the scenario. Media coverage of an event indicates its importance to the government. Whether a problem is on the government's agenda or the media interest.

According to the data, EBC court news doesn't cover different types of cases proportionally. EBC favors corruption and terrorist court cases over others. The research, based on interview data, found that EBC has not created a public agenda on these topics. Because the media does nothing to affect systemic change by covering follow-up news and doing impact evaluations that can be used to draw links between similar incidents and argue for additional law improvements.

Finally, the study investigates the challenges EBC court reporters face. Several court reporters say internal and external constraints hinder their work. One is that the institution ignores court-related news. Information gaps also exist. Because the media hasn't established a solid working

relationship with the judiciary, information isn't released at the right time. EBC's court news coverage also challenged by court bans on camera access.

5.2 Conclusion

The research was conducted with the intention of determining the manner and the extent to which court news is covered by Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation, with a specific concentration on the daily and nightly news shows broadcast on the EBC news channel, which are the primary news program hours. Both quantitative and qualitative research approaches were utilized in the course of the analyses of the news reports that were broadcast on the EBC television news. To substantiate the interpretations that were made based on the facts, those in-depth interviews and inquiries were undertaken. For the purpose of this investigation, interviews were conducted with a total of five individuals: three of them worked as a reporter and editor, while the other two were members of the editorial monitoring team for EBC News department. The reporters total of 20 questionnaires also distributed to reporters, which were then given out at non-randomly.

One of the strong forces propelling contemporary society is the media. They provide the general public with more than just information; they also have the power to educate the community, which is crucial, especially when it comes to legal matters. Information empowers us regardless of who we are because the more we know; the more we can affect both our own lives and the world around us. One method we learn through is the media, whose job it is to enlighten a public and give them power in the process.

The journalist's responsibility is to support such goals by finding the truth and delivering an accurate and thorough account of events and situations. Conscientious journalists from all media and specialties try to provide thorough and honest service to the public. Journalists serve as go-betweens for the court and the public. As a result, they must exercise extreme caution in explaining information in a clear, precise, and understandable manner, translating legal words and statistical data into understandable language.

The findings of the study indicate that EBC lacks attention on court news and the reporting also lacks consistency. Therefore, according to public informant EBC, possible to draw the conclusion that the media is not adequately informing the people about legal matters. This

indicates that the function that the media plays in establishing the agenda for the legal system is not as strong as it could be. Couldn't serve as a policy venue regarding to judicial system.

On the other hand, the principles of selecting issues are very different from the notion of informing the public. It rather depends on the level of interest the government has in the subject. In this particular scenario, the media decide what the general public ought to hear. According to the findings of the study, EBC puts government interests ahead of journalistic norms when selecting news stories. Court cases involving bribery and acts of terrorism that are featured prominently in the news coverage of the courts. It is an indication that the media has deviated significantly from the standards of professionalism that should guide the selection of news stories. Because of this, the other court processes will be forgotten. On the other side, this gives the general people the impression that the majority of court proceedings in the country involve acts of terrorism or corrupt government officials.

A classification of justice stories was developed by (Gans, 1980). This classification differentiates between stories about "routine activities," which are considered to be the norm and rarely pose direct threats, and those stories about "disorder news," which report threats to any and all forms of order, as well as the steps that were taken to restore order. The frequent portrayal of corrupt practices and terrorist attacks by the EBC lends credence to the notion that the media is preoccupied with events that have a little effect on the well-being of society and are categorized as social or secondary disorder news (Collins and Cooper, 2015).

Therefore, the fact that the EBC ultimately supports the government (the ruling party) and that it has brought the issue of corruption and terrorism to the forefront of the media's agenda by reporting on the cases demonstrates the presence of a high level of political interest in the selection and coverage of court issues. This is because the EBC has brought the cases to the forefront of the media's agenda by reporting on them on a top priority compared to other court stories.

the results of all of the study imply that the media has not fulfilled its role of social responsibility by placing the public agenda at the forefront of its priorities. The number of times that the media reports on court cases that are judged to be "dangerous for the well-being of society" is regulated, and these cases are not emphasized as major subjects in court news. For example, robbery and

other court stories receive a disproportionate amount of attention in the news in relation to both the actual risk of being a victim and the regularity with which the crime occurs.

It would appear that the EBC's presentation of court news is, at the very least in theory, in compliance with journalistic norms. This is not the case in any meaningful sense of the word. As a result of the fact that the presentation was skewed in favor of the plaintiff. This makes it difficult to deliver reliable information about the incidents that have transpired. On the other hand, this will place an extra amount of strain on the path. In this particular circumstance, the media have breached both the concept of objectivity that they uphold as well as the credibility that they have earned.

According to the findings of the research, the emphasis that the EBC makes on the legislative and executive branches of government while giving relatively little attention to the judiciary has an effect on court news coverage. As a consequence of this, even though journalists who have an interest in court reporting are flooded with other news coverage. In addition to this, EBC has been unable to establish communication with court bodies, which makes it difficult for journalists to receive information.

As a crucial component, court reporting and news coverage necessitate knowledge in the field of the legal system. According to the findings of the research, however, the educational background of journalists, in conjunction with a lack of continuous training, posed difficulty for journalists in delivering reliable reporting of court proceedings. EBC's court news overages are complicated by a variety of issues, including the lack of protection offered to court reporters by EBC and the ban on camera access enforced by courts.

In general, the EBC's duty of creating the agenda for the legal system does not live up to the lofty standards that have been set for it. In other words, the contribution of the EBC to the avoidance of violence and the shift in policy within the legal system is not nearly as significant as one might think. This suggested that the media pays attention to a relatively small number of court cases, and even those cases are not covered on a consistent basis in the media.

5.3 Recommendations

The purpose of the research was to analyze court coverage in connection to the social responsibility tasks that are completed by the media as well as its role in agenda setting and

social learning created by the media. EBC's court news analysis was carried out by utilizing questionnaires and carrying out in-depth interviews as a direct result of this. The researcher offered the following suggestions to members of the media as well as owners of media outlets on the basis of the findings presented above:

1. One of the most important things to do is to put together a team of reporter who are going to be in charge of working on this report, and another important things is to recruit new members for that team.
2. It is advised that this be done in order to provide practitioners and reporters with access to training that is both continuous and ongoing. Because of this, they will be able to increase the amount of information in their possession. In the future, it will be possible for practitioners to move away from a reporting system that only considers one side of the issue. In addition, in order to provide offenders with a balanced presentation
3. The coverage of court stories on EBC ought to alter its focus away from the routine coverage of cases involving corruption and terrorism and toward other court tales that risk the safety and tranquility of society. This would take the place of the primary emphasis that is currently placed on providing consistent coverage of instances involving corruption and terrorism.
4. There should be continuity in the court reporting, this would allow for more effective change and revisions in the judicial systems.
5. In order to cultivate "collective awareness," the coverage of court matters provided by the Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation (EBC) needs to include not only the building of a fair justice system but also the cultivation of high social standards, morals, and values. Only then will "collective awareness" be able to be cultivated.
6. In order to affect change and revisions in the judicial systems, EBC should expand its coverage of justice issues in terms of both the quantity of topics and the range of topics that they cover. It may be possible to achieve this objective by giving the community access to a forum for holding open debates and conversations in public.

7. The role of the media in creating the agenda should be moved in order to increase the credibility of the EBC and maintain its objectivity in its coverage of court news. This would help the EBC retain its objectivity in its coverage of court news. The media should direct more of their attention toward the public sphere rather than sensationalizing official agendas in order to better serve the public.

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Appendix 1

ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND COMMUNICATION

Dear respondent the purpose of the research is in partial fulfillment of the MA program on multimedia journalism at Addis Ababa University. I would like to ask you to be a part of this study as a primary data source. The purpose of this paper is examines the court news coverage of Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation (EBC). The researcher respects the confidentiality of the respondent. So No need of writing your name.

Thank you for your cooperation!

I. Part I. demographic information (circle your choice)

Gender: A. Female B. Male

Age: A. 20-30 B. 31-40 C. 40-50 D. above 50

Work position: A. Reporter B. Producer C. Editor

Work experience in years:

 A. 1-5 B. 6- 10 C. 10- 20 D. above 20

II. Part II research related questions: Please indicate your answer by circling one of the options provided

1. Does EBC sufficiently cover court related stories? A. Yes B. No
2. How frequently does EBC cover court stories?
 A. Always B. Sometimes C. Rarely D. Never
3. Do you think there is enough time given to court reports in the news?
 A. Yes B. No
4. How often do you think court stories can be reported in a week?

- A. Daily B. 4-5 days a week C. Less than two days a week
5. Which types of court cases does EBC cover the most?
- A. Murder B. Sexual misconduct C. Robbery D. Corruption E. Terrorism F. Others
6. What factors determine EBC's court news selection predominantly?
- A. It's news element B. Editorial policy of the media C. Government's interest in the issue
7. Do you think EBC's court and crime related news selection follows the right principles?
- A. Yes B. No
8. What are the primary sources of court news?
- A. the court authorities B. Public C. Criminals D. Prosecutors E. All
9. What are the major challenges in court reporting among journalists?
- A. Lack of information B. Lack of subject area knowledge
- C. Internal problem of the institution D. Pressure from the government
10. Do you think the overall court reporting satisfies people's need of crime/court information?
- A. Yes B. No

Part three: Likert scale questions

Please indicate your responses by putting mark in one of the boxes

Items	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
EBC gives proper attention to court news					

EBC offers training for court reporters					
EBC plays significant role in understanding of judiciary systems					
EBC encourage journalists to engage in court reporting					
EBC has strong connection with courts					
EBC court reports are free from external pressures					
EBC is fair in its court reports					
Journalists are satisfied on their court reporting					
EBC is on the status of setting agenda in the legal system of Ethiopia					

Please indicate any comment on EBC court reporting contents and practices _____

Thank you!

Appendix 2

Interview Guide for EBC court reporters and editors and editorial bodies

1. How often EBC covers court/crime news?
2. What specific kind of court stories are most typically covered by EBC's court case coverage?
3. And how the media is effective in agenda setting on those mostly covered court news?
4. What were the EBC methods of issue selection and presentation style of the media's court news reporting?
5. What are the factors which determine EBC court news selection?
6. How far the role of the media in social responsibility has been valued by media practitioners while reporting criminal tales in the court news?
7. Is it possible to say that EBC court news is effective in agenda setting?
8. What are those difficulties that challenge EBC reporters in court coverage?

Appendix 3

Sample links that related to EBC Court news coverage

1 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yIHAV603dUw>

2 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2XYtLLWubkU>

3 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EJ66Mv7a-3k>

4 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HYGLRwmwMRE>

5 <https://youtu.be/vwomCadYVz0>

6 <https://youtu.be/FDhsZOgrVwQ>