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**Assessment of the media practitioners' understanding of corruption:
The case of broadcast media**

By; Abdleselam Ansar

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Assessment of the media practitioners' understanding of corruption: The case of broadcast media

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Thesis Advisor; Abdulaziz Dino (Ph.D.)

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

EBC – Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation

AMN – Addis Media Network

FBC – Fana Broadcasting Corporate

FEACC - Federal Ethics and Anti Corruption commision

TI – Transparency International

CEELI – Central and Estern Europe Law Instituet

UNCAC – United Nations Convention against Corruption

IFES – International foundation for the Electoral System

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ABSTRACT

The main purpose of this study was to assess the understanding of media professionals towards corruption, in Ethiopia as it's a widely spread national problem, therefore the researcher wants to assess and explore the merit and de-merit of the media itself and professionals in combating corruption and their understanding of corruption. the role of media professionals and their contribution to the fight against corruption. The study used the qualitative research method. The researcher conducted in-depth interview, with twelve respondents selected purposively for their relationship with the issue of investigative reporting and investigative journalism. And focus group discussion, with fifteen randomly selected media professionals. And also there was a questionnaire to gather information from 60 media professionals with different experiences. The interview was taken by prepared/semi-structured questions for journalists. The finding of the study revealed that there are gaps in the media sector, anticorruption reportings were used for accusing, and targeting a specific political entity or individuals rather defending the public interest. The participants of the research mentioned different gaps in different sectors, however, the media, journalists, and other concerned bodies need to work with coordination to counter corruption and abuse of power. Based on the results of this study, no one can argue that media professionals do have or do not have a good awareness of corruption, its types, and its activities. But, corruption has different faces. For combating corruption the media and its professionals need to play their extraordinary role. Journalists should respect professional ethics and be a voice for the voiceless of the society. The media and concerned bodies should help journalists with their investigative reporting. The research suggested that professionals need to have a safety assurance for the sake of the public interest as they are confronting treats from different corrupted individuals.

CHAPTER ONE

1. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

1.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter of the research contains 5 parts that briefly explain the motive and necessity of the study for our media organizations. The chapter holds the background of the study, the statement of the problem, the objective and significance of the study, and the research questions.

1.2 MOTIVATION OF THE STUDY

On Tuesday, July 27, 2021, the researcher attended a session hosted by a global organization dedicated to enhancing the fight against corruption. The training was provided by the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) and the Central and Eastern Europe Law Institute (CEELI). The four-week program, titled "Anti-Corruption and Anti-Money Laundering," was a collaborative effort by the two agencies to support the civil society in Ethiopia and address the post-transition conditions in Gambia.

A trainee from Gambia mentioned that corruption is harshly penalized throughout the administration. He welcomed investigations into corruption-related matters, noting that media coverage amplifies the public's perception of corruption within society. When such offenses harm the country, most media outlets show no hesitation in reporting and exposing them. Gambian media produces films and television shows that highlight criminal activities and those suspected of involvement. The media's mission and campaigns aim to eradicate such crimes and illegal activities. The trainee witnessed firsthand the significant role the media plays in driving substantial change across the nation.

He asserted that even at the ministerial level, the reporting style of Gambian media creates a new working environment for government officials. He emphasized that the media is crucial for ensuring transparency among Gambian officials. The researcher seeks to ascertain the number of Ethiopian journalists and media practitioners who report on such crimes and whether these

crimes are publicized or exposed by the media. Evaluating the media practitioner's perspective on corruption is essential because the media significantly influences societal behavior, both positively and negatively. From that point on, the researcher considered assessing their own reporting style, recognizing that how we convey information is just as important as the content itself.

1.3 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

The Cambridge online dictionary (2020) defined corruption as - (bad behaviour) illegal, bad, or dishonest behavior, especially by people in positions of power. On the other hand, the Oxford English dictionary (2010) defined corruption as “the use of bribery to influence the actions of a public official. More generally, corruption refers to obtaining private gains from public office through bribes, extortion, and embezzlement of public funds.”

Jorgensen (2008) claims that corruption is an international problem that entirely the world community has faced since the early age of civilized human history. Jorgensen(2008:4) refers that Well-known corruption scholar Klitgaard (2017) points out that corruption is as old as organized human life, and indeed perhaps as old as government itself. Jorgensen (2008) also different histories remind us that there are civilizations that failed because of corruption and corrupt government officials.

In general Jorgensen (2008) stated “In short, corruption is a cross-systemic, cross-temporal and cross-cultural phenomenon. It exists in any country, at any time, and under any form of government. Corruption is one of a series of problems, especially in the developing countries in Africa, Latin America, and Asia continents. Even though it’s a crucial problem of the continent the African Union charter doesn’t define the word “corruption” by itself. This may complicate the fight against corruption at the continental level. (Adeniyi, Mercy: 2016)

Even in the midst of the pandemic, our planet is dealing with such a terrible phenomenon. "In more than 60 countries around the world, received more than 10,000 complaints, many on corruption during the COVID-19 pandemic," stated an independent organization named Transparency International in its annual report for 2020.

Singh (2014) wrote about the role of media in fighting against corruption and states that corruption is today a worldwide phenomenon. In Ethiopia, some people even in high positions have been charged for it. Alatas (2015) mentions that, nowadays corruption can be seen everywhere. It is like cancer in public life, which has not become so rampant and perpetuated overnight, but in course of time.

It's obvious, that the media play a paramount role in exposing the misuse of public power Schauseil (2019) states that “the press has a pivotal role to play in strengthening processes of democratization, quality of government, economic development, and anticorruption. The media can be broadly defined as the communication outlets used to deliver information to large audiences.”

In order to prevent corruption, concerned parties take a variety of actions. Since the United Nations Global Programme against Corruption was announced in 2004, a number of international organizations have been actively combating corruption. To combat misconduct and corruption, these groups employed a range of tactics. The mass media is one of these entities that can spread awareness about corruption among the general public and reach a sizable audience. Among the tactics, it is assigned the highest priority. The role of the media is crucial in the fight against corruption on all fronts. It is imperative to educate the public, increase awareness, and identify, look into, and make public any instances of improper use of authority. The media is a prerequisite for all of these things.

For the benefit of each individual, the media must combat this unlawful activity and misuse of official authority. In fact, there are various ways in which the media combats corruption. Publications and news reports about anti-corruption stories are available even in Ethiopia. Nonetheless, how journalists and media professionals view corruption affects the news and programming they produce. This study assessed the knowledge and perspectives of Ethiopian media professionals.

Corruption is one of the biggest problems of Ethiopians as the Federal Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (FEACC) announced. A recent case study by Legatum Institute (2021) shows that Ethiopia ranks 105th in terms of Government Integrity. On the other hand, the

Bertelsmann Stiftung (2020) annual report indicates that the state economy has been negatively affected by malpractice activities.

1.4 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Amodu, and Oyinkansola (2014) claim that "the mass media are often seen as fulfilling the vitally important role of the fourth estate, the guardians of democracy and defenders of the public interest." According to the previously stated framework, the media is expected to defend the public interest. Corruption is one of the behaviors that is against the general welfare. Singh (2014), referred corruption as "cancer" in public life, describes the way corruption has become more widespread over time instead of happening all at once. Furthermore, Amodu, and Oyinkansola (2014) added that it damages society's political, economic, and social institutions on a multilateral level. It even affects how each individual in society is psychologically influenced on a personal basis.

Transparency International (2021) asserts in its publications that corruption is becoming more prevalent in several ways as well. Transparency multinational, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Group of States against Corruption, the Financial Action Task Force, and the International Anti-Corruption Academy are a few examples of multinational organizations that combat corruption.

Carlos Ferreyra and Johannes Hartmann (2022) Global leaders often present statistics about the cost of corruption worldwide, estimating that it costs the globe more than \$2.6 trillion yearly, or 5% of GDP. It is nevertheless vital to increase awareness and provide incentives for group action in order to better regulate corruption given the detrimental effects of corruption.

Transparency International (2020) has noted that "corruption poses a serious and multifaceted problem to the overall wellbeing of the population and its economy." Also, the institution mentions the high level of corruption as the fact that for decades the ruling party has governed without checks and balances and direct accountability to citizens, civil society, and the free press.

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Gariyan A. (2012), explains that Mass media helps to communicate and interact with a large number of audiences. Gariyan A. (2012) also claims that today the media are an inseparable part of our lives. The media helps to spread information, advertising, marketing, and in general, of expressing and sharing views, opinions, and ideas. Media are a powerful tool for mass communication and help to reach and address vast, heterogeneous and scattered or target groups/ audiences at a specific/ similar time.

For this special behavior of the media and Journalists get a special right for access to information. Singh (2014) said ‘that some governments have passed laws on access to information that gives citizens and journalists the right to request and receive a wide range of information from the government, which makes it possible for journalists to obtain the facts they need to do their job.’ The capacity to reach a mass society that the media has helps it to influence a wider society at a time.

The Ethiopian government also after analyzing the effect of corruption in the social and economic endeavor of the Country has decided to reform the social, economic and political formation of the Country (Tafere, 2015). In 2001 Proclamation No 235 established the Federal Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (FEACC). And also Ethiopia joined the international movement against corruption by ratifying The United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption the (AUCPCC); this accords marked the beginning of the institutionalized checking against corruption in Ethiopia (Mezmur, 2009).

There are a bunch of reports and programs published and broadcasted in Ethiopia. It’s necessary to find out the outputs. Thus by taking this and the above mentioned premises, it’s clear that at

what level corruption hurts society and the influence of the media towards awareness creation. its vital to check out the understanding of the media practitioners toward the corruption.

So, In a country like Ethiopia, such malpractices and corruption get to the worst stage as the report from Transparency International (2021) corruption index indicates. Someone could ask how far the media plays its role to combat such malpractice. This research assessed the ways of corruption reporting and the role of the media in anti-corruption combat in Ethiopia. The study attempts to answer the following questions.

The study renders more attention towards the media professionals understanding on corrupton and misuse of public power. Also this study focused on the role of media institutions capacity and interest counter corruption. The study also tried to find out how much has been done by the media institutions to mitigate corruption. What are the problems that media porfessionals faced during their work in combating corruption?

1.5 THE OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The general objective of the research is to assess the journalists' and media practitioners' wrong perceptions of corruption and misuse of power in the public authoritative arena. The research has the following specific objectives:-

- Assess impact of journalists' understanding towards corruption on their reports.
- Assess journalists interest on corruption related reporting .
- Assess level of corruption exposure of journalists and media professionals.

1.6 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- How the journalists' understandings to corruption affect the quality of their reports?
- Does the journalists are interested for corruption and related productions?
- To what extent the media professionals are exposed for corruption?

1.7 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The media works as the fourth estate of a democratic society. It helps to create awareness creation and helps to improve the political involvement of society. Like Baker (1997) whatever a station's news/program value, it is all about competing for audiences' understanding.

The media works with a group of people who are journalism professionals or media practitioners. These people are expected to respect journalistic ethics. However, their perception may affect the way they report an issue. The researcher was interested to assess the impact; interest and exposure of the media professionals to corruption.

The study provides the following perception of journalists and media practitioners, the influence of ownership in combating corruption, and the role of media in disseminating anti-corruption combating corruption. Its significant to asses corruption related reporting in the media as the role of the media is significant in eradicating corruption and similar activities.

The output of the research significantly helps in two ways, to improve the way media stations report corruption-related reports and combat it, or to appreciate the way the media help combat such malpractices.

1.8 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study focuses on how journalists and media practitioners esteem and understand corruption and its role in the anti-corruption movement in Ethiopia. Also, it assesses to what level media professionals are interested for corruption related productions and their exposure to corruption.

The study targeted journalists and media Practitioners from different media stations.

1.9 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The main limitation of the study could be the sampling issue. As it should be assessed with broad participants on every media sectors and, as it involves some number of journalists in different ways. Also as the study should assess nationwide, it assesses only journalists who are working in some media stations which are based in Addis Ababa. The research assessed some journalists

among more than 60 media institutions in Ethiopia that are located in Addis Ababa; this may affect the representative range of the journalists.

1.10 ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

This thesis is consisting of five chapters. The first chapter deals with the background, statement of the problem, the research objectives, the research question, and the scope of the study. The second chapter reviews the literature related to the study. The third chapter is where the methodology of the study will be discussed in detail. The fourth chapter includes findings and discussions. And finally, the fifth chapter concludes the research and suggests recommendations based on the finding of the research.

1.11 RESEARCH DESIGN

The research methodology involves the systematic procedure by which the researcher starts from the initial identification of the problem to its conclusion. To dig into important information and identify problems through focus group discussion and in-depth interview the researcher design the paper on qualitative research methods.

CHAPTER TWO

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains the main review of literature written by various scholars about the media, corruption, and directly related issues to both points. Also, this chapter mentions some reports and research outputs that directly help the paper data collection and analysis about the Ethiopian media and international corruption index of our country.

2.2 WHAT IS CORRUPTION?

Not only in Ethiopia but also corruption is a worldwide treat, for each country whether developed or underdeveloped countries. Different international institutions defined the term, corruption. Among them, the Oxford English dictionary (2010) and the Mariam dictionary (2002) give almost identical definitions for this term.

Oxford dictionary (2010) explains it as - dishonest or illegal behavior, especially of people in authority. Also, it explains that corruption is the act or effect of making somebody change from moral to immoral standards of behavior.

In the same sense, the Mariam dictionary (2002) defined corruption as - dishonest or illegal behavior, especially by powerful people (such as government officials or police officers). The dictionary also added that corruption is the act of corrupting someone or something.

In general most of the definitions given by different institutions are almost identical the benefit might not always be in cash. It could involve favors or other types of benefits. On the other side, scholars give their interpretations of the question

William (1991) cited in Ayele (2015) states that corruption is a complex and vague concept; it may be trivial and incidental or serious and systematic. If some forms of corruption are simple, direct, bilateral transactions, others may incorporate a network of complex, indirect, and

intangible deferred understandings. As Amundsen (2000) mentioned "Corruption can be defined as the abuse of public power for personal gain or for the benefit of the group to which one owes allegiance"

According to Transparency International (2021) the word, corruption means “the abuse of entrusted power for personal gain.”

The international financial institution the World Bank (2021) defines the term corruption as “Corruption is the abuse of public office for private gain when an official accepts, solicits, or extorts a bribe. It is also abused when private agents actively offer bribes to circumvent public policies and processes for competitive advantage and profit. Public office can also be abused for personal benefit even if no bribery occurs, through patronage and nepotism, the theft of state assets, or the diversion of state revenues.”

The United Nations Convention against Corruption (2003) describes Corruption as “it is a complex social, political and economic phenomenon that affects all countries throughout the world. Corruption undermines democratic institutions; it slows economic development and contributes to governmental instability”. The United Nations Convention against Corruption Convention covers many different forms of corruption, such as bribery, trading in influence, abuse of functions, and various acts of corruption in the private sector.

Inge (2000) defined Corruption as conventionally understood, and referred to, as the private wealth-seeking behavior of someone who represents the state and the public authority, or as the misuse of public goods by public officials for private ends.

In our context, the Federal Ethics and anti-Corruption Commission (FEACC) Second Corruption Perception Survey (2021) describes the ways of corruption when it stated that ‘corruption occurs when public officials or employees misuse the trust placed in them as public servants for either monetary or non-monetary gain that accrues to them, their friends and relatives or for their personal or political interests. Following the definition of the terms and their meaning, it’s better to look at the types of corruption

2.2.1 Types of corruption

There is a growing worldwide concern over corruption at present. As most people understand the word corruption interprets as a government minister or other higher officials secretly accepting millions of Birr not the ordinary payment of one and two Birr for the public servant as “Gursha” and like.

This indicates that corruption takes many forms and is found in many contexts. Transparency international (2021) explains the main forms of corruption as bribery, embezzlement, fraud, and extortion. Corruption comprehends and encompasses many types of behavior, such as bribery, extortion, cronyism, misuse of information, and abuse of discretion.

Different institutions give different names for corrupted acts, among those names the United Nations Convention against Corruption (2004) gives more than 5 names for corrupted activities in legal terms. The illegal actions defined by UNCAC as corruption offenses include: Bribery in the public and private sectors (mentioned in articles 15, 16, and 21) Embezzlement in the public and private sectors (articles 17 and 22) Trading in influence (article 18); Abuse of functions (article 19); Illicit enrichment (article 20); Money-laundering (article 23); Concealment (article 24) and Obstruction of justice (article 25) are listed on the convention.

Some others divided the acts of corruption into three the Nature of financial transaction and power structure. These are grand corruption, political corruption, and petty corruption; as classified by Transparency International.

Transparency International (2021) defines Grand Corruption, consists of acts committed at a high level of government that distort policies or the central functioning of the government, enabling leaders to benefit at the expense of the societal good.

Rose (2016) also shares the same points but it directly related to dictators and their cronies can involve embezzlement of huge sums of public funds, and the mismanagement, wastage, inequity, and social decay that come along with it, can be disastrous for an economy

Rose (2016) added that Political Corruption is influencing policies, organizations, and rules of procedure in the distribution of capital and financing by political decision-makers, who exploit their position to endure their power, status, and wealth.

Last but not least Petty Corruption or bureaucratic corruption refers to the everyday abuse of entrusted power by low- and mid-level public officials in their interactions with ordinary citizens who often are trying to access basic goods or services in places like hospitals, schools, police departments, and other government services agencies.

2.2.2 Effects of corruption

As stated above corruption touches every sector of the country and each part of its society. Therefore, the effects can be seen in the entire society's economic, social and political arena. This point raised by different scholars and institutions. Transparency International (2013) releases a review on the cost of corruption for the poor. It states a strong correlation between corruption, poverty, and inequality.

Moreover, the literature tends to agree that the poorest segments of the population are those who suffer the most from corruption and bribery, as they tend to be more vulnerable to bribe extortion and the number of bribes represents a higher share of their income. To understand the effect of corruption it is better to cite the more exposed sector of a nation which is the economy.

The Economic sector and corruption

Kameswari (2006) mentioned that "Corruption in developing countries also impairs economic development by transferring large sums of money precisely in the opposite direction to what is needed to address poverty." The reverse flow of capital leads in turn to political and economic instability, poor infrastructure, education, health, and other services, and a general tendency to create or perpetuate low standards of living. Most scholars and international organizations agreed on this point ever there are some group of scholars who agrees that this malpractice helps the economy in rare ways

Transparency international (2014) mentions that the effect of corruption on growth is context specific and associated with factors such as the country's legal and institutional framework, quality of governance, and political regime. Therefore, in some highly regulated countries that do not have effective government institutions and governance systems, corruption can compensate for red tape and institutional weaknesses and "grease the wheels" of the economy.

This indicates the corrosive impact of corruption lead to critical long-term problems in countries like economic growth, equality, and the quality of governance and institutional environment. Kameswari (2006)

The World Bank (2019) refers to corruption as cancer and it claims that the more widespread such practices are, the more inefficient the economy becomes. Corruption in developing countries may cause underdevelopment.

The International Monetary Fund / IMF estimated the value of bribery in its report in 2016 alone was \$1.5 to \$2 trillion per year; most of this money was stolen from developing countries. The organization explains that corruption can discourage investment, limits economic growth, and alters the composition of government spending, often to the detriment of future economic growth

Rule of law and Social impact of corruption

Della (2005) as Ayele (2015) mentioned "Corruption violets human rights by denying equitable access to public service such as health and education, placing obstacles in the way of earning a livelihood in the public and private sector and by distorting decision making processes regarding the allocation of resources."

Mauro (2006) mentions that, corruption lowers the credibility and authenticity of government. Mauro also added that more corrupted countries tend to be more politically unstable. Corruption fosters an anti-democratic atmosphere characterized by uncertainty, unpredictability, and deteriorating moral values of a society.

The United Nations branch office on drugs and crimes (2003) states that the relationship between sustainable development and corruption is negative, as corruption can put a country on an unsustainable path in which its capital base is eroded

Consequences of Corruption

The UN understands the outcome of the corruption and declares a convention that most world countries signed, which is United Nation Convention Against Corruption (2003). The convention was designed for main three goals

- To promote and strengthen measures to prevent and combat corruption more efficiently and effectively;
- To promote, facilitate and support international cooperation and technical assistance in the prevention of and fight against corruption, including in asset recovery;
- And to promote integrity, accountability, and proper management of public affairs and public property.

For a better understanding of the effects of corruption mentioned above, it can be categorized under economic, political, moral or psychological, humanitarian, ecological, security-related, and so on.

Poverty and inequality

Global Witness (2017) corruption is generally not the weapon of the weak. A famous bribery case in Nigeria, involving the international oil company Shell, deprived the Nigerian people of over \$1.1 billion as the money went to corrupt officials instead of to the national budget (Global Witness, 2017). Meanwhile, according to the World Bank (2019), more than 50% of the population of the oil-rich country lives in extreme poverty.

Failures in infrastructure

When a bridge collapsed in Genoa in August 2018, killing at least 39 people, there were many possible causes to consider (Gavin, 2018). Corruption was not the most obvious one, but subsequent investigations have found that a Mafia-controlled construction company appears to have used "weakened cement" in the building process. It is widely known that the construction industry is a valuable source of profits and a channel for money-laundering operations by the Mafia.

Rigged economic and political systems

Rose (1997) mentions that a widespread patterns of private and public corruption construct social systems that are rigged in the private interest. Citizens with strong ethical principles (and citizens who lack significant funds, connections, favors to dispense, and "hard power" over others such as guns or private enforcers) lose representation, influence, and power.

Impunity and partial justice

Kobis (2018) When corruption pervades the justice system, people can no longer count on prosecutors and judges to do their jobs. The powerful may escape justice. And citizens, especially those with few resources or few powerful allies, may be unfairly accused of crimes, deprived of due process, and wrongly imprisoned.

Rising illiberal populism

Transparency International in 2017 annual report shows that increasing authoritarianism is partly fuelled by corruption. Corruption increases inequality, decreases popular accountability and political responsiveness, and thus produces rising frustration and hardship among citizens, who are then more likely to accept (or even demand) hard-handed and illiberal tactics. Those tactics shift the blame for economic insecurity and political decline onto immigrants or other minority groups, and onto economic and political elites, who must, the theory goes, be dealt with swiftly and decisively. The rule of law and liberal values of tolerance and human dignity then become obstacles to needed change.

Organized crime and terrorism

Beare (1997) nefarious elements in society thrive as proceeds can be laundered, funding disguised, and judicial officials and politicians corrupted through bribes (including gifts, favors, and other benefits). Levels of violence, illegal drugs, prostitution, sexual slavery, kidnapping, and intimidation rise accordingly. The causal arrow goes in both directions. Not only does organized crime cause corruption, but opportunities for corruption left open by a weak, negligent or incapable State can also lead to organized crime.

Diminished state capacity

Della (2005) Even if citizens were to adamantly demand that the problems listed above be addressed, corruption undermines the power of politics. Under conditions of state capture, political arbitrage can be expected to occur in a highly strategic fashion. Issues will be played off against each other to frustrate systemic reforms. Moreover, as Della (2005) argue, corruption compromises the ethos of public service and changes political culture to render meaningful, public-spirited reforms virtually unthinkable.

Increasing polarization and unrest

When corruption, in particular state capture, becomes the norm, this can lead to polarization among citizens: those in support of corrupt regimes versus those opposed to them. (Kobis, 2018) In the presence of opposed groups in society, compromise and reasoned discussion diminish. The policy is judged not based on ideology or a project's inherent merits, but on who the policy proponents are and what benefits competing networks can reap. (Kobis, 2018)

Climate change and damage to biodiversity

Klein (2014) mentions that corruption derails anti-climate change funding and initiatives, defeats forest conservation and sustainable forest management programs, and fuels wildlife and fishery crimes. These and other adverse effects of corruption on climate change and the environment are underscored in a transparency international report from 2011 and additional publications. Klein (2014) mentioned in detail how state capture by monies interests has derailed legislative efforts to address climate change in the United States. Her analysis applies to many countries around the world, given the power of the fossil fuels and automotive industries over governments - elected and unelected - across the globe.

Human rights violations

The United Nations Office of the High Commission for Human Rights (OHCHR) (2021) has noted significant connections between corruption and human rights violations. Not only do those who report and oppose corruption end up on the receiving end of assassinations and human rights violations of many kinds, but also corruption itself decreases the State's capacity to address

violations of civil and political rights and to make the necessary provisions to guarantee such rights, including socioeconomic rights, which often require complex initiatives on the part of governments. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) (2021) calls corruption "a structural obstacle to the enjoyment of human rights" and has detailed many intersections between these two areas.

Armed conflict and atrocity crimes

The diminished State capacity and development, brought about by corruption, can lead to insecurity and even armed conflict. Indeed, corruption has been recognized as a destabilizing factor and ultimately a "driver of conflict" (UNODC 2021). Although the causal link between corruption and atrocity crimes (including genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity) may be hard to prove, transitional justice mechanisms have identified corruption as a root cause of conflict and atrocity.

Public frustration and cynicism

Beare (1997) mentions that people lose trust in leaders, in social systems (public institutions), and sometimes even in society and ethics itself when they sense that corruption is widespread and corrupt actors are not being held accountable. Rose (2016) When political non-accountability increases, such perceptions persist for protracted periods and political participation diminishes. Social norms could encourage corrupt behavior as people tend to think that "if everybody is doing it, I might as well do it too." (Kobis, 2018). Failure to meet public expectations for zero-tolerance of corruption may have deleterious consequences for the legitimacy of State institutions and the very utility of formal norms that citizens and firms are expected to follow, possibly resulting in higher public tolerance of un-civic and free-riding behavior.

2.3 WAYS TO FIGHT CORRUPTION

There are different types and ways that countries actively used their campaign against corruption. In general, the ways used by most countries can be categorized under two major parts as the

United Nations Development Program Anti-corruption Strategies (2014) suggestion. These are Legal instruments and Awareness creation for society.

As Fighting corruption becomes more urgent than ever for the countries, each country has its criminalizing articles. Among the international legislation, United Nations Convention against Corruption is the only legally binding universal anti-corruption instrument. It was declared at the end of 2005 and it contains 68 articles with 189 signatory states.

The convention claims that it can cover five main areas: are Preventive measures, Criminalization and law enforcement, International cooperation, Asset recovery, and technical assistance, and information exchange.

The Convention covers many different forms of corruption, such as bribery, trading in influence, abuse of functions, and various acts of corruption in the private sector. In addition to the legal way to prevent corruption countries implement a lot of campaigns for different awareness creation for their society. The media has a key role in the awareness creation for their campaign.

2.4 THE MEDIA

As Gariyan A.A. (2012), explain the Media and our relationship with Mass media refers to communication devices that are used to communicate and interact with a large number of audiences. Mass media are an inseparable part of our lives.

Mass media remains to be an effective means of communication, spreading information, advertising, marketing, and in general, of expressing and sharing views, opinions, and ideas. Media are a powerful tool for mass communication and help to reach and address vast heterogeneous society and scattered or target group/audience at a specific/similar time.

According to Katz (2014), the media's informational role is perhaps best illustrated by considering what happens during a national or international crisis, such as the 2001 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center and Pentagon.

And also, Gariyan (2012) said that electronic media is the kind of media that requires the user to utilize an electric connection to access it. It is also known as 'Broadcast Media'. It includes

television, radio, and new-age media the Internet, computers, telephones, etc.” again As Katz (2014) stated Mass media is a tremendous source of information for individuals as well as society.” This very important media has its specific function, that any other institution can’t cover its function.

2.4.1 The Function of the Media

Gariyan (2013), the Roles played by the media within the society affect every aspect of human life. And such roles harmonies the various organ of the state as well as the ruled. The roles at the same time encourage all to stand on their toes because the mass media make people accountable. The press checks excesses; corrects abnormalities; advise the leaders and the led; educate the youth and the aged; entertain men and women; harmonies the interests of the weak and the strong; reinforce the voice of the voiceless, and support development and transformation.

Within this context, the media's roles are informing, educating, and entertaining, commercial, and cultural integration. The above idea is repeated. Amodu (2014) added some points as followed “Mass media have a responsible role to play in fostering democracy, plurality, and communal harmony through the functions. Those functions are Information and Education, Entertainment, Cultural transmission Catalyst to the development of Socialization, and Political awareness,

When we take one of the media, Butler (2012) states that television can provide visual insights and identifications not available to other types of media. It is also central to the effectiveness and appeal of broadcast journalism. In terms, of visual media, television, and the internet are dominant in the broadcast and electronic media sector.

2.4.2 Media in Ethiopia

Hailemariam (2018) States that modern mass media was introduced in Ethiopia a century ago, during the reign of Menelik II who ruled from 1889 - 1913. The first medium to be introduced as a weekly newspaper (La Se-mained' Ethiopia, 1890), published in French by a Franciscan missionary living in Harar. In 1905 the name of the publication changed to Le Semeurd' Ethiopia. The first Amharic newspaper, a four-page weekly newspaper named Aemero was

published in 1902. The first issues were 24 handwritten copies. Between 1912 and 1915 weekly newspapers like Melkite Selam, Yetor Wore ("War News") and many others emerged.

For the most part, these print media were controlled by the country's government. In 1965 Berhanena Selam Printing Press, a modern, institution run by the government was established. In the media sector, the printing press played a role in the publication of two national weekly newspapers, Addis Zemen (New Era), in Amharic (1941) and its English counterpart the 910 Ethiopian Herald, in 1943. These two served as the main official press organs of the state and as the main source of information for literate people. In addition to the printing media, electronic media such as Ethiopian Radio and Ethiopian Television were established in 1935 and 1964 respectively. (ibid)

As a recent report by the Ethiopian Media Authority (2021) now in Ethiopia there are more than 40 television stations 70 radio stations and a lot of print media outlets. Among this media specifically, the print one can address only those who are literate. But both television and radio are communication tools for illiterates. However, the only media that can support both visual and audio transmission in mainstream media is television.

2.5 ETHIOPIA AND CORRUPTION

Corruption is considered the major barrier to development. Recent empirical studies have identified a strong, positive linkage between higher perceived corruption and lower economic growth (Mauro, 1995). African countries have long been hindered by corruption and Ethiopia is not an exception.

There are high levels of corruption in Ethiopia as both the International transparency and the government of Ethiopia report. Transparency International (2021) ranked Ethiopia 39 out of 100 points. The Corruption Index ranks 180 countries and territories around the world by their perceived levels of public sector corruption, and Ethiopia is 87th out of the world countries in corruption.

Mezmur (2011) Ethiopia is working to institutionalize the fight against corruption through the declaration of ethics and anticorruption commission. Ethiopian anti-corruption law is primarily

contained in The Revised Federal Ethics and Anti-corruption Commission Establishment Proclamation and the Revised Anti-Corruption Law which criminalizes major forms of corruption including active and passive bribery, bribing a foreign official, and money laundering. Facilitation payments are illegal, and it is forbidden for civil servants to accept gifts or hospitality that may affect their decisions. Some reports exposed that the legal anti-corruption framework is rarely enforced.

On the other hand, Ethiopia's judicial system is weak, overburdened, poorly staffed, and prone to corruption (Ayele 2015). Ayele (2015) Added trials are often closed to the public and the media, contributing to the lack of transparency in Ethiopia's courts. This point also has a negative impact on reporting.

As an example of corrupt sectors of Ethiopian cases on corruption, the Land sector was mentioned by Adenew and Abdi (2005). The land is one of the most important properties for all economies, especially developing ones such as Ethiopia. However, three kinds of corruption in the land sector are prevailing. First of all, the elite class and senior officials are disproportionately capturing land assets (Plummer, 2012). A highlighted instance is broad corruption in 2005 when the post-election power void in Addis Ababa resulted in substantial land allocation according to political allegiance (Plummer, 2012).

Ethiopian anti-corruption commission has reported that it is "nearly impossible to get a plot of land without bribing city administration officials" in Addis Ababa (Plummer 2012). Other than that, officials are much inclined to take advantage of bribery or nepotism to ignore roughly all well-defined limitations and obligations.

There are also forged land documents rampant. Ethiopian land record system loses its impartiality and ironically became robust support for fraud and bribery (Ayele 2015).

Ayele (2015) also added that the majority in Ethiopia have no choice but to expense extra costs, through corruption, in exchange for the minute amount of property rights and protection that are supposed to be fully available for free. This type of informal, abnormal fee has been so prevailing in Ethiopia that they have almost become formal/normal.

A Minimum attempt has been made to formalize the extralegal property system in Ethiopia. Though this is not to assert that informal structure is deemed to be ineffective, informal land governance in Ethiopia indeed fails to correct existing ill-distribution and resolve inefficient settlement of property rights. The flawed system causes a persistent divergence between utilization and ownership of properties. The upper classes, who claim the properties, can rapidly accumulate capital while the lower classes are struggling to sustain themselves. (ibid)

Corruption is playing a key role in private control over public properties to form and stay.

The problem with corruption is that it imposes a threat to the foundation for basic mechanisms such as mutual trust, and fair settlement is jeopardized (Mance and Pecaric, 2016). Corruption, as an informal institution, induces “social cost” in the form of a “moral hazard” that is incommensurate with the formal structure, impairing mutual trust and expectations about transactions (Mance and Pecaric, 2016).

The social cost incurred by corruption will have to be internalized by the system as a whole (Mance and Pecaric, 2016). Among all, people who did not participate in the particular corruptive activity will need to absorb the majority of its negative impact without being compensated. Whereas participants find foreseeable short-term benefits greater than cost (Mance and Pecaric, 2016). The government needs to ensure genuine protection against asset predation if they sincerely wish to decrease corruption (Kemal, 2007). Corruption will cripple the emergence of private entrepreneurship, and hamstring social innovation and economic growth.

Generally, Sustained corruption and human rights violations have caused widespread unrest in Ethiopia since 2015 as Transparency international stated (2020). A change in the country’s leadership in 2018 provided Ethiopians with the hope of a change to the status quo. Corruption exists in various forms, including but not limited to clientelism, kleptocracy, rent-seeking, and state capture. While anti-corruption laws remain strong in principle, they are not implemented adequately. However, anti-corruption activities will never be successful without the press.

2.6 THE ROLE OF THE MEDIA IN FIGHTING CORRUPTION

Katrin (2012) states that the mass media as well as new technologies can play a vital role in unveiling corruption, framing corruption as a public problem, suggesting solutions, and generally empowering citizens to fight corruption. Media are watchdogs, agenda setters, and gatekeepers that can monitor the quality of governance, frame the discussion about corruption, and lend voice to a wide range of perspectives and arguments.

Corruption tends to flourish when institutions are weak and economic policies distort the market place. If corruption is not contained it will grow. Ktarin (2012) “Media are crucial in achieving the cultural change that must accompany any legislative change to make laws and institutional changes sustainable.”

Katrin (2012) added that media are watchdogs, agenda setters, and gatekeepers that can monitor the quality of governance, frame the discussion about corruption, and lend voice to a wide range of perspectives and arguments. By doing so, media coverage influences norms and cultures, which in turn can influence policy-making and legislative reform.

Most scholars agreed that civil society and the media are the most important factors in eliminating systemic corruption in public institutions. There is a strong correlation between the incidence of corruption and the extent to which the media is free.

Stapenhurst (2000) states that the media can act as a force against corruption in ways that are both tangible and intangible. Hard-hitting independent journalism can act as an indirect check on corruption by informing public debate in a way that enhances political and economic competition. To be effective the media has to be free, to enjoy the freedom of access the main preconditions are: political stability, an independent judiciary, and the presence of adequate infrastructure as Stapenhurst (2000).

The media has a dual role to raise public awareness and reporting on incidences of corruption. In modern society, the media is part of the solution to the problem of “How to Fight Corruption.”

Christians (2019) there is no justice if people cannot see what is happening. Media fulfills the first act of justice in any society – they help us see what is happening. Media, as a tool for social

justice, is not bound by academic or policy definitions of corruption. Like the “man on the street,” we find that media uses a much more general understanding of corruption that may be more useful for corruption fighters – a definition that addresses the weakening of society.

Christians (2019) also added that when we look beyond academic or international donor definitions, we find that the older use of the term still applies. People consider corruption to include anything that contributes to the decay of society. Regardless of the formal criminality of the act, someone is doing what they should not be doing.

Media can provide awareness of the negative impact on society and is one of the most fundamental parts of an anticorruption strategy for society. But sometimes journalists, editors, and publishers lose their way and fall away from their role as a voice to inspire positive change. They lose sight of the idea that positive change is possible and fall into the lowest level of journalism whereby they merely try to create any emotional reaction in the readers. (ibid)

Change is possible in the media and society. Sometimes, especially when the media can be re-energized, the change can be quite rapid. Media can have a vitally important role in the efforts to fight corruption, and reduce or even eliminate such unmannered things that create the decay of society. (Dike 2005)

Christians (2019) the role of the media in fighting corruption manifests itself in different forms and networks. Especially in developing and underdeveloped countries, it has a very strong web. Suh networks and the team of officials mislocates public resource and adversely affect programs designed to overcome poverty. As Dike (2005) states “When money disappears into the wrong pocket, the credibility of the authorities is undermined, an investment falls away or misdirected, development grind to a halt, and the poorest groups end up paying the price.”

Corruption can affect the entire life of the citizens in a specific country. Corruption can affect society in investment foreign direct investments, trade, and even aid that came from international institutions. Corruption also affects the service and quality of institutions in a country, also it develops inequality in the society makes the economy in the shadows because there will be a wide range of crime and corruption.

Corruption economically affects a wider range of poor societies as Kameswari (2006) mentioned “Corruption in developing countries also impairs economic development by transferring large sums of money precisely in the opposite direction to what is needed to address poverty.”

Corruption also can lead to an unethical way of life in society. In a society where demanding and paying a bribe is a norm, it will be difficult to have a future generation free from corrupted and malpractices activity. Kameswari (2006) was also worried about this issue and stated that “Individuals who wish to conduct their affairs honestly are demoralized and lose faith in the rule of law. Corruption breeds distrust of public institutions undermines ethical principles by rewarding those willing and able to pay bribes and perpetuates inequality.”

On the other side, our society develops some words and slang that motivate corruption and corrupted individuals. The contextual meaning is that the one who doesn't get enough bribe while s/he in charge will regret it. Even this is an almost widely used suggestion for those who are new to any public position.

CHAPTER THREE

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

INTRODUCTION

The main objective of the research was to assess the general corruption reporting in Ethiopian media. This chapter explains the methodology, data collection process, and sampling method that the researcher used for gathering data.

3.1 RESEARCH DESIGN METHODS

The research employed qualitative methodology, for it helps approach the subject of the study from the view of the sources used in the research. According to Mack (2016), it seeks to understand a given research problem or topic from the perspective of a local population. Yin (2011) states that qualitative research differs because of its ability to represent the views and perspectives of the participants in a study. In addition, this methodology is beneficial as it depends on a variety of sources to get consolidated evidence about the issue under study.

Such a research approach generates results either in non-quantitative or in a form which are not subjected to rigorous quantitative analysis.” (Kothari, 2004). “Qualitative methods are concerned with subjective assessment of attitudes, opinions, and behavior.

As the research will assess the reporters understanding of corruption and the general corruption reporting in Ethiopia, the researcher will use qualitative research methods. Qualitative research strives to collect, integrate, and present data descriptively.

“The qualitative approach to research generates results either in non-quantitative or in a form which is not subjected to rigorous quantitative analysis. Qualitative methods are concerned with the subjective assessment of attitudes, opinions, and behavior.” (Kothari,2004). The research gathered information and Data in three ways, an in-depth interview, Focus group discussion, and Questioner formats. As both are qualitative research methods used to gather the opinions of professionals and media practitioners.

Yin (2011) states that qualitative research differs because of its ability to represent the views and perspectives of the participants in a study by which the researcher started from the initial identification of the problem to its conclusion.

3.2 DATA GATHERING TOOLS

For this research, the researcher used questionnaire, in-depth interviews and focused group discussions. The interview is the method of asking questions which is related to the study topic from the selected respondents orally. The questioner is receiving the response based on structured questions with both open and closed questions on a paper. And focused group discussions also discussed why they are preferable, here are as follows;

3.2.1 In-depth Interview

Mack (2016) state “the point behind the use of in-depth interview during qualitative research is the need to gather the view and perspective of the participant about the issue under investigation.”

Interviewing involves a personal meeting between two or more people when questions and answers can exist. An interview is a very systematic method by which a person enters deeply to bring out the needed information and data for the research purpose (Warren 2002). The research of studying journalistic ethics related to documentaries needs deep discussion with respondents. So, an in-depth interview is appropriate.

An in-depth interview is a method of asking questions which is related to the study topic from the selected respondents (Warren 2002). The researcher interviewed 12 journalists and related professionals; who were experienced and developed from being junior journalists to senior reporters and editor-in-chief. The interview included editors, media managers, and Anticorruption related organization.

3.2.2 Focus Group Discussion

Focus group discussion is frequently used as a qualitative approach to gain an in-depth understanding of issues. Focus group discussion is widely used in conservation research unlike some of the other relatively lesser-known techniques such as the Nominal Group Technique (Warren 2002).

The researcher used three groups with three participants in each. The technique emerged as a qualitative data collection approach and a bridging strategy for scientific research and local knowledge (Yin 2011). Focus group discussion is perceived to be a “cost-effective” and “promising alternative” in participatory research (Mack, 2016).

Focus group discussion is sometimes seen as synonymous with interviews, especially the semi-structured “one-to-one” and “group interviews” (Mack 2016). Generally, Focus group discussion helps to uncover people's perceptions and values.

The researcher used 18 respondents on three focus group discussions, representing in person or institution, with different media experiences. Among the respondents, EBC investigative department staff members, AMN Investigative reporting team members, and Esat television journalists were included in the interview. Similarly, the researcher tried to touch with the federal ethics and anti-corruption commission and with the transparency international Ethiopian Country office.

3.2.3 Questioner

The questionnaire gives a chance to fully fill the questions in confidence because it is personally safe in terms of privacy for the respondents. A questionnaire is a type of tool to collect data using written paper. Both open and closed questions used for attaining the responses of interviewees and that are advantageous to analyze qualitatively and quantitatively. 60 journalists and media professionals responded for the questionnaire.

The research design and methodology include sampling, population, establishing rigor during and after data collection, ethical considerations, and data analysis. This research will use both qualitative and quantitative types of research methods. As both methods are very useful and can fulfill the gaps in each other, the researcher prefers to use both research types.

3.3 SAMPLING SIZE

According to Oliver (2012), purposive sampling is a form of non-probability sampling in which decisions concerning the individuals to be included in the sample are taken by the researcher, based upon a variety of criteria which may include specialist knowledge of the research issue, or capacity and willingness to participate in the research.

As to the sampling method, the researcher used a deliberative or purposive sampling technique to collect the data. According to Kothari (2004), this sampling method involves the purposive or deliberate selection of particular units of the universe for constituting a sample that represents the universe.

The selected personnel have presumed to be representative of practitioners in the media. The selection of these key informants have broadcast media practitioners, they helped the researcher to get diverse and relevant data for the study.

According to Oliver (2012), purposive sampling is a form of non-probability sampling in which decisions concerning the individuals to be included in the sample are taken by the researcher, based upon a variety of criteria which may include specialist knowledge of the research issue, or capacity and willingness to participate in the research, to contribute appropriate data, both in relevance and depth.

The researcher used the Purposive sampling technique to select the interviewees. In this sampling technique, the interviewees are known definitely. To obtain the appropriate data the researcher used this sampling technique / in-depth interview. The respondents are professionals who have direct and indirect relations with journalism and anti-corruption movements. And the persons or organizations are also involved in the sample to have the correct responses.

CHAPTER FOUR

4. DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

The data collected by the researcher through the previously indicated methods—focus group discussions (FGD), in-depth interviews, and questionnaires—will be briefly discussed and explained in this chapter. The researcher began by asking the participants to define corruption.

4.2 VIEWS ON AND UNDERSTANDING OF CORRUPTION

Any form of financial transaction for governmental or public services without actual or legal necessity for such services is considered corruption, according to FGD 01 May 13, 2022.

From FGD 02 (AUG 08/2022), corruption goes beyond the inflow of cash into government operations. Additionally, it's a poor use of authority in various public interest sectors. This covers how a worker who is employed by a government-funded institution manages their time. Although the FGD1 group noted that even the private sectors involved in providing public services may face a corruption crisis, the respondents maintain that corruption may not occur within privately held enterprises.

As indicated by FGD 03 (AUG 02/2022), corruption and criminal acts by politicians or public servants can happen anywhere, there is a public interest and opaque or concealed bureaucracy. This group also notes that the results of such actions have a negative impact on every person in the nation.

As FGD 02 (AUG 08/2022), corrupt officials first target democratic institutions in particular. They always go after democratic institutions such as the media, human rights organizations, auditors, and ombudsmen. Nobody can be held accountable for their actions, questioned about them, or even have the results of their reports cross-checked as long as they keep this institution quiet.

A participant of the FGD 01 (May 13/2022) responded that corruption is taking value whether it's money or property which does not belong to you. Also, some gifts for public servants should be categorized as corruption, as there is no “free launch”, in other cases that gift can ask for any other type of favor that contradicts public interest.

FGD 01 (May 13/2022) mentioned additionally, there are also illegal activities, generally, theft which takes place inside a legal entity with powerful administrative authority personnel. It's all about trying to take a shortcut to build the so-called “great life” only for oneself. It should be called robbery rather than corruption, as it is immoral and a series of crimes. The other respondent also raised that People use corruption to help those whom they love, relatives with good intentions and even fulfilling all requirements and preconditions, and also people are giving some type of tips to public employees while they finished their process, They forget the big picture of the country. This leads them to expect from all customers.

FGD 02 (AUG 08/2022) mentions that in terms of development, corruption is an issue most undeveloped countries are suffering from at an international level. It has been observed that corruption is a cancer of development, especially in underdeveloped and developing countries. One of the group members mentioned that “From one perspective, hiring a loved one without proper training would be akin to destroying the morality of other competent candidates for the same position. Additionally, we are pressuring them to choose the incorrect course, such as engaging in unethical behavior. And if we observe it at the ministerial level, s/he will grant funds and properties to the individuals they desire, even though the property actually belonged to the people.”

Key Informant 11 (May 19/2022) defined corruption as his organization (Transparency International) “It's the misuse of authority granted to one for one's own benefit. It involves politicians squandering public funds or giving public employment or contracts to their sponsors, friends, and family; public workers demanding or accepting money or favors in exchange for services; and corporations buying off authorities to secure profitable transactions.”

Key Informant 11 (May 19/2022) said this activity happens in the shadows and may include politicians, government officials, Non-Governmental Organizations, public servants, institutions,

and professionals (like bankers, lawyers, accountants, foggy monetary systems, and unidentified covering firms) business people, and even the public affiliates or individuals.

Key Informant 11 (May 19/2022) said it can implement in various settings and under changing conditions, maybe in changing rules, legislation, and even structure and system.

Respondents of an in-depth interview also have an almost identical response to the view of corruption. Key Informant 01 (May 13/2022) shares his view about Corruption, it is a problem that starts from an individual that will develop in society including in the government system and even in NGOs. Generally, corruption is a misuse of public power and resource. Key Informant 01 (May 13/2022) Also explain that "using or sharing public resources for one's own benefit and that of one's personal networks, based on relationships based on relativity and interests for one's own and one's group's benefit, is corruption."

Key Informant 05 (Aug 02/2022) shares an identical meaning of the above definition, in addition, he mentions that it's an activity of trying to get rich in a way that should not be used, its like using public resources, or selling the rights that citizens should have without any or less charge in government services, but corruption exploit it. It is a competition to bargain from the very limited resources of the country inappropriately. Key Informant 07 (Aug 06/2022) said that corruption is like pests inside a farm. It multiples a development of a nation by zero. As long as there is high corruption states can't succeed in their goal. There is no achievement at all except fighting corruption and corrupting individuals in every capable way. From the above data, Most of the participants express the bad side and the worst side of corruption. In general, most of the participants explain that corruption harms a society's economic political social and even individual level. Most of the respondents agreed on this without a doubt.

The FGD 01 (MAY 13/2022) discussion mentioned that there is an understanding with media professionals. Ast it is a profession that invites them to let know more activities of a state not only the meaning of corruption they know many other national secrets. Therefore, it is impossible to say that media professionals do not have an understanding.

Culture and Corruption

Key Informant 05 (Aug 02/2022) and Key Informant 11 (Aug 06/2022) mention sayings that are familiar in our society. These are ‘ *Sishom Yalbela Sishar Yikochewal* ’ (who doesn't embezzle while in charge /power, will regret when s/he is revoked) and “*Nigus Ayikeses Semay Ayitares*”(The king cannot be accused, the sky cannot be plowed). Both give a meaning that power is a source of wealth and a way out of poverty. Those words indicate that there is no accountability for power and public service positions.

Key Informant 06 (Aug 06/2022) mentions that Our culture also plays a vital role in shaping ourselves, it is a society that raised us. Additionally, it has become common for officials to arrive at the office door the day following their appointment, with gifts of all kinds, rather than to talk to you. Rather than acknowledging that acquiring power entails significant additional responsibilities, they have seen it as a substitute for corruption and robbery. It's important to remember that the leaders come from a different version of ourselves. The purpose of power is to assist the people, not to be possessed.

Key Informant 05 (Aug 02/2022) and Key Informant 11 (Aug 06/2022) claim such societal terms and dialects lead to a corrupted administrative system. Key Informant 04 (Aug02/2022) also shares such points, he mentions that such words and expressions affect not only the current reality but also cultivate the future generations as theft and corrupted minded. Our idioms need to be well ethical and promote loyalty and our manners.

However, Key Informant 01 (May 13/2022) claims that “as a society, we can't generally judge, however right now we are poisoned by such un-mannered activities. But there are a lot of loyal public servants throughout the country. Also, Key Informant 03 (Aug 02.2022) says our society never motivates theft, as a society we have a moral standard of even giving priority to elders. However, no one can refuse the reality, Corruption is engulfing the state's treasury as we are watching. Even though the culture refuses such activities but it also promotes the other hand.

FGD 01 (MAY 13/2022) raises that as there are good people in a society there are also bad guys. Such words are common in some groups of people. Crimes and illegal activities can be

committed in every society worldwide. But no one can categorize any society as a criminal society rather you can use other types of words.

Key Informant 01 (May 13/2022) also shares an idea, not only this word but also our society teaches that “*Minewu Beenkulalu Beqetashiy*” (Mother, I wish you had punished me for the egg) there for it all about the choices made by an individual. We have millions of loyal individuals who are never recognized for their hard work and service to society. This loyal individual should not be insulted because of selfish individuals. Generally, we have to think that the issue of crime is not related to society. Instead, it is related to individuals who are in charge of or are responsible for their work.

On the other hand, Key Informant 05 (Aug 02/2022) mentions that the issue of corruption even gets political recognition, and points fingers at the speech of the late prime minister of FDRE Meles Zenawi, theft is a job as long as you are not exposed. It is not expected from the prime minister of a nation. Such an official's speech motivates robbery and crimes on public properties and creates a very critical state situation. Officials should take care of their speech and its consequence.

Key Informant 01 (May 13/2022) claims that our culture was strong for such unmannered activities. However, the actual reality of globalization and biased of our culture exposed us to the current country-wide critical problem. Key Informant 01 (May 13/2022) added that “stealing is not acceptable to us because of our cultural upbringing. Some people use these expressions and explanations to reflect bad behavior. If not, the vast majority of individuals in our society believe in and obey God.”

Key Informant 05 (Aug 02/2022) supports the above idea and mentioned that “corruption is one of the things that all religious philosophies categorically forbid. There aren't many serious behavioral problems because most people in our society abide by the laws. In actuality, there are specific social groupings that deliberately participate in these kinds of actions that have a detrimental effect on the country's overall population. Things were shifting faster than we recognized a few years ago, and we were deviating from our moral and cultural values. We encounter many corrupt behaviors in our daily lives.”

Both Key Informant 01 (May 13/2022) and Key Informant 05 (Aug 02/2022) agreed that a lot of crunches and state-wide problems were the result of corruption and un-willingness politicians to overcome such problems.

Key Informant 09 (Aug 05/2022) shares the point of Key Informant 05 (Aug 02/2022) that most corrupted areas are well known in the administrative organizations and other sectors of the government including our sector (the media). However, as it is a chain and connected most of society doesn't want to confront and take the time and risk dealing with that. Instead, most of us walk the dirty way for progressing different types of governmental services.

Most respondents of the research described the situation of corruption in Ethiopia on a critical level. Among the respondents, in an in-depth interview, Key Informant 12 (May 19/2022) that the corruption dissemination situation in Ethiopia is at a high level. Also, he mentions some of the commission information as “it is evident that corruption is growing rather than going down. One of the fundamental and significant issues facing our nation right now is the third corruption survey, which is carried out by the Federal Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission every five years. Corruption was ranked seventh and lower in the same study done in past years, but it is currently the third level that society is concerned about on a daily basis. Citizens began to experience problems with corruption as a result of high living expenses and joblessness. This indicates that bribery and corruption are becoming unbelievably more common in our nation. ”

The seriousness of the issue is also described by the Transparency Ethiopia country director Key Informant 11 (Aug 11, 2022). He uses the word “we are in the center of dirt”. He tried to mansion a lot of reports that came to his office related to different types of corruption that are under investigation.

4.3 THE CORRUPTION STATUS

Most of the respondents share that we are at a risky level of corruption. Key Informant 01 (May 13/2022) mentions that he gets many corruption-related reports to be investigated on his programs. Such reports especially from the justice sector became very high. In his explanation some government offices are well known for their corrupted activities from the ministerial, to the

janitor and the gatekeeper level. he said: “sadly right now Ethiopia is suffering from the corruption of private sector and well organize and coordinated government officials are corrupted.”

FGD 02 (AUG 08/2022) member of the group states that Corruption has epic harm in a country. It may mal-function justice, it may help illegal gangs and criminals, and it ruined a country's economy, social and political stability, and fair distribution of wealth for the society. Such outcomes may encourage migration and kills generation. We got reports and even shreds of evidence that are related to corrupted activities, To be an employee or get some opportunitais somewhere you need to have money or power eventhough there are criteria of educational qualifications for the positions. This will involve everyone in the corruption and even if the government wants to make everything clear and fair this kind of situation could not make the field easy for competition.

The other member of FGD 02 (AUG 08/2022) states that "Corruption has a political connection to this. However, religious institutions are equally susceptible to this kind of circumstance. We can state that there is a financial cost associated with being a religious office manager based on the complaints we have received. Even the quantity of money is determined by where the designated regions are located. A higher rank will go to the one who pays more. By upsetting and harming our faiths, corruption is not only destroying our nation but also our afterlife.”

FGD 1 MAY 13/2022 also raises that a lot of people participate in corruption since it comes to be common and practiced a lot, we may not think of it as a crime. We are not seeing it unmasking most of the time. We experience a lot of incidences where a person accused of corruption and never be in jail. As like simple crimes corruption have bail rights. Generally, we have to understand that it is unique in its behavior to manage this crime as like others. The other group member mentioned that corruption is a killer of citizens' morale and manner, it is a very dangerous thing for a country. Criminals who share the interests are officials found at the management and decision makers level and also judges got involved in some of such actions, so it will become even harder to make a fair judgment.

Key Informant 02 (May 13, 2022) notes that corruption is always adapting to remain undetected; in the modern era, it is even assisted by technology and involves a large number of individuals (as a team). It presents a number of well-known issues with a nation's political, economic, and even social structures; it is a major issue facing developing nations. The ability of criminals and corrupt individuals to obtain political and financial power is increasing. Their tactics have changed because they are afraid of being held accountable, their behavior is evolving, and they are starting to seem proud when they ought to be embarrassed.

Key Informant 02 (May 13, 2022) concurs with Key Informant 01's (May 13, 2022) points as well. Key Informant 02 (May 13, 2022) stated that, as members of the public, we encounter numerous scenarios at government offices, but he did not address the daily reports that are being looked into. Key Informant 02 explains that corruption implementation is increasing. In particular, when the government focuses on other matters, things significantly change, and the problems with the standard system of good governance create an opportunity for corrupt individuals," the speaker stated. I think that within the last six or seven years, corruption has become a more prevalent crime in our country.

According to Key Informant 11 (Aug 06/2022), combating corruption is currently a very important issue in our society. It is widespread and has quite a strong network in our country. Beyond that, the government found it difficult to acknowledge the issue until the new administration took office, making it impossible to carry out effective anti-corruption initiatives. It is forbidden to refer to the issue by name, with the exception of political reporting or other objectives. He points out that there is widespread corruption in our nation, which can lead to a wide range of political, social, and economic issues due to the unequal distribution of wealth among citizens. Similarly, most of the FGD members mention that corruption is highly spread in the country. Some of them also mention their personal experience, while in the discussion, related to paying extra money for government services that were free to deliver to society in different offices.

FGD 01 (MAY 13/2022) member mentioned that most of the reports we gather from society, through phone numbers, are directly or indirectly related to corruption or the newly emerging

name called “good governance” crimes. In some other cases, people don’t think that giving corruption by itself is committing a crime. Right now corruption is everywhere in the country, including health religious, and academic sectors.

FGD 02 (AUG 08/2022) some individuals think that taking money from private organizations is a crime and burglary but taking an individual’s money for free governmental services is normal. A lot of individuals also cooperate in such activities. in one or another form, corruption is sinking us to the bottom of the sea. Until we wake up before it's too early and work together to make Ethiopia a better country, after some years we found ourselves in a situation where we can't undo things back. Corruption is a cancer of society. The one who acts illegally must be punished legally, otherwise slowly his/her colleagues will be infected. After some time the entire system of that specific and other organizations will collapse and can’t function.

Key Informant 10 (July 20/2022) said that it is very difficult for the country and its citizen to live without fair justice. As long as you can pay, you have everything in our court case, what do you want to have forgery educational documents, driving license, citizenship, Id, maybe inside the revenue ministry you can get a group of people that minimize the tax with corruption. frankly speaking, I don’t fear for the Ethiopian territorial integrity war or ethnic politics will put us in a very dangerous situation more than corruption.

Some of the in-depth interview participants agree with this view. Among those Key Informant 06 (Aug 06/2022) mentions that individuals who are busy with their business don’t want such time taking bureaucratic tasks. There they prefer to get services through a back door. Such illegal actions will motivate those public servants to act illegally. As Key Informant 06 (Aug 06/2022) reasoning our society is not strong enough to claim its legitimate rights. So instead of going legal ways most of our society prefers to handle things in the shadow zones.

4.4 THE MEDIA PROFESSIONALS INTERSTE ON INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

Most media professionals are drawn to reporting and investigative projects that deal with corruption. According to FGD 1 MAY 13/2022, investigative journalism is one of the primary genres, and every media organization should continue to employ expert reporters in this area. By

attending a variety of events and conversing with knowledgeable people, a media professional can acquire a vast amount of knowledge. Nevertheless, not everyone participates in investigative reporting. Not everyone is equipped to fight corruption. More than merely interest, we need instruments. Reporters ought to be more informed than the average person in order to combat corruption. Additionally, need full training and exercise assistance. It seems that the media experts are not performing their duties to the necessary level.

Key informant 10 (July 20/2022) mentions that most of journalists may be very much interested in investigative journalism because of different reasons. But, this genre requires specialized skills, including data analysis, legal knowledge, and advanced research techniques. Not all journalists may feel adequately prepared or trained to undertake such tasks.

FGD 03 (AUG 01/2022) members mentioned that while many journalists are very interested in investigative reporting, due to its potential for public service, professional integrity, personal fulfillment, and even for recognition. However the group members also mention that very investigative reporting has its own challenges. The group states that starting from resource constraints in the media institutes, as most of investigative issues are directly or indirectly linked with legal issues and risks, on the other hand on most of corporate crimes government officials have a part the safety concerns them.

Not only this issues FGD 02 (AUG 08/2022) states that as any difficulties happened during the investigative stages there is a critical lack of support in legal and forensic expertise also a lack of willingness of institution to cooperate for the investigations. The other point raised by the FGD 02 (AUG 08/2022) is that the market pressures of business institutions are a critical obstacle on investigative reporting of corruption. When media institutions became profit oriented the partnership pushes the to ignore the public interest. The psychological stress of the professionals, and self-censorship especially in public funded media institutions widely seen.

Acknowledging every statement made above FGD 01 (may 13/2022) added that significant skill gaps in relation to the challenges of investigative reporting. There are not many talented investigative journalists. There are journalists who are usually motivated by a sense of obligation to protect accountability and disclose the truth for the sake of the public. Not for the sake of

public service only we respect those who able to expose or investigate different crime and corrupt activities. Investigative reporting is respected area of our field. Any success and impactful work in this field can establish a journalist's reputation.

As Key Informant 03 (Aug 02/2022), "As we are human and professionals, this expository investigation has its own pleasure." He went on to say that for journalists, the challenge and fulfillment of unearthing secret information and having a big impact on society can be quite gratifying .A journalist's career and reputation can be enhanced by investigative reporting, which can result in significant awards. But the above problems, along with other problems deter them from going into this difficult field.

On the other side the bad news is good news, Stories of corruption, injustice, violence and wrongdoing often attractive for the audience and are significant public interest that drives readership and engagement from the audience.

Generally the participants mentions that eventhough there is an interest of investigative reporting but there are several reasons why some journalists might not pursue investigative reporting; as it requires significant time and financial resources, which many of our media institutions are facing budget cuts, may not be able to provide the cost. Investigative journalism may confront Journalists may face professional consequences, such as being blacklisted, demoted, or fired, especially if their reporting targets powerful individuals or institutions with significant influence.

The threat of lawsuits (particularly defamation), legal battles and financial burdens risks can be overwhelming and restrictive. This can be used as a tool to intimidate and silence journalists.

Not only this, corruption related reporters often face physical dangers, including threats, harassment, and violence, even murder. Especially when covering sensitive or controversial topics. For this case most of us chooses self-censorship to escape topics that could lead to controversy or danger, to avoid potential criticism or consequences.

While chasing high-risk investigations journalists find them-self feeling vulnerable and unsupported, and without strong backing of institutional support we may find ourself in trap or

risk. This can lead to Stress, major psychological pressure and potential isolation on investigators.

Journalists often face significant fears when engaging in investigative and corruption reporting due to serious risks. In many regions, government authorities use various methods to suppress investigative reporting, including censorship, imprisonment, and legal harassment. This governmental pressure can create a climate of fear among journalists. Even they may face As we all know the With the increasing use of digital tools, journalists are also vulnerable to cyber attacks, including hacking, phishing, and other forms of digital harassment. These threats can compromise their sources and personal safety.

in terms of time as we all know that we are in the mid of click-driven social media news and a very fast cycle, no detail; just the main issues, the demand for quick, sensational stories can overshadow the slower, more detailed work of investigative reporting.

4.5 THE MEDIA PRACTITIONERS' EXPOSURE TO CORRUPTION

Most of the respondents claim that media professionals are well aware of corruption and its types. Also the respondents have different stands when it comes to the corruption exposure of journalists; it is briefly explained as follow.

They are aware of corruption and how it is implemented, according to FGD 02 (Aug 08/2022), but they are not changing their participation in counteractions to reduce corrupted operations in the public service arena. Conversely, other participants in FGD 02 (AUG 08/2022) have brought up the fact that journalists and practitioners are also involved in corruption in different ways. The "Buche" (Payment for and event reports) and similar payments (as well as some other payments dubbed "Abal" or Allowance) are the most basic forms of corruption for media practitioners. While accepting an allowance is common for employees and others, accepting fifteen days' worth of pay for a single or half-day function or ceremony is outright corrupt. He continued, "Particularly organizations funded by the public mostly involved in such activities. Why should I take payment for doing my job? We have built corrupted public service system that demanding money or favors in exchange.

However, another member of FGD 02 (AUG 08/2022) states that it is up to the journalist, if s/he became biased of the payment on her/his reporting this can be assumed as corruption. If not what is the problem with taking charity money?. On the contrary other group members mentions that such things are completely corrupted activity as there is no a free lunch for anyone. As media professionals we have to see our self as watchdog of the public interest, any steps that intent to harm the public we should bark loudly. as we are defender of the public interest, we have to evaluate our job on one condition, that if the issue is good for the society we have to proceed the reporting without the so-called “Transport Fee”.

FGD 03 (AUG 02/2022) mentions that some organizations pay for journalists and create a partnership with their media not only to advert their products and services, but also to keep their scandal secret those investigators find. The institution pays more and more advertisement fees and the media will hide the information with conflicting the public interest. This is actually unethical and irresponsible bloody move, this is profit on.

Key Informant 04 (Aug 02/2022) mentions that our sayings are just trying not to appreciate the officials who are assigned to the positions. He thinks that our country’s political transformation may affect the thinking of some people. Because, they got on the position without being fitful to it. And nowadays corruption is considered modernized. Such things drive us on the craziest road to failure.

FGD 01 (MAY 13/2022) mentions that “the media has a big role to fight corruption. Seeing people who discourage corruption on screen and involving in the action is becoming a normal thing. Officials are not interested in investigative journalism. Journalists who work in investigative journalism are being attacked, and get threats. And this makes other journalists not involved in these kinds of work. We all know a lot of journalists who got into these kinds of troubles only for doing their jobs. There were investigative television programs that we can mention like “Ayinachin” on EBC.”

Key informant 01 (May13/2022) mention on the other hand, journalists are also involved in corrupt actions. They will choose what kind of report to do and how to do it. They reframe issues, report news cases in exaggerating or degrading ways, or even take issues without context

are the main problems that media practitioners may involve in. FGD 02 (AUG 08/2022) mentions that a public relation official told her that a TV journalist called him and said that if he is not given additional allowance the news will not be aired. This is clear evidence of journalists and their exposure to corruption.

In an in-depth interview, many of the respondents mention that most media practitioners are exposed to such activities. Key Informant 07(Aug 06, 2022) mentions that such exposure can be from a different direction, whether knowing it or not the media practitioner will find themselves self-inside it. However they are not in a huge type of corruption, He said that no crime can be referred to as little crime, however in terms of the consequence the practitioner's involvement is not very strong and can prevent by some type of configuration on their income.

Key Informant 07 (Aug 06/2022) said that he doesn't believe that journalists have enough understanding regardless of the complexity of corruption. Most journalists have no desire to work on corruption and related issues, because corruption is hidden and complex, and there are obstacles and dangers that journalists may encounter. You have to have a fear to find on the other side of the investigative side not the public defender.

Key Informant 03 (Aug 02/2022) presents the media involvement as only reporting if the government wants to expose something, the media will report after, which is echoing. The media plays a few roles in countering corruption and investigating issues. He mentioned that "Generally, the media gets involved when there is a problem in the government office and the government body wants to make the matter public. This means by itself political or institutional corruption. The media will then start to use what the government officials feed it. You transmit government's statement as it is. And in investigative rule, if you hold it until the government discloses the crime, you are the criminal, what you are looking into is not investigative journalism.

Key Informant 01 (May 13/2022) mentioned that as media practitioner we receive a lot of reports that came from the audience that indicates the critical level of our corrupted bureaucrats and private sector systems. More than that reports from international corruption index indicators shows that our corruption index is coming more and more severe. Our sector is among the others,

we are not unique personalities. There is no exception for the media, corruption is now even inside our religious institutions. He also added that “to combat corruption, we lack a symbol or a role model from public servants. Officials from the federal and local governments are occasionally involved in this kind of immoral behavior. Theft and corruption are the main causes of the crisis that the nations facing. In addition, our legal system never penalized and some of our elders even permits and encourages this crime.”

Also, Key Informant 06 (Aug 06/2022) mentions the problem is very wide and rooted in even security institutions of the state. While this is happening we cannot argue that media organizations are neat from corrupted activities. She said that “it is commonly recognized that corruption exists throughout the nation. Even though it's against the law to accept a dime from two offices at the same time, we media professionals do so. This is corruption using the public tax for the benefit of individuals.”

Key Informant 02 (May 13/2022) shares the idea of Key Informant 07 (Aug 06/2022) that such activities can happen in rare cases, reporters maybe fall into corruption by their engagement on the ground. But when it comes to the media house there are pre-checkup and editing procedures from the script to the visual contents. There may be corruption but still, strict editing ways can minimize the bias of the production.

However, not only the reporters but also the higher officials of the media institutions may be corrupted as Key Informant 04 (Aug 02/22) Idea. He said that there are more than 5 Investigative issues that are directly related to the public interest but by in-house order and mail all those production can not be broadcasted. We lost more than 10 productions from the main server of the station which are collected for investigative issues. We cannot say that these things are coincidences we (the media sector) have to investigate ourselves. We have to cross-check the conflict of interests between those productions and the officials of the station.

Key Informant 02 (May 13/2022) also mentions that there may be corrupted officials who deliberately ignore and are pushing down critical investigative reports. While you are digging for information you may get a phone call that order you to get back to office, also you may be assigned to a non-news worthy event only to keep the good relation with the media officials and

for the organizers and so on. Such activities, without a doubt, affect our professional capability. We the media practitioners have a high vulnerability to corruption but it can't hurt the audience.

According to Key Informant 03 (Aug 02/2022), "we observe weaknesses in effective oversight in the media." In addition, there are expenses in situations such as allowances, which seem to be minor instances of corruption. It's crucial to keep in mind that an experienced editor can save reporters, but if this cannot be done, things may get worse. the media should not be a place where leaders protect their common interests, even at the highest levels of authority. Furthermore, the media ought to concentrate more on the investigative reporting.

In addition, he said apart from that, it is safe to say that there are serious corruption activities in the media sector. If it is possible to do screening and ethical work, it cannot be said that it is deep-rooted. As it is a problem as a country, even if the media claims to clean it, it is not something that will happen overnight.

However, Key informant 12 (May 19/2022) mentions that we cannot say that media professionals have a cognitive gap. It is also clear that media experts should work on and investigate corruption related reports. This should get a prior and critical issue on every media and the professionals, until their participation in the anti-corruption fight is not satisfactory, however this cannot continue, mainly the government-owned media institutions. The mass media are required to present and work on corruption and related issues as an agenda. It is difficult to assume that the media experts have a gap in understanding, as we have been meeting frequently in the past on many issues and there are works that we do together. But it is impossible to say yes to the question of whether the media professionals are performing their role properly.

Participants on the questionnaire mention different cases that can express the vulnerability of the professionals. Generally, the first problems mentioned by the participants were journalists' low wages paid, and the mismatch between the workload and the wage is the primary pushing factor. Currently, the fees paid for media practitioners, especially in private media organizations are low compared to the current living conditions and the amount of work expected from them.

Also, FGD 02 (Aug 08/2022) stated journalists in Ethiopia are paid a minimum salary, financial imbalance, which means that the moneyed body bends the experts as it wants, and makes pressing public agendas that require answers to be neglected and not get proper attention. The fact that they are paid less will prevent them from participating in investigative journalism on corruption activities.

Key Informant 09 (Aug 05/2022) Covering up, not delivering real information to the public, dissemination of false information, and concealment of crime, by spreading and suppressing information, Hiding and evading information

Most of the corruption is done by individuals with power and wealth, in some cases, the journalists are seen as the secret keeper of the corruption as one of the questioners respondents mentioned, he also added that, if not they face security threats. This pushes them to collaborate to hide or not to provide the information to the public. Because of security issues, they may not convey the correct information to the audience. There is no protection or guarantee for investigative journalism.

Respondents added that strong and transparent editorial needed, structure within the media outlets can stop media practitioners from exposure and practicing corrupted act, like exaggerating, focusing and highlighting personality, reporting only positive stories, utilizing bribes and benefits, negotiating (corruption) to work on reports.

may be exaggerating, emphasizing the image, emphasizing the personality instead of the work, pretending that the problem is common, reporting only the good, using bribes and benefits, negotiating (corruption) to work on reports, working as a handshake related to work and airing it can be prevented by a good and clear editorial structure of the media houses.

Relationships and friendships with an individual or close relations with an organization make the media practitioners vulnerable to corruption while trying to do in-depth reports as key informant 05 (Aug 02/2022) mentioned. He Added that capacity building also sharpens journalists for investigative reporting and motivates them to towards public interest issues.

Moreover, Key informant 12 (May 19/2022) states that institutions must be obligated and committed to opening their doors to journalists and the information flow must be healthy. Public relations should work with journalists prioritizing the state more than keeping individuals' graces.

Key Informant 07 (Aug 06/2022) said media professionals hold back from providing real information by being bribed with benefits, and at the same time, by selling their conscience with high benefits, they may distribute accurate and unverified information to the community, and sometimes there may be an intentional trap targeting journalists who engaged on critical public inquiry investigative issues, Spreading biased information for the allowance money. In terms of money and accommodation balance of their reports by itself exposes them whether they work with or without bribes.

Skill and Training

Diverse perspectives regarding training and skill gaps were gathered from the participants. They need more motivational activities and awareness training in order to combat and look into corruption-related concerns. The participants express what they think.

The media professionals are not carrying out their tasks to the required standards, Key informant 02 (May 13/2022). Adding that there is a lot of skill gaps between media professionals. The Anti-corruption commission trains our reporters on various occasions. In particular, we engage in training to help those working in the investigative sector have a better understanding.

On the other hand, Key Informant 01 (May 13/2022) refuses this idea because the commission is not even working to collaborate with media organizations. The commission is expected to work with media as its right hand, but the reality is not like that. You cannot access even dead cases from the commission. The training is also not success full and is just for fulfilling report table lists. Is there any story we can find that the media and the commission work together?

Key Informant 02 (May 13/2022) said that If evaluate the training in terms of results, yes, we cannot say those trainings are not successful or non-successful. But this is an indication that both organizations can work together. In addition, are we looking for the Anti-Corruption

Commission's training now these days? but the undeniable fact is that there are personal motivation problems with our experts. Apart from this, the relevance and repetition of the content of the training should also be considered.

Key Informant 03(Aug 02/2022) also shares these points including the assignment of reporters to the training centers. Key Informant 04 (Aug 02/2022) mentions that they cannot evaluate the training because some training continues and needs a permanent attendee. He also mentions that “we assigned reporters for various government offices. For specialized reporting on corruption and even investigative issues, we do not have a permanent reporter. The team may receive letters, but occasionally they are dependent on reports from the field and rounds to training. However, administrators also made the decision on who would attend the training in a direct manner. There are many issues as well.”

FGD 01 (MAY 13/2022) members mentioned that this kind of training once was taken before. But, they never showed a survey or research on journalists about their corruption reports or investigative reports. And even the training that I participated in does not look to help journalists with their corruption reporting skills rather it looks to make them afraid of reporting that kind of work. But, I hope there would be more training sessions.

FGD 03 (AUG 02/2022) comments some points that the training is also to make the journalists question themselves rather than questions the people who are responsible for the corruption. they intentionally form such things to insult and blame the journalist for not doing their jobs without the comfortable legal ways to work on.

Institutional cooperation

FGD 03 (AUG 02/2022) also mentions that the media institutions are not supporting the anti-corruption fight at the level it deserves. He mentions some of his reasoning as “Since corruption is a major national treat , it will never be on the agenda for several years at a time. In fact, no one can find an issue more urgent than corruption in other states. Even if you choose to investigate any problems, that will only be for a one-time affair. Coverage of corruption-related issues is done temporarily in order to use the scheduled airtime. Rarely becomes a headline in certain

scenarios; otherwise, it can be skipped over or treated as regular news. The media should be a watchdog, obtaining information about the activities of those in authority and inform the public to ensure that elected officials are held accountable and protected the interests of society. The media ought to discuss a range of issues, including agenda-setting and issue solving. Nevertheless, the media is obsessed with playing new music and entertainment rather than coming up with any solutions.

FGD 02 (AUG 08/2022) states that we are also responsible for the area not to be covered as a media professional. The media does not work on bringing any change in terms of the expected role of the media. Although there are many suggestions of investigations in various sectors related to land, construction licenses, and so on, The requirements for reporting and transparency are insignificant. The people need the media to support them and put in a lot of effort to make the issue a priority rather than a three- or six-month campaign. We must act fast as it is deeply rooted.

Key Informant 08 (Aug 06/2022) mentions the activities of the media are hardly noticeable. Audiences never want to skip even a season. He also mentioned "Corruption is extremely unnatural by nature and can occur on a daily basis in both large and small locations. Although corruption can take many forms, it primarily refers to an unhealthy benefit-sharing arrangement between government employees and their clients. Even the government-run media and the Anti-Corruption Commission itself do not work together to spread messages to the public in spite of this.

Key informant 06 (06/2022) shares the same idea that as with other business deals, the commission; they buy at the cost of millions of birr. This is too uncomfortable to hear because the media should not be money oriented, it should keep an eye on the public interest parts and it's also a social or corporate responsibility on the other side of a business-minded mentality.

On the contrary, Key Informant 11 (Aug 06/2022) said that some parts of reporting corruption indicate there are even uncovered areas. He added that "When a news conference is called or when an institution releases its annual report, the topic of corruption is rarely covered. Furthermore, the mass media's synergy and efforts are essential to the success of the anti-

corruption campaign. The stakeholders haven't done any worthwhile work in their connection with the media, and I don't think the media has given the subject the attention it deserves.”

Key Informant 12 (May 19/2022) mentions that one of the reasons for the establishment of the Federal Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission is to raise public awareness of the severity of corruption and its prevention efforts. But to fight and prevent corruption, these institutions do not change individually. The commission is working coordinately with the stakeholders and society in various ways. He also added that "The media is one of the main stakeholders. When it comes to educating and raising public awareness, the mass media are crucial. The public has been informed via the mainstream media through a variety of channels ever since the Commission was established. By paying for both short-term and long-term media coverage as well as columns, the commission has been spreading awareness through costly means even with a million birr."

The media indeed plays a major role in the fight against corruption. He also recalled that the commission has been trying in various ways to make the media play its role. It has also been providing media professionals with training and awareness-raising platforms in various ways. Apart from calling for a report on ethical issues and corruption issues, it has been encouraging them in various ways. However there are different obstacles to work with, this is the willingness of journalists to work with the commission, capacity, intuitional aim difference and there are also other reasons.

On the other hand, Key Informant 11 (May 19/2022) mentions that media practitioners clearly understand corruption. But for one or other reasons they are also a participant in corrupted activities. Even though they know the situation but they choose to keep silent. This shows that media professionals are not doing their jobs properly.

4.6 THE MEDIA AND COMBATING CORRUPTION

Key Informant 06 (August 06, 2022) "corruption worsens social separation, poverty, inequality, and even environmental crises. It also undermines democracy and hinders economic growth. It is only possible to expose corruption and hold those responsible for it accountable if we comprehend the mechanisms that facilitate it.

Key Informant 07 (Aug 06/2022) said that the current level of corruption is not clear, but it is at a serious level. Although there is no courage to speak openly about the problem like before, corruption is still smoldering fire, while it gets anything it will burn.

This is the most interesting part, especially in the focus group discussion. FGD 02 (AUG 08/2022) was strongly arguing that the media is also part of the corrupted sector and related discussion. FGD 02 (AUG 08/2022) mentions that as the media is a watchdog for a specific society, it is expected to keep society from any type of harm.

However, the media never broadcast a single advertisement willingly without payment. As corruption harms society in one or another way, the media doesn't want to give attention and uncover stories of corrupted institutions. But, the other member also mentions a documentary production called "*Hilmeyawu METC*" which was broadcast years before. This documentary exposed millions of birr corrupted activities and documentation inside the military industry wing of the Defense force. On the contrary, other members were arguing that the documentary aimed for attacking targeted individuals and officials. They claim that it was never produced by a media professional, but it was propagating a governmental goal. They claimed that it never gives a chance for the other side to explain the issues or to accept the crimes committed inside the industry complex.

FGD 03 (AUG 02/2022) mentions that more than common sense, corruption weakens a country's economic performance, political influence, and social bond. There the media need to fight this for the well-being of society. What has the media played before, at this particular time and what the media should need to do, is a critical question right now.

Most of the respondents replied that the media is not playing its role in combating corruption.

Key Informant 01 (May 13/2022) said that indeed there are individual journalists who are working on investigating corruption-related issues, but those are not strong. On the other side, the media organizations are slaves to the owners, the government-owned media stations are serving the interest of the government and its branches. On the other side, privately owned media stations are also working to please their sponsors and secure their profits. In both cases, the

media organizations are not free on their editorial policy. Both owners control the content of the media organizations in either direct or indirect ways.

Key Informant 02 (May 13/2022) claims that not only does media ownership matter but also the journalists' willingness also matters. Most of the well-known investigative reports were exposed by a team of journalists, not by media organizations.

Key Informant 05 (Aug 02/2022) shares that mass media are the manifestations of a country's political system. He mentions that “Since our media are not "free," their capacity to operate and carry out their operations rests on the public and government institutions' willingness. This means our media does not promote equality, democracy, or free thought. One way to combat corruption in the media is to address many sensitive subjects. Investigative reporting is difficult for me; right now reporter who started an investigation on a commercial institution has fired. The case has ties to certain officials on a political side. You may wonder, then, what kind of political strategy we ought to adopt. We receive reports on corruption and money laundering from many sources, the wealth flees out of the country, and you are confronting the executive organ.

Key Informant 05 (Aug 02/2022) concluded that “in my opinion the political system we follow is one of the stumbling blocks and all efforts to hold people accountable fail because of identity.”

Key Informant 02 (May 13/2022) mentions that such activities may be seen on the glass of the institution's editorial. He said that editorial freedom is relative. In some cases, you can work independently, On the contrary, there is a tendency to be tight-lipped. Especially in related to the government. In investigative reporting what matters is the impact.

Key Informant 10 (July 20/2022) said Freedom of the media is valuable until it is resolved. From this point of view, our mass media institutions have faced problems. When programs such as “*Birtu Weg*”, “*Aynachen*”, and other instant programs expose the problems, if the concerned party is shocked and does not try to fix it, the fact that discussion will render it useless. What I mean is the outcome also matters for the media productions.

Key Informant 02 (May 13/2022) also shared that productions by themselves never bring change. Especially when it comes to editors and higher officials' closeness, there are orders like

"don't touch me and don't touch that." But there is no such thing as a black-and-white work environment. After you finished your part, it is possible for the system to run the production any time to prevent the information get high attention. Especially, information related to some issues that are said to be related to national security and interest, even if they are not so.

Key Informant 03(Aug 02/2022) mentions that on the contrary, when it is necessary (politically) to remove the heads of an institution, making the news and program to be well visible and criminalizing the individual through a well-networked work of the media. Occasionally, some issues are currently active cases and not forgotten. A few years back the documentary named *Hilmeyawu METEC* can be mentioned.

In addition to the above points, Key Informant 07 (Aug 06/2022) mentions that the mass media do not study the areas and fields where corruption takes place, plan, assign and deploy people, and work on issues that expose corruption. Most of the media have no investigative reporting team. If the team is not organized, you can say that there is no solid investigation report. But when corruption reports are made, they are reported as a disgrace and a completely inappropriate moral failure for society to push them away. This allows society to abhor corruption. However as stated above the media criminalizes and, portrays people who are suspected of corruption as monsters and makes them ostracize society. The fact that they are still a suspect; can be seen as defamation. There instead of playing a vital role, the media must work vigilantly on the above issues.

On the other side, the media need to cease mentioning the driving factors that motivated the person to the corruption. Key Informant 10 (July 20/2022)also mentions that the reasons that make the person vulnerable and commit the crime (corruption) must be identified.

Key Informant 03 (Aug 02/2022) said that the media is not fulfilling its irreplaceable role as a reporter, but stealing it is not late, the media can play. So that it is immersed in complex problems other than the areas that need to be paid attention to, such as protecting the country. When the government structure is spread everywhere and corruption is easy, the government structure can be free from corruption.

Key Informant 01 (May 13/2022) said that we don't have strong media institutes that we rely on for the fight against giant corruption. The media is doing nothing rather than just reporting situational reports of an active police investigation case and court reporting. He added that in our country the media doesn't exist with a typical bit report or investigative and expository productions.

FGD 01 (MAY 13/2022) team mentions that, even though the media has very strong power, we cannot say that media professionals have worked to curb the spread of corruption. Although the spread of corruption is very high in Africa, there are almost no anti-corruption advertisements and reports in our country's mass media. The group asked each other that "which media do they make preparations about corruption in daily news or program?" They don't. Even on a weekly or monthly basis, there are no dedicated times for reporting on corruption.

For different reasons, as FGD 01 (MAY 13/2022) mentions, the reports are not being made by the media. The reports that the media produced on their efforts and initiative are strictly limited. We are in a critical situation where we have boldly said that we failed. We have to accept our part in the failures. We don't have media institutions that will take up an issue and solve the problem until the end. For this reason, even if the media experts have the information, if they do not convey it to the public, the personal knowledge of the experts will not be valuable in any case.

Key Informant 10 (July 20/2022) mentions that the media, especially those from the government side, are guardians of orders or decisions from officials. Even if they want to do anti-corruption productions the way became very long. This makes the institutions to be busy with protecting the interests of the political leaders, instead of working for the public interest.

Key Informant10 (July 20/2022) explanation added that the government media has been playing the card of corruption only when it is time to attack officials of the institution. However, the same activities are observed in each sector of media organizations. This means the mass media are acting as an aggressor and are doing a shameful act of protecting the interests of individuals. In such contests, we should accept that our profession and work are more political than

professionalism. In general, corruption means facilitating wrongdoing and illegal activities. This eventually creates socio-economic and political crises in the country.

Key Informant 03 (Aug 02/2022) mentions that journalism is all about keeping the public interest as a watchdog. It is your job not only to record the operations performed regularly but also to find the reason for an operation and dig out information, a journalist needs to have very clever data sniffing skills. While dealing with the issue on the ground we cannot say that there is a program focused on corruption. The reality we see in our society and the mass media (radio and television) does not look like reality.

Key Informant 03 (Aug 02/2022) added that journalism is the watchdog of society. It is a profession that contributes to the greater good of society. One of the duties of a journalist is to protect the people from harm and embezzlement. It should create awareness, including for the participants of corruption, that they have been using the wrong service or they are using their power improperly. Social media is hiding the shame of the mainstream media, by exposing and delivering information in time, which makes the fear of the mass media abandoned.

FGD02 (Aug 08/2022) mentions media can be divided into three parts in terms of ownership of the media organizations. The participants divided the private, public, and government media stations. When it comes to the private sector most media organizations are profit-oriented. They may not have a dedicated team to investigate different criminal issues. On the other hand (the team generalized the public and government) these media stations are strictly ruled by an editorial meeting. There the journalists are under different pressures to work on anti-corruption activities. The one who accomplishes the in-house argument there is a lot of ups and downs on the outside data gathering issues.

Key Informant 02 (May 13/2022) strongly opposed the idea editorial freedom is relative. In some cases, journalists can work more independently. On the contrary, there is a tendency to be tight-lipped, especially in matters related to the government. But in general, in EBC experience, if you expose an issue to the public, the media is afraid and if there is no change, then what does it matter if you are free or not? Freedom of the media is valuable until it is resolved. From this point of view, mass media has problems. When programs such as “*Birtu Weg*”, “*Aynachin*”, and

other instant programs expose the problems, if the concerned party is shocked and does not try to fix it, the fact that it will be talked about will make it worthless. Unless something like that changes, it cannot be said that it will bring about change. On the contrary, when it is necessary to pick up the heads of the institution, charging a price by making the news and program to be well visible works as a network work. Occasionally, some issues are current and not forgotten. Especially, information related to issues that are said to be related to national security and interest, even if they are vulnerable to corruption, there are situations in which you leave it for professional reasons.

This is a really fascinating section of the study. The majority of participants were highly attentive in addressing the issue; they offered numerous suggestions for improving the media industry. A few even suggested changing policies to combat corruption to the fullest extent possible.

The media experts condemned themselves for not investing enough time in thorough anti-corruption initiatives. FGD 01 (May 13, 2022) reports that corruption poses a risk to the country and demonstrates its detrimental effects. Media workers need to be committed and alter their conduct in order to combat this. The team claims that if they are not clean handed, it will multiply their effort by zero.

Key Informant 06 (Aug 06, 2022) explains how there is a tremendous desire among journalists to fight corruption, but that there is also a shortage of knowledge and a fear of other obstacles that they must overcome. As was already said, journalists face a variety of challenges while they carry out their work. Individuals as well as institutions can be affected by this hostile atmosphere.

Participants in this study suggested many metrics to enhance our nation's investigative and anti-corruption reporting.

The questionnaire participants mentioned that in the world experience the media have access to the community, which can show the corruption of a case either visually or through sound. This capacity of the media allows to accountability prevail and the citizens will have confidence in the role of the media. However some of our media stations are advert-driven, therefore they do not want to deal with the issue that is related to the institution or individual's interest that they are

partner or sponsor in company commercial agreement. Corruption reporting requires in-depth knowledge, experience, and leadership, but the organization of the institutions is not suitable for that. In particular, private media have a greater interest in covering issues related to corruption as they have the freedom to work with professional ethics even with high government pressure.

The media has great power and access, to create awareness and expose corruption as the questioner respondents, if it plays a vital role properly, it can collapse the threat of corruption on the nation. However, the media bureaucracy is not convenient. It depends on the freedom of the press and its independence. In reality, our media organizations are close enough to expose corrupted activities and there is no willingness at all. As the media are the fourth estate of government in a democratic country, they have an opportunity to combat, unfortunately, political and other statuesque of Ethiopia. The media are a captive of two organs the government, which always wants to stay in power, and the businessman, which wants to be profitable on its entire moves. In between this, the majority of the public and its interests ignored. On the other hand, some media managers and owners may have connections with corrupt people, which levels up the difficulty of investigative reporting to another level. The ownership also creates unpleasant conditions for the media and the professionals. As a result, they don't dare to play in the field, as its outcome is very dangerous.

One of the questioner respondents mentioned, that the media can reach and influence the mass society on the ground, and the awareness creation of the media can result in citizens who are curious and informed about their decisions. In other terms, the media is the watchdog or gatekeeper of the public interest. The participants of the research mentioned that the current status of the Ethiopian media, they are not doing much well.

As the governmental system is not conducive to the fight against corruption, Key Informant 09 (Aug 05/2022) mentioned experts and politicians do not pay attention to this matter. Also, professionals are not subject to ethics. Institutions do not pay attention to the guarantee of anti-corruption. Economic problems are another obstacle to the fight against corruption. The media tried to expose the practice of corruption but even it is like a droplet from the sea.

Key Informant 10 (July 20/2022) the journalists mention the treatment and there is no legal body to protect them from harassment and attack from exposed corrupted individuals and institutions. The challenges are different and severe when powerful government officials are involved in the malpractices. He added that "The journalists claimed they received an order to halt expository production about corruption, issues with good governance, and linked media outlets since they were so near to the material. The primary problem is that we are not paying enough attention to the media, and now is the moment for the pervasive corruption in our country to permeate throughout the entire country. "

Corruption is sensitive and it's highly connected with higher government officials, since the media are pro-government, they are not allowed for investigation. Additionally, investigating such issues take a very long time and process, this is not profitable. The media organizations know that no one will join investigative productions except for the sake of the public. so the media, especially the privately owned ones, wouldn't allow this.

The questionnaire respondent mentions that in some rare cases also even media houses themselves are part of this corruption and don't want to expose the truth, while there is a conflict of interest. The other challenge is also the freedom of the press, in our country, it is not fully confirmed, in the paper they are but in practice, some gaps should be getting attention. It is possible to get information and suggestions from different people and some institutions, but it is very difficult to confirm the complaint of the public. So it is possible to work based on investigative journalism. The media professionals don't have a strong association that can protect and capable to make a team of journalists to overcome and fix problems related to institutional bias and exposure to anti-corruption reports, On the other hand, the professional capacity of the media is not well-developed, the media practitioners need to get additional investigative reporting pieces of training and suitable environment in media houses.

The questionnaire respondents said that the media are afraid because they are dependent on the government, and most of the corruption is done by government officials, or the private, who collaborate with the relationship of interest or who targets to maximize their profit. This makes the media management under the influence of the authorities of the government prefer to keep

the government “secret” as they belong to the government, or the investors that can help them to hinder the journalist from reporting the truth and raise awareness of the public or defend the public interests /victim side. And when an honest journalist is about to do investigative reporting, the management pressures him to stop or resign. They are focusing on the situation and the direction of the government or profit-making outlets.

Also, they mentioned the problems of convenience and security problems can be raised that give birth to Fear and a very complicated arena, the fight against corruption needs a very attentive following and Inter-organizational commitment and collaboration. On the other hand

Investigative journalism has a primary role in the fight against malpractices in the public interest areas, especially corruption. One of the media's responsibilities is to expose corruption and similar crimes and to be the voice of the people. International experience shows that anti-corruption investigation reports are important tools in the fight against corruption. Their accessibility, investigative prowess, and relative credibility of the media make them an advantage over other institutions. Therefore the media needs to produce programs to expose corruption and ensure good governance.

In some cases, the media practitioners are also exposed to corruption in connection with or vast gap between the cost of living and the wage inequality of the journalist's monthly income. "The media is controlled by politicians and corrupted individuals, mostly the messages that are disseminated by politicians.

The respondents (in-depth interview, focus group discussion, and questionnaire format) reacted that the gap between the media can be divided into three parts, these are the media side, the journalists, and other stakeholders side. In general, the gaps between the media and journalists briefly explain as followed, but the other stakeholder's side needs additional studies.

The gaps with the media professionals

The respondents of the study mention the primary gap of journalists is to find or investigate the correct information. The problem of obtaining accurate information is the main and critical problem of not only investigative reporters but also all journalists.

On the other hand, media professionals also face corruption as silver coins; they are not at a good level of monthly wage. The media practitioners are fearful to speak strongly to the authorities. The media freedom issue can be raised in different contexts. There is also a lack of commitment and misunderstanding of the enormity of the problem; on the other hand, the media, especially privately owned media organizations, operate with limited financial and human resource, that makes weaken its capacity to investigate. Key Informant 06 (Aug 06/2022) states “one of the issues that the relevant bodies should address is the lack of knowledge and expertise. Media professionals occasionally only consider what they are told rather than the actual situation on the ground, and they also fail to consider the players in each sector. Other issues include fear, laziness, and bribery. For the reasons listed above, the media cannot involved in serious problem solving tasks. In addition, practitioners or institutions may have a conflict of interest due to their close relationship to or benefit from the issue. In certain situations, media professionals require legal protection because their investigations may put them in danger or because the authorities may try to forcibly stop them. Critical issues are also not properly communicated to society because the reporter's superiors disapprove or refuse to take appropriate action. ”

The well-networked and organizationally interconnected corrupted activities also wired the media to stop playing its activities by banning the media in various ways.

The respondents of the research also mention that Political pressure, economic decline, absence of attention, lack of social support, lack of accountability in organizations, irresponsibility of the reporters (having the mindset of “*non-of my business*”), and also security risks were mentioned. There is a problem of lack of experience and courage to expose ethical issues and crime. Awareness is not a gap, it is a need to change attitude.

Therefore for the sake of the public interest, there should be a relatively comfortable work environment for investigative journalists. The editorial policy and institutional constitutions of media organizations, especially the public-funded media organizations, need to be revised

There is also a lack of understanding of the damage that corruption causes to the country and its people. Fear, lack of legal protection, self-censorship, non-commitment of media leaders, lack of

accurate information from society, and problems with the understanding of investigative journalism and police work.

Pressure and fear of the professionals (I might get hurt) and not properly screening and using the suggestions received, ignoring some corruption crimes when they know that they are in contact with government appointees, ignoring the corruption abuse and complaints of citizens. Low motivation to do in-depth investigative reporting, incompetence of reporters, lack of capacity and desire, lack of interest, the complexity of the issue, and the behavior of the investigative journalism as it needs a large number of team to work, human resources, the dark face of officials to support investigative reporting, threats, harassment, and intimidation even if the job is done. Last but not least the media institutions are not interested in reporting on corruption as there is political interference." They do not work unless it is the government's agenda, and bureaucracies to report cases under trial.

Gaps with the media institutions

Institutions may face the first problem which is related to the budget shortage, it is known that investigative journalism is very expensive by itself. To reach the desired level, it will face a budget shortage to the extent that it sacrifices to expose the corrupt. Another and the most important security threat is when the investigative team or journalists are unable to answer the security question of the institutions, and thus the journalists are arrested, beaten, injured, or even killed.

Lack of specialization training and updates for investigative journalism, not building the staff of the institution grasp the knowledge of the field, not deploying a mature reporter, considering themselves as the center of image building, fearing that making/exaggerating corruption news will lose the public's trust in the government, not being guided by the editorial policy but by the needs of the editors/managers. Considering the report of corruption as not useful but harmful to the public, giving priority to other standard/protocol news, not making in-depth reports beyond "all news", especially the officials of government media institutions, considering the report of corruption as absolving them of responsibility.

The media institutions sometimes find themselves in conflict of interest beneficial relationships with corrupted institutions, they may be customers who are sponsors buying air time and like. The media institutions cannot avoid political interference, in professional matters. The media is not always independent of politics. The media are not capable of establishing an independent and permanent department to report on corruption, except for some of the media organizations. Not giving continuous training to journalists. There is no way to recognize journalists who have done better work, not only recognize the media organizations failed to protect investigative reporters.

The institutions most of the time are reluctant to report corruption, and most of them failed to create a comfortable work environment, and formulate an agenda, challenging and intervening in institutions' bureaucracy, and leadership's lack of self-confidence in media organizations. Underworked or barrier to communicating information inside and outside the institution, not permitting working reports, and not allocating enough airtime.

The private media organizations share most of the problems inside the government-owned with additional challenges. Even though the private media avoid government pressure, there is still an issue of media freedom and neutrality cases. The problem is the lack of institutional capacity. Some of the private media organizations are biased toward political goals and gain, without a professional perspective. Also, there are some capacity gaps and different operational problems in terms of finance and skills.

Respondents mentioned that the private media, except for some of them, never experience to develop a special anti-corruption system to focus on accessible reporting. Privately owned media organizations, not at all, forget their corporate responsibility. As the government owns media organizations, the private also faces a conflict of interest as well as security risks for its journalists. The private media is very limited in exposing corruption by investors and individuals. As most of the investigative issues target government service sectors the private media doesn't dare to investigate and wouldn't have helped their employees to freely generate different ideas and work, this indicates that in one or another way the institutions became dependent on the government bodies.

The privately owned organizations can't access not only active pieces of information but also dead files from government offices which we call evidence, as the explanation of the respondents, which makes the investigation needs more effort. Because of this and other reasons, the private media never want to pay much attention to corruption combat and never want to allocate enough airtime. Private media ignored Investigation and monitoring of corruption and in some cases, it is careless of the complaints from its audience. In some cases, the private media faces a challenge of finance, an absence of budget and airtime for the corruption issue, and financial pressure from the government. Fear of accountability makes the private media incapable to protect its journalists.

The problem of understanding and implementing laws and regulations also challenges Ethiopia's private media, As key informant 04 (Aug 02/2022) explanations. Reluctance to do hard work, lack of interest, lack of skilled journalists, lack of planning, and Failure to respect professional ethics and guarantee for the anti-corruption reporters.

In addition to financial problems, editorial and censorship are other problems in private media organizations raised as a problem by Key Informant 01 (May 13/2022). The media not paying proper attention to the anti-corruption reports because of fear and selfishness.

In conclusion, the private media are incapable to set agendas rather than concerned with current affairs. The proficiency of its employee is another challenge in the private sector media and the chances to train them self is narrow. They are afraid because they are dependent on the government and most of the corruption is done by government officials. At least the private media organizations understand the power of the media they may face a better implementation in the sector and the interest of the society. The private media also can play a vital role by a group of eager journalists who want to work for free in the sector of investigative reporting. As the sector needs a wide struggle, there is limited capacity, media institutions are biased towards money rather than the profession and they are busy with business leaving the professional ethics, the editorial of the media organization, lack of human resources, Powerlessness, lack of understanding, Lack of commitment of both the professionals and the institutions, Weakness of

private media complete focus on politics rather an urgent public interest, lack of professionals capable of adequately reporting on corruption.

SUMMARY OF THE CHAPTER.

Corruption is a more widespread problem in Ethiopia in the economic and political sectors. It is a nation-killing disease with many manifestations. Now a day, it's a very specific issue that needs high attention. Every citizen has responsibilities, in its hierarchy, to fight and say No to corrupted activities, and keep her/himself from involving in activities of malpractice.

Corruption is the cause of the nation's decline and backwardness. For the survival of our nation and country, corruption must be eradicated. There should be a lot of work around corruption, especially in government institutions. Corruption is the practice of a few immoral people stealing and hoarding the wealth of their country and stealing from the people who are below the poverty line. To prevent this crime, it is necessary to do a wide and well-organized awareness creation.

There are different responsible organizations; It is the media and its experts who take the lion's share of this responsibility for the awareness creation section. Since corruption is spreading in all areas and situations, all media institutions and journalists should work as a team without the boundary of ownership to fight, reduce and prevent society and defend its interest from malpractice.

The media practitioners should fight it, the media practitioners from reporters to editors and officials should do their best to combat it. Media professionals need to have the security cover to expose corruption; this will minimize its difficulty and their excuse for investigative reporting. To overcome the current nationwide problem of corruption the Media institutions and their professionals should work with concerned organizations in collaboration.

The media must be impartial and expose corrupted activities without trespassing on the concept of professionalism. In such a very complicated area, the media need to work more than a watchdog role, the media should act like a guide dog for society. It should follow the areas which are highly vulnerable to corruption and bureaucratic government and public areas.

All these will be realistic when the government respects the freedom of the press. Working to have an independent institution with public media and public service professionals is the other responsibility of all concerned bodies of the sector to reduce corruption.

Until that the respondents of this research recommended that the media in Ethiopia should work and participate aggressively in the fight against corruption, as they cooperate on the covid pandemic. At that time the media reacted for the sake of public health, also the public responds immediately to the campaign. At that time the media should work hard and think of anti-corruption reporting as a corporate responsibility. Without the ownership issues, every media should combat corruption as it kills every institution of a nation one by one.

CHAPTER FIVE

5. SUMMARY CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter contains three parts. The first part deals with the summary of the findings of the study. The second part is the conclusion of the study. The last one is devoted to recommendations of the study.

The objectives of this research are to assess media professionals understanding towards corruption. As most of the participants discussed in the interview the issue of corruption is the third threat to Ethiopians. There all the participants agreed that the media should fight corruption. And also they claim that the media must play the lion's role in combat as it stands for the public interest.

Among 61 participants on questioner 53 of them or 87% believe that these days corruption is spread highly. On contrary, the effort played by the media to combat corruption is very low. Among those participants, 44 or 72% of them voted for the low role and 16 or 26% of the participants voted for the medium role that the media plays to combat this crime.

On the other side, the participants also mentioned that media professionals are also highly exposed to corruption. out of the 60 participants, 37 or 61% expressed that media professionals are highly exposed to corruption. Out of the 61 participants 20 individuals or 33% of them rated the media professionals' exposure as medium level.

Not only this points the respondents also voted for one question which is related to the media organization's willingness for corruption related reporting. Among the respondents, 39 individuals or 64% responded that our media organizations are not suitable for corruption and investigative reporting. In contrast, 22 respondents, or 36% of them reacted as the media institutions are suitable for corruption-related reporting. This data indicates that in addition to assessing the understanding of the media professional, their exposure is also high.

Therefore the media institutions and other concerned bodies should work hard to protect the journalists from committing crimes. There should be scheduled training and awareness creation

programs specifically for media professionals. As they can reach a wide audience, educating them can reach indirectly the mass society.

The respondents of the research mentioned different problems in the media and side organizations, which indicates the need for another and wide research on the case. However, the researcher understands the corruption issue is not a task of a single organization. As it is a highly disseminated nationwide concern, every citizen should have to throw stone loyalty as its capacity.

The media and its experts have different levels of gaps. Indeed some problems are beyond the will and capacity of the professionals and the media organizations. The researcher finds out that the practitioners of the media have a good understanding relatively. However, there are gaps in skill and minimizing vulnerability.

In the anti-corruption fight, it is necessary to think about the current political and situational statutes, which makes the media under strong control and view of the government. Apart from this, it should not be forgotten that investigative reports can also cost life's. The situation to investigative journalism is not very favorable. Furthermore, it should not be forgotten that media professionals are also more likely to be exposed to corruption themselves.

Because of these and other many reasons, the media's main task is becoming event based reports, because of the absence of information provided by institutions. The media is doing nothing rather than just reporting situational reports of an active police investigation case and court reporting. On the other side, it should be emphasized that media institutions are not prepared as they should be for the fight against corruption. Right now the only point that matters is the goodwill of the journalists to participate in anti-corruption and investigative reporting, most of our media institutions structurally does not have investigative branch. The media organizations should set the agenda by itself for the anti-corruption movement. Even though there are a bunch of difficulties, and risks journalists should be an icebreaker for anti-corruption activities.

Specifically for the media, as the fourth estate of the government, journalists are expected to work their professional duty by sacrificing for combating corruption, even without additional

payment. what is expected from the media and its professionals is higher, awareness creation and fighting corruption also by exposing and investigating areas that are most exposed. The media should accept the message transmission about anti-corruption adverts as corporate responsibility.

According to the research findings the following recommendations are put forward

- Media professionals are aware of corruption and how it affects their work. However, Investigative techniques, a planned training program, and awareness-raising initiatives are necessary.
- The anti-corruption movement interests the majority of media professionals; yet, media organizations and relevant bodies ought to support journalists' protection and investigative needs.
- Since media professionals are heavily exposed to corruption when they look into the chain, the government and concerned organizations should respect their investigation and safeguard them from any interference.
- Lastly, but just as importantly, more and in-depth research is needed to give a clear explanation of corruption, the function of other stakeholders, their successes or failures, and the Ethiopian media.

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APPENDIX

APPENDIX I -PARTICIPANTS OF FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION

List of Participants for focus group discussion				
	Name	Year of experience	Media	Day
FGD 01 ESAT	Ato Eyob Demeke	30 years	Esat	May 13/2022
	Ato Yeshiwas Amisalu	4 years	Esat	
	Ato Yared Yadete	10+ years	Esat	
	Meron Getachew	5 Years	Tv9 Ehio	
	Mekdelawit Yigzaw	3 Years	Awash FM	
	Dawit Astatki	17+ Years	Capital	
FGD 02 Ethio FM	W/ro YayniAbeba Shambel	13+ years	Ethio FM 107.8	Aug 08/2022
	Ato Muluken Asefa	6+ years	Ethio FM 107.8	
	Ato Abatu Mererke	6	Ethio FM 107.8	
	Henok W/gebriel	6	Ethio FM 107.8	
	Yewelsew Ggizaw	7	Ethio FM 107.8	
	Henok Asrat	7	Ethio FM 107.8	
FGD 03 Addis Media Network	W/ro Hirut Birhanu	+10	Addis Media	Aug 01/2022
	Ato Desaley Birhan	+7	Addis Media	
	W/rit AB	+1	Addis Media	
	Ruslin Mohammed	5	Addis Media	
	Abera Gizachew	6+	Addis Media	
	Mekdelawit Yegezu	6+	Addis Media	

APPENDIX II -PARTICIPANTS OF IN-DEPTH INTERVIEW

List of Participants in In-depth Interview					
Organization		Name	Code	exper	Day
AMN	1	Ato Muhamed Fentawu	Key informant 03	+4 years	Aug 02/2022
	2	Ato Melaku Asahgre	Key informant 04	17 years	Aug 02/2022
	3	Alazar Mekonin	Key informant 05	14 years	Aug 02/2022
ESAT	4	Ato Agonafir	Key informant 01	+13 years	May13/2022
FBC	5	W/ro Genzeb Awoke	Key informant 06	12 years	Aug 06/2022
	6	Ato Dawit Mesfin	Key informant 07	9 years	Aug 06/2022
	7	Ato Adane Befikadu	Key informant 08	6 years	Aug 06/2022
EBC	8	Ato Biruk Yared	Key Informant 02	15 years	May13/2022
	9	Ato Mesele G/Hiwot	Key informant 09	13 years	Aug 05/2022
E-cash Training center	10	Abraham Tsehay	Key informant 10	7 years	July 20/2022
Transparency International	11	Ato Samuel	Key informant 11	-	Aug 11/2022
Federal ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission Public relation Director	12	Ato Addis Lema	Key informant 12	-	May 19/2022

APPENDIX III- LIST OF PARTICIPANTS IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE

List of participants in the questionnaire							
1	8/17/22 20:21:57	LA	6	31	8/19/22 6:13:23	ዳዊት አስታጥቆ	12 ዓመት
2	8/17/22 19:36:22	49	22	32	8/19/22 9:14:33	አየለ	6 አመት
3	8/17/22 22:42:48	ዓለማየሁ አድማሱ	2 ዓመት	33	8/19/22 9:49:03	ዙበይዳ አወል	22 አመት
4	8/17/22 22:43:38	Ak	5 years	34	8/19/22 10:05:39		3 years
5	8/17/22 22:43:56	ሳሙኤል አባተ	10	35	8/19/22 10:26:48	Neima	Journalism
6	8/17/22 23:49:49	O	3	36	8/19/22 10:32:24	A10	8
7	8/18/22 0:08:22	Tomy	10	37	8/19/22 11:01:50		8 አመት
8	8/18/22 0:51:14	መሣይ ገ/መድህን	ሪፖርተር	38	8/19/22 10:52:27	አህመድ ኢብራሂም	10 አመት
9	8/18/22 0:55:22	መርሻ ጥሩነህ	2+	39	8/19/22 10:56:13	ይበልጣል ደነቀው	8 ዓመት
10	8/18/22 2:07:53	ሜሮን ጌታቸው	3	40	8/19/22 11:38:31	ሐሚድ መሐመድ	7+ አመት
11	8/18/22 2:31:55	Alula frew	3	41	8/19/22 12:10:18	AAUI	2
12	8/18/22 2:42:02	እስከዳር ግሮማ	ኮ/ሪፖርተር	42	8/19/22 13:37:59	ሰኢድ	15
13	8/18/22 4:41:59	ዳግም ተካ	10	43	8/19/22 21:15:35	G.T	8 years
14	8/18/22 5:12:04	አቤል ከበደ	አንድ አመት	44	8/19/22 22:59:56	Bc	5
15	8/18/22 5:34:17	ብሩክ	5 ዓመት	45	8/19/22 23:36:36	የስ	10
16	8/18/22 6:24:13		5ዓመታት	46	8/20/22 2:20:32	Binurya	2 አመት
17	8/18/22 6:43:24	DK	8	47	8/20/22 2:31:23	DI	5 Amet
18	8/18/22 7:45:05	አብዱልሰመድ	20 ዓመት	48	8/20/22 2:26:04	Etu	8
19	8/18/22 8:20:54	Kib	14	49	8/20/22 2:28:13	Abu noor	ብዙ አመታትን
20	8/18/22 10:00:24	ኤቢ ማክ	+1	50	8/20/22 2:50:18	ኤስ	6
21	8/18/22 11:51:27	rim	አዎን	51	8/20/22 10:44:21	Mrx	>10 ዓመት
22	8/18/22 12:02:24	Mohammed al	2Yrs	52	8/20/22 10:46:10	MA	5
23	8/18/22 12:41:57	Intisar	Editor	53	8/20/22 11:04:35	Hm	11
24	8/18/22 22:13:05	Firehiwot Reta	10 years	54	8/20/22 11:28:09	S2	5year
25	8/19/22 0:58:46	S	9 አመት	55	8/21/22 4:00:29	ኤልያስ መሰረት	12 አመት
26	8/19/22 1:48:58	Bf	5 year	56	8/21/22 5:57:03	Kkkkkk	23አመት
27	8/19/22 4:16:47	Tesfaye Getnet	10 አመት	57	8/21/22 7:59:08	ሰላም	5 አመት
28	8/19/22 4:29:02	Demeke Kebede	14 years	58	8/21/22 9:28:11	Ac	13 አመት
29	8/19/22 4:57:35	EA	6 year	59	8/21/22 10:50:25	Me	7 አመት
30	8/19/22 5:29:42	ራዲዮ	ሪፖርተር	60	8/21/22 23:00:30	አሚር ውብሸት	ጋዜጠኛ

Link to access the questionnaire list

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/AnalysisPage.aspx?AnalyzerToken=mcQJyR7QJiSBuwO15NVLDBvKn0TWKSqw&id=DQSIkWdsW0yxEjajBLZtrQAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAMAABrh89UM1dDWk03T0tEV1FLSVY4SUdCNUtRQThKMS4u>

APENDIX IV- QUESTIONS PREPARED FOR FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION

A list of interview questions prepared for the research paper

- Do you believe most journalists have understanding about how corruption hurt a society:

Do you think Journalists understanding towards corruption affects their reportings? In what way:

What are the main gaps of journalists understanding for corruption

Is there any corruption-related reporting trainings you ever get?

- Does the journalists are interested for corruption and related productions?

Is there corruption related investigations are available for the media?

Does the journalists give attention and priority for anti-corruption investigation

how do you explain the corruption reporting coverage in the media?

Is there any encouraging situation on reporting corruption related production?

- To what extent the media professionals are exposed for corruption.

To what extent the media professionals are exposed for corruption?

Does the media practitioners affect or abuse their reporting by corruption?

What are the role of the media and journalists to make Corruption nationwide agenda

APENDIX V - QUESTIONNAIRE

This questionnaire is Only for educational purposes. Thank you in advance for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.

1. Name (code name can be used) 2. Work experience (related to media)
3. What do you think corruption is?
4. To what degree, in your perspective, has corruption caused harm?
5. How knowledgeable about corruption are those in the media?
6. Have you ever been involved with any anti-corruption reports?
7. Why did you decide to take part in the reports?
8. What kinds of problems did you encounter when preparing the reports?
9. Do you suffer any specific repercussions from your jobs?
10. Are you corrupted as a result of what you do?
11. How would you describe the seriousness of corruption in Ethiopia? -High -Medium -
Low
12. Do you believe that the media should contribute to the anti-corruption campaign?
-Yes -No
13. Are the media professionals exposed for corruption? (in relate to their work)
- High -Medium -Low
14. Explain The vulnerablity of the media professionals to corruption? _____
15. is the media institution that you are working in suitable for anti corruption reporting?
16. Would you be open to participating in anti-corruption reporting?

17. Is the media Station conduct anti-corruption reporting or investigations:

- High -Medium -Low 11. Explain _____

18. explain the contribution of media institutions in the anti-corruption campaign? _____

19. what are the main gaps with the media professionals for anti-corruption activities? _____

20. what are the main gaps with media institutions for anti-corruption reports and investigations?

21. What is expected from the media institutions and professionals to counter corruption?

22. In the fight against corruption, what part should the media take on?