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**SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND COMMUNICATION GRADUATE  
STUDIES**

**ANALYSIS OF WALTA TV's "NETSA HASAB" PROGRAM  
FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF INVESTIGATIVE  
JOURNALISM PRINCIPLES**

**BY: ADDIS BELAY**

**A THESIS SUBMITTED TO SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND  
COMMUNICATION PRESENTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE  
REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTERS OF ART IN  
JOURNALISM AND COMMUNICATION (MULTIMEDIA JOURNALISM)**

**FEBRUARY, 2021  
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

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**ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**  
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**SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND COMMUNICATION GRADUATE**  
**STUDIES**

This is to certify that the thesis prepared by Addis Belay entitled: Analysis of Walta TV's "Netsa Hasab" program from the perspective of investigative journalism principle and submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirement for the Degree of Master of Arts in Journalism and Communications complies with the regulations of the university and meets the accepted standards with respect to originality and quality. This certifies that the Master thesis of Addis Belay is approved by the examining committee:

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External Examiner \_\_\_\_\_ sig. \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor \_\_\_\_\_ sig. \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

---

Chair of department or Graduate Coordinator

## **DECLARATION**

I, Addis Belay, declare that this thesis entitled Analysis of Walta's TV "Netsa Hasab" program from the perspective of investigative journalism principle my own original work. I have carried it out independently with the guidance and suggestions of the research advisor. And it has not been presented in any other University, at least to my knowledge. All the sources of materials used for the thesis have been duly acknowledged.

**Addis Belay**

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**(The Researcher)**

**Signature**

## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this thesis to my beloved sister Yordanos Belay (Awte) with love and respect. I know the price you paid throughout my life. I never ever forgate your unconditional love. You are always in my heart. “Awte”, Thank you so much! May Almighty God give you long live. I love you so much!

## ABSTRACT

*This research was conducted for the purpose of analysing the practice of investigative journalism in Walta TV's "Netsa Hasab" program from the perspective of investigative journalism principles and identifying major challenges journalists faced. To conduct this study, the researcher employed a descriptive analytical method of data collection through a qualitative approach. In-depth interview was used to collect data from 20 informants comprising of managers, senior editors, producers, reporters and media experts who were purposefully selected for the study. Accordingly, five Walta's TV "Netsa Hasab" programs were purposefully selected for the study. The analysis of the data was applied by thematic analysis method, based on objectives and questions of the study. To conceptualize the subject matter, Scholarly articles related to purpose, importance and role of investigative journalism, as well as its techniques were discussed. Social responsibility theory of press, Gatekeeping theory and Principles of investigative journalism were used as theoretical framework. The finding of the study was indicated that there is absence of a clear-cut and independent guideline for investigative programs. Stories covered by "Netsa Hasab" programs are not well researched and analysed before presentation. There are also lack of organized team, lack of skilled man power, lack of sufficient training and limited resource to conduct investigative programs. Although, political interference by media managers and chief editorials. According to the research finding, there is only an attempt to practice investigative reporting in Walta Television. Therefore as analysed by the researcher, even though there is a good start exercising profession of investigative journalism by "Netsa Hasab" but it is at an infant stage, contrasting the socio-economic and political problems of the society to be investigated more. Moreover, Investigative programs of Walta's TV "Netsa Hasab" program are mainly focused on issues of politics, social and good governance. But the program lacks giving coverage on issues of land grabbing, serious corruption, smuggling, human trafficking, money laundry, mal- administration, failure of system and others. In addition, on the focused area of their coverage, Walta's TV "Netsa Hasab" programs are mainly focused on governmental organizations. But the program lacks giving coverage on private companies, non-governmental organizations and individuals (criminals). It was recommended that Walta's TV "Netsa Hasab" program should prepare a clear-cut and standard investigative journalism guideline. In addition Walta TV should give attention on those factors like lack of resource (budget, transport & salary), lack of organized professional team, insufficient training of the investigative program producers, editors, reporters and media experts and inappropriate interference of managers and chief editors.*

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>DECLARATION</b> .....	<b>i</b>
<b>DEDICATION</b> .....	<b>i</b>
<b>ABSTRACT</b> .....	<b>ii</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT</b> .....	<b>iii</b>
<b>CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION</b> .....	<b>1</b>
1.1 Background of the study .....	1
1.2 Statement of the problem .....	4
1.3 Objectives of the Study .....	7
1.3.1 General Objective .....	7
1.3.2 Specific Objectives .....	7
1.4 Research Questions .....	8
1.5 Significance of the Study .....	8
1.6 Scope of the Study .....	9
1.7 Limitation of the study .....	9
1.8 Organization of the Study .....	9
<b>CHAPTER TWO: REVIEW OF LITERATURE</b> .....	<b>11</b>
2.1 Historical Development of Investigative Journalism .....	11
2.2 Definition of Investigative Journalism.....	12
2.3 The Role and Essence of Investigative Journalism.....	17
2.4 Focus Areas and Issues of Investigative Journalism.....	18
2.4.1 Focus Areas of Investigative Journalism .....	19
2.4.2 Issues of Investigative Journalism .....	21
2.5 Sources of Investigative Reporting .....	23
2.5.1 Tip-off .....	23
2.5.2 Public Rumor .....	24
2.5.3 Journalist’s Concentration.....	24
2.5.4 Tendencies and Change .....	25
2.5.5 Other news media.....	25
2.5.6 Records and Files .....	25
2.6 Tools for Investigative Journalism.....	25
2.6.1 Interview .....	26
2.6.2 Documents .....	27
2.7 Steps in carrying Investigative Journalism .....	28
2.8 Good qualities of investigative journalists.....	30

2.9	Challenges of Investigative Journalism .....	34
2.10	Theoretical Framework .....	35
<b>2.10.1</b>	<b>Social Responsibility Theory of Press .....</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>2.10.2</b>	<b>Gatekeeping theory .....</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>2.10.3</b>	<b>Principles of Investigative Journalism .....</b>	<b>42</b>
2.11	Profile of Walta Media and Communication Corporate S.C .....	44
<b>CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY .....</b>		<b>46</b>
3.1	Research Design.....	46
3.2.	Data Gathering Tools.....	47
3.3.	Data Sources .....	47
3.3.1.	Primary Sources .....	48
3.3.2.	Secondary Sources of Data .....	49
3.4	Sample and Sampling Technique.....	49
3.5.	Analysing the Data.....	51
4.	Ethical Considerations .....	52
<b>CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DESCUSSION OF RESULTS .....</b>		<b>53</b>
Phase one: 4.1 Data presentation, analysis and results of respondents from an in-depth interview .....		53
4.1.1.	The practice of investigative journalism by “Netsa Hasab” .....	53
4.1.2.	The implementation of investigative journalism Principles.....	59
4.1.3.	Issues of investigation.....	63
4.1.4.	Focus areas of investigation.....	64
4.1.5.	Sources of investigation.....	65
4.1.6.	Challenges to practice investigative journalism.....	67
Phase two: 4.2 Data presentation, discussion and results of sample programs.....		69
<b>4.2.1</b>	<b>The program of power competition and conflict of interest (March 14, 2019) .....</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>4.2.2</b>	<b>The program of political corruption and abuse of power (October, 31 2019).....</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>4.2.3.</b>	<b>The program on absence of good governance and government (November, 13 2019) .....</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>4.2.4</b>	<b>The program of the violation of rules and regulation in private schools (May, 1 2020).....</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>4.2.5</b>	<b>The program on lack of quality service in health sector (May, 6 2020) .....</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION.....</b>		<b>83</b>
5.1	Summary of Findings.....	83
5.2	Conclusions.....	85
5.3	Recommendations.....	89
<b>REFERENCES.....</b>		<b>91</b>

Appendix A: Interview Questions to managers and editors at Walta Television ..... 95  
Appendix B: Interview Questions for producers, reporters and media experts at Walta Television ..... 96  
Appendix C: Selected programs for analysis ..... 97

## **Abbreviation and Acronym**

**AAU** – Addis Ababa University

**CIMA** - The Center for International Media Assistance

**E1** – Editor One

**E2** – Editor Two

**E3** – Editor Three

**EP** – Executive Producer

**ERTA** - Ethiopian radio and Television agency

**FBC** - Fana Broadcasting Corporation

**IJ** - Investigative Journalism

**IJM** - Investigative Journalism Manual

**IRE** – Investigative Reporters and Editors

**KAS** – Konrad Adenaver Stiftung

**MA** - Master of Arts

**ME** - Media Expertise

**MM** - Media Manager

**NGOs** - Non-Governmental Organizations

**OBN** - Oromia Broadcasting Network

**PD** - Program Director

**R1** – Reporter One

**R2** – Reporter Two

**R3** – Reporter Three

**UNESCO** - United Nation Education, Science and Cultural Organization

**WMCC** - Walta media and communication corporate SC

## **Meaning of terms**

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

**'Editors'**: Who edits "Netsa Hasab" and other investigative programs.

**'Manager'**: Executive Director of Walta media and communication corporate SC.

**'Media experts'**: People who have rich experience in media profession and work as practitioners in Walta TV.

**'Netsa Hasab'**: Is an investigative program which is under news and investigative programs production team and its produced and transmitted by Walta Television.

**'Producers'**: Journalists who produce "Netsa Hasab" and other investigative programs

**'Reporters'**: Reporters who work under the investigative programs of Walta TV.

## CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the study

Media organizations have a significant role in shaping the daily activities of a given society. Their main function is striving for promoting the people's need. Media have their own features which differentiate them from other sectors that they always standing on behalf of the people by being eyes and ears. There are different forms of Television programs that reports about the social, economic and political problems of the society. These are informative, educational, entertainment programs that the public interested to follow. (Accessed from: <https://medium.com>, accessed on: Jul 2 2020). Above all, investigative programs are one type of program that mainly expose wrong doings among individuals, organizations and mainly reveals secrets of government officials. In this context profession of investigative journalism deals with following the footsteps of the government and private individuals to know whether they are in the right track or not and inform the public immediately (O'Neil 1992, p.21).

Investigative Journalism is a form of journalism in which reporters go in-depth to investigate a single story that may uncover corruption, review government policies or of corporate houses, or draw attention to social, economic, political or cultural trends. An investigative journalist, or team of journalists, may spend months or years researching a single topic. Unlike conventional reporting, where reporters rely on materials supplied by the government, NGOs and other agencies, investigative reporting depends on material gathered through the reporter's own initiative. The practice aims at exposing public matters that are otherwise concealed, either deliberately or accidentally. (Pdf accessed from: [www.investigative-manual.org](http://www.investigative-manual.org), accessed on: Jan 22 2020)

Television programs are essential sources of detection on corruption cases, either for law enforcement authorities that investigate allegations contained in the press or indeed for companies that decide to conduct internal investigations or self-report, or anti-money laundering reporting entities that make suspicious transaction reports, following queries from the media or published articles. Therefore, Profession of journalism, especially that of investigative journalism plays a crucial role in bringing claims of corruption and illegal activities so as to enable the society to fight against it. In addition, investigative programs have fundamental role in realizing accountability and transparency among government officials and organizations for

whatsoever activities they have to perform. In this regard, Silvio (2002, p.380) stated that “Investigative reports have recognized to be sufficiently powerful to lead to the resignation of officials presumably involved in wrongdoing”. These resignations arguably show accountability at work: officials identified by press exposes as responsible for illegal acts are held accountable and decide (or are forced) to resign.

According to Rosensteil and Kovach (as quoted in Ntibinyane Ntibinyane, 2018) the primary **purpose** of journalism is to provide citizens with the information they need to be free and self-governing. According to the two authors by reporting on government, business and powerful institutions, journalists one way or the other give citizens the information they need to make informed decisions. The purpose of journalism as such is not defined by technology, not by journalists or the techniques they employ but the principles and purpose of journalism are defined by something more basic, the function news plays in the lives of people, Rosensteil and Kovach, noted (2001,p 17). With this in mind it is also important to review the importance or the purpose of investigative journalism in a democracy. Investigative journalism has a vital contribution in the realization of democracy, development as well as to bring sense of accountability and transparency among governmental and none governmental organizations. (Ntibinyane Ntibinyane, 2018 p.14)

In addition, Feldstein (2006) states role of investigative journalism as: Investigative journalism has a great contribution to realize democracy, good governance and human rights. It has considered as vital safeguard of democracy as a way of checkpoint the wrong doing in politics and public policies. O’Neil (1992, p.21) on his part states the main function of investigative journalism as: In a democratic system, the primary function of the media is to act as a watchdog on government. Investigative reporting began to be broadcast when public and other officials engaged themselves in the business against the public interest.

According to views of the above scholars, the primary activity of Media must be advocating the public and exposing illegal activities that are against public interest.

Throughout the world, though, there are still a lot of things happening which people want to keep secret. In most cases these are private things which have no impact on other people - such as relations within a family or a bad report from school. These personal things can remain secret. In many other cases, governments, companies, organizations and individuals try to hide decisions or events which affect other people. When a journalist tries to report on matters which somebody

wants to keep secret, this is investigative journalism. One of the features of investigative journalism is the fearless uncovering of facts unpalatable to the powerful.

Even though there are no laws directly stating about investigative journalism in Ethiopia, it is indirectly included with the concern that is given to journalists to perform investigative reports. Investigative reporting programs began to be broadcasted when public and other officials engaged themselves in the business against the public interest. In this regard, Nigusse Teffera (2008,p.100) writes: “As of late, investigative journalism has attracted attention in our country also as a means of combating corruption, preventing wastage of resources, defending human and democratic rights, and eradicating nepotism.”

In Ethiopia, there are several reasons why our country needs investigative journalism. As our society they have a right to know about the society in which they live. They have a right to know about decisions which may affect them, even if people in power want to keep them secret. Although, People in power-whether in government, the world of commerce, or any other group in society can abuse that power. They can be corrupt, steal money, break laws and do all sorts of things which harm other people. They might just be incompetent and unable to do their job properly. They will usually try to keep this knowledge secret. Journalists try to expose such abuse. Journalists also have a duty to watch how well people in power perform their jobs, especially those who have been elected to public office. Journalists should constantly ask whether such people are keeping their election promises. Politicians and others who are not keeping their promises may try to hide the fact; investigative journalists should try to expose it.

In contrast to the high need of the public towards the realization of investigative programs, where corruption and other irregularities are exercised in daylight, there are few Television organizations attempting to practice investigative program. Walta media and communication corporate SC is a for-profit business entity established in 1994 under the law of Ethiopia. It is a media and communication company with a legal status of Share Company and governed by a board of directors. The station is one of the Media organizations that attempts to exercise investigative program. Accordingly, it inaugurates “Netsa Hasab” weekly Television program On January 28, 2018 to investigate and disseminate issues of public interest. Since its foundation, every Tuesday at 9:00 pm, the program had been broadcasting different issues that the public wants to know.

Walta Television is one of the media industries that experienced in popular programs that reflect problems of the society and criticize wrong doings in different organizations. Among those programs “Netsa Hasab” is the one and the prominent. In light of these, the researcher intended to analyze the practice of investigation in Walta Television by exhibiting “Netsa Hasab” program, investigating role of “Netsa Hasab” program for the realization of democracy and good governance, examining issues and sources been used by “Netsa Hasab” program and evaluating the major challenges in Walta Television to practice investigative journalism by using “Netsa Hasab” as a center of study.

## **1.2 Statement of the problem**

In Media organization, investigative programs are very important to serve the public by providing accurate information about the activities of government and private institutions. Media organizations should realize right of the public to look at activity of government officials to bring about democracy and good governance. But, in Ethiopia, despite the high need of investigative programs and where corruption and other crimes are familiar everywhere, different Media spend their airtime on reporting routine activities and other propagandas. Regarding practice of investigative reporting in developing countries, scholars forwarded their views as follows:

For instance, Kantumoya (2004, p.4) states practice of investigative journalism in the third world countries as “investigative journalism is still relatively new and undeveloped in the third-world countries. It means, the practice of investigative journalism needs to be developed to promote democracy and development in the third world countries”. The public has also the right to look at the leaders daily activity, and this can be realized through media by recognizing whether powerful institutions are working effectively or not (Kovach and Rosenstein, 2001).

Investigative journalism is all about uncover scandals that are aimed at detecting violations of laws, rules or norms of decency, by organizations or individuals. Stories covered were also needs to draw attention to social, economic, political and cultural trends, which are aimed at detecting changes in society. More recently, investigative journalism has followed by the techniques used, the function, and the role of the investigative journalist have changed during the last decades, although verification and deeper understanding of particular issues along with hard evidence presented in news reporting will always remain at the core of investigative journalism. (Abit Hoxha, 2019, accessed from: <https://medium.com/@saltandpaper/the-media-and-its-function-8ce5adc4f426>, accessed on Sep 13 20)

Investigative journalism is not a new area in journalism but its practice around the world vary from one country to another as media researchers are arguing whether it should be practiced or not. Although, in Ethiopia, the development and the practice of investigative journalism has varies stages and the degree of its practice has also varies from one Media to another.

Moreover, as it's emerged investigative journalism has not well practiced in Ethiopia. Scholars like Bereket Yeheyas (2012), Wegayehu Muluneh (2017), Chala Bereka (2019) and Tesfaye Ademe (2019) have been done about the practice of Investigative Journalism. As investigative journalism is a particular way of reporting by relying on a rigid and systematic investigation and layers of verification of facts to the last detail and presented in a report with the aim to have an impact on the public, as the previous studies, there are different factors that affect the practicing investigative journalism in Ethiopia. This challenges and influences on the practice of investigative journalism stated in different ways: lack of sufficient and skilled manpower (Journalist has Lack of conceptual and technical skills of investigative reporting and professional ethics), proprietorial interface (the media ownership and political system deactivated the process of investigative journalism), and economic constraints were the major challenges.

Bereket Yeheyas (2012) conducted MA thesis entitled "Practice of Investigative Journalism in Ethiopian Radio and Television Agency, in case of "Aynachin". He stated that, "The program lacks presenting detailed information of the concerned bodies. This is the result of investigating a given issue only by a single journalist. Decision on the issue to be aired is made subjectively. Programs might not be transmitted if the higher officials do not approve it despite the investigative team decide to produce the program. There are no clear criteria to select issues for production. Producers failed to do it due to the need not to cover complex issues and being highly dependent on issues came to the station rather they extract themselves. The station has no any mechanism to verify the validity and reliability of documents since they could easily be modified; it lets journalists to curios. And this can somehow mislead the investigation. Surveillance is possible when other legal options are exhausted and the editorial policy could be justified for this reason but producers are not familiar with the above justification to do so. Excessive use of ambush interview and failing to respect people who involve in the investigation especially those being investigated are ethical problems observed in the program (Bereket 2012, p.89).

In addition, Wegayehu Muluneh (2017) research about investigative journalism entitled "The practice of investigative journalism in Fana Broadcasting Corporate (FBC)". The case of

“teguazh neqash” investigative program. He stated that, programs lacked in-depth research to reveal the probable hidden facts. His major findings are as follows:

"Lack of interested journalists working as investigative reporter in the program, intimidation and harassment up on investigative reporters, inadequate training provided for the existing journalists, unlimited interference of media house authorities, extra journalistic tasks given for investigative reporters, the influence of powerful hands of actors being parts of the investigation, absence of guaranteed protection for investigative journalists, investigative reporters limited access to information, and lack of sufficient man power and shortage of time to conduct an in-depth investigation were found as factors challenging the practice of investigative journalism in FBC. He added that, lack of commitment on behalf of media house authorities in decision making were highly claimed by the reporters affecting the practice. The unfair involvement of media house authorities in rejecting the investigation already started exposed the field not to stand alone independently. Authorities fear or favor attitude towards actors or stakeholders to be investigated yields a negative impact up on both the reporters and the reporters (Wegayehu 2017, p. 80)

Furthermore, Chala Bereka (2019): his research was on "Challenges of journalist to conduct investigative reporting: the case of Oromia Broadcasting Networks (OBN)." He stated the challenges of journalist to conduct investigative reporting as follows: The institutions Lack professional leadership. Media leaders have not media professional background. The station has no system that defends its reporters when they face challenge. There is no strong commitment in favors of investigative journalism. The station has lack of guidelines that support investigative reporting. There is no vibrant investigative department and team. In adequate training for journalists, there is no investigative reporting specialized journalist. Fear of criticism from government from both side media leaders and journalist. Media leaders can invite investigators for Corruption. And the media leader is not decision maker they rather refer to government officials. There is a case where the news or program gets permission to be on air from the officials (Chala 2019, pp 58-59)

Another researcher Tesfaye Ademe (2019) also conduct a research on investigative journalism entitled as “The practice and challenges of investigative journalism in Oromia Broadcasting Network (OBN)” “Millu Qoranno” program in focus. He stated that : Investigative journalism was not well researched before production, the investigative program producers had no freedom to choose the topic they want to report and they didn’t gave training and professional support to

capacitate skills of investigative journalists to make investigative program effective. The institution has not been practicing investigative program properly. He further added that, higher officials forced the investigative program producers to disseminate some stories. Some investigative programs developed by OBN journalists were not permitted to transfer on air; the victims of Investigative programs of OBN tried to demolish the moral of the investigative journalists (Tesfaye 2019, pp. 57-58).

As academic research to analyze, examine and evaluate the practice of investigative journalism, as goals of investigative journalism, role of media and good quality of investigative journalists, there is a gap between research objectives, study frame and methodological approach used for the study area. Those gaps are, the study do not show the techniques used by the study area. In addition, as responsibility of professional journalists, those researches were doing not show journalists positions in doing investigative programs. Although, do not show story covered and presented are fair, cridible, independent and relevant to the public.

Previous studies were mainly focusing on the practice and challenges of investigative journalism in different media stations. Moreover, those studies did not show the overall practice and challenges of doing investigative report in Walta Television. Over all, those previous researches are different from this research that focuses on the practice of investigative journalism seen from the applicability of techniques and implementation of the basic principles of investigative journalism. Although, this research is different in its approach, thematic area, study frame and methodology, to analyze, examine and evaluate the practice of investigative journalism. Therefore, there is a need to conduct a research which aims at analyzing “Netsa Hasab” program in practice of investigative journalism and identifying the major challenges in journalists facing.

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

#### **1.3.1 General Objective**

The general objective of this study was to analyze “Netsa Hasab” program and its practice from the perspective of investigative journalism principles.

#### **1.3.2 Specific Objectives**

The specific objectives of the study were:

- Analyzing the practice of investigative journalism in Walta Television by focusing “Netsa Hasab” program.
- Evaluating the program in line with principles of investigative journalism
- Examining issues and sources been used by “Netsa Hasab” program.
- Identify the major challenges journalists face in Walta Television to practicing investigative journalism in “Netsa Hasab” program.

#### **1.4 Research Questions**

The basic research questions guiding this study are:

1. To what extent “Netsa Hasab” program exercise investigative journalism?
2. To what extent “Netsa Hasab” program practicing principles of investigative journalism?
3. What are the issues been covered by “Netsa Hasab”?
4. What are the sources used while investigation?
5. What are the major challenges of journalist practicing investigative journalism in the “Netsa Hasab” program?

#### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

This study is significant for several reasons. First of all, practicing investigative journalism is a new phenomenon in Ethiopia and has not been adequately studied. There is an acute shortage of literature on the practice of investigative reporting in Ethiopia. In this regard, finding of the study may also be used as a reference and provides a framework for those who will conduct academic research in the field. Therefore, this study is significant to analyze the practice of “Netsa Hasab” in the process of exercising investigative journalism based on the major role of investigative journalism mentioned above.

Second, the researcher believes that the research finding can contribute a lot to the institution to improve the program as it may serve as an input. In addition, this study can be of great value to journalists that wish to practice investigative journalism. Third, the research finding is also important to inspire government institutions like ethics and anti-corruption commission, Police, and others to work in collaboration with the program to fight against corruption and other transgression.

In Ethiopia, where absence of good governance, corruption and abuse of power is the real day to day activities that the society witnessed, research based strong investigative program should be practiced to expose wrong doings to impose official to be accountable for what so ever misdeed they have committed to realize rule of law. Therefore, it is hoped that the study contribute its part by promoting the realization of investigative programs.

### **1.6 Scope of the Study**

There are different private and government broadcast and print media that attempts to practice investigative programs. But the researcher framed area of the study to “Netsa Hasab” of Walta Television, to examine whether it is practicing investigative journalism or not. The researcher assessed the practice of investigative journalism based on “Netsa Hasab” program by using in-depth interview approach with managers, producers, editors, reporters, media experts and analyzes purposefully select five sample programs. This research was conducted approximately within 11 months, which is from Jan, 2020 to Dec, 2020. Data collection from interviewees was made in the period Jun, 8 2020 to July 24, 2020. Furthermore, the secondary data of this study was collected from the works of Waltas TV "Netsa Hasab" program. The data were selected from a list of 42 "Netsa Hasab" program periods—from March 2019 - May, 2020.

### **1.7 Limitation of the study**

To carry out this study, the researcher faced lack of access to data, especially while using online data and document analyzed. To overcome this challenge the researcher took a lot of time to identify important documents that helped the study during analysis. The other limited with getting information on time from all respondents due to Covid 19 lock down during the data gathering. But the researcher overcomes the challenges by having serious day to day communication. The researcher also faces difficult to get some investigative programs from archives since they were documented manually. To overcome this challenge the researcher accessed from online waltas youtube channale and it tooks a lot of time to selecte the investigative programs produced in the period, March 2019 - May, 2020.

### **1.8 Organization of the Study**

To manage the study well, the researcher organizes the study in chapters, titles and subtitles, and others as its importance. Accordingly, the first chapter includes introduction: background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, research questions, significance of the

study and scope as well as limitation of the study and organization of the study. The second chapter deals with review of literature. The third chapter entertains methodology of the study and how it investigates to obtain the desired result. In the fourth chapter data presentation, analyze and interpretations discussed in detail. The fifth chapter incorporates conclusions and recommendations based on the findings.

## **CHAPTER TWO: REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

In the literature review, various issues regarding Netsa Hasab's practice of investigative journalism in Walta Television that are related to the identified problem will be discussed.

### **2.1 Historical Development of Investigative Journalism**

Scholars have raised diversified ideas regarding the emergence of investigative journalism. Some of them have related it with the Watergate scandal of 1974 which was dealing with the reason for the resignation of Richard Nixon and revealed by an intensive and continuous investigation made by Washington Post (Burg, 2008). Other scholars, however, suggested that it had a long history not different from the beginning of journalism. In Britain its emerging is related with the competition which was between television and newspapers and it saved the life of the newspapers. To resist the challenge, Newspapers began to fill their space with big features and picture reporting of undisclosed facts (Burgh, 2008).

The most important development of investigative journalism in Europe however, occurred after the industrialization of the press. And the central figure to this development was William Stead, often referred to as Britain first investigative journalist. In 1885, Stead, who was the editor of Pall Mall Gazette, went undercover and in disguise bought a 12-year old girl in the East End of London for sexual purposes, as a way of demonstrating to his readers that child prostitution in Britain was prevalent. He was arrested, tried and imprisoned. However, since his motive was not to take advantage of the young girl, his sentence was reduced and he made a whole affair the sting that finally brought success to the campaign to stop child prostitution in Britain. According to De Burgh, his undercover investigative style was premonitory. He carried out detailed preliminary research and undertook a sting, in much the manner favored by modern investigative journalists (Burgh, 2008).

Recently, "investigative journalism has reinvented itself to respond to technological and informative challenges and has incorporated data journalism and larger data leaks. Analyzing data of large capacity proves to be resourceful to expose wrongdoing of offshore companies, tax evasion, illegal business practices, and political corruption. Journalism in itself has undergone a myriad of changes and evolutionary steps. Especially with the birth of the TV, and later the Internet and news portals, the enhancement of technology in terms of equipment has changed the media landscape and, consequently, the notion of investigative journalism". (Abit Hoxha, 2019,

accessed from: <https://medium.com/@saltandpaper/the-media-and-its-function-8ce5adc4f426>,  
accessed on Sep 13 20)

In Africa, there was a general agreement that well-organized investigative journalism occurred in the 1960s and the 1990s following transitions from the colonial era and authoritarian regimes. The opening up meant that more journalists were free to do investigative reporting. According to Berger (2000) as cited in Ntibinyane (2018) thesis titled “the real opening up [of media spaces] coincided with the post- Cold War liberalization that legitimized private newspapers across the continent. The end of Apartheid in South Africa, and the end of authoritarian regimes in Ghana, Mozambique and Nigeria also opened up the media in those countries.

In Ethiopia, the practice of investigative journalism is directly related with the political system that existed in different governments. During feudal system, there was no possible condition that enabled professionals to participate themselves in investigative report. During Derg regime, there were some activities in disclosing hidden facts which had an impact on the life of the people. Post 1991, different media outlets have been investigating various issues occasionally and/or permanently (Nigussie, 2008)

## **2.2 Definition of Investigative Journalism**

In mass media, investigative journalism occupies a prominent place all over the world and represents an effective form of social control over official power and institutions in a civil society. Investigation method remarkably enriches journalist’s research techniques, improves ways of content representation, and has an influence on genres, composition forms, and stylistic characteristics of the text. It can be resulting in specific types of mass media production such as “investigative” newspapers, TV programs, web sites, documentary books (Reang and Nariddh, 2007, p.1)

Different scholars define investigative journalism in different ways. Though there is no fundamental definition, but their point of view emanate from two points. Some of the scholars consider investigative journalism as involves in-depth reporting in the public interest while others regard it as an extension of good journalism should really be (Rosner, 2008 & Forbes, 2005). The very existence of the investigative journalism as an independent phenomenon is under the question. In one hand, some researchers insist that the term “investigative journalism” is a tautology because any journalism is investigative in its nature or at least should be (J. Pilger, C. MacDougal. On the other hand, many definitions of investigative reporting as there are

journalists working in the field. One reason for this is that investigative journalism as a specialism within the profession is relatively new, and appropriate models are still explored and developed. In this View, some scholars of the field investigative journalism has been seen as an independent genre in the same sense as a reporting or a review.

According to, Abit Hoxha (2019) “Investigative journalism is a particular way of newsgathering practice where journalists deeply investigate one or more stories over a longer period of time in order to create deeper knowledge on the subject and confirm multisourced information and build a trusted report. Stories reporting crime, political corruption, financial frauds, human trafficking, corporate wrongdoing, and other difficult subjects need more time than usual reporting and journalists may spend weeks or months investigating such a report”.

The above definition implies that, Investigative journalism is different from generic journalism. Investigative journalism relies on classified information obtained by journalists, off the record interviews and meetings that lead to information, usage of covert operations by journalists, and also to open data.

Whereas, the most recent definitions of the term have been by a study on investigative journalism by **Mark Lee Hunter** called Story-Based Inquiry: A manual for investigative journalists handbook published by UNESCO, defines it thus:

Investigative journalism involves exposing to the public matters that are concealed—either deliberately by someone in a position of power, or accidentally, behind a chaotic mass of facts and circumstances that obscure understanding. It requires using both secret and open sources and documents. He further adds, in this way investigative journalism crucially contributes to freedom of expression and freedom of information. (Hunter 2011, ND, P.7)

From the above definitions, investigation journalism is the method of journalistic work aimed at finding out and making public the deliberately hidden data about an offence of any kind. Thus the subject of investigation is the fact(s) of offence of various societal legal and moral standards, laws and rules, which offenders are hiding deliberately from the public. Journalists investigate activities of certain persons, organizations and structures responsible for these offences.

In giving a contextual overview of investigative journalism, it is important to also define the constituent elements of investigative journalism that distinguishes it from the common and everyday news journalism. A Manual for Investigative Journalism (IJM) Edited by Syed Nazakat

& the KAS Media Program: define Investigative Journalism by distinguishing it from routine journalism; According to the manual:

Investigative Journalism is a form of journalism in which reporters go **in-depth** to investigate a single story that may uncover corruption, review government policies or of corporate houses, or draw attention to social, economic, political or cultural trends. An investigative journalist, or **team of journalists, may spend months or years** researching a single topic. Unlike conventional reporting, where reporters rely on materials supplied by the government, NGOs and other agencies, investigative reporting depends on material gathered through the reporter's **own initiative**. The **practice** aims at **exposing public matters** that are otherwise concealed, either deliberately or accidentally. (Pdf accessed from: [www.investigative-manual.org](http://www.investigative-manual.org), accessed on: Jan 22 2020)

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

Burgh, (2008) defines investigative journalism by indicating the demarcation it has with police and others investigation. He states that:

Investigative journalism as a distinct genre of journalism that is a vital means of accountability, almost the fourth estate itself; as the first rough draft of legislation. He also explained that an investigative journalist is a man or woman whose profession is to discover the truth and to identify lapses from it in whatever media may be available. The act of doing this generally is called investigative journalism and is distinct from apparently similar work done by police, lawyers, auditors and regulatory bodies in that it is not limited as to target, not legally founded and usually earns money and reputation for media publishers. "Investigation" as such, assumes the use of specific methods, a certain schedule, a sequence of special processes and procedures when working with the sources. Despite a considerable quantity of practical textbooks about investigative journalism, all these aspects of

the creative process have not much sufficient description and evaluation in academic studies (Burgh, 2008, p.10)

This implies that though there is a similarity with the work of police, lawyers, etc., investigative journalism makes different since it is not limited to any target and does not earn money for the station. As to Braddle (1993 as quoted in Klapprith, 2005), the essence of investigative journalism relates with the attribute of good reporting if a journalist can ask more than a couple questions it is considered as investigative reporting. This definition clearly classifies standards for investigative reports in terms of specific criteria, the process of doing this reporting and the focus that distinguishes this journalism from the others. They insisted on the **applicability and analytical** approach to defining the subject matter.

Over all, According to (Forbes 2005, p.6) investigative reporting, there is agreement on some of its tenets. This generally includes more than one of the following:

- In-depth reporting of serious matters which affect the public interest.
- Proactive journalistic enterprise to reveal information that someone wants hidden or something that may not be that well known or appreciated.
- A long-term process of planning, information gathering and corroboration using a diverse range of sources.
- The application of more sophisticated techniques to interrogate and piece together meaning from fragments of information provided by various sources.
- Investigative reporting needs to be independent of special interests; it must aggressively serve the public trust and enrich public debate.
- Investigative reporting may have an agenda to expose any form of villainy or wrongdoing with the object of inspiring positive change through informed public debate and outrage.

Overall, this research looks at the concept of investigative journalism as being different from other forms of journalism. Though all journalists can be termed as investigators due to the nature of the job, investigative journalism has elements that make it distinct. From the above definitions and descriptions of Investigative journalism three major elements are discussed frequently. That it is the reporting, through one's own work product and initiative, of matters of importance which some persons or organizations wish to keep secret. The three basic elements are that the investigation be the work of the reporter, not a report of an investigation made by someone else;

that the subject of the story involves something of reasonable importance to the reader or viewer; and that others are attempting to hide these matters from the public. Each of elements is described as follows:

**Exclusive:** the report was the product of the journalist's own initiative. Most of the scholars take this to mean that Investigative journalism is a special method of journalistic work, which has specific epistemic and representative parts. It also implies the importance of the reporter's initiative in finding issues and doing the investigation on their own, not reporting of investigations made by authorities. (See, e.g., Abit Hoxha, 2019; De Burgh, 2008; Hunter, 2011; and IJM, 2011). **Uncover Information:** The second aspect is that investigative reporting provided previously unknown information. Most of the scholars take this to mean that Investigative reporting means journalists go beyond what they have seen and what has been said to unearth more facts and to provide something new and previously unknown. Most of the time, investigative reporters uncover wrongdoing by individuals and institutions. Investigative reporting often involves digging up what is secret or hidden. (See, e.g., Abit Hoxha, 2019; De Burgh, 2008; Hunter, 2011; and IJM, 2011). **Public Interest:** The third aspect of the above definitions is that the issue or topic has to be of public interest. (See, e.g., Abit Hoxha, 2019; De Burgh, 2008; Hunter, 2011; and IJM, 2011). According to, Van Cuilenburg and McQuail,(2003), "Public interest" is that either a community will be disadvantaged by not knowing this information, or will benefit (either materially orthrough informed decision-making) by knowing it. Reporters need a clear sense of what their mission is and whom they serve, and this can involve heated newsroom debates. "Public interest" means the interest of the community affected or when something at issue is widely considered to be essential to the longer term welfare of society and its members. Issues about what is in the public interest can be considered in terms of three main functions: political; social cultural; and economic (Van Cuilenburg and McQuail, 2003, p.184).

Building from the preceding literature, Investigative reporters have always seen themselves as guardians of the public interest. By exposing wrongdoing and failure, they aim to hold the powerful accountable for their actions. Journalists have exposed corruption, environmental damage, organized crime and the suffering of women, children and marginalized groups. The target of the investigation was a public figure or governor who continued to wield influence in Oregon. Investigative journalists uncover information because they know that such information is crucial to the public and the public has the right to know (Forbes 2005, pp. 5-6). For this

study, Hoxah, 2019; Forbes, 2005; De Burgh, 2008; IJM, 2011; and Hunter, 2011 definitions are used guiding definitions.

### **2.3 The Role and Essence of Investigative Journalism**

In globalization the emergence of new inventions, technological advances and very rapid means of communication tied the world as a single village. This in turn would help nations of the world to practice democracy, good governance and development by learning from the advanced nations (Campbell, 2004).

According to Rapporteur's Report 2009, (as quoted in Bereket Yeheysh, 2012) the role of media in a democratic system is varied. After all, it acts as additional mechanism to check and balance on government activities, creates and enable environment for accountability when public figures lost from the track and provides issues for public discussion by inviting citizens to actively participate in the issue of their country. In such scenario media can strengthens and benefits democracy. However, if the media fails to accomplish these responsibilities, and instead acts as mouthpiece for the interest of particular group such as the government or large corporations, it does not only fail to do its role to secure democratic governance, but it can also undermine all the above activities.(Bereket 2012, p.18)

Therefore according to Ethiopian context, where there are a lot of social issues to be solved, there must be investigative programs either to criticize the weak side of government institutions or to promote good accomplishment of every organization.

In the process of realizing democracy and good governance, media take the key role in realizing sustainable development by informing the public to support the development process and informing the public about the barriers such as corruption, abuse of power and lack of good governance. Though media can play a decisive role in enhancing development and democracy, its role in different governments is characterized by the ideology of these governments. In authoritarian government, the media function is helping the ruler to stay on power. (Siebert et al, 1963).

The day to day activities of the media is highly related with propaganda, propagating the people about positive aspects of the government and invite people to be part of the government system. The media can be taken as benevolent authoritarian. On the other side, in a democratic government, the main business of the media is serving the interest of the citizens. In short, it

serves as watchdog guarding the interest of the people against abuse of power in order to sustain democracy (Siebert et al, 1963).

However, in Ethiopia, where every one of us witnessed the actual existence of corruption, bribery, absence of good governance and democracy; most of media are reporting about sustainable development, launching of mega projects by wasting most of their air time on reporting routine activities. Government officials and individuals are not always expected to serve the public interest. They can breach the public interest by using their power for personal benefit. The media is needed to extract the wrongdoings and inform the public. However, the media cannot bring the hidden to the light through the practice of conventional journalism unless it applies and follows the notion of investigative journalism (Hunter, 2004).

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

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

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

#### **2.4 Focus Areas and Issues of Investigative Journalism**

There are various issues of public interest to be investigated. The impact of these issues has direct or indirect contribution to the regular activities of the society. Since journalism is standing on behalf of the people for those who are in need of voice and striving to report their say in the

way that can influence the legislative, executive, judiciary bodies and private institutions. Investigative Journalism should also have run such activities for the wellbeing of the society; by its nature it is dealing with process reporting rather than event reporting. It means reporting issues and conditions are the business of investigative journalism than incidents and events (Gaines 1994, p.3). In additions to this, Kantumoya (2004, p.7) there are no issues considered as off limits to investigative reporters expose the issue as follows:

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

#### **2.4.1 Focus Areas of Investigative Journalism**

Journalists should be able to expose abuse, corruption and criminal activities in all fields of public life. The News Manual (2018) states the main areas include the following: (accessed from: [https://www.thenewsmanual.net/Manuals %20Volume% 202/ volume2\\_39. htm](https://www.thenewsmanual.net/Manuals%20Volume%202/volume2_39.htm), accessed on Nov 15 2020)

##### **2.4.1.1 Government organizations**

These range from local councils to national parliaments and foreign governments. Sometimes politicians and public servants are actually corrupt and should be exposed and removed from office. But often they hide a decision because they know the public may not like it. They might keep a deal they have made with a foreign timber company secret because it will harm the environment or destroy people's homes. Often politicians and public servants spend so long in office that they forget that the public has the right to know what is happening. If the public elects people to office and gives those taxes and other forms of wealth to administer, the public has the right to know what they are doing. The electors should also know so that they can decide how to vote at the next election. (Accessed from: [https://www.thenewsmanual.net/Manuals %20Volume%202/volume2\\_39.htm](https://www.thenewsmanual.net/Manuals%20Volume%202/volume2_39.htm), accessed on Nov 15 2020)

##### **2.4.1.2. Private and Non- governmental organizations**

###### **2.4.1.2.1. Private organizations**

Some companies break the law and should be exposed. But companies usually like to keep activities secret for other reasons. Perhaps they have made a mistake or lost money. Perhaps they do not want competitors to steal their secrets or they do not want people to oppose a development they are planning. However, even private companies have some responsibility towards the public. Companies are part of each society. They usually make some use of natural resources, take money from customers and shareholders, and provide jobs for people and use services provided by all taxpayers. Where their activities affect the rest of the community, the community has a right to know what they are doing. (Accessed from: [https://www.thenewsmanual.net/Manuals%20Volume%202/volume2\\_39.htm](https://www.thenewsmanual.net/Manuals%20Volume%202/volume2_39.htm), accessed on Nov 15 2020)

#### **2.4.1.2.2. Non- governmental organizations**

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

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

#### **2.4.1.3. Individuals (Criminals)**

Although governments and companies can be corrupt, criminals make their living at it. They act like leeches on the community, so your readers and listeners have the right to know about them. Fighting crime is, of course, mainly the job of the police and legal system. But sometimes they do not have enough resources to do their jobs properly. Sometimes the law itself limits their powers. Also, the police and judiciary can

sometimes be corrupt themselves. So journalists - like every law-abiding citizen - have the duty to expose wrongdoing. (Accessed from: [https://www.thenewsmanual.net/Manuals%20Volume%202/volume2\\_39.htm](https://www.thenewsmanual.net/Manuals%20Volume%202/volume2_39.htm), accessed on Nov 15 2020)

There are, of course, all sorts of other individuals and organizations who like to hide things which affect the public. A charity may try to hide the fact that it is not doing a good job with money it has been given. A football club might be secretly negotiating to move its ground against the wishes of its fans. A man might be selling colored water as a cure for every illness. All these things need to be exposed so that the public can make up its mind whether to support them or not.

## **2.4.2 Issues of Investigative Journalism**

### **2.4.2.1. Investigative Journalism and Politics**

In the realization of one country's socio-economic, political activities and sustainable development, politics has an indispensable role. Politicians who have been elected by the society are expected to discharge their responsibilities. So, investigations should be done to know whether they have overridden the line that is given by the people. The media, therefore, have to check the truth through deep investigation. Gaines (1994,p.3) clearly states that how much the investigation made by The Washington post influence the American politics of the time as follows:

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

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

### **2.4.2. 2. Investigative Journalism and Good Governance**

One of the main duties that the government responsible for to answer questions raised from public is realizing good governance. Good governance refers to the process of decision making

in government actions and the way these actions are done not what is just done. It assesses the quality of institutions and their effectiveness in interpreting policies into successful implementation on the ground (Accessed from: <http://www.unescap.org/sitemap.htm>, accessed on Jan 22 2020).

It is mostly characterized with having eight elements. These are: rule of law, participatory, consensus oriented, accountable, transparent, responsive, effective and efficient, equitable and inclusive. (Maina, 2010) The role of the media in promoting good governance is very imperative and it facilitates the democratic process by being an independent means in surveying the activities of the government and assures whether these actions are beyond they should to be. In this regard, Pippa (2006) writes as follows:

The new media is most effective in strengthening the process of democratization, good governance, and human development when they function as watchdog over the abuse of power (promoting accountability and transparency) as a civic forum for political debate (facilitating informed electoral choices), and as agenda setter for policy makers (strengthening government responsiveness to social problems).  
(Pippa (2006, p.6)

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

### **2.4.2. 3. Land grabbing as a topic of Investigative Journalism**

Land is one of the hugest resources in Ethiopia. Land is natural resource that has a direct relationship with human life. The accessibility of land to locals, and the sale of it for personal benefit have become matters of great concern for the people who are living around. Those people who have the power and the money have been playing the gambling or in easiest expression “I have scratched your back, now it is your turn to scratch mine.” In between the people who have been harmed are bemoaning for the concerned bodies (Kantumayo 2004, p.9).

For instance, until the recent time in our country there is a controversy on how to utilize it. Due to irregularities and land abuse, many are displaced from their home; farmers are lost their farm

land in the name of investment and development. In this regard, Desalegn Rahmate (2011) writes:

The great majority of investors held the land idle (many simply did not have the resources to put the land to use) and some used it for purposes for which it was not approved. As a rule, the size of land allocated to foreign investors is much bigger than that of domestic investors (Desalegn Rahmate 2011, pp.16-17).

There are also issues to be investigated; like misuse of import export goods, consumer goods, government purchasing and others.

## **2.5 Sources of Investigative Reporting**

While conducting investigation, what vital to duties of journalist is sources above all. For journalists of investigative reporting basic information can help to produce News, feature and other stories for public usage. Sources are the lifeblood of journalists as such they provide the essential information to the story. So, behind an event that is being reported to the people, idea generators and persons who have a better say on the issue take the front line. Otherwise, media houses are lifeless (Rudin and Ibbotson, 2002). The indispensability of a source is not a matter to negotiate rather the key to move forward to finish the assignment.

According to Pape and Featherstone (2005) story would not be a story without a source. In investigative stories one of the main questions a journalist is most frequently asked is sources. Because, sources are backbone for journalism work at all. While using sources for stories there is a classification among sources based on their proximity to the story. These are primary and secondary sources. Reporters use both primary and secondary sources when reporting news stories. A primary source could be an interview with a person who has direct experience about the event or topic, or an original document related to that topic. The journalist as eyewitness also considered as primary source. A secondary source might be a written report based on the original document (Potter, 2006).

### **2.5.1 Tip-off**

There are a number of sources that can give a clue to investigative journalists about issues to be researched, investigate and exposed to the public. These sources are contacts or members of the audience or they may be your friend, who may phone in with what they consider to be news items. According to Boyd (2001), “The information is not from a trained journalist, the source

may be unreliable, the facts confused or even defamatory. Also, every station has its time wasters and hangers-on who phone in or call round out of sheer self-importance.” It is, therefore, important to cross check the information through different mechanisms. However, some scholars do not consider that investigating based on someone else's information as practice investigative reporting since the journalist has not conducted original work. (Waisbord, 2000)

### **2.5.2 Public Rumor**

A lot of information can also be found on the gossip even in places where many formal, established means of communication exist. However, most of the information are likely to be based on rumor, idle gossip, and unproven allegations. However, it is not advisable to instantly ignore everything from this source and considering it as minor, and untrue. Journalists should try to identify the root of the rumor, and check to see if it is designed for personal benefit. Otherwise, taking it as it is could create confusion in the public (Kantumoya, 2004).

### **2.5.3 Journalist's Concentration**

In journalism, especially investigative journalism, the journalist him/herself should be a best source for the story he/she plan to discover. It had been thought that a journalist has sixth sense organ that can help him/her to sniff news for the audience. Social, political, economic and cultural issues may have positive or negative impact on the life of the people. Information always may not come from other sources rather the journalist him/herself should observe their environment whether new things are occurring or not. The main responsibility of a journalist is after all to keep the public as up to data as possible when it comes to news and events that may affect their life (Niblock, 1996).

Journalists must have a discerning eye and unflagging curiosity to spot investigative stories. The best investigative stories are often the ones originated by the journalists themselves when they have experienced corruption, injustice or a problem first hand. “The job of the investigative journalist is to find something wrong and expose it. He or she is a positive force for change, a professional with the ability to penetrate the closed ranks of vested interests and free imprisoned information from behind enemy lines” (Boyd, 2001).

#### **2.5.4 Tendencies and Change**

Journalist's concentration to observe the surrounding environment could be serving as sources to the story to be reported. Observing what's changing in your environment, and not takes it for granted. In our daily life, things could be changed quickly and new scenes can be occurred than before. The journalist should be alert and standby for such conditions (Hunter and Forbes, 2005).

#### **2.5.5 Other news media**

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

We have to deal on the business of looking the issue with different angle that had not been touched on by other media stations that are around us. When we take some body's written article it is better to understand that taking it directly may cause two things. First it is considered as plagiarism and the published article may have errors which are not yet identified. These things may lead our station to lose its credibility that the people had for it (Kantumoya, 2004).

#### **2.5.6 Records and Files**

To generate ideas of investigative report, documents and files can be used as sources to undertake investigative research. Physical sources can also be the sources for the investigative story we are going to produce. Sometimes even totally we may not get a piece of information from human sources due to different reasons such as people may fail to be willing to talk about the issue by fearing the consequence or they may have a share on the idea. So, in such situation the journalist can get vital information from files and recorded items. These items may lead the journalist to further investigation in order to identify the roots of the issue going to be investigated (Kennedy et al, 1993).

#### **2.6 Tools for Investigative Journalism**

While applying different tool to critically investigate an issue, considering and understanding laws that are related to the investigation after all help the reporter to be safe from being accused of violating the laws "It is imperative that practitioner in any field have a sound working knowledge of the legal and ethical considerations that apply to their occupation" (Pearson,

2004). Since there are no special laws for reporters, they must live by the law. Violating laws such as stealing documents and trespassing on personal property, directly lead to pay the price. This is especially true for the journalists, who are providing information and commentary of public interest.

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

### **2.6.1 Interview**

An investigative reporter can extract facts and the views of the interviewee by being a good listener and forwarding the relevant question. All stakeholders of the issue should be included and should forward their idea. It can be done through telephone, in person and written form like questionnaire (Scancan, 2000, p.4).

Telephone interviews are mostly applied when the reporter is sandwiched to meet the deadline or the subject's being far enough away from the reporter. The reporter has the chance to take notes because pen and note books are not visible. The reporter, however, has not the chance to look at the facial expression of the interviewee and somehow to forward follow up questions. After all, if the subject becomes hostile or aggressive, can hang the phone and wind up the interview (Newsom and Wollert, 1985).

In face to face interview there is a possibility to record the conversation with the consent of the interviewee if not one reporter should ask while the other takes notes; investigative reporting is a team work. The reporter is free to ask follow up questions and observe the facial reaction of the interviewee. It helps the reporter to contact other subject who has a relation to the story. But it is not easy to get the concerned body by the bureaucracy seen around there especially for investigative journalist (Gaines, 1994).

It is also possible to interview a person in writing. At most dedication the reporter should avoid such alternatives. It does not give a chance to raise a follow up question and getting natural powerful quotations. Investigative journalists do not know who is responding that and it could carefully be crafted by somebody else. It is mostly used to get very important information from reluctant sources for the investigation. According Reang and Nariddh, (2007), sometimes it is

very difficult to persuade a source to talk, especially if the investigation is about corruption or wrongdoing. People may fear to meet journalists rather they prefer to send it in such form to contribute something they know to the investigation.

After conducting the interview, reporters should compile necessary documents and know the information in order to realize whether the interviewee do not escape from the truth or not. If time permits try to verify the accuracy of the information by contacting other relevant sources (Mayeux, 1996).

### **2.6.2 Documents**

Document is something written, pictures and electronic recorded on tape, etc, that contains information. It is used to extract facts that are not told by the human source. By its nature documents are usually organized logically; cannot be copied, analyzed and reviewed at your convenience; and typically are detailed and specific (Kennedy et al, 1993).

According to Gaines (1994), in using documents the word „etc.“ by definition it includes such as arched or inscribed or impressed information. We can find a piece of information on a credit card because it contains information printed on plastic. For instance, if all the possible hints that are gathered at a murder scene and taken to the police station, a police officer lists them on an inventory and signs it. And the items themselves are considered as evidence, but the inventory is a document. However, documents have their own limitation. They cannot be asked and must need a person who can supply information on it. Public records are court cases, minutes of public meetings, inspection; and private records such as telephone bills, letters, medical records etc. These can be obtained legally by permission of the owners or their inclusion in public files (ibid).

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

Everyone is a potential source, not just high-ranking officials. When you visit offices, including those of ministries, NGOs, businesses or the National Assembly, try to establish a good relationship with secretaries and assistants. Even if they can't give you the document you're looking for, they may be able to tell you who can. It pays to take the time to meet regularly with key sources in

government and the private sector that can help you find records or may be willing to leak them to you.

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

## **2.7 Steps in carrying Investigative Journalism**

In practicing investigative journalism it is important to know, how story choosing, techniques of how to get information, how to analyze it, how to evaluate and how to present it. This part discusses the major step journalists used to carry out investigative reporting.

According to Paul N. Williams (2007) as cited in Kunia & Othman (2019) presents eleven steps of investigative reporting:

1. Conception • Suggestion by somebody • Review various regular resources • Reading • Utilize news excerpts • Broadening alternative point of views out of a news event • Direct Observation
2. Feasibility Study • various obstacles should be overcome? Or matters need to be prepared • Required individuals • Possible pressure implication on our media • Preserve confidentiality from other media
3. Go-No-Go Decision: Yes or No (conducting investigation)
4. Base building
5. Planning • Collection and organization of information • Task delegation
6. Original Research • Browse paper trails i) Secondary sources ii) Primary documents iii) Computer information system iv) Information from other countries • Browse people trails
7. Re-evaluation
8. Filling the Gaps
9. Final Evaluation
10. Writing and Rewriting
11. Publication and Follow-up Stories

Williams' 11 steps is a well-structured piece in illustrating investigative reporting context of its implementation by the media (Kunia & Othman, 2019, p.3).

On the other hand, Hunter (2011, pp 11-82) listed out the steps through which investigative story conducted as follows;

### **i. Choosing a Story for Investigation**

Beginning reporters often ask: “How do you select a story to investigate?” Not infrequently, they have a difficult time finding one. Events that need investigation can be found everywhere. The problem is seeing it. Luckily, there are many ways to notice a story that calls for investigation.

One is to watch the media. In general, it is a good idea to monitor a given sector, so that you can begin to identify patterns, and thus realize when something unusual occurs. If you finish a story and think, “Why did that happen?” the odds are good that there is more to investigate.

Another is to pay attention to what’s changing in your environment, and not take it for granted. The great Belgian reporter Chris de Stoop began a landmark investigation of the traffic in women after noticing that the Belgian prostitutes in a neighborhood he crossed on his way to work had given way to foreigners, and wondering why.

A third is to listen to peoples’ complaints. Why must things be that way? Can nothing be done? Any place where people gather – village markets, Internet forums, dinner parties – you will hear of things that sound strange, shocking, or intriguing.

Finally, do not look only for things that involve wrongdoing. It is often more difficult to do a good job of reporting on something that is going right – to understand a new talent, or a development project that met its goals, or a company that is creating wealth and jobs.

### **ii. Planning the investigation**

- Step one: Write a story summary
- Step two: Develop hypothesis
- Step three: Making your research plan
- Step four: Pitching your investigative project
- Step Five: Doing Research on Deadline
- Step six: writing investigation

Writing an investigative story is not the same task as writing a news story. Writing stories or scripts based on investigative journalism requires all the skills you need for general journalism.

- Building the chronology

- Edit the draft
- Fact Checking
- Publish it

## **2.8 Good qualities of investigative journalists**

A manual for Investigative journalism edited by Syed Nazakat & the KAS media program (2016 p.11-12), lists that, investigative journalists should have the following professional qualities:

### **a) Passion**

Most investigative journalism is a thankless endeavor, time- and energy-consuming, that will get your editor impatient and powerful people annoyed with you. If you like a stable income with regular promotions; if your deepest wish is a management position with matching salary and if you enjoy being invited to dinners and parties given by VIPs in your country or community, then investigative journalism is probably not for you. But if you enjoy challenges, have a passion for truth and justice, and want to serve your readership or audience with stories that matter, no matter how much time and energy it costs you – and even if some powerful people will end up with maybe less-than-friendly feelings towards you – then, by all means, go for it!

### **b) Curiosity**

Asking questions is where investigative journalism starts. The questions can be about events in the news, or about things you see or hear about in your day-to-day life.

### **c) Initiative**

Many newsrooms operate on limited resources and all run on tight deadlines. So an investigative idea you mention at a news conference won't always be instantly adopted, particularly if it is unformed and vague. You need to take the initiative, do your own preliminary checking and shape the idea into a solid story plan. If your newsroom still isn't interested, you may need to take further initiative in identifying support (such as an investigative grant) for the work needed.

### **d) Logical thinking, organization and self-discipline**

Investigative reporting takes time and, because of the legal risks it often carries, must be verified down to the smallest detail. So you need to become a careful planner to make the best use of

your time, and obsessive about checking and re-checking everything you discover, and making sure your story fits together.

**e) Flexibility**

An investigation can take unexpected turns. Sometimes the question you began by asking turns out to be a dead-end, or opens the door on another, far more interesting but less obvious question. You need to be prepared to rethink and redesign your research when this happens, and not stay wedded to your first ideas.

**f) Team-working and communication skills**

Movies often portray the investigative reporter as a ‘lone wolf.’ Sometimes, there are situations where secrecy is so important that a story cannot be shared with others until certain safeguards are in place. But very often the best stories come out of a co-operative effort that uses all the available skills in (and even outside) the newsroom. An investigative story may call upon knowledge of anything from science and health to economics and sociology, and no one journalist, however strong their general knowledge, can be an expert in all these. For example, if you are following a paper trail through company audits and no-one in the newsroom has a sophisticated grasp of accounting, you’ll need to identify an expert who can help you. So good contacts and networking form part of your teamwork. And you’ll need to be a good enough communicator to ensure that the team understands the purpose of the story and the standards (accuracy, honesty, confidentiality) expected of everybody on it.

**g) Well-developed reporting skills**

Sometimes, people who don’t have a reporting background do have these skills. Researchers and community workers have often also been trained to interview and identify and sift facts, although they may need the help of newsroom workers to package a story attractively and accessibly for readers, listeners or viewers.

**h) Broad general knowledge and good research skills**

Understanding the context of your investigation can help you avoid dead-ends and spot relevant facts and questions. But if your investigation takes you into an unfamiliar area, you must be able to familiarize yourself with at least the background, conventions, terminology, role-players and issues of that area quickly. The ability to have a searching, informative conversation with an

expert, use computer search engines, or locate and skim-read useful books are all vital here. Above all, you must read everything, whenever you have the time. You never know when a bit of background will prove useful for your work.

#### **i) Determination and patience**

Investigative reporting will bring you up against all kinds of obstacles, from sources who disappear and records that don't exist, to editors who want to can the story because it is taking too long or costing too much. Only your own motivation and belief that it is a worthwhile story will carry you through what is often a slow process of discovery.

#### **j) Fairness and strong ethics**

Investigative stories may put the security, jobs or even lives of sources at risk. They also risk putting their subjects at similar risk if reckless accusations are made. So an investigative reporter needs to have a strong, explicitly thought-out set of personal ethics, to ensure that sources and subjects are treated respectfully and as far as possible protected from harm. In addition, newsrooms that support investigative stories need to be guided by ethical codes and have a process in place for discussing and resolving ethical dilemmas. Sometimes public trust is your best protection, and you lose this if you behave unethically.

#### **k) Discretion**

Gossips do not make good investigative reporters. As we've seen, loose talk can put the investigation – and lives – at risk. But in addition, it can tip off commercial rivals who will then scoop your story, or alert interviewees before you get a chance to talk to them. In a whole range of ways, talking too much can sabotage the story.

#### **l) Citizenship**

Investigative journalism is often attacked as 'unpatriotic', but we do not see our role like that. We believe that what we investigate and discover is driven by concern for the public interest and what will make our community better.

Furthermore, Investigative journalist needs special skills. Forbes (2005 p.35) states the following points as basic skills of investigative journalists such as:

- ❖ **Patience;** depth investigation take time, especially when following dead ends; be prepared to follow all leads, regardless of how insignificant they appear.
- ❖ **Flexibility;** keep an open mind you should be able to shift your focus and, if necessary, change the direction of an investigation.
- **The art of persuasion-** investigative reporting requires a certain approach to ensure that sources reveal information. The ability to probe deeply without upsetting or distressing the source is paramount.
- ❖ **Courage threats of physical violence;** litigation, sanction and even death are used to deter further investigations.
- ❖ **Invitation and background knowledge;** investigative journalist need the ability to think on her/his feet, ask the right questions and assess and analyses complex problems. Having a good memory and strong problem-solving abilities, as well as a sort of subconscious database are important advantages.
- **Legal savvy-protect** you from criminal and civil action and know the legal routes that can be used to access public information.
- **Integrity-** working on highly sensitive matters requires the reporters to be discreet, adopting a discipline of secrecy with source and colleagues the ability to work independently as well as in a team.

In general, Forbes (2005 p.33.), conclude that an investigative journalist must be familiar with the following skills:

- **Recording-shorthand,** audio recording Storing and recording relevant details and keeping such records in a safe place.
- **Accuracy;** The ability to identify key points in a story
- **Critical thinking,** Multi-sourcing, having an enquiring mind, being able to ask questions.
- **Research** – being able to conduct research via the internet; getting information on companies, individuals. Legal – knowing the law, especially the law of defamation; knowing your legal defenses’.
- **Meticulous editing** – sensitive investigations resulting in an 800-wordstory may require much cutting, re-writing and word checking. Other – accounting, forensic skills.

## 2.9 Challenges of Investigative Journalism

Investigative journalism flourishes with freedom of the press. In countries such as the U.S., U.K., Canada, Scandinavian countries, and Australia, investigative journalism is more common and free to flourish than in countries with stringent press censorship. In less-democratic countries, or those with unstable regimes, including Russia, some Middle Eastern and Eastern European countries, and nations in the Far East and Africa, investigative journalism is significantly scant or may not even exist at all (Aucoin, 2003; Martin, 2010). The challenges facing investigative journalism vary by culture and are influenced by politics, financing, time constraints, the commitment of media owners and journalists, and legal restrictions imposed by governments (Baker, 2005; de Burgh, 2008).

Investigative journalism faces many legal, political, and economic obstacles. In many countries, the lack of laws that protect the public also limits investigative reporting. There are instances in which the law of the land does not protect the privacy of journalists, and journalists do not have ‘the right to reply’ (Waisbord, 2001). Journalists also fear being insulted or having their reputations tarnished, leading to many shying away from investigative reporting. Regarding political barriers, politicians in these nations generally view investigative journalism as a nuisance rather than a democratic ideal. Hence, it is common for politicians to exert pressure on investigative reporters, which can include accusing them of wrongdoing. Consequently, politicians suppress investigative reports by allying themselves with publishers and editors to intimidate investigative journalists. It’s no wonder that since most media companies depend on government financing, they toe the line adopted by the government. This shows that economic constraints can be a major factor that influences investigative journalism (Waisbord, 2001).

Fleeson (2000) asserts that some of the most common challenges to investigative reporting in both developing and developed countries include lack of information, lack of access to documents, and reporters’ fears of being targeted or threatened, leading to safety concerns. This makes the work of investigative reporters very difficult. Additionally, when journalists are not granted the right to keep their sources secret, their informants might become more reluctant to supply them with important information, thereby hindering investigative reporters’ ability to serve the public (Bauer, 2005). Such obstacles are more prominent in less-democratic countries. Martin (2010) says governments subsidize even privately owned newspapers to the extent that if those newspapers published material that went against the government, they would lose government subsidies or even lose their licenses altogether. This has been documented in Arab countries.

## 2.10 Theoretical Framework

Theory is used as a lens through which a research study looks problems to be solved in order to put appropriate solution. Social Responsibility Theory of Press, Gatekeeping theory and Principles of investigative journalism will be used to analyze the practice of investigative journalism in Walta Television based on “Netsa Hasab” program.

McQuail, offers the possibility of four different kinds of theory – “sets of ideas of varying status and origin which may explain or interpret some phenomenon” (1987: 4) – that serves in the analysis of the phenomenon of the mass media (press, television, radio, cinema and increasingly the new media in a mushrooming array of platforms) and mass communication, which is what the mass media sets out to do. Of the four, only two kinds of theory are relevant to this study.

First, Normative Theory: A Normative theory describes an ideal way for a media system to be controlled and operated by the government, authority, leader and public. Normative theories are more focused in the relationship between Press and the Government than press and the audience. These theories are more concern about the ownership of the media and who controls the press or media in the country. This approach is important as it not only plays a part in shaping media institutions, but also influences the expectations of the media held by both the participants in media institutions and their market or audience (McQuail 2010, p.4).

Second, Working theory: partly normative in nature, this theory was developed and is maintained by media practitioners themselves, and offers guidelines on the purposes of media work. Working theory is again based on how things ought to be done, but from an internal viewpoint: it deals with the application of the abstract principles of social theory in achieving certain ends. This theory is practical and helps us to understand how production decisions are made. It deals with the questions of audience appeal, newsworthiness and the responsibility of the journalist or medium.

In addition, Journalistic professional practice: Every profession, including the journalism profession has guiding rules for the practice of the profession. Principles of journalism are uses to govern the activities perform and decisions they take. In an organization, thus, a code of ethics is a set of principles that guide the organization in its programmes, policies, and decisions for the business. Professional journalists who embrace the concept of ‘responsible journalism’ subscribe to a code of conduct, or ethical guidelines, that may vary slightly from country to country but

that include, mostly, the following prescripts: tell the truth, act independently, minimise harm and accountability.

### **2.10.1 Social Responsibility Theory of Press**

According to, McQuail, D. 2010 (as quoted in Ntibinyane 2018, p. 18) The normative theories were first developed by Siebert, Peterson and Schramm in their seminal book, *Four Theories of the Press*. They identified the four normative theories of the press as, Authoritarian Theory – a theory that places all forms of communication in the hands of the government or bureaucrats; Libertarian Theory – a theory which comes from libertarian thought; Social responsibility theory – a theory that allows free press but also calling for accountability in the press; and Soviet Media theory – a theory that gives the government absolute control of all the media on behalf of the public. Of the four, this study is applied the normative theory of social responsibility of the press.

According to, Siebert et al., 1956 (as quoted in McQuail 2010, p....), this theory is preferred because of its function and performance under this theory the press goes beyond objective reporting to interpretive (investigative reporting). It is no longer enough to report the fact truthfully. It is now necessary to report the truth about the fact”. The theory’s major premise is that freedom comes with obligations, and that the press is obliged to be responsible to society to fulfil certain essential functions of mass communications. Simply put, it had to reconcile independence with obligation to society. (McQuail,2010)

Social responsibility theory is relatively a new concept which started in the mid-20th century and is used mostly by developing and least developed countries. The theory started from Europe and took a shape with the Commission on the Freedom of Press that happened in United States in 1949. The model was designed formally by Siebert, Peterson and Schramm in 1956 in their book. It encourages total freedom to press and no censorship, but it should be regulated according to social responsibilities and external controls. Content is also filtered through public obligation and interference.

The theory replaced libertarian theory with the view that libertarianism was outdated. After the emergence of this theory, professionalism in media started to be taken seriously. From a theoretical perspective, investigative journalism is rooted in a long tradition of Enlightenment ideals that gave rise to concepts of press freedom and Liberty. In 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries social changes had primarily been seen in Europe in relation to the political system which had been practiced. The main idea of the period was social and political progress should not rest in

absolute power of the authorities but on the absolutes of reason, rational debate and freedom of speech (Rosner, 2008).

Freedom of expression under the social responsibility theory is not an absolute right, as under pure libertarian theory. One's right to free expression must be balanced against the private rights of others and against vital society interest. According to Siebert (1963), as quote in Bereket Yaheya (2012) function of media is discussed as "in libertarian theory the main function of the mass media is to inform and entertain the public." He explained it further as follows:

Basically the underlying purpose of the media was to help discover truth, to assist in the process of solving political and social problems by presenting all manner of evidence and opinion as the basis for decisions. It was charged with duty of keeping government from overstepping its bounds. The social responsibility theory considers purely negative liberty as insufficient and ineffective. Negative liberty, according to this perspective, is an empty liberty. Siebert (1963) further explains as: "It is like telling a man that he is free to walk without first making sure that he is not crippled. To be real, freedom must be effective. It is not enough to tell a man that he is free to achieve his goals; one must provide him with the appropriate means of attaining those goals."

In general, in social responsibility theory the journalist is highly expected not only to the duty but to the society as well (Peterson, 1996). The social responsibility theory of mass media changed the way press published news from objective reporting to interpretative reporting. Before this theory, facts were presented without any interpretation. Social responsibility theory of mass media changed the way press published news from objective reporting to interpretative reporting. The audience interpreted it the way they wanted to. This caused problems as interpretation was not based on reality and it affected the social order. Interpretative reporting and investigative reporting started to uncover the reality behind every case.

In social responsibility theory, the press is taken to be for the people and society. The tasks of the press is to make a code of conduct and follow it, to develop a standard in journalism, to make journalism better, to protect journalists and to have penalties if any journalist violates the code of conduct. This way, the facts provided by the press are analyzed and interpreted so that the people get true information and understandable news. This helps to maintain social harmony by revealing social evils like corruption and discouraging other bad conducts. The media is taken as a place for the voiceless to have a voice and develop public opinions where each and every

person has the right to speak, express and publish. . It is considered not an end but a tool for social development. Therefore, the objectives of media are stated to inform, document, analyze, interpret, mediate and mobilize by creating and finding solutions.

In above context, Social Responsibility theory of press was preferred for the propose that to understand Walta's media system, the dimensions of individual journalistic autonomy and the structures of their editorial policy. In addition, In this study the theory was applied to analyse and evaluate the social responsibility of investigative journalism in walta media focusing "Netsa Hasab" program.

### **2.10.2 Gatekeeping theory**

This study is applied the gatekeeping theory as working theory of media. The selection and processing of content was conceptualized in terms of a gatekeeper role in media organizations. The vast amounts of incoming information and material are sorted by editors according to a variety of principles that include both organizational policy and subjective ideas (McQuail, 2002). In this study the theory was preferred for the propose that to understand Walta's working culture and their Investigative Journalism practice focusing "Netsa Hasab". The theory is discussed as follows:

Billions of events occur in the world each day, but only a few of them become news. The process through which this occurs is referred to as gatekeeping. Gatekeeping theory is the nexus between two inarguable facts: events occur everywhere all of the time and the news media cannot cover all of them. And so, when an event occurs, someone has to decide whether and how to pass the information to another person, such as a friend, an official, or even a journalist. Many decisions are made between the occurrence of an event and its transmission as news: decision points are referred to as gates and decision makers as gatekeepers. The decision-making process is the core of gatekeeping. It is possible for anyone to be a gatekeeper—anyone who has information about the event and decides to pass it to another person or organization. In processing information and conveying it to someone else, gatekeepers consciously or unconsciously change the information. Some is withheld and the rest is not unchanged, as if it were merely squeezed from a gatekeeping sponge. Traditionally, the role of the gatekeeper was seen as that of a journalist or news editor. (Oxford Bibliographies, 2018)

Different scholars, define Gatekeeping theory in different ways. According to Pamela Shoemaker and Tim Vos (2009), provides the following definition of gatekeeping:

"Gatekeeping is one of the media's central role in public life: people rely on mediation to transform information about billions of events into a manageable number of media messages, such as news, will be. Gatekeeping theory describes the powerful process through which events are covered by the mass media, explaining how and why certain information either passes through gates or is closed off from media attention".

Journalists are bombarded with information from internet, newspapers, television and radio news, news magazines, and their sources. Their job of selecting and shaping the small amount of information that becomes news should be impossible without gatekeeping. It is the process of selecting, writing, positioning, scheduling, repeating and otherwise massaging information to become news. (Karin Wahl-Jorgensen & Thomas Hanitzsch, 2009)

"The term 'gatekeeping' has been widely used as a metaphor to describe the process by which selection are made in media work, especially decisions regarding whether or not to allow a particular news report to pass through the 'gates' of a news medium into the news channels" (McQuails, 2010)

According to, Barzilia (2008), "Gatekeeping theories have been used to investigate the control of information flow in many different disciplines, including political science, sociology, informational science, management, and law. Originally focused on the mass media with its few-to-masses dynamic, theories of gatekeeping also now include the workings of face-to-face communication and the many-to-many dynamic now easily available via the Internet" (Barzilia, 2008).

According to the above definitions, Gatekeeping is the process of selection of information according to importance and relevance. The information is also published according to the amount of importance the media wants the information to have. Gatekeepers establish a hierarchy of information which people need to look at as important and the perceived to be a need. The process explains why and how some information is published and some are not. Gate is the choosing criteria which are used to select information to be given in the media or blocking unwanted things. When gatekeeping is done, the view of audience is affected.

According to Pamela Shoemaker and Tim Vos (2009), Gatekeeping as a news process was identified in the literature as early as 1922, though not yet given a formal theoretical name. Gatekeeping was formally identified in Kurt Lewin (1943), who was a social psychologist. The

theory was used for mass communication and news dissemination by David Manning White (1950).

Lewin's theory was based on food. Lewin recognized that for food to go from a store or a garden to the dining table, there were various decision-making processes it had to pass on the way there. Entering or not entering a channel and moving from one section of a channel to another is affected by a 'gatekeeper'". The gatekeeper in this case was typically the housewife, or sometimes a maid in more affluent households. Lewin's research demonstrated that not all members of a family have equal weight in making household food decisions, and that the wife, who typically shops for and prepares the food controls the gates, based on a variety of considerations. In addition, Lewin identified several parts of the gatekeeping process in his 1943 article. These parts include:

1. Information moves step by step through channels. The number of channels varies and the amount of time in each channel can vary.
2. Information must pass a "gate" to move from one channel to the next.
3. Forces govern channels. There may be opposing psychological forces causing conflict that creates resistance to movement through the channel.
4. There may be several channels that lead to the same end result.
5. Different actors may control the channels and act as gatekeepers at different times. Here gatekeepers have a great responsibility to provide unbiased, true information.

The formative years of the development of gatekeeping theories happened mainly in the communication and journalism fields where the focus was mainly on the effect of the subjective characteristics (e.g., personal feelings) of editors/gatekeepers on gatekeeping. For example, White suggested a simple model that underscores the gatekeeper as the focal point that controls the information flow. He argued that news items were rejected because of three reasons: personal feelings, insufficient space, and whether the story already appeared before. (Snider, 1967; White, 1950).

Later, Shoemaker (1991) classified theories and models of gatekeeping into five main categories. "First is the individual level, which looks at the extent to which individuals are responsible for gatekeeping decisions. Second is the routine level, which refers to the patterned, routinized, and repeated practices that media workers use to do their jobs. Third is the organizational level, which includes the various decision-making processes within news organizations that affect gatekeeping processes. Fourth is the institutional level, which focuses on the external

characteristics of organizations that influence gatekeeping processes, such as marketing forces or political affiliations. Fifth is the social system level, which examines the influence of ideology and culture on gatekeeping processes" (Shoemaker, 1991).

According to Shoemaker model, gatekeeping occurs at all levels of the media structure—from a reporter deciding which sources are chosen to include in a story to editors deciding which stories are printed or covered, and includes media outlet owners and even advertisers. The Gatekeeper decides what information should move to group or individual and what information should not. Here, the gatekeeper are the decision makers who letting the whole social system. The gatekeeper is having its own influence like social, cultural, ethical and political. Based on personal or social influences they let the information to the group. Through this process the unwanted, sensible and controversial information's are removed by the gate keeper which helps to control the society or a group and letting them in a right path. In home mother plays the vital role and she has to decide what their kid's needs and what should avoid. In news medium editor play vital role. He has to decide what kind of news items will publish and what should not. Every day the news channel receives various news items from all over the world. The channel have its own ethics and policies through this the editor decide the news items for publish or aired. In some cases few news items are rejected by the editor due the organizations policy or the news items which are not suitable for publish.

More recently, Defleur & DeFleur, 2010) also describes the function of gatekeeping in the following words: "In exercising "surveillance functions," news organizations have large amounts of information brought to their attention by different media sources. These organizations disseminate selected news through traditional media and the Internet based on economic factors, organizational policies, definitions of newsworthiness, conceptions of audience, and beliefs about journalistic duties and values. Popular news organizations attract the majority of audiences via traditional mediums and the Internet, so they become the most influential gatekeepers. Internet users become secondary gatekeepers by "retweeting," "liking," and "sharing" information that popular news organizations have disseminated. Internet users' online acquaintances see this information, and sometimes even continue the dissemination process. Therefore, powerful news organizations' selected news is disseminated much more widely and frequently, which further limits, controls, and shapes the public's knowledge of the totality of actual events occurring in reality" Defleur & DeFleur, 2010).

In above contexts, gatekeeping theory was applied to analyse and evaluate the selection, processing and shaping of content by investigative programs of "Netsa Hasab"

### **2.10.3 Principles of Investigative Journalism**

Professional journalists are needs to have credibility in their work. If the press has no credibility, it makes no contribution to democracy. Credibility is the lifeblood of profession as journalists. Without it, journalists are nothing. Without it, not one person will believe a single word we write” (Krüger, 2004)

There is no doubt that effective and efficient practice of journalism lies in the principles of ethical values which set to regulate its activities towards professionalism. Every organization or profession is basically guided and directed by a set of moral principles which oversee its general conduct.

According to, Abit Hoxha (2019), Investigative journalism employs special methods that raise ethical and legal issues. The stories of investigative journalism have serious consequences for individuals, organizations and society. Investigative journalism, therefore, has distinct responsibilities. He further adds that, “these days, Investigative journalists are expected to have a sense of social responsibility, strictly adhere to ethical standards, special skills and working within professional guiding principles” (Abit Hoxha, 2019, accessed from: <https://medium.com/@saltandpaper/the-media-and-its-function-8ce5adc4f426>, accessed on Sep 13 20)

Therefore, professional journalists are expected to have these rules as to meet the expectations and moral obligations as bestowed on it by society. In this context, this study was also used the principles of Investigative Journalism as journalistic professional practice. It was preferred for the propose that to understand the journalistic professional practice of "Netsa Hasab" program practitioner.

According to, Bob Woodward (2003), The core principles of ethical journalism provide an excellent base for everyone who aspires to launch themselves into the public information sphere to show responsibility in how they use information. There are hundreds of codes of conduct, charters and statements made by media and professional groups outlining the principles, values and obligations of the craft of journalism. He further adds that, “All journalism is about collecting, verifying, and assessing information, but investigative journalism takes this much

further than day-to-day news reporting. Investigative journalism projects often take a reporter or a team of reporters several months or even years to complete” (Bob Woodward (2003)

Like news writing, investigative stories are fact-based and impartial. They are also long, like features. Another thing they have in common with features is that reporters can structure investigative stories however best serves the piece—they do not need to follow the inverted pyramid model. Bob Woodward (2003) states principles of investigative journalism in to four categories that investigative reporters use as guideline in the process of finding and reporting own stories.

**i. Move outside your comfort zone.**

Good reporters aren’t afraid to cover a wide variety of subjects, and to do so require hard work and a willingness to learn. Woodward says: “You need to get out of your comfort zone. You need to move into areas that you naturally do not understand, because the learning curve is fast when you do that, and you are in a position, as an outsider, to look at what’s going on differently.”

**ii. Leave opinion out**

Leave opinion out of stories. Always separate emotional issues from the facts. Failing to separate opinion from fact costs you credibility with the public.

**iii. Avoid taking political sides**

Journalists should avoid taking political sides. Woodward is careful to not show partiality to any one news network, giving interviews to news organizations on both ends of the political spectrum. He doesn’t vote in presidential elections in order to send the message that he is “in the middle of the road.” He is a reporter and citizen without a political agenda.

**iv. All good work is done in defiance of management**

Woodward firmly believes that at a newspaper, “all good work is done in defiance of management.” He maintains that this guiding principle does not permit the breaking of laws or rules, but instead encourages reporters to go their own way and carry out an investigation as they see fit. This is Woodward’s central tenet, and it’s behind the mentality of independence that has fueled his career. Do what you feel you must (within the law) to get the story, even if your manager might disapprove of your methods. (Bob Woodward (2003)

In this study the principles of Investigative Journalism was applied to evaluate, examine and analyze journalists experience with principles of investigative journalism and their role in doing investigative programs of "Netsa Hasab"

## **2.11 Profile of Walta Media and Communication Corporate S.C**

Walta Media and Communication Corporate S.C which formerly called Walta Information Canter is a profit business entity restructured under the Ethiopian law in 2016. Walta is a media and communication company with a legal status of Share Company directed by a board of directors. The corporate is a pro-development company working as development partner of the nation. The contribution of the corporate further integrates with the impact it has made to the socio-political and socio-economic improvement of the country since its establishment, 1994 G.C. The company is seeking to working for societal transformation by transforming organisational capacity with intent to take the media responsibility in advanced and modern approach.

WMCC is established with a vision of, to be one of Africa's most creative developmental communication companies. The primary mission of this broadcast media is having active, strong technology oriented and charismatic personnel with deep concern for development issues, the company needs to strive to enrich the information needs of Africans providing excellent communication platforms. Walta's current total capital is ETB 57594958.64 million and operates TV Broadcast (Walta TV) on; Eutelsat Frequency 11512, FEC 5/6, Polarization Vertical, Symbol Rate 27500 and transmitted throughout the world. Currently the corporate have around 273 permanent employees and 4 temporary employees, a total of 277 employees at corporate level in general and 149 permanent and 3 temporary, a total of 152 employees at broadcast sector in particular.

The station is one of the Media organizations that attempts to exercise investigative program. Accordingly, it inaugurates "Netsa Hasab" weekly Television program On January 28, 2018 to investigate and disseminate issues of public interest. Since its foundation, every Tuesday at 9:00 pm, the program had been broadcasting different issues that the public wants to know.

Walta Television is one of the media industries that experienced in popular programs that reflect problems of the society and criticize wrong doings in different organizations. Among those programs "Netsa Hasab" is the one and the prominent. In light of these, the researcher intended to analyze the practice of investigation in Walta Television by exhibiting "Netsa Hasab"

program, investigating role of “Netsa Hasab” program for the realization of democracy and good governance, examining issues and sources been used by “Netsa Hasab” program and evaluating the major challenges in Walta Television to practice investigative journalism by using “Netsa Hasab” as a center of study.

## CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY

This part discusses the methodology and procedures of the study under which the design, data source, sampling technique and data analysis.

### 3.1 Research Design

The researcher used a descriptive analytical method of data collection through a qualitative approach. According to scholars, (Creswell 2002; Pope & Mays 1995; Denzin & Lincoln, 1994), Qualitative Research is intended to deeply explore, understand and interpret social phenomena within its natural setting. By using a qualitative researcher methodology, researchers want to collect richer information and get more detailed picture of issues, cases or events (Arora and Stoner 2009). Therefore, Qualitative research method of inquiry was selected as the principal method for the study, because it enables the researcher to evaluate critically and grasp the social phenomenon from the perspective of the subject of the study. In this context, the study used qualitative research method to attain a deeper level of understanding and a reached description of the topic at hand in order to observe themes.

The nature of the research problem is descriptive than experimental. Since the study needs description and analysis of the existing reality in walta TV, in relation to practice of investigative journalism, the researcher applied descriptive research method. In general, the method is chosen for qualitatively describing the extent, role and areas of issues in WaltaTV investigative program. In particular: (a), to get reliable information about, say, working condition of a respondents; (b), to describe waltas working condition and challenges facing Netsa Nasab program; (c), to describe attitudes of respondents towards an issue. Caelli, Ray, & Mill, 2003; Merriam, 1998 define qualitative description research as follows:

*Qualitative description research studies are those that seek to discover and understand a phenomenon, a process, or the perspectives and worldviews of the people involved. The use of a qualitative description approach is particularly relevant where information is required directly from those experiencing the phenomenon under investigation.*

Furthermore, the reason for using qualitative descriptive research approach in this study was, it enabled the researcher to analyse the major themes of 5 "Netsa Hasab" programs in walta TV

and analysed and discussed to what extent the program does investigation in addressing media role and assessed the investigative journalism environment in the media house subjectively.

Accordingly, data of five Netsa Hasab programs were selected to analyse from the perspectives of principles of investigative journalism. The programs were selected from the perspectives of principles of investigative journalism. The data were selected from "Netsa Hasab" programs in the period—from March 2019 - May, 2020 based on issues covered and areas of coverage.

The researcher also conduct in-depth interview with manager, producers, editors, reporters and other media experts to get wide range of understanding about the actual practice of the program in accordance with the documents analysed.

Based on this, In-depth individual interview was applied for the purpose to get rich and comprehensive information that answer the research questions & a need to dig out the desired output of the research objectives. Data collection from interviewees was made in the period Jun, 8 2020 to July 24, 2020, based on the willingness and availability of respondents.

Data analysis was done using the thematic analysis format. The purpose for this is to be able to know the program weather that has been practicing investigative journalism or not. The general aspect of the program: program themes; to what extent investigative journalism is practicing by "Netsa Hasab" program, how the programs investigate different issues covered and other criteria that principles of investigative journalism requires. Moreover, important issues pointed out in the literature review are also incorporated in the discussion of the research findings.

### **3.2. Data Gathering Tools**

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

Data of five sample programs were analysed qualitatively to understand whether the station is practicing investigative journalism based on the literature discussed.

### **3.3. Data Sources**

Primary and secondary data sources that enable the researcher to extract rich and comprehensive information to answer the basic questions of the research were applied. Those sources are very

important to help the researcher to dig out and extract the desired output based on the questions and objectives of the study.

### **3.3.1. Primary Sources**

Primary sources of data are believed as a very vital instrument to answer the research questions. The data gathering tools in this study used Individual in-depth interview as a primary data source. Mack et al, 2005 stated that: "Individual in-depth interview can be taken as best method to explore if the issue is considered by the individual too sensitive to talk about in the presence of others". Based on this, In-depth individual interview was applied for the purpose to get rich and comprehensive information that answer the research questions & a need to dig out the desired output of the research objectives.

Thus, in-depth individual interview was selected among the others to gather rich and factual information about the study. Based on this, an in-depth individual interview was made with 20 interviewees of 1 manager, 4 senior editors, 4 producers, 7 reporters and 4 media experts in Walta Television who were purposefully selected for the study. All respondents are selected from walta TV based on their background knowledge & experience they have; their proximity to the subject matter; and that of decision-makers who get to decide what makes it to the program or not.

Interview questions were calcified in to two parts. Each part of interview had carry fifteen interview questions. But, the content of interview questions are somehow different as to as their role and job division (see also, Appendix A and Appendix B of this study on, pp. 95-96) In this regard, the first part of in-depth interview was conducted with five respondents of one (1) Manager and 4 Editors. The reason is to get rich and comprehensive information about organisational and strategic issue of the topic. In the second part of interview was conducted with fifteen (15) respondents of 4 Producers, 7 Reporters and 4 Media experts. The reason for this is to be able to get detailed information about production and professional issue of the topic. The in-depth interview accompanied by semi structured open ended questions. In this approach some pre structured questions helped the researcher to raise additional question by stimulating the respondent to give clue about the analysed data. The interview was made in Amaharic language and translated to English. All of respondents were selected from Walta TV and the interview was made in the compound of Walta TV, located around Temenja Yazhi, Addis Ababa. The

interview was on Jun, 8 2020 based on the willingness and availability of respondents and finalised on July 24, 2020.

### **3.3.2. Secondary Sources of Data**

The study used the secondary data from the works of Waltas TV "Netsa Hasab" programs. The reason is to confirm with the interviewees' response on the programs based on the raised interview questions. The data were selected from a list of 42 "Netsa Hasab" program in the period from March 2019 - May, 2020. Among those programs five of them had been selected purposefully by applying two criteria, which are issues been covered and areas of the coverage. Hence, five "Netsa Hasab" Television programs of Walta were analysed thematically.

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

The researcher used purposive sampling to extract rich and comprehensive information that can answer the basic interview questions. According to Abiy (2009), "Qualitative research methods are typically used when focusing on a limited number of informants, whom you select strategically so that their in-depth information can give optimal insight into an issue about which little is known". And this method is called purposive sampling.

The ownership structure of Ethiopian media landscape were categorised as: State owned broadcast and print media, Corporate Broadcast Media, Commercial/Private Broadcast and Print Media and online media institution. Walta Media and Communication Corporate S.C is supposed to Corporate Media which is owned by stockholders. Thus, Walta Media and Communication Corporate S.C were purposefully selected for the study. The selection of this station was based on its ownership type, which characterizes the ownership structure of broadcast media in Ethiopia. The reason for this is to be able to have a comprehensive view about the existing reality of Walta TV, in practicing investigative programs with the aim to know whether Walta's TV have been practicing investigative journalism or not.

Furthermore, Walta Television is one of the media industries that experienced in popular programs that reflect problems of the society and criticize wrong doings in different organizations. Among those programs "Netsa Hasab" is the one and the prominent. Waltas TV "Netsa Hasab" is weekly Television program inaugurates On January 28, 2018 under news and investigative production team, with the aim to investigate and disseminate issues of public interest. Since its inauguration, every Tuesday at 9:00 pm, the program had been broadcasting different issues that the public wants to know. In this context, Waltas TV "Netsa Hasab" program

was purposefully selected for the study. The selection of the program was based on its issues been covered and areas of the coverage. First, Issues covered: The reason for this is to be able to have a comprehensive view about the existing reality of Walta TV, in practicing IJ, the aim was to know whether Walta's TV have been practicing investigative journalism or not. Second, Areas of coverage: the reason for this is, to know which kind of areas are given more attention by Waltas TV of Netsa Hasab program.

Furthermore, an in-depth individual interview was made with 20 respondent of Walta Television. These informants were selected purposively by applying three criteria's: (a),on their background knowledge & experience they have; (b), their proximity to the subject matter; and (c), that of decision-makers who get to decide what makes it to the program or not. As mentioned above, the secondary data of this study also include data's of five sample programs which had selected purposefully by applying two criteria's, which are issues been covered and areas of the coverage. The data were selected from a list of 42 "Netsa Hasab" program in the period from March 2019 - May, 2020.

**Title of Sample programs:**

- i. **Title:** Central committee of Tigray Peoples' Liberation Front (TPLF), Ato Getachew Reda (March 14, 2019). The program was intended to expose the power competition and conflict of interest between/among ruling party of central committee members.
- ii. **Title:** “የፖለቲካ አመራሩ የብቃት ማነስ ነው ችግሩን እዚህ ያደረሰው” Azeb Mesfin, Former first lady (October 31, 2019). The program was intended to expose the existing political corruption and abuse of power within ruling party.
- iii. **Title:** “የሞግዚትነት አስተዳደር ተመድቦልን ነበር” Ato Abate Kish, Former President of S/N/N and People of South region (November 13, 2019). The program was intended to expose the absence of good governance and government that practiced before political reform in Ethiopia. It is supposed to claim the political system, especially on abuse of power, governance and government.
- iv. **Title:** “ከፍያን በተመለከተ ውሳኔ ሰጪውም፣ ነሺውም የግል ት/ቤቶች የፈረጠመ የጡንቻኝነት አካሄድ ነው” Ato Zelalem Mulat, Addis Ababa schools bureau head (May 1, 2020). The program was intended to expose violation of rules and regulation. Specially, the extent of rent-seeking by private schools in Addis Ababa city.
- v. **Title:** “ህክምና ከካድሬያዊ አሰራርና ስምሪት ነፃ ወጥቷል” Dr. Yohannes Chala, Addis Ababa City Health Bureau head (May 6, 2020).The program was intended to expose lack of quality

service within/among health sector. (These sample programs were accessed from: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4yEV6VBe0Emu8sMpyij0uQ>, in the period, Aug, 3 to Aug 15, 2020).

### **3.5. Analysing the Data**

The analysis of the data was applied by thematic analysis format, based on objectives and questions of the study. This data analysis method enables the researcher to identify commonly recognized patterns and relationships to meaningfully answer the research questions of the study. According to Braun and Clarke (2013), "thematic analysis is a data analysis method that helps a researcher to identify themes and patterns of meanings across a dataset in relation to a particular research question(s). They further state that this method can be used to analyse almost any kind of qualitative data such as interviews, focus groups, and qualitative surveys, using larger or smaller datasets. Furthermore, this method involves seven steps: transcription, reading and familiarization, coding, searching for themes, reviewing themes, defining and naming themes, and finalizing the analysis" (Braun and Clarke, 2013).

Based on qualitative research method, the researcher analysed primary and secondary data gathered. Accordingly, views of interviewees' response and sample documents of the program were carefully analysed regarding the practice of investigative journalism in Walta Television. In the process of this study the data from respondents were passed through seven steps. Those steps are: transcription, reading and familiarization, coding, searching for themes, reviewing themes, defining and naming themes, and finalizing the analysis. The interview was made in Amaharic language and translated to English and the sample programs were analysed thematically. In generating the themes for this study, first, the interviews were translated to English and transcribed to allow the researcher to actively study and identify and select those patterns that were common across all transcripts.

In analysing data, some respondents were coded based on their job division as: Manager (M1), Executive Producer (EP), Executive Editor (EE), Reporter (R1) and other Media Experts (ME). In addition, the selected programs were coded based on order of analysis: The first sample program coded as (S1), the second sample program (S2), the third sample program (S3), the fourth sample program (S4) and the fifth sample program (S5).

Coding scheme: The coding scheme was developed to examine the practice of investigative journalism by "Netsa Hasab" program. The purpose for this is to be able to know the program

weather that has been practicing investigative journalism or not. The general aspect of the program: program themes; to what extent investigative journalism is practicing by "Netsa Hasab" program, how the programs investigate different issues covered and other criteria that principles of investigative journalism requires.

#### **4. Ethical Considerations**

Throughout this study, the researcher tried to take care of any ethical issues. In review of literature, in data collection, interpretation and analysis to presenting the final report, ethical issue was given priority. In this regard, during data gathering, ethical guidelines are taken into account on the study. First, the informed consent of interviewee was granted before the actual job is getting done. Second, confidentiality is kept for journalists who will participate in in-depth interview. Finally, punctuality, honesty, reliability, validity, responsibility and others are the minimum amount of ethical guidelines that the researcher followed during data collection.

## **CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DESCUSSION OF RESULTS**

In this chapter, the analysis and discussions of the data gathered from respondents and document analysed were presented according to the result of findings. Qualitative descriptive analysis, and descussions of results obtained from the data gathered are offered. In addition, important issues pointed out in the literature review were also incorporated in the discussion of the data. In the process of data collection, the researcher applied purposive sampling so as to look in to an in-depth sight in to the program. In the data analysis the researcher used thematic analysis format. Moreover, the data presentation, analysis and descussion of data are carried out in two phases. In the first phase, the result of an in-depth interview data was discussed and presented as to the design employed in the study. In the second phase, the result of the sample selected programs was discussed and presented as follows:

### **Phase one: 4.1 Data presentation, analysis and results of respondents from an in-depth interview**

This part is focused on qualitative thematic analysis of an in-depth interview data gathered from 20 respondents of 1 manager, 4 senior editors, 4 producers, 7 reporters and 4 media experts who were purposefully selected for the study. These informants were selected purposively by applying some criteria's: (a),on their background knowledge & experience they have; (b),their proximity to the subject matter; and (c), that of decision-makers who get to decide what makes it to the program or not. Data collections from interviewees were made in the period Jun, 8 2020 to July 24, 2020, based on the willingness and availability of respondents.

The following section analysed and discussed the themes that emerged in the data analysis. The researcher tried to interpret the data with a manageable number of themes. The analysis and discussion of respondents were categorised in to five major themes and eight sub-themes based on the research questions. Moreover, important issues pointed out in the literature review are also incorporated in the discussion of the research findings. The analysis, discussions and findings are presented by using Virginia Braun and Victoria Clarke (2010) thematic analysis format.

#### **4.1.1. The practice of investigative journalism by “Netsa Hasab”**

With the development of the practice of investigative journalism, it has differences other forms of journalism. Especially in terms of its depth, issues covered, focus and even the information-gathering techniques. It is clear that investigative journalism is an in-depth report on an issue or

topic that is of public interest, a process, not an event, original and proactive reporting, produces new information, or puts existing information together in a way that reveals its significance, reporting that is multi-sourced and because of its in-depth nature, it calls for greater resources, team working and time than a routine news report. In addition, investigative journalism is a special method of journalistic work, which has specific epistemic and representative parts. Although, the importance of the reporter's initiative in finding issues and doing the investigation on their own, not reporting of investigations made by authorities. In general investigative journalism is a type of journalism that deals with extracting facts which are hidden but public interest. This practice is not as such event reporting rather requires professional ethics and wisdom.

Based on the above facts, the researcher asked different respondents whether they thought that "Netsa Hasab" program is practicing investigative journalism or not. Most of the interviewee replied that Walta Television is relatively attempts to practice investigative journalism. One of the manager in Walta coded as M replied that practice of investigative journalism in Walta's Netsa Hasab program as "ነጻ ሀሳብ ፕሮግራም በቅርቡ በተለይ የፖለቲካ ሪፎርም በሀገራችን ከተካሄደ ወዲህ በንጽጽር ሲታይ የተለያዩ መርጫ ፕሮግራሞችን አዘጋጅቶ እያሰራጨ ይገኛል። ፕሮግራሙ የተለያዩ ማህበራዊ፣ ኢኮኖሚያዊ እና ፖለቲካዊ ይዘት ያለቸውን ፕሮግራሞች ላይ የተለያዩን በማፋጠጥና በማጋለጥ ህዝብ እንዲያውቀው በማድረግ ላይ ይገኛል። የስራ ኃላፊዎችም በፈጸሙት ጥፋት እንዲጠየቁ ያደርጋል፣ የምርመራ ዘገባ ሚናም ሙያም ይህዉ ነዉ" which literally translated in to English as follows:

"Netsa Hasab" program is relatively practicing investigative journalism; recently after political reform has taken place in the country by reorganizing the program's content and format in a new form. In the program a serious discussions and hard talks were held with different organs on different problems regarding social, economic and political issues that the society wants to know. "Netsa Hasab" program is also pin pointing different problems, reveal hidden issues, expose wrong doings and make individuals and institutions accountable for what so ever mistake they have been done. The role of investigative reporting is to expose, to inform the public what is going on and enabling the society to ask their right.

In the same way, one of the editors in Walta Television E1 also forwarded his views on how "Netsa Hasab" program exercising investigative journalism as "የምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነትን በተመለከተ፣ እኔ መርጫ ፕሮግራሞችን በሚፈለገው መጠን እየሰራን ነዉ ብዬ ለመናገር ይከብደኛል። ሆኖም ግን አሁን እየታዩ ያሉ ሙከራዎች ስላሉ ሊበረታቱ ይገባል ብዬ አስባለሁ" that translated as follows: Regarding practice of investigative journalism in Netsa Hasab of Walta Television, It is difficult to me to say that we

are practicing investigative journalism, but there is a testing step to exercise it actually. It is a good start to realize profession of investigative journalism.

As the sample program analysed above most of the issues covered by “Netsa Hasab” were about politics, social affairs and some other minor issues. Based on this fact, the researcher raised additional question to the above respondent M as "Why Netsa Hasab program unable to investigate serious issues like corruption and other crimes?" He replied as follows “ኪራይ ሰብሳቢነትና ሌሎች ወንጀሎችን ተከታትሎ ማጋለጥ ያለመቻል ጉዳይ ከሁለት ችግሮች የመነጨ እንደሆነ እረዳለሁ። አንደኛው ጋዜጠኛው እራሱ ሙያዊ ብቃት ሲያንሰው ወይም ጉዳት ይደርስብኛል ብሎ በማሰብ ከፍራት በመነጨ መንፈስ መሰራት የሚያቅተው ሲሆን ሁለተኛው የምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነትን ተግባራዊ ማድረግ ያልተለመደ በመሆኑና የፖለቲካ ጣልቃ ገብነት እንደ ምክንያት ሊጠቀሱ ይችላሉ ብዬ ነው የማስበው።” translated as: As of my understanding, inability to report on corruption and other crime can be defined in to reasons, on one hand lack of knowledge among the journalists or if the journalist him/herself fear that some harm may occur on them. On the other hand, it is because of low practice of investigative report; there may be political interferences in the profession.

Regarding practice of investigative report in “Netsa Hasab” of Walta Television, another editor E2 replied as “ምንም እንኳን ጋዜጠኞች ከቅርብ ግዜ ወዲህ በነጻነት ለመዘገብ ምቹ ሁኔታዎች ቢኖሩም የተፈለገውን ያክል እንዳልተሰራ እረዳለሁ” which translated as “even though journalists in Walta Television have freedom of reporting, they didn't perform their role as expected.”

In addition to the above respondent, one another editor E3 forwarded his views as “በርግጥ የዋለታ ቴሌቪዥን ነጻ ሀሳብ ፕሮግራም በአሁኑ ሰዓት የምርመራ ፕሮግራሞችን እየሰራነው ብዬ አምናለሁ። ምክንያቱም ጥሩ ጅምር ስለሆነ በዚህ ከቀጠለ ጥሩ የምርመራ ፕሮግራም ይሆናል” translated as “In fact I can say Netsa Hasab program is practicing investigative reports according to its current status. Because it is a good start that could be a good and strong investigative program.”

Regarding practice of investigative report in “Netsa Hasab”, an Executive Producer, EP also replied as ‘የምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት ብዙ ቅድም ሁኔታዎችንና ነጻነትን የሚፈልግ እንደመሆኑ መጠን በተሟላ ሁኔታ እየተተገበረ ነው ብዬ አላምንም። ምክንያቱም የአመራሮች ጣልቃ ገብነት ስላለ በነጻነት ለመስራት ከባድ ነው። ነገር ግን “Netsa Hasab”ፕሮግራም አሁን ኢትዮጵያ ውስጥ ካሉ ፊት ለፊት ፕሮግራሞች ውስጥ የተሻለ ነው ብዬ አስባለው። Which He wanted to reply as follows: It is impossible to me to say that Netsa Hasab program is practicing investigative report fully as expected. Because, investigative report requires precondition and freedom. When we come to Netsa Hasab program, there was interference from the management. But with all its challenges I can say that the program is one of the best face to face Television programs been disseminated.

Another program director called PD respond on how investigative report been practiced in Netsa Hasab ass “Netsa Hasab” የምርመራ ፕሮግራም ዋልታ ከሚታወቅባቸው ፕሮግራሞች አንዱ ነው። የምርመራ ዘገባ እራሱን የቻለ ዲፓርትመንት ያለው ሲሆን የምርመራ ዜና እና ወቅታዊ ፕሮግራም ስር የሚመራ ነው። ስለዚህ በጠቅላላው ስንመለከተው ፕሮግራሙ ከጎ ችግሮቹ የምርመራ ዘገባን ለመተግበር ጥረት እያደረገ ይገኛል ብዬ አምናለሁ። Which translated as follows: “Netsa Hasab” program is one of the investigative program that Walta Television known by. Investigative program here in Walta runs its production under investigative news and current affairs having its own department. So in general, with all its constraints, the program has been practicing investigative program.

In addition, one of the Media Expert in Walta called ME replied as “በነጻ ሀሳብ ፕሮግራም የተጀመረው የምርመራ ዘገባ ጥሩ ጅምር ቢሆንም ሙሉ ለሙሉ የምርመራ ዘገባን እየተገረ ነው ለማለት ይከብደኛል። ነገር ግን መነሻ ምንጮቹ ከዩትም ይሁን ጉዳዩን በጥልቀትና ስፋት ለመተንተን የሚደረገው ሙከራ ነገ የተሸለ ፕሮግራም ለማድረግ የዛሬው ጥረት ለነገ ስኬት መሰረት ይሆናል።” Which mean that “An attempt started by “Netsa Hasab” to exercise investigative report, it is difficult to me to say the program is original investigative program. But from where ever the sources are, it is basic effort applied by the program to realize practice of investigative journalism in the institution. Another editor in Walta called E1 also strengthens the above idea as “ነጻ ሀሳብ ፕሮግራም ጠንካራ መርማሪ ፕሮግራም ለማድረግ መሰራት ያለባቸው ስራዎች ያሉ ቢሆንም ፕሮግራሙ ከዚህ ባሻገር ወደፊት ለሚፈጠሩት የምርመራ ፕሮግራሞች ጥሩ መነሻ እንደሚሆን ጥርጥር የለውም። ስለዚህ በህዝብ ጥቅም ላይ የሚደርሰውን ጉዳት ለመቀነስ የምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነትን ሙያ ተግባራዊ ለማድረግ የሚመለከተው አካል መሰራት እንዳለበት ይሰማኛል።” Which mean that, “There is no doubt that “Netsa Hasab” would be a milestone to other investigative programs that will be launched in the future, thought a lot to be done to make the program strong than ever. In this sense every responsible organ should take every necessary steps to encourage IJ, so as to minimize irregularities in every level. Another reporter in Walta R2 replied as “በምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት ሙያ ሊዳሰሱ የሚገቡ ጉዳዮች ብዙ እንዳሉ ይታወቃል። ነገር ግን ማፋጠጥ ላይ የተመሰረቱ ፕሮግራሞችን ለመሰራት ገና ይቀራሉ። ነጻ ሀሳብም የምርመራ ዘገባን በትክክል እየተገበረ ነው ባይባልም ከጎ ብዙ ጉድለቶቹ ጥሩ ለውጥ አምጥቷል ብዬ አስባለሁ።” In his elaborative response, R2 forwarded his views that he thought that there are a lot of serious issues to be reported raising serious questions. He also replied that in current status the program can’t be grouped under original investigative reporting.

Based on the views of the above respondents, the researcher generalized that, even though there were an attempt to exercise investigative reporting, "Netsa Hasab" program lacks qualities of principles of investigative reporting based on both primary and secondary sources of data gathered. The document that analysed by the researcher shows that it is possible to conclude that most of the issues been covered by the program were lacks depth, team work and techniques.

So, generally according to the above views forwarded by different respondents, one can realize that there is an attempt to practice investigative reporting in “Netsa Hasab” of Walta Television, based on its practice. On the other hand there is also lack of knowledge among journalists; political interferences can tackle practice of investigative report in Walta Television.

**i. Editorial freedom to practice investigative journalism**

Editorial freedom is one the pivotal environment to journalists to investigate and report to be free from any control and interferences. Editorial policy in one media must guarantee professionals to perform their journalistic duties based on ethics and guidelines that the profession allows. To further examine the practice of investigative journalism the researcher asked about editorial freedom to practice investigative journalism. Accordingly, I asked a program director PD in Walta, to reply on how much editorial freedom is exists in Medias in general and Netsa Hasab in particular. He replied as “የዋልታ ቲቪ ኤዲቶሪያል ነፃ ባይሆን ኖሮ እንደ “Netsa Hasab” ያሉ ፕሮግራሞች አይኖሩም ነበር። ለምሳሌ አዳንድ ጉዳዮች እስከ ፍርድ ቤት የሚሄዱት የዋልታ ቲቪ ኤዲቶሪያል ነፃ ስለሆነ ነው። እንደሚታወቀው የቦርድ አባላቱ ፖለቲከኛ ሹም ቢሆንም ነገር ግን እነሱም ቢሆኑም እጃቸውን አያስገቡም፤ የመጀመርያ አለማው የህዝብን ጥቅም ማስጠበቅ ነው። Which literally translated as follows: It was because editorial in Walta Television is free that programs like “Netsa Hasab” and others been running its investigative reports in a freeway. For instance there were some reports been covered by Netsa Hasab that that issue perhaps taken to court for further investigation. Though board members are most of the time political appointee, they never interfere in the work of investigative reports.

Contrasting the above idea, another reporter in Walta replied as “ከመጀመርያ ኤዲቶሪያል ነጻነት የሚጣሰው ከፕሮግራሙ ሀላፊዎች በላይ ተቋሙን በሚያስተዳድሩ ሰዎች ነው። በፕሮግራሙ የተሰጠው ሽፋን ያስገመገመናል ብለው ከገመቱ የተወሰነ ክፍሉ ተቆርጦ እንዲወጣ ወይም ሙሉ በሙሉ እንዲቀር ጫና ሊያሳድሩብህ ይችላሉ።” Which mean in English as follows: From the beginning, violating editorial freedom starts from authorized persons that manage the institution. If they feel that the program been investigated will bring them some criticism, they order you either to cut out some part of it or cancel it at all.

Similarly to the above response, one of the Media Experts ME in Walta forwarded her views as “የምርመራ ዘገባ ላይ የሚሰሩ ጋዜጠኞች ፕሮግራሞችን ለመስራት በከፍተኛ ጫናና ፈተና ውስጥ አልፈው እንደሆነ ግልጽ ነው። ኤዲቶሪያል ነጻነቱ ላይ የምንኩራራበት ደረጃ ላይ አልደረስንም፤ በአንጻሩ የተሻለ የነጻነት እድል ተፈጥሯል ካልን በቀር። በተለይ የምርመራ ጋዜጠኞች በነጻነት እንዲዘግቡ ብዙ መሰራት እንዳለበት አምናለሁ።” Which factually translated by the researcher below as follows: It is obvious that investigative reporters are always going through challenges and pressures. I cannot say that we are gratified in editorial freedom in

our Media, except we witnessed relatively a little bit change that ever. I think a lot must be done in order to allow journalists to carry out more investigations. Based on views of the above respondents, the researcher concluded that there is a little or no editorial freedom to exercise investigative reports, especially in areas of politics. Because, as to as of the respondents' views there are interferences by media managers and chief editors.

**ii. Ethical consideration by “Netsa Hasab” Program**

Ethical consideration is a cornerstone in a profession of journalism than any other field. Investigative reporters must consider facts and reliable information. Then the reporter must check and re check to realize its credibility. Because any reckless reports without having evidence that can be defamation that perhaps brought to court. Furthermore, to examine the practice of investigative journalism the researcher asked about ethical consideration by “Netsa Hasab” Program.

To know whether ethical consideration been given priority by the program, the researcher asked respondents to forward their views. One of the reporter in Netsa Hasab program, R1 replied as “ከስነ ምግባር አንጻር ጋዜጠኞች ከተቋሙ ውጪ ለስራ ሲሰማሩ ስራው እንዲቆም አንድ አንድ መደለያዎችና ማታለያዎችን እንዲወስዱ ሊጠየቁ ይችላሉ። ይህንን በተመለከተ የተቋሙ ጋዜጠኞች ሙያዊ ስነ ምግባርን አክብረው የሚሰሩ ናቸው። ከዚህ ውጪ ጋዜጠኛው ስራውን ትክክለኛ መረጃና ማስረጃ ላይ ተመስርቶ መሰራት ነው ያለበት። እስካሁንም በነጻ ሀሳብ ፕሮግራሞችን ይህ ዓይነት እየተተገበረ የሚገኘው። The researcher interpret in english as follows: Journalists might be asked accept incentives and other benefits while they are off to carry out their work. This is purposely to stop the work. But here in our institution, I think there are no journalists accused of ethical issues. The other ethical issue is related with factual information, data and document. Journalists in “Netsa Hasab” program are careful enough while conducting a research, gathering information, investigates in depth, and finally reporting.

Another reporter R2 replied the above request as “የምርመራ ዘጋባን በምንሰራበት ወቅት ከፍተኛ ጥንቃቄ ነው የምናደርገው፤ ምክንያቱም የስነ ምግባር ችግር ማንጸባረቅ እንደሌለብን ሙያዊ ያስገድዳል በተጨማሪም የሚያስከትለው ቅጣትም ከባድ ነው።” Which men “Profession of investigative journalism requires a serious ethical obey. In addition the consequence follows any ethical violation results in a serious punishment too.”

In the same response to the above interviewee, an expert in Walta Television, called ME replied as “የምርመራ ዘጋባን ስንሰራ ፕሮግራም ከማቀድ እስከ መስክ ስራ ከመስክ ስራ እስከ ስቱዲዮ አርትኦት ሁሉንም ነገር በጥንቃቄ ነው የምንሰራው። ምክንያቱም ጥሩ ፕሮግራም ለመስራት መጀመርያ ሙያዊ የሚፈቅደውን ስነ ምግባር ማክበር

ግዴታ ነው።” His response connotes as “To carry out our duty, starting from planning up to field investigation, from investigation up to editing we work carefully, because to come up with good report ethical issue must be given due attention.

When concluded based on views of the above responses the researcher generalized that journalists in “Netsa Hasab” were highly concerned with ethical issues (independence, fairness, public accountability, harm minimization and proper attribution) while conducting investigative report.

#### **4.1.2. The implementation of investigative journalism Principles**

Principles of investigative journalism are the basic parameter that the researcher analyzed Netsa Hasab program of Walta Television. While conducting an analysis on some sample programs broadcasted by Walta, the researcher applied Bob Woodward’s four principles of investigative journalism as described in literature part of the study. Most of the interview questions were raised to the executive producer of “Netsa Hasab” called EP. Because the whole burden in production and presentation of the program laid on the shoulder of the respondent EP. Role of planning and research the program, investigating document and copies of a record, interviewing, editing and other responsibilities are performed by a single person, EP. The researcher used views of other respondents as supportive analysis in line with document analyzed.

##### **i. Move outside your comfort zone**

Firstly, to examine the implementation of investigative journalism principles by Netsa Hasab program, the researcher asked question on “Move outside your comfort zone” principle. Good reporters aren’t afraid to cover a wide variety of subjects, and to do so require hard work and get out of your comfort zone. Journalists, especially investigative journalists should move outside their comfort zone, far away to unknown areas to learn from challenges. The researcher raised questions to journalists. One by one as follows:

An executive producer and presenter of the program EP replied as “የምርመራ ዘገባን በምናዘጋጅበት ወቅት ሁሌ በችግር ውስጥ ሆነን ነው። ምላሽ የሚባል ነገር አይታሰብም፤ ምክንያቱም ሙያዊ ራሱ በፈተናና ችግር የታጀበ ነው ስለዚህ ሁሌ ከምላሽ ቀጠና ውጪ ሆነን ነው የምንሰራው።” The response of EP implies that they are always in problems while reporting. Because, the profession by nature requires ups and downs. In addition during analyzing the sample selected program the researcher observed that producer and presenter of the program had gone to Mekele, to honor his interviewee, Getachew Reda,

member of executive committee of Tigray People's Liberation Front, TPLF to clarify political dilemmas that confuse the public, though its timeline is not relevant. In the same way the interviewee clearly stated that there are a lot of problems like political pressures, lack of logistics and others that clearly confirm that how much journalists pay cost during investigation.

Similarly, one of the reporters in Walta's Netsa Hasab program, called R1 forwarded his views regarding the above request as “የምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት ሙያ በራሱ ምችት እንዲሰማህ አያደርግህም፤ ምናልባት በሰራሀዉ ጥራት ያለዉ ስራ ምችትና እርካታ ሊሰማህ ይችላል አለበለዚያ ሁሌ ከምችት ቀጠና ዉጪ ሆነን ነዉ የምንሰራዉ::” which connotes that profession of investigative journalism by itself do not make journalists feel comfort. May be quality wise report they made feel the comfortable.

In the same way another reporter of Netsa Hasab called R2 forwarded as “በሀገር ደረጃ የምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት በራሱ ያልተለመደ በመሆኑ ምችት ዉስጥ ሆነህ የምትሰራዉ ስራ አይደለም በዚህም የተነሳ ከባድና ዉስብስብ ችግር ዉስጥ አልፈን ነዉ የምንሰራዉ::” Here R2 wanted to mean that since the profession of investigative journalism is unfamiliar they goes through complex and difficult environment to carry out their investigations.

In general concept, based on the views of respondents and the document analyzed the researcher can understand that reporters and other journalists in Netsa Hasab program had been going through challenging environment while researching, investigating and reporting on investigations.

**ii. Leaving opinion out**

Leaving own opinion out of story is one of the core principles investigative report requires. Therefore investigative journalists should always separate emotional issues from the facts. Failing to separate opinion from fact costs you credibility with the public. The researcher asked respondents to know whether journalists leave their opinion out of the story they report about. Accordingly an executive producer of Netsa Hasabb program, EP replied as follows.

“የምርመራ ዘገባን የሚሰራ ጋዜጠኛ የራሱን ሀሳብ በዘገባዉ ዉስጥ ማንጸባረቅ እንደሌለበት ሙያዉ ይጠይቃል:: ካልሆነ ግን በገለልተኝነት ያለዉን እዉነታ ህብረተሰቡ እንዲረዳ ለማድረግ ይቸገራል በተጨማሪም ፕሮገራሙ ተግማኒነቱን እንዲያጣ ያደርጋል:: Respondent EP wanted to mean that profession of investigative report requires that the reporter must leave his or her opinion out of the story he or she wants to report. He added that incorporating once own idea in the story lost credibility of the story been reported.

Contrasting the above response, another reporter in Walta R2 replied as “አንዳንድ ጊዜ ጋዜጠኞች ስሜታዊ ሆነው የራሳቸውን ሀሳብና ዘቋም ሲያንጸባርቁ ይታያሉ ነገር ግን ከሙያው አንጻር ሆነ የለበትም።” In his views R2 wanted to mean that sometimes journalists reflect their opinion while reporting, which is professionally wrong. In the same way to EP’s view, one of the Media experts called ME replied as “የራስን ሀሳብ ከምርመራ ዘገባ ውጪ ማድረግ የጋዜጠኛው መሰረታዊ መመርያ መሆን አለበት ካልሆነ ግን ዘገባው በተመልካች ዘንድ ተቀባይነት እንዳይኖረው ያደርገዋል።” Which translated as “Leaving opinion out of the story must be the core guideline of investigative reporters. Unless the story lacks credibility among the audience”. Therefore, based on views of the respondents and document analyzed, the researcher can generalize that investigative reporters in “Netsa Hasab” program are to some extent obeying principle of investigative journalism in case of leaving opinion out of the story been reporter.

### iii. Avoid taking political sides

Journalists should avoid taking political side. Investigative journalist must as much as possible careful to not show partiality to any one of news network, giving interviews to news organizations on both ends of the political spectrum. Because, a journalist is a reporter and citizen without a political agenda.

To further examine the implementation of IJ principles by Netsa Hasab program, the researcher asked question on “Avoid taking political sides”: Accordingly the research tried to know whether producers and reporters of Netsa Hasab program are free from taking political side whether they are reporting. An Executive Producer of the program responds on how much journalists refrain from taking political side as “ህንን ፕሮግራም ስሰራ ሁሌ ነጻና ገለልተኛ እንደሆንኩ ይሰማኛል። እውነታውን ለተመልካች ከማቅረብ ውጪ ሙያዊ ከሚፈቅደው ሌላ ምንም ወገንተኝነት የለብኝም።” Which similarly mean that He thought that he is always free and independent while investigating and broadcasting the program. His aspiration is only bringing the fact to the audience without having any political side.”

In the same way another reporter in the program called R1 also strengthen the above idea as “መጀመርያ ፕሮግራሙን ከመሰራታችን በፊት ወገንተኝነትን መያዝና የፖለቲካ ዝንባሌ ከማጸባረቅ መቆጠብ አንዱ መርሆኦችን ነው መሆን ያለበት። ከሰራናቸው ፕሮግራሞችም ለመረዳት እንደሚቻለው እየሰራንም ያለነው በዚህ መልኩ ነው። R1 wanted to mean that abstaining from taking political side to work on IR is our primary guideline as we can understand from the programs been broadcasted for many time. Similarly another reporter R2 responded as “አንድ የምርመራ ዘገባ ላይ የሚሰራ ጋዜጠኛ ምንም እንኳን የፖለቲካ ዝንባሌ

ቢኖረውም በሚሰራው የሙያ ዘገባ ውስጥ ያንን ማንጸባረቅ የለበትም። በተቻለ መጠን ነጻና ገለልተኛ ሆኖ መዘገብ አለበት።” Here views of R2 translated as “Even if the journalist have his own interest of politics, he should not have to reflect his stand by taking political side in the program.”

So therefore, based on views of the respondents and especially the document analyzed, the researcher deduced that there were no sign of taking political side taken by journalists in “Netsa Hasab” in any one of the program been disseminated.

**iv. All good work is done in defiance of management**

The researcher firmly believes that in investigative report, “all good work is done in defiance of management.” Journalists must maintains that this guiding principle does not permit the breaking of laws or rules, but instead encourages reporters to go their own way and carry out an investigation as they see fit. This should be central tenet, and it’s behind the mentality of independence that must fueled reporters career. Do what reporters feel must (within the law) to get the story, even if your manager might disapprove of your methods. Based on this fact, the researcher wanted to know whether reporters in “Netsa Hasab” program free from management influence to report for the sake facts, instead of taking care of directions from management as follows:

I asked an executive producer of the program EP to forward his response on how he perform his good work in defiance of management body in the institution as “እኔ በበኩሌ ይህንን ፕሮግራም ስሰራ የድርጅቱ አመራሮች ይመቻቸዋል ወይስ አይመቻቸውም ሳይሆን ፕሮግራም እወነትና ለማህበረሰቡ ይጠቅማል ወይ ነዉ። በተደረገው ምርመራ ምስጥራዊነቱ ሆነ ተብሎ በህዝብ አይንና ጆሮ እንደደበቅ ከተደረገ ከማጋለጥ ወደ ኋላ አንልም።” EP wanted to mean that “On my side, while working in this program my worry is not whether the management body is comfort in program or not, but my concern is factuality of the program and the benefit it brings to the public. In addition if the program to be investigated is kept secret from the public we reveal it soon.”

Another Media Expert in Walta Television ME replied on the above request as “የምርመራ ዘገባ ሲሰራ አመራሩን ለማስደሰት ሳይሆን እወነታውን ቁልጭ አድርጎ ማሳየት ነዉ። በርግጥ አመራሩ በዘገባዉ ላይደሰት ይችላል ሆኖም ግን ይህ ሙያዊ ግዴታ ነዉ። In his response ME wanted to mean that “The main aim of reporting on investigation is to expose facts and realities as it is appeared, not to satisfy the interest of management.” To summarize, the researcher generalize views of the above respondents and document analyzed it is possible to say that most of programs been aired was running in defiance

of management, but to reveal issues kept secret from the public. In contrast, when it comes to political issue; to some extent the program faced challenges from media managers.

#### 4.1.3. Issues of investigation

To further examine the practice of investigative journalism the researcher asked about issues been covered by “Netsa Hasab” Program. There are a lot of issues that have been covered by investigative reports that can harm public interests. The issues could be politics, corruption and other serious crimes, land grab, abuse of power, and others. Respondents forwarded their views on issues been investigated by Walta’s Netsa Hasab program. Regarding issues covered by investigative report, one of the reporter in Walta television named R1 replied as “የህዝብን ጥቅም የሚጎዱ ብዙ ተግባራት በግለሰቦች እንዲሁም መንግስታዊና መንግስታዊ ያልሆኑ ድርጅቶች ውስጥ ይፈጸማሉ። ዋልታ ቴሌቪዥንም ነጻ ሀሳብ በተሰኘ ፕሮግራሙ የሚፈለገውን ያክል ባይሆንም ህዝቡ ከሚያውቃቸው ጉዳዮች መካከል በተወሰኑት ላይ እየሰራ ይገኛል።” Which R1 wanted to mean that, there are multiple issues must be investigated which most of them are against public interests. Therefore, Walta’s Netsa Hasab had been reporting on some of the mentioned issues.

In contrast to the above view, another reporter in Walta named R2 replied on the same request as: “እኔ እንደተረዳሁት እንዲያውም ህዝቡ ማወቅ የሚፈልጋቸው መጋለጥ ያለባቸው ጉዳዮች አልተነኩም ብዬ ነዉ የማስበዉ። ምክንያቱም ሙስናና ብልሹ አሰራሮች በመንግስት ተቋማት ውስጥ በየጊዜው በይፋ ሲነገር ይሰማል፤ ይህንን ተከታትሎ ማጋለጥ ደግሞ የሚዲያ ስራ መሆን አለበት።” R2 conveyed his views as “As I understand, serious issues like corruption and other irregularities have not been revealed, because, it has been officially said many times that corruption, bribery and other wrong doings have been done in government and other institutions.”

In the same way, one of the journalist in Walta, named J1 replied on the above request as “የምርመራ ዘገባዎች ማንም ሊደርስበት በማይችሉ ወንጀሎች ዙርያ ቢሰራ ይበልጥ ጠቀሜታ ይኖረዋል ነገር ግን እንደዛ አይነት ወንጀሎች ደግሞ በተወሳሰበና ጥንቃቄ በተሞላበት የሚፈጸም ተግባር ስለሆነ መረጃውን ለማግኘት ውስብስብ ፈተናዎች ይገጥማሉ። በቂና ትክክለና መረጃ ሳይገኝ ለመዘገብ ከሞከርክ ደግሞ በስም ማጥፋት ወንጀል ሊያስጠይቅህም ስለሚችል በጥንቃቄ የሚመረመር ስራ መሆን አለበት” which mean, it is better if investigative reports done on hidden issues that the public wants to know, but such issues have done in complex way that makes difficult to get information. Unless it will follows crime of defamation.

Adding to the above respondents, an Executive Producer EP, forwarded his views about issues been covered by Netsa Hasab program as “በፕሮግራሙ ሽፋን ምንሰጣቸው ጉዳዮች በግለሰብ ፍላጎት ላይ የተመሰረተ ሳይሆን ህብረተሰቡ ውስጥ ያለና እውነት ላይ ነው የተመሰረተ መሆን አለበት። በዚህ መሰረት የህብረተሰቡ

ማህበራዊ፣ ኢኮኖሚያዊ፣ የልማትና መልካም አስተዳደር ችግሮች በፕሮግራሙ ምርመራ ሲደረግባቸው ነበር” The overall concept of the respondent is literally translated as follows:

Netsa Hasab program has been covered the socio-economic, development and lack of good governance. Those issues were not based on interests of reporters, but were been investigated to solve societal problems.

Therefore, from the general views of the above respondents, it is possible to deduce that most of the issues been reported by Netsa Hasab program were not serious and complex issues that the journalists gone through to show the public how much it harm public interest. The sample programs disseminated by Netsa Hasab and analyzed by the researcher above also approved the response forwarded by the respondents.

#### **4.1.4. Focus areas of investigation**

Furthermore, to examine the practice of investigative journalism the researcher asked about area of coverage by “Netsa Hasab” Program. There are various issues of public interest to be investigated. The impacts of these issues have direct or indirect contribution to the regular activities of the society. Since Investigative Journalism standing on behalf of the people for those who are in need of voice and striving to report their say in the way that can influence government and private institutions. There is no limit to subject areas requiring investigative treatment. Politics and politicians, government and governance, corruption, health and health care, agriculture, land alienation, the economy, privatization, business and consumer affairs, nongovernmental organizations, the environment, gender issues, religion, human rights, child abuse, public procurement and tender procedures, the list is endless.

Regarding what should be the focusing areas of investigative reporting, respondents were forwarded the views as follows. A journalist in Walta news room called J2 replied as “እኔ እንደምረዳው በነጻ ሀሳብ ፕሮግራምም ሆነ በሌሎች የምርመራ ፕሮግራሞች የፖለቲካ አጃንዳዎች ላይ አተኩረው ሲዘገቡ ይስተዋላል። ፖለቲካ የፖለቲካኞች እንጂ የህዝብ ጉዳይ ሊሆኑ አይችሉም። ስለዚህ መሆን ያለበት የህዝብን ጥቅም የሚጎዱ ጉዳዮችን ለማጋለጥ ቢሰራ ይሻላል።” Which is described as “In Netsa Hasab program or elsewhere in other programs, politics is sensitive areas of reporting. But politics could not be hot issue of the society. So that investigating on issues that can harm the public should be prior areas to be investigated.” In the same way another journalist J3 also replied as “አንዳንዴ ህዝቡ የሚያወቁቸውን ወይም ተመልካችን ትኩረት የማይሰጡ ጉዳዮች ላይ በማተኮር እንደ አዲስ ሲዘገቡ ታያለህ። ስለዚህ ጋዜጠኛው መረጃን በማሳደድ ከህዝብ አይንና ጆሮ የተሰወሩ ጉዳዮች ቢያጋልጥ ጥሩ ነው። ነጻ ሀሳብም ከዚህ የተለየ ዘገባ ሲያቀርብ አይታይም።”

Here J3 wants to mean that, Netsa Hasab program usually reports on areas of familiar agenda that might be politics or other issues that cannot the society wants know. Therefore journalists of Netsa Hasab in Walta Television should sniffing and investigate on public interest.

Another media expert ME3 asked to forward his sight on areas of investigative report in Netsa Hasab as “የምርመራ ዘገባዎች በሙስናና ከባድ ወንጀሎች ዙርያ ቢሆን በተደራሲያ ዘንድ ጥሩ ተቀባይነትና ፋይዳ ይኖረዋል። ነገር ግን ህዝብ ማወቅ በማይፈልጉ ጉዳዮች ዙርያ መዘገቡ ፋይዳ ለውም።” Here, this expert mean that investigative reports should be about corruptions and other complicated crimes that the public wants to know. So reporting on areas of non-significant issue is not important.

According to document analyzed and views of respondents above, the researcher comprehend that most of the areas that Netsa Hasab been covered are politics or other issues that are least and simplest issues the society wants to know.

#### **4.1.5. Sources of investigation**

There are a number of sources that can be used as tip-off by investigative journalism. These might be human sources, institutions, public representatives, and other organizations. Especially human source can also provide expert testimony, elaborate on the statement of other sources, explain evidence, provide opinion and confirm what you already know.

Investigative journalism must base on allegiance sources to conduct deep research and reveal act of corruption and irregularities to public. In investigative journalism, organizing critical and relevant issues based on relevant sources to produce strong and successful program is fundamental. To do so, different sources can be used to cover investigative stories. Some espondents forwarded their view here below. Regarding sources been used by “Netsa Hasab” program, M replied as “ዝግጅት ክፍላችን ብዙ ምንጮች አሉት፡ ለምሳሌ የህዝብ ቀሬታ፣ የፓርላማ የቋሚ ኮሚቴ የአዲት ግኝቶች፣ የጸረ ሙስና ግኝቶችና ሌሎችም ናቸው። ነገር ግን ለምርመራ ዘገባ የመረጃ ምንጭ መሆን ያለበት በዋናነት እራሱ ጋዜጠኛው በሙያዊ ተነሳሽነት ላይ ተመስርቶ መረጃዎችን በማነፍነፍ አጣርቶና አደራጅቶ መዘገብ ሲችል ነው። አለበለዚያ ግን ከሌላ ተቋም ወይም ግለሰብ የተገኘን መረጃ መሰረት በማድረግ የሚዘገብ ዘገባ የምርመራ ዘገባ ሊባል አይችልም።” which translate as follows:

“Netsa Hasab” program has a lot of sources while conducting investigation program; some of them are complaints from public and organizations, reports of standing committee of parliament, anti-corruption commission and others. But sources of investigative report should be the journalist him/herself. Unless otherwise, reports based on sources that are investigated by other organization or individual could not be investigative report of that journalist.

One of the respondent, R1 forwarded his views on what sources been used by Walta's Netsa Hasab program as “የምርመራ ዘጋባ ላይ የሚሰራ አንድ ጋዜጠኛ ሙያውን ጠንቅቆ የሚያወቅና በዛው ልክ ፈተናዎችን በመጋፈጥ በራሱ አነፍንፎና አስፈላጊውን መስዋዕትነት ከፍሎ መዘገብ ሲችል ነው።” translated as “journalists who would like to work on investigative report must understand the profession well, confront every challenges and ready to pay every sacrifices.” On the same question raised above, R2 replied as “የዋልታ ቴሌቪዥን ነጻ ሀሳብ የጀመረው የምርመራ ዘገባ ጥሩ ጅምር በመሆኑ ሊበረታታ ይገባል። ነገር ግን እኔ እኔ እንደተረዳሁት ከሆነ ጋዜጠኞቹ መረጃዎችን በራስ አነፍንፎ መዘገቡ ላይ ወሰንነቶች እንዳሉ እገነዘባለሁ። በሂደት ግን ሊሻሻልና ሊያድግ የሚችል ፕሮግራም በመሆኑ በስራው ጠንክሮ መግፋት አለበት።” Literally mean “Netsa Hasab Investigative report launched in Walta Television is a good start that must be encouraged. But as my understanding there is lack of courage among journalists to report original investigative reports by sniffing information.”

In the same way, R3 forwarded his views on sources investigative programs are using as “በምርመራ ዘገባዎች ታሪክ፣ በተለይ የዋልታን ነጻ ሀሳብ የምርመራ ፕሮግራም ብንመለከት አቀራረቡ ጥሩ ሆኖ የመረጃ ምንጫቸው ግን በጋዜጠኞች የቡድን አባላት ጥረት የተደረሰበት ሳይሆን በሌላ ወገን የተዘገበ ወይም በጥቆማ መልክ የተገኘ ይመስለኛል” which mean that in the history of investigatve report, “Netsa Hasab”, sources are from external rumors and other reports, which is not the original story that is investigated by members of journalists’s team, though its approach is good.

On the request raised regarding sources that have been used in investigative report, one of the Media expert, ME, forwarded his views as “የምርመራ ዘገባን ለመስራት ሚዲያዎች እየተቸገሩ ያሉ ይመስለኛል፣ ምክንያቱ ደግሞ አስተማማኝ የመረጃ ምንጭ ማጣት ወይም ደግሞ ከጋዜጠኛው የሙያ ፍቅርና ብቃት ጋር የሚያያዝ ጉዳይ እንደሆነ እረዳለሁ።” Which mean that Medias are facing problem to work on investigative report because of two reasons, the first one is problem of getting reliable information and the second one is if the journalist himself lack efficiency and adoration to his profession.

In contrast to views of all respondents’ above, M replied as “የመረጃ ምንጮቻችንን በተመለከተ በተቻለ መጠን ጋዜጠኞች በራሳቸው አነፍንፎው የተሰራ መንጀልም ሆነ ጥፋት ላይ እንዲደርሱና እንዲዘገቡ ይደረጋል ሲደረግም ቆይቷል፣ ነገር ግን ባለው ነባራዊ ሁኔታ በተለይ መረጃን ከማግኘት ጋር በተያያዙ ችግሮች ከሌሎች ተቋማት የተገኙ ዘገባዎች፣ ጥቆማዎችና ጭምጭማታዎች ላይ ተመስርተን እንሰራለን።” Which he mean as “To report on investigation, the journalist should research, investigate and report the original story himself as much as possible. But because of lack of information, one can use reports of other Medias and other institutions to investigate it in depth.”

Regarding sources been used by “Netsa Hasab” program, an Excutive Producer of the program EP replied as “ፕሮግራሙ አብዛኛውን ጊዜ የሚዘግበው የጊዜውን ፖለቲካ እና ወቅታዊ ጉዳዮች ላይ በመመስረት ነው

ብዬ አስባለሁ። ነገር ግን ፕሮግራሙን ስንሰራ ከበቂ በላይ ጥናት እናድርጋለን፤ ሰነዶች እናያለን፤ አንድ አንድ ቅጂችንም እናዳምጣለን፤ በመጨረሻ እዉነት ላይ ተመሰረተ ዘገባ ለተመልካች እናቀርባለን። which translated as follows:

Most of the time, the program disseminate about politics and current affairs. Based on that, we made a detail investigation of data and copies of different documents. Finally we aired programs that based on facts and credible evidences.

In general, in investigative report, journalists should use their own way to reveal hidden issues that the public wants to know. But according to views of respondents and documents analyzed above, the researcher concluded that most of the programs investigated were based on sources of other individuals and institutions. In this case, it is difficult to say “Netsa Hasab” program have been fully practicing investigative report.

#### **4.1.6. Challenges to practice investigative journalism**

There are several challenges to practice investigative journalism. These include silence of government and private sectors, lack of access to information, bureaucracy and logistic problems. Shortage of financial resources and training for investigative journalists, lack of editorial support and low commitment of journalists to practice investigative report can be among some challenges.

Respondents were asked to forward their views on challenges that tackle practice of investigative report in Netsa Hasab program. One of the reporters in Walta Television called R1 replied as: “የምርመራ ዘገባን ለመስራት ጋዜጠኞች ከሚገጥማቸው ፈተናዎች መካከል አንዱ መረጃን ያለማግኘት ጉዳይ ነው። ጋዜጠኞች ትክክለኛ መረጃ ላይ ተመስርተው ለመዘገብ ስቃይ ይገጥማቸዋል። ትክክለኛውን መረጃ ለማግኘት ዉጣ ዉረድና ስቃይ ዉስጥ ማለፍን ይጠይቃል።” View of R1 translated as “The main challenge that investigative journalists usually face is problem of access to information. Journalists suffer a lot to investigate factual information. To get the right information, journalists come across a number of difficulties in which you may feel hopeless to be a journalist.”

Regarding challenges of practicing investigative report another reporter in Walta Television named as R2 replied as “የምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት መሪ ሁሉንም እንደሚያዘዉ ከሆነ ስራዉ የሚሰራዉ በቡድን ነዉ። ነገር ግን ካሉብን በቂ የሰዉ ኃይል ችግር ዘገባዎችን የምንሰረዉ በአንድና ሁለት ሰዉ ነዉ። ሌላዉ ስራዉ ብዙ ጊዜ ወስዶ መስራትን የሚጠይቅ ሲሆን በችኮላ እየተሰራ ነዉ። ይህ ሁሉ ከብዙ በጥቂቱ የሚገጥሙን ፈተናዎች ናቸዉ።” View of R2 translated as “investigative report requires team work. But here in Walta, due to lack of man power reports are investigated and disseminated by an individual person. Another challenge is

investigative report needs long period in order to research, investigate and broadcast to the audience. But here programs are organized in a short period of time. These and others are challenges we face to practice investigative report.”

In the same way another reporter called R3 forwarded his views on challenges of exercising investigative report as “አንዳንዴ የምርመራ ዘገባን የሰራህበት ሰው ወይም ድርጅት በስልክ ወይም በአካል ቅሬታ ያቀርብብሃል። ወይም ደግሞ ጫን ካለ ደግሞ ዛቻና ማስፈራራያም የሚያጋጥመምበት ጊዜ አለ።” He replied as translated as “Sometimes, after we conduct investigations, individuals and institutions send us a complains including threat and intimidation.”

Contrasting views of the above respondents, another chief editor called E1 replied on the above request as “በዝግጅት ክፍላችን የምርመራ ዘገባን ለመስራት ፍጹም የሆነ የኤዲቶርያል ነጻነት አለ። ችግሮች ሊኖሩ ይችላሉ ነገር ግን ጋዜጠኛው ፈተናዎችን አልፎ ስራውን መስራት ይኖርበታል።” View of E1 translated as “Journalists have absolute editorial freedom here in Walta Television. Perhaps, there might be challenges to practice IR, but journalists must resist problems to accomplish their aim.”

In similar to the above response, a program director in Walta forwarded his views as “በሀገራችን ነባራዊ ሁኔታ የምርመራ ዘገባን ነጻ ሆነህ ለመስራት ትቸገራለህ፤ ምክንያቱም ሁሉም ነገር የሚያያዘው ከፖለቲካ ጋር ነው። በተለይ ከመንግስት አካል ወይም ተቋም ያልተመቸው ካለ ዘገባውን ለፖለቲካ ፍጆታ እንተጠቀምክ በማስመሰል ወከባ ይፈጥርብሃል። ስለዚህ ነጻ ሆነህ ለመዘገብ ብዙ ችግሮች ይፈታተንሃል፤ ሆኖም ግን ሙያዊ ጥንካሬ ካለህ ትወጠዋለህ። The researcher translated his view as follows:

According to the existing situation in our country, investigative journalists are unable to report investigations. Because every issues are associated with politics. Especially if the issue been covered is about officials and government institutions, be sure that you will face challenges. But if you own professional strength you will succeed.

Regarding challenges been encountered Netsa Hasab program to exercise investigative report in Walta, an Executive Producer EP replied as “ፕሮግራሙን በምንሰራበት ጊዜ ከሚገጥሙን ፈተናዎች መካከል ዋናው ጣልቃ ገብነት ነው። አለቆች ለተቋሙ ሰራተኛ ህይወት ለውጭ ሰው ነው የሚያግዙት። ከፍተኛ የበጀት ችግር አለ፤ ጊዜውን የጠበቀ መረጃ ለማግኘት ችግሮች ይገጥሙናል። በምርመራ ወቅትም ሰዎች ለማግኘት ችግር አለ። ”which mean that “Editorial interference is one of the most challenges to practice IR in general. High budget problem, lack of access to information and lack of confidence among interviewee to respond on issues are among others.”

According to views of the above respondents, it is possible to say that whether they are different in kind, there are a lot of challenges to practice investigative report. Among the challenge are lack of access to information, political interferences, budget problem are among many challenges.

## Phase two: 4.2 Data presentation, discussion and results of sample programs

This part was focused on qualitative thematic analysis of the five selected TV programs of "Netsa Hasab". To know whether Waltas TV "Netsa Hasab" program have been practicing investigative journalism or not. This research was conducted approximately within 11 months, which is from Jan, 2020 to Dec, 2020. The secondary data of this study was collected from the works of Waltas TV "Netsa Hasab" program. The data were selected from a list of 42 "Netsa Hasab" program in the periods from March 2019 - May, 2020. Among those programs five of them had been selected purposefully by applying some characteristics, which are issues been covered and areas of the coverage.

### i. Sample programs include

- The program of power competition and conflict of interest (March 14, 2019)
- The program of political corruption and abuse of power (October, 31 2019)
- The program on absence of good governance and government (November, 13 2019)
- The program of the violation of rules and regulation in private schools (May, 1 2020)
- The program on lack of quality service in health sector (May, 6 2020)

**Table 1: Selected sample programs: Perceived Themes of the Issues**

No.	Title of the program	General content of the coverage	Themes of the Issue	Attitudes		Areas of Coverage
1	Central committee of Tigray Peoples' Liberation Front (TPLF), Ato Getachew Reda (March 14, 2019)	The program was intended to expose the power competition and conflict of interest between/among ruling party of central committee members.	Isolation (Departure from coalition) Power competition Conflict of interest	HG	Pro-EPRDF/TPLF (Former ruling party) Anti-central government	TPLF, Higher Official
				PP	Neutral	
2	“የፖለቲካ አመራሩ የብቃት ማነስ ነው ችግሩን እዚህ ያደረሰው” Azeb Mesfin, Former first lady (October, 31 2019)	The program was intended to expose the existing political corruption and abuse of power within ruling party.	Political Corruption Abuse of power Lack of transparency Lack of Accountability Conflict of interest within of ruling party system	HG	Pro- political reform... Anti-own party (former EPDRF/TPLF)	Individual
				PP	Pre-determind judgement	
3	“የሞግዚትነት አስተዳደር ተመድቦልን ነበር” Ato Abate Kish, Former President of S/N/N	The program was intended to expose the absence of good governance and government that practiced before political reform in Ethiopia. It is	Political claim Abuse of power Lack of transparency Lack of Accountability Political reform	HG	Pro-political reform and current political leaders Anti EPDRF/TPLF and leader (former ruling party)	Individual

	and People of South region (November, 13 2019)	supposed to claim the political system, especially on abuse of power, governance and government.		PP	Judgmental	
4	“ከፍታን በተመለከተ ውሳኔ ሰጪውም፣ ነጂውም የግል ት/ቤቶች የፈረጠመ የጡንቻኝነት አካሄድ ነው” Ato Zelalem Mulat, Addis Ababa Schools bureau head (May, 1 2020)	The program was intended to expose violation of rules and regulation. Specially, the extent of rent-seeking by private schools in Addis Ababa city.	Violating rules and regulations Private schools Rent seeking Covid-19	HG PP	Pro-government policy Anti-private schools  Neutral	Government official
5	“ህክምና ከካድሬዎ አሰራርና ስምሪት ነፃ ወጥቷል” Dr. Yohannes Chala, Addis Ababa City Health Bureau head (May, 6 2020)	The program was intended to expose lack of quality service within/among health sector.	Lack of Quality service in health sector Covid-19 Lack of skilled management Rent seeking	HG PP	Pro covid 19 mitigation plan Anti-own institutional capacity  Neutral	Government Official

**NB; Abrivations indicated that, Hounerd Goust (HG) and Producer and Presenter (PP) of the program.**

**ii. The discussion and results of sample programs**

The following section presented and discussed the themes that emerged from sample programs. The researcher tried to interpret the data with a manageable number of themes. The analysis and discussion of selected programs were categorised in to three major themes based on the research questions. In addition, important issues pointed out in the literature review are also incorporated in the discussion of the selected programs.

**4.2.1 The program of power competition and conflict of interest (March 14, 2019)**

**Overview**

This program consisted single episode disseminated on, March 14, 2019. The program had screening time of 56 minutes. According to the producer & presenter of the program, this program was produced for the purpose of knowing the political situation taking place in the country and a need to inform the views of the honoured guest on the existing reality between central government and Tigray region. Accordingly an executive producer of the program Simeneh Bayeferse went to Mekele to interview member of the central committee of Tigray Peoples’ Liberation Front (TPLF), Ato Getachew Reda. Over all, this program carry data’s of different issues that collected by producer himself and also carried data of interviewee’s response on questions raised by the producer.

### ➤ **The practice of Investigative Journalism by the program**

**The issue of the program:** The issue of the first sample program was covered about politics and political situations at the time. The journalist was intended to know views of the honoured guest on central government and their aspiration in existing political situation, as well as their interest in near future. As a result, the perceived content of the issue showed that, the program clearly reflect the polarization between the current ruling party and TPLF. The program had also reflected the dominant view between Prosperity Party (PP) and Tigray Peoples' Liberation Front (TPLF) has been that disagreement in ruling party political system and how things should generate political competition rather than negotiation. The discussion and opinions reflected has showed that, how disagreements contributed to a polarized political landscape between the ruling party and the need to isolate from coalition. On the other hand, accommodating this diversified views and interests are also a central debate of the program.

**The extent of the investigation:** Investigative journalists are expected to apply special methods to gain deep understanding about the issue they need to cover. In this regard, the journalist used his own experience to choose the issue and areas investigation. To do so, the data collection, analyses and framing of selected issues and preparation of interview questions were made by the journalist himself. As such, the issue been investigated was concerning about politics and political situation in Ethiopia. During production, to get a deep understanding about the existing reality, the journalist raised a lot of generative, challenging and additional questions in hard talk form.

**The sources of the program:** Here in the program, producer and presenter of the program used the current political situation going on especially after the reform taken place the country. In the context of sources have been used for program preparation, the journalist used his personal observation and experience; based on tendencies and political change in the country as a source of this program. In fact the program feed the audience about the political tension between the Federal government and Tigray region. Therefore the program can easily investigate political issues so as easy in contrast to the principle that investigative report requires.

### ➤ **Discussion of results**

As stated in this study, investigative journalism is an intellectual process...a business of gathering and sorting ideas and facts, building patterns, analysing options and making decisions based on logic rather than emotion — including the decision to say no at any of the several

stages” (Paul N. Williams, cited in Protess et. al. 1991: 4, 24n). In practice, the reporting must be “one’s own work product and initiative, the subject must be a matter of reasonable importance to the viewer; and, somebody must be attempting to hide these matters from the public.

In this context the researcher analyse the perceived content of the coverage as follows: In the context of **perceived content** of the issue, public interest was linked to ideas of political situation taking place in Central government and Tigray region. As such, the program expresses the power computation and conflict of interest within ruling party. At that time, in Ethiopia in general, where political corruption, abuse of power and other wrongdoings were practiced everywhere; the program was addressed only about the power competition and conflict of interest within the ruling party. On this basis, issues been covered are not strong and serious programs of public interests like serious crimes, smuggling and other strong crimes to be investigate and revealed to the society. Based on the above facts, the coverage has nothing with public interest; rather, it has supposed to express about routine activities that everyone knows. On this basis, the program was not as such burning issue of the public to be exposed. Because, the program was not expose any hidden facts of uncover information of important. On the other hand, as the power and status of the honoured guest, the coverage was not exposing any unethical, immoral and illegal activities of government and politicians.

To further examine, this program the researcher used additional parameter, which are to what extent the issues of the program investigated and presented. In investigation report the program must concentrate on depth of the program to enable the audience to look deep in to the program to get vast information about the program. Investigative journalism needs verification and deeper understanding of particular issues along with hard evidence presented in program reporting. In the context of approaches used for investigation and depth of the coverage, the program was lacks qualities of practicing investigative reporting based on both primary and secondary sources of data gathered. The producer and presenter of the program Simeneh Bayeferse investigated the issue on specific areas. On these regard, the result showed that, the journalist was neutral from deep understanding of the issue to be investigative more. Therefore, issues addressed were lacks depth and width.

**Theme:** In the context of **perceived themes** of the issue, public interest was linked to ideas of isolation (departure from coalition), power competition and conflict of interest. On this basis, perceptions of the issue as express the political situation taking place in both central government

and Tigray region. As such, the theme of the issue intended to express the power computation and conflict of interest within ruling party.

**Attitude:** Power competition and conflict of interest as a sign of isolation in the context of general attitudes in program covered; isolate was expressed as having an attitude supporting one's own party (TPLF) and opposing current ruling party (Prosperity Party). Looking at the data for support of own regional state and exhibition of negative attitudes toward central government.

Furthermore, to examine this program the researcher used additional parameter that the researcher measures the journalist position in the issue, which are focused on the main actor of the program. This category was that of perception of main actor in the issue and the level of action. The producer and presenter of the program was the main actor of this story. In doing so, the journalist was neutral from taking any side of political party. The journalist stands on behalf of the public to enable the audience to look deep into the current political situation in the country. Based on the analysed program and the facts that have appeared, the researcher concluded that the program covered was not as such a burning issue of the public to be exposed. Based on these bases, the program was not practiced investigative journalism.

#### **4.2.2 The program of political corruption and abuse of power (October, 31 2019)**

##### **Overview**

The second sample program has consisted of weekly programs of three episodes, disseminated on October 31, 2019. All the three episodes had an average screening time of 24 minutes. Each episode had a variety of dates about issues that were collected by the producer himself and also carried data of interviewee's response on questions raised by producer. According to the producer & presenter of the program, this program was produced for the purpose of knowing corruptions committed before the reform and to what direction the political reform is going. Accordingly, an executive producer of the program Simeneh Bayferse honoured former first lady Azeb Mesfin to hold a discussion. Below, the researcher presents the analysis of this program whether practicing investigative journalism or not.

##### **➤ The practice of Investigative Journalism by program**

**The issue of the program:** Issue of corruption is one of the programs covered and disseminated by "Netsa Hasab" program. In the second sample program of this study, producer and presenter of the program Simeneh Bayferse honoured former first lady Azeb Mesfin to hold

a discussion. Most of the discussion was about corruptions committed before the reform, about the current political affairs, to what direction the political reform is going and others. The discussion and opinions carried in the program had intended to express criticising the ruling party system which was existed before a political change and in contrast, express to support the political change, as well as, aspiration to expand Ethiopian democratic Space. On the other hand, corruptions committed before the reform and abuse of power was also a central debate of the program.

**The extent of the investigation:** Investigative journalism is a particular way of newsgathering practice where journalists deeply investigate one or more stories over a longer period of time in order to create deeper knowledge on the subject and confirm multisource information and build a trusted report. This means that a reporter should go beyond reporting events, gathering more news information than any single event can yield. In-depth reporting requires reporters to be persistent, focused, and proactive. Based the above facts, the researcher analysed the programs based on how much the program investigated in-depth. In this regarded, the journalist used his own experience and observation to choose the issue and areas investigation. To do so, the data collection, analyses, framing of selected issues, preparation of interview questions and presentation of the program; all tasks were conduct by the journalist himself. There was no effort needed to investigate the program. In other words the presenter simply invites the hounred guest on the program to hold a discussion. Therefore, no research, a little bit effort to gather additional information, and no challenges, it's all about discussion and debate. In contrast, during discussion, the presenter raised a number of challenging question to clarify problems of good governance, corruption, lack of freedom and others. In this regard, the discussion and way presentation was; to same extent had in-depth and width discussing on different issues.

**The sources of the program:** In investigative reporting, source plays a pivotal role to bring about credibility of the program. In the context of sources have been used for program preparation, the journalist used his personal observation and experience; based on tendencies and political change in the country as a source of this program.

#### ➤ **Discussion of results**

As stated in this study, Investigative journalism is all about uncover scandals that are aimed at detecting violations of laws, rules or norms of decency, by organizations or individuals. Stories covered were also needs to draw attention to social, economic, political and cultural trends, which are aimed at detecting changes in society. Moreover, investigative journalism should call

the powerful to account, and expose corruption. It has nothing to do with prying into the private lives of individual – that’s a separate matter. In this context the researcher analyse the **perceived content** of the program as follows:

In the context of perceived **content** of the issue, public interest was linked to ideas of political corruption, lack of accountability; abuse of power, desperation existed within ruling party and different irregularities observed in the former ruling party. On this basis, the researcher analyse the program based on issues have been covered and areas of investigation takes place (the honoured guest). Where several irregularities practiced by higher officials in deferent governmental organisations and the socio-economic and political problems of the society to be investigated more; issues been covered are not strong and serious programs of public interests. Because, Azeb Mesfin was one of the former authorized persons. Political system before the reform was collapsed, in the same way Azeb is not in any political position now. Therefore raising issues of corruption and other irregularities for Azeb was not that much significant. If the program were arranged during the Azeb was on power that sounds great. So the program lacks its timeliness according to principles of investigative journalism. In contrast, if the program were arranged during the Azeb was on power that sounds great. At the time, Azeb was not in any political position. In this regard, an issue of the program was not that much matter of public interest. So the program lacks its timeliness according to principles of investigative journalism.

Based on these results, the program was the program lacks detail investigation, depth data gathering and organizing. Though that essential facts are omitted about former first lady. In general; to same extent, there has been a disparity in the description of the concept was mentioned in the study.

**Theme:** In the context of perceived themes of the issue, public interest was linked to ideas of desperation (excluded from central committee and political power), political corruption, abuse of power and political reform. On this basis, perceptions of the issue as express corruptions committed before the reform, about the current political affairs, to what direction the political reform is going and others. As such, the theme of the issue intended to express criticising the ruling party system which was existed before a political change and in contrast, express to support the political change, as well as, aspiration to expand Ethiopian democratic Space.

**Attitude:** political corruption, abuse of power and political reform as desperation in the context of general attitudes in program covered; desperation was expressed as having an attitude supporting political reform takes place in the country and opposing own party (TPLF). Looking,

at the data for support of current central government and exhibition of negative attitudes toward own regional state (Tigray regional state).

Furthermore, in the context of perceived attitudes of the journalist; the discussion was made based on pre-determined judgment. This category was that of perception of the journalist in the issue (position) and the level of action. The selection of the story and discussion was conducted based on the journalist interest. The journalist holds the discussion and debate based on pre-determined judgment about honoured guest. Looking, the perception of the journalist, he perceive the honoured guest as one of main actor of all irregularities mentioned in the discussion. On this basis, the journalist is obeying principle of investigative journalism in case of leaving opinion out of the story been reported.

#### **4.2.3. The program on absence of good governance and government (November, 13 2019)**

##### **Overview**

The third sample program consisted weekly programs of two episodes, disseminated on, November, 13 2019. All the three episodes had an average screening time of 36 minutes. Each of episodes had carry dates of different issues that collected by producer from reported documents from both primary and secondary sources as evidence in a well-organized way and also carried data of interviewees response based on questions raised by producer. According to the producer & presenter of the program, this program was produced for the purpose of exposing abuse of power, violation of rules and other irregularities; which was practiced in federal and regional government before the reform. Accordingly, Former President of South Nation Nationalities and People of South region, Abate Kisho was honoured to the program to discuss on issues of government and governance.

##### **➤ Analysis of the practice of Investigative Journalism by the program**

**The issue of the program:** The third program investigated by "Netsa Hasab" was issues related to lack of good governance emanated from interference, irregularities and violation of laws in federal government before the reform. The discussion and opinions carried by the program had considered to express claim of political system before the political change in the country and in contras, express to support the political change, as well as, reflect aspiration to expand Ethiopian democratic space, political stability, peace, and security; and attaining the rule of law.

**The extent of the investigation:** The program used current political affairs depending on the issues going on at that time. In that report, as discussed in the program, lack of good governance, violation of laws, and other irregularities that are a cause for public complain. Regarding efforts of producers of the program, additional information and documents were researched based on that report. The presenter also mentions information from different angle to allow the interviewee to discuss problems of good governance in detail.

**The sources of the program:** The third sample program indicated that, the program was investigated and disseminated to the audience in a broad way in depth and width that principles of investigative journalism require. The program included reported documents from both sources as evidence in a well-organized way.

### ➤ **Discussion of results**

Investigative journalism has a great contribution to realize democracy, good governance and human rights. It has considered as vital safeguard of democracy as a way of checkpoint the wrong doing in politics and public policies (O’Neil, 1992). In the above context, the researcher analyse the third program as follows: In the context of perceived content of the issue, public interest was linked to ideas of governance and government. The program was intended to expose the absence of good governance and government before political change. It is supposed to claim the political system before political reform which is existed in country; especially on abuse of power, governance and government. On this basis, issues of government and governance are one the most significant issue that every Media should investigate on to alarm the society to struggle for their right. Therefore, the program given coverage was the most significant issue to be broadcasted. So the researcher concluded that “Netsa Hasab” program of Walta had been given coverage to program that the society wants to know. Its significance was that much important than ever. The way the presenter himself tried to raise serious and strong questions to the hosted guest to make clear where the problem was presented in a good manner.

Furthermore, as mentioned in this study, there are various ways of looking at investigative reporting. At the most basic level, investigative journalism can be considered as a set of research and reporting techniques that are used to uncover information that is secret, kept hidden, or is otherwise difficult to get. Other reporters use these techniques, but investigative journalists employ them in a more systematic and intensive way. Based on this, the researcher analyse this program as follows: In the context of depth of investigation and sources have been applied in these program also perceived as a strong part of the program. As such, regarding efforts of

producers of the program, variety of information and documents were researched based on the issue. During discussion, the presenter of the program mentions information from different angle to allow the interviewee to discuss problems of good governance in detail. This helps the journalist to make his story build and present his information in constrictive way. On this basis, the perceived attitude of the journalist linked with judgmental than neutral about the subject.

**Theme:** In the context of perceived themes of the issue, public interest was linked to ideas of governance, government and political claim. On this basis, perceptions of the issue as express the absence of good governance and government before political change. It is supposed to claim the political system before political reform which is existed in country. As such, the theme of the issue intended to expresses abuse of power, governance and government.

**Attitude:** Absence of good governance and violation of rules by the government as political claim isolation in the context of general attitudes in program covered; political claim (governance) was expressed as having an attitude supporting political reform and opposing the former political system existed in country. Looking, the perception for support of current ruling party (PP) and exhibition of negative attitudes toward former ruling party (EPRDF).

#### **4.2.4 The program of the violation of rules and regulation in private schools (May, 1 2020)**

##### **Overview**

The fourth sample program consisted weekly programs of two episodes, disseminated on, May, 1 2020. All the three episodes had an average screening time of 41 minutes. Each of episodes had carry data's from public rumours, data's of different issues that collected and presented by the journalist himself and also carried data of interviewees response on questions raised by the producer. According to the producer & presenter of the program, this program was produced for the purpose of exposing illegal activities in educational sector. Accordingly, the presenter honoured Addis Ababa schools bureau head, Zelalem Mulat.

##### **➤ The practice of Investigative Journalism by "Netsa Hasab" program**

**The issue of the program:** Education is one of the social affairs that the program been disseminated. The presenter honoured Addis Ababa schools bureau head, Zelalem Mulat. The program investigated about irregular request of payment in private schools and complains of student's family, lack of follow up and control from the government and problem of the pandemic Corona Virus. Quality of Education is also another agenda raised by the presenter. The

program was intended to expose violation of rules and regulation, especially which was practiced in private schools. Furthermore, education is one of the most sectors of social affairs. The sector is one of the huge social affairs hit by Covid-19. Because of this pandemic Corona virus, creating awareness in the school and community at large, it was more significant to discuss on the issue. Complain of student's family about monthly fee was of the burning issue discussed on the program. Education quality is another agenda raised by the presenter. In general speaking, problems in education sector are the most challenges to realize development in Addis Ababa City.

**The extent of the investigation:** One of the parameters applied by the researcher to analyse the sample programs was its depth of investigation about the story. It has a purpose to evaluating the techniques used by the journalist. In this context, the researcher analysed the fourth sample program as follows: In the fourth sample program the producer uses public rumours as source of the story and then, the journalist added additional datas from both primary and secondary sources. In addition, during discussion the producer and presenter of the program raised a number of questions and debate with the honoured guest so as to enable the audience to understand the program. Problems like enforcing the family to pay monthly salary violating rules and regulations impose due to Covid-19. Reckless activities of schools to prevent the pandemic Corona Virus, problems to bring education quality and other issues were raised and discussed in detail. Therefore depth and width of the program was one of the parameter that makes the program to give vast information to the audience.

**The sources of the program:** The fourth sample program also indicated that, to conduct investigation on the above issues, first the journalist uses public rumours as a source of the story. Then, to construct the story and to undertake his investigative research, the journalist used different documents and files as a source. Therefore, both primary and secondary sources were applied in the program.

#### ➤ **Discussion of results**

As stated in this study, investigative journalism plays a crucial role in bringing claims of corruption and illegal activities so as to enable the society to fight against it. In addition, investigative programs have fundamental role in realizing accountability and transparency among government officials and organizations for whatsoever activities they have to perform. In this regard, the **general content** of the program was analysed as follows: In the context of **perceived contents** of the issue, public interest was linked to ideas of transparency,

accountability and illegal activities in educational sector. The program investigated about irregular request of payment in private schools and complains of student's family, lack of follow up and control from the government and problem of the pandemic Corona Virus. Further, issues been covered in this program was hot issues associated with Covid-19 in which government and private school owners were criticized in detail. The program was also forward basic information on how must schools host students and parents should handle students to prevent covid-19. On this basis, the issues investigated by the program were one of the public matters program aired in Walta Television. The program was intended to expose violation of rules and regulation; especially the extent of rent-seeking in private schools. Based on the above facts, the researcher strongly believed that; the program was one of the most significant program of "Netsa Hasab" that achieving the public interest.

**Theme:** In the context of **perceived themes** of the issue, public interest was linked to ideas of Social obligation, rent-seeking, accountability and violation of rules and regulation. On this basis, perceptions of the issue as express the violation of rules and regulation; especially the extent of rent-seeking in private schools and also forward basic information on how must schools host students and parents should handle students to prevent covid-19. As such, the theme of the issue intended to expresses illegal activities in educational sector; especially the extent of rent-seeking in private schools.

**Attitude:** Accountability and violation of rules and regulation as social obligation in the context of general attitudes in program covered; social obligation was expressed as having an attitude supporting government's educational policy and strategy (wishes to improve quality of education and attaining the rule of law in private schools) and opposing private schools.

#### **4.2.5 The program on lack of quality service in health sector (May, 6 2020)**

##### **Overview**

The fifth sample program consisted weekly programs of two episodes, disseminated on, May, 6 2020. All the three episodes had an average screening time of 48 minutes. Each of episodes had carry data's of different issues that collected by producer himself and also carried data of interviewee's response on questions raised by producer. According to the journalist, this program was produced for the purpose of exposing lack of quality service in health sector, especially; lack of laboratorial test, shortage of drug and problem of emergency cases. Accordingly, Simeneh Bayeferse honoured Addis Ababa City Health Bureau head, Dr. Yohannis Chala. The discussion

and opinions carried by the program had considered to express government opinions on health sector and need to protect public health from Covid-19.

➤ **The practice of Investigative Journalism by "Netsa Hasab" program**

**The issue of the program:** Health sector is one of the most decisive social sectors that “Netsa Hasab” program presented to the audience. Simeneh Bayeferse honoured Addis Ababa City Health Bureau head, Dr. Yohannis Chala. In the program problems regarding health care service, lack of laboratorial test and shortage of drug, problem of emergency case and others are discussed in detail.

**The extent of the investigation:** As mentioned in the above, Investigative reports require a long period of time to organize sources of the story and in depth research. This program was researched and investigated by pinpointing each and every problem in the health sector in Addis Ababa health sector. The program entertained about problem of management body in the health sector that unable to follow up and control the sector to minimize public complains.

**The sources of the program:** According to the researcher analysis, the main source of the fifth sample program was the presenter of the program himself. The journalist used his personal observation and experience as a source of investigation. The existing environment in the country helps as imputes to choose these story for production.

➤ **Discussion of results**

As stated in this study, investigative journalism is a form of journalism in which reporters go in-depth to investigate a single story that may uncover corruption, review government policies or of corporate houses, or draw attention to social, economic, political or cultural trends. An investigative journalist, or team of journalists, may spend months or years researching a single topic. Investigative reporting depends on material gathered through the reporter’s own initiative. The practice aims at exposing public matters that are otherwise concealed, either deliberately or accidentally. In this context the researcher analyse the perceived content of the coverage as follows: In the context of perceived content of the issue, public interest was linked to ideas of social responsibility, lack of quality service in health sector, lack of laboratorial test and shortage of drug, problem of emergency case and others are discussed in detail. On this basis, Health sector is one of the most significant sectors to protect public health. “Netsa Hasab” program gives priority to this sector to aware the society about diseases that can harm the society by criticizing government bodies by showing every mistake happen in every level in the sector.

Therefore the program investigated was very relevant in time and space by addressing what the government should do to improve society's health.

To further examine, this program the researcher used additional parameter, which are to what extent the issues of the program investigated and presented. As mentioned above, investigation method remarkably enriches journalist's research techniques, improves ways of content representation, and has an influence on genres, composition forms, and stylistic characteristics of the text. It can be resulting in specific types of mass media production such as "investigative" newspapers, TV programs, web sites, documentary books. (Reang and Nariddh, 2007) On this basis, in the context of depth of investigation and sources used for this production, the researcher analysed the results as follows: According to the story analysed these program was produced by one journalist in a short period of time in contrast to principles of Investigative Journalism. From the actual performance of the program, one can obviously understand that the program lacks detail investigation, depth data gathering and organizing. In fact, the program was tried to spin out about the issue regarding administrative problem to control irregularities and take measures. On the other hand, this program has been investigating issues about problems in health sector clearly by exposing variety of secrets that health professions tried to hide. Therefore, with all its problems the program contributed its Media role by clicking the government to monitor health sectors to solve public complain.

**Theme:** In the context of **perceived themes** of the issue, public interest was linked to ideas of social responsibility, lack of quality service in health sector. On this basis, perceptions of the issue as express, lack of quality service in health sector, lack of laboratorial test and shortage of drug, problem of emergency case. As such, the theme of the issue intended to expresses the social responsibility and accountability of health sector

**Attitude:** , lack of quality service in health sector, lack of laboratorial test and shortage of drug, problem of emergency case as aspire of social responsibility and accountability in the context of general attitudes in program covered; social responsibility was expressed as having an attitude supporting governments mitigation plan on Covid-19 and opposing institutional management capacity.

## CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

### 5.1 Summary of Findings

According to the research finding, there is only an attempt to practice investigative report in Walta Television. Therefore, as analysed by the researcher, even though there is a good start exercising profession of investigative journalism in Walta. But it is at an infant stage, contrasting the socio-economic and political problems of the society to be investigated more. The finding of the study was indicated that lack of institutional support, political interference by media managers and chief editorials and absence of a clear-cut and independent investigative journalism guideline. In this result, investigative programs are not well researched and analysed before story presentation. In addition, there was also lack of organised team, lack of skilled man power and limited resources (budget & equipment) to conduct investigative programs are the major findings. The findings are presented and categorised in to three levels. The following are the major factors perceived to constrain the practice of investigative reporting in walta TV's of "Netsa Hasab" program.

#### I. Organizational Level:

- (a) **Lack of Acquit Organizational Support;** Investigative reporting is not enshrined in the editorial polices of the Walta; efforts by individual reporters are not supported since this type of journalism is not regarded as a priority. As a result, limited logistics are put into place to encourage journalists to do more investigative journalism.
- (b) **Lack of resources:** Inadequacy of resources provides the following problems;  
**Transport:** Lack of transport curtails mobility and hampers the performance of journalists. Most investigative work requires ready transport in order to keep contact with sources. **Equipment:** The existing equipment in walta is obsolete. The impact of this constraint is greater for practitioners in the "Netsa Hasab" who may need cameras, recorders and other gadgets required in the gathering of information. **Low Salaries:** Netsa Hasab program is conducted on limited budget; it is not possible for waltas TV to pay their employees reasonable salaries and allowances. Consequently, journalists have no motivation to work extra hours beyond the normal call of duty, which is the norm in investigative reporting. This is more so because investigative reporting is mainly done outside normal working hours.

## **II. Production Level:**

- (a) **Walta's Media gatekeepers;** In practice, gatekeeping process involves the selection and modification of sentences, paragraphs and even stories while others may be paraphrased, shortened or deleted all together. In Walta TV, this is the job of editors who serves as a major check for "Netsa Hasab" stories prepared for dissemination. In doing so, they create limitations for the investigations of certain topics, people and situations. The study finding indicated that, there are political interference by media managers and editors.
- (b) **Editorial Policy:** It is clear that walta TV do not have a clear-cut guideline on the desirability of pursuing stories that call for thorough investigations. Consequently, producer and presenter of "Netsa Hasab" program do not feel obliged to do so. There is no independent investigative journalism guideline and organised professional team. As a result, Investigative programs are not well researched and analysed before story presentation. Because of this, it is not possible for journalists to produce best stories.

## **III. Professional Level**

**Lack of sufficient and skilled manpower:** It is observed on both in number and technical skills of investigative reporting. Walta TV's are yet large and diversified enough to afford a specialized investigative unit. Investigative journalists in Walta TV's lack access to formal skills and training in the art of investigative journalism.

## 5.2 Conclusions

The main objective of this research paper was to analyse the practice of investigative journalism in Walta Television by exhibiting Netsa Hasab of Walta Television. To answer the basic research questions and to meet the objectives of the study, descriptive analytical method of data collection through a qualitative approach employed. Since the study needs description and analysis of the existing situation in "Netsa Hasab" program, in relation to practice of investigative journalism, the researcher used in-depth individual interview and analysis of five sample selected programs. In-depth individual interview was applied to dig out detailed and reliable data about the topic. The researcher has selected interviewees based on (a), their background knowledge & experience they have; (b), their proximity to the subject matter; and (c), that of decision-makers who get to decide what makes it to the program or not. Five sample programs were also analysed to confirm with the interviewees' responses on the issues been covered. Accordingly, the researcher analysed five programs that cover governance, government and political affairs. This research paper has also considered investigative journalism in relation to its definition, role, method and challenges. In addition, some theoretical foundations regarding investigative journalism were also raised.

This study was looks the concept of Investigative Journalism as being different from other forms of journalism. The Literature review indicates that, investigative journalism can be distinguished from other activities and products by certain identifiable characteristics and practices. It is a particular way of newsgathering practice where journalists deeply investigate one or more stories over a longer period of time in order to create deeper knowledge on the subject and confirm multisource information and build a trusted report. Stories reporting crime, political corruption, financial frauds, human trafficking, corporate wrongdoing, and other difficult subjects need more time than usual reporting and journalists may spend weeks or months investigating such a report. This distinction brings to bear the importance as well as the limitations of investigative reporting in Walta Television.

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

- ❖ Regarding practice of investigative journalism in Walata Television, the research finding shows that it is only an attempt of practicing profession of investigative journalism with very low accomplishment, according to views of respondents and document analysed

- ❖ The study finding also indicated that, most of the time, investigative programs are based on sources that have been discovered by other institutions. But the finding shows that there is no; or very little participation of journalists in the institution to get sources by their own effort. Because the profession taught that investigative report needs participation of the journalist in the story that investigated. In this case one cannot say "Netsa Hasab" program is practicing investigative report, rather it exercising reporting investigative report.
- ❖ In addition, the research result shows that lack of access to information is one of the major challenges that journalists experienced in Walta Television. This one on its side also infers journalists in gathering information and report as expected
- ❖ The theoretical framework in this study used the social responsibility theory of press in practicing investigative journalism. Siebert, Peterson, and Schramm; Social Responsibility theorists studied under the theoretical framework stated that: The concept of Social Responsibility theory is “Freedom of expression under the social responsibility theory is not an absolute right, as under pure libertarian theory. One’s right to free expression must be balanced against the private rights of others and against vital society interest. In Social Responsibility Theory, the press is taken to be for the people and society. The tasks of the press is to make a code of conduct and follow it, to develop a standard in journalism, to make journalism better, to protect journalists and to have penalties if any journalist violates the code of conduct. The media is taken as a place for the voiceless to have a voice and develop public opinions where each and every person has the right to speak, express and publish. It is considered not an end but a tool for social development.

In this context, according to document analysed results of this study showed that, issues been covered are not strong and serious programs of public interests like serious crimes, smuggling and other strong crimes to be investigate and revealed to the society. Most of Walta's TV "Netsa Hasab" programs are mainly focused on issues of political, social and good governance. But the program lacks giving coverage on issues of land grabbing, serious crimes, smuggling, human trafficking, money laundry, mal- administration and failure of system. In addition, on the focused area of their coverage, Walta's TV "Netsa Hasab" programs are mainly focused on governmental organizations. But the program lacks giving coverage on private companies, non-governmental organizations and

individuals (criminals). So, the research finding realized that the Media institution (Walta Media and Communication) was unable to perform its responsibility as expected.

- ❖ Although, the theoretical background in this study applied the concept of media gatekeeping theory as working theory in practicing investigative journalism. Pamela Shoemaker, one of the Media gatekeeping theorist studied under the literature review stated that: "Gatekeeping is the process through which information in publications, broadcasting, and the Internet is filtered for dissemination". In the media world, a number of gatekeepers exist to ensure standards and expectations are met. This process involves the selection and modification of sentences, paragraphs and even stories while others may be paraphrased, shortened or deleted all together. In Walta TV, this is the job of editors who serves as a major check for all stories prepared for public consumption. In doing so, they create limitations for the investigations of certain topics, people and situations. The research finding clarified that there is limited editorial freedom to conduct detail research and investigating issues of public interests, though it is on infant stage to practice the reality. So, the research finding realized that the program (Netsa Hasab) was unable to perform its responsibility as expected.
- ❖ Furthermore, this study was also applied the principles of investigative journalism as journalistic professional practice (the role of journalists in society). Bob Woodward, one of the world's most well-known investigative journalists studied under the literature review stated his four principles of investigative journalism to guide investigative reporters in the process of finding and reporting their own stories. Those principles are: move outside your comfort zone, leave opinion out, avoid taking political sides and all good work is done in defiance of management. These principles are help reporters to produce effective & efficient investigative programs. In this context, "Netsa Hasab" program and producers they applied are lacks to meet principles of investigative journalism. In general concept, based on the views of respondents and the document analyzed the researcher can understand that reporters and other journalists in "Netsa Hasab" program had been going through challenging environment while researching, investigating and reporting on investigations. On one hand, the institution has encountered lack of skilled man power to run the program effectively. This also plays its negative role not to run investigative programs consistently. On the other hand, to some extent; professionals are obeying principle of investigative journalism in case of leaving opinion out of the story been reported. In addition, "Netsa Hasab" programs were lacks

qualities of practicing principles of investigative reporting based on both primary and secondary sources of data gathered. In this regard, there was not strong performance of principle of investigative journalism in there practice.

- ❖ Furthermore, Walta media and communication do not have a clear-cut and independent investigative journalism guideline. “Netsa Hasab” program is not independent from internal influence. The program lacks editorial freedoms. In this regard, the finding of the study indicated that, there are political interference by media managers and chief editorials. In addition, investigative programs are not well researched and analysed before story presentation. There are also lack of organized team and limited resource (budget & equipment) to conduct investigative programs.

### 5.3 Recommendations

Based on findings of the study, the following recommendations are forwarded

- ❖ As the study result indicates, there is only an attempt of practicing profession of investigative journalism without any fully practice. So the institution should encourage the program so as to serve the public by contributing its media role.
- ❖ As known the quality of investigative journalism needs participation of the journalist himself, rather than reporting stories that other organization discovered. Therefore journalists of investigative programs in Walta should have committed enough to discover different issues themselves and expose it to the public.
- ❖ Most of respondents confirmed that there is limited editorial freedom to report investigative stories. So by using this limited freedom as an opportunity, journalists should have to apply their professional role by investigating serious issues that can harm the public interests.
- ❖ As the research finding implies, issues been covered were not as such a hard hitting serious issues like complicated corruption activities, smuggling, crimes, land grabbing, mal- administration, failure of system and others. Therefore journalists of investigative programs in Walta should have to sniff serious and hidden issues and unearth it to the society.
- ❖ Stories been broadcasted by "Netsa Hasab" of Walta Television were not based on a hard hitting questions and are not based on follow up stories. For this reason, investigative program producers and editors must focuses on how the program would be strong and serious in its approach. In this context, it was recommended that the program should have to apply principles of investigative journalism.
- ❖ Government institutions like anti-corruption commission, parliament, police and others should work in collaboration with "Netsa Hasab" program of Walta Television investigative program to ensure accountability and transparency. It is in such a way that media can play its role in the realization of democracy and social development.
- ❖ It was also recommended that Walta's TV "Netsa Hasab" program should prepare standard investigative journalism guideline. In addition, Walta TV should give attention on those factors like lack of budget, lack of organised professional team, proprietorial interference of managers and chief editors and insufficient training of the investigative program producers, editors, reporters and media experts.

- ❖ Researchers, who are interested in this area, are kindly invited to conduct a study on the aspect of Ethiopian media policy analysis to explore the state of Laws, Rules and Code of Ethics in practice of investigative journalism in Ethiopia. In addition, researchers also invited to conduct a study on the aspect of practitioner's perception analysis to evaluate the state of investigative journalism and obstacles for effective practice of investigative journalism in Ethiopia.

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## **Appendix A: Interview Questions to managers and editors at Walta Television**

1. Please tell me a little about your background.
2. How do you evaluate "Netsa Hasab" program in exercising investigative journalism? To what extent Investigative Journalism has been practiced in "Netsa Hasab" program?
3. Do you have any organized department or professional team in your media house to conduct investigative reporting? Is "Netsa Hasab" program conducted by team of professionals?
4. Do you have any guideline or standard for investigative reporting? How do you evaluate pre-production activities of "Netsa Hasab" program?
5. What kind of ethical consideration taken into account during investigation?
6. Do you think that journalists in Walta are sniffing and digging hidden issues by their own effort to investigate and report?
7. How do evaluate professional qualities of "Netsa Hasab" program journalists in practicing investigative journalism principles?
8. How do you evaluate issues covered in "Netsa Hasab" program in relation to investigative journalism? Do you think that issues been covered are well researched to expose wrong doings?
9. How do you explain editorial freedom in Walta to exercise Investigative Journalism? How do you explain freedom of journalists to practice profession of Investigative Journalism? Do you think that "Netsa Hasab" program is free from media mangers, politicians or any other stakeholders?
10. Do you think that issues been covered are of public interest? Are those issues address problems in the society? Who do you think initiates the issue- journalists or media managers?
11. Do you think that "Netsa Hasab" program is achieving its goal to entertain ideas and views of invited guests in balanced way?
12. In Ethiopia, do you think that exercising Investigative Journalism is an easy task?
13. What are the major challenges your media face when practicing investigative journalism?
14. How do you evaluate the availability of training and other knowledge enhancement projects available for investigative journalists?
15. What should be done to strengthen the practice of investigative reporting in your media house?

## **Appendix B: Interview Questions for producers, reporters and media experts at Walta Television**

1. Please tell me a little about your background.
2. How do you evaluate "Netsa Hasab" program in exercising investigative journalism? To what extent Investigative Journalism has been practiced in “Netsa Hasab” program?
3. As a professional, do you think that journalists in Walta are sniffing and digging hidden issues by their own effort to investigate and report? How do you evaluate the skills of practitioners?
4. How do you evaluate issues covered in “Netsa Hasab” program in relation to investigative journalism principles?
5. Do you have any guideline or standard for investigative reporting? How do you evaluate pre-production activities of "Netsa Hasab" program?
6. How do you explain freedom of journalists to practice profession of Investigative Journalism? How do you explain editorial freedom in Walta to exercise Investigative Journalism? Do you think that "Netsa Hasab" program is free of Politicians or any other parts?
7. Investigative journalism costs a lot and time taking. How do you evaluate the availability of resources needed to conduct investigative reporting in the media house?
8. What are your main focused areas and issues covered in “Netsa Hasab” program?
9. Do you think that issues been covered are of public interest? Are those issues address problems in the society?
10. What kind of sources do you use when investigation is taking? Do you think that issues been covered are well researched to expose wrong doings?
11. Do you think that “Netsa Hasab” program is achieving its goal to entertain ideas and views of invited guests in balanced way?
12. In Ethiopia, do you think that exercising Investigative Journalism is an easy task?
13. What do you think are challenges to exercise Investigative Journalism in Walta Television?
14. What kind of training and other knowledge enhancement programs available for investigative journalists?
15. What should be done to strengthen the practice of investigative reporting in your media house?

### Appendix C: Selected programs for analysis

No	Title	Areas of coverage	Theme of the Issue	Dissemination date	Data source (Link)
1	Central committee of Tigray Peoples' Liberation Front (TPLF), Ato Getachew Reda	TPLF, Higher Official	Power competition Conflict of interest Departure from coalition Criticizing central government	14 March 2019	:https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4yEV6VBe0Emu8sMpyij0uQ
2	“የፖለቲካ አመራሩ የብቃት ማነስ ነው ችግሩን እዚህ ያደረሰው” Azeb Mesfin, Former first lady	Individual	Political Corruption Abuse of power Lack of transparency Lack of Accountability Conflict of interest within of ruling party system	31 October 2019	:https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4yEV6VBe0Emu8sMpyij0uQ
3	“የሞግዚትነት አስተዳደር ተመድቦልን ነበር” Ato Abate Kish, Former President of S/N/N and People of South region	Individual	Political claim Abuse of power Lack of transparency Lack of Accountability Political reform	13 November 2019	:https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4yEV6VBe0Emu8sMpyij0uQ
4	“ከፍተኛ በተመለከተ ውሳኔ ሰጪውም፣ ነገረውም የግል ት/ቤቶች የፈረጠመ የጡንቻኝነት አካሄድ ነው” Ato Zelalem Mulat, Addis Ababa Schools bureau head	Government official	Violating rules and regulations Private schools Rent seeking Covid-19	1 May 2020	:https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4yEV6VBe0Emu8sMpyij0uQ
5	“ህክምና ከካድሬያዊ አሰራርና ስምሪት ነፃ ወጥቷል” Dr. Yohannes Chala, Addis Ababa City Health Bureau head	Government Official	Lack of Quality service in health sector Covid-19 Lack of skilled management Rent seeking	6 May 2020	https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4yEV6VBe0Emu8sMpyij0uQ