

**ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY**

**SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES**

**THE PRACTICE OF INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM IN FANA  
BROADCASTING CORPORATE. THE CASE OF “TEGUAZH NEQASH”  
INVESTIGATIVE PROGRAM**

**BY: WEGAYEHU MULUNEH**

**ADDIS ABABA**

**ETHIOPIA  
JUNE, 2017**

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BROADCASTING CORPORATE. THE CASE OF “TEGUAZH NEQASH”  
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JOURNALISM AND COMMUNICATION

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## Approval

This is to certify that the thesis prepared by Wegayehu Muluneh entitled: The practice of Investigative Journalism in Fana Broadcasting Corporate and submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Degree of Master of Arts Journalism and Communications complies with the regulations of the university and meets the accepted standards with respect to originality and quality. Signed by the examining committee:

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Chair of department or Graduate Coordinator

The practice of Investigative Journalism in Fana Broadcasting Corporate Radio 98.1

Wegayehu Muluneh

Addis Ababa University, June, 2017

## **Abstract**

This research was conducted to analyze the practice of investigative journalism in Fana Broadcasting Corporate (FBC) on case of “*Teguazh Neqash*” investigative radio program. Qualitative research approach was employed to conduct the study. In depth interview with eight target sample respondents and systematically selected 12 investigative programs broadcasted during the last three years (2014-2017) were collected and content analyzed to address the research objective. Agenda setting and Gatekeeping theories were used as theoretical framework to inform the study. The study found “*Teguazh Neqash*” investigative radio program in FBC practicing investigative journalism mainly focusing on issues of public and national concern. However, the investigation is found to be superficial and lacked in-depth research to reveal the probable hidden facts. The program uses inputs from the community and investigative journalists as a major source of areas of issues to be investigated. Failure to challenge the stakeholders and making the actors accountable expose system failure and making impact in policy, administration or public debate and support public complaint and claims with factual based investigation were found as the major problems of the program. Lack of interested journalists working as investigative reporter in the program 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*.

**Declaration**

I declare that this research report is my own unaided work. It is submitted for the degree of Masters of Arts by coursework and research report in the Department of Journalism and Communication, at Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia.

It has not been submitted before for any other degree or examination at any other University.

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## **Dedication**

*I dedicate this thesis to my mother Aster selemon and my father Muluneh Teka with due respect, love, and indebtedness and with all the best wishes; as a tribute for what she had done for me throughout my life, and particularly during the course of my postgraduate study. Mom I know the price you paid is unforgettable for my existence and let the almighty God gives you a prosperous life a longer while.*

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## **List of Abbreviations**

FBC: Fana Broadcasting Corporate

EBM: Ethiopian Broadcasting Media

ERTA: Ethiopian Radio and Television

## **Definition of terms**

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

**‘Teguazh Neqash’** is an investigative program which is transmitted by FBC through its radio 98.1 frequency

**Journalists:** journalists who produce “Teguazh Neqash” investigative program in FBC.

**Editor:** who edits “Teguazh Neqash” investigative program.

**Director:** an experienced journalist in FBC who serves as program division director including “Teguazh Neqash” investigative journalism.

**Media authorities:** people who are in charge of administrating the media (FBC).

**Host journalists:** is part of investigative crew and journalists who host “Teguazh Neqash” investigative program in live studio and held a discussion with participant audiences through telephone call.

# **1. CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION**

## **1.1. Background of the study**

Investigative journalism can be called as a gift of enlightenment because journalism had been divided into different genres, where rationalism increased, intellectual discourses opened, and scientific approaches were applied. Therefore, the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century was a period of professional development in the history of journalism and birth of investigative journalism Hugo de Burgh (2000).

Some researchers point out that, the 20<sup>th</sup> century marked a new occurrence in the history of journalism because it was a period during which investigative reporters strived to expose corruption in government and social institutions in North America and UK. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, journalists exposed flaws in the production of canned meat and under waged child labour in America. Moreover, journalists proved how their profession could overcome the problems of their society by unveiling the in-human treatment of cellmates in prisons. Hence, it was during this period that marks in history to be the founding era of investigative journalism. (Bezabih, 1995)

In the history of far east like China, the consequence of economic reform and media marketisation in the late 1970s has taken a time for the emergence of modern investigative journalism. Topics ranging from official wrong doing, police brutality, illegal bussines to corruption crime and illegal labourerswere among the issues being covered (Zhao, 2000).

Though, Investigative journalism is a debatable profession to trace back in time in different parts of the world, the field sparks back more than a century to kindle new light for the development of modern journalism.

The popularity and frequency of this reportage coupled with an extraordinary issues covered in the program, have created conducive environment for staggering development throw-out the world (Wang, 2010). Despite the challenges faced by the

investigative journalists, hundreds of stories have been published and aired world wide by national and international investigative journalism projects. Eventually, through the impact of investigative journalism politicians resign, criminals are imprisoned, public policy is changed or conditions are improved enabling the public to clearly see the power of the media's watchdog role (Forbes, 2005).

Compared with the rest of the world, in Ethiopia, the poor role the media plays as a watchdog coupled with the gigantic maladministration problem the country faces, the practice of investigative journalism is not satisfying since its beginning. However, scholars on the area have suggested various reasons up on the field in Ethiopian media tradition.

From the very scratch, the Ethiopian press were under full control of government since its beginning during the reign of emperor Minilik II up to the time that press freedom without censorship were proclaimed in proclamation ( (proc. No.34/1992). During the print media and even after electronic media, the press was promoting the voice of the government than the voiceless, (Maeregu, 1995).The very nature of investigative report is its independence from intervention of government and other institutions. Therefore, limited freedom of press can be responsible for steady growth of the field. Even, most local media consumers were seen claiming that, after the 1992 press freedom proclamation, the field is not practiced as per expected both in the main stream and private broadcast media.

Next, lack of access to information, indirect censorship, limited freedom, financial and infrastructural problems, and journalist's job satisfaction could be responsible for the infrequent practice of the genre according to the repeated complain forwarded from activists. But, this doesn't mean that, journalistic practice in Ethiopian broadcast media were never been exercised completely. Rather, there are journalists and media house prevalence's who have striven until the point of no return for the wellbeing of media tradition in Ethiopia. Some sparkling investigative journalism practices in Ethiopian broadcast media evidenced the role of local media institutions.

Recently investigative journalism has been attempted in both state and private media. Thereby, “*Aynachin*” is a good icebreaker for the evolution of investigative journalism practice in the history of modern Ethiopian broadcast media (EBM). It was launched in 1993 by Samuel Fikre who was awarded by Ethiopian fine arts mass media prize trust for his achievement in the field of investigative journalism in Ethiopian main stream media. This investigative program had attempted covering issues like, lack of good governance, corruption, mal administration etc. (Yeheysh, June, 2012).

Unfortunately, the program was unable to go far playing its watch dog role for unknown reason. But, it had a great role in opening the door for other investigative journalism practice in Ethiopian broadcast media and introducing the concept to the public at large. “*Teguazh Neqash*”<sup>2</sup> in Fana broadcasting corporate (FBC) 98.1, “*Anid Anid Negeroch*”<sup>3</sup> in Sheger FM 102.1, “*Abiy Guday*”<sup>4</sup> in Addis TV “*Ye ketemoch Medrek*” in Ahamara TV are among the attempted practices following the foot step of “*Ayanachin*”.

Currently, FBC 98.1 is feasible broadcast media in entertaining investigative report called “*Teguazh Nekash*” reaching the wider area of the country. The program has been contributing its investigative role raising rigor topics among Ethiopian broadcast media. But, its adverse achievement compared with the massive public inquiry regarding the sophisticated social problem as investigative report is not researched by social science researchers so far.

## **1.2. Statement of the problem**

In western tradition, investigative journalists have been described as ‘custodians of conscience’ who watch for flaws in social system and the public domain, by exposing problems and mobilizing public opinion, which in turn demands the response of public officials. This genre of journalism often acts as monitor of the powerful and positions itself as an adversary of officialdom. Thus, because of its immense role on both government and public issues, in developed countries and in western media investigative journalism practice is recognized as a tradition (Ettema, 1998).

After its emergence, investigative journalism has spread rapidly around the world, helping to hold corrupt leaders accountable, document human right violations, expose systematic abuses, report international crimes and unaccountable businesses, and other hard issues has been reported in developing and transitioning countries. Consequently, public policy has changed, government officials and fraudsters are charged and sentenced in different parts of the world (Kaplan, 16 January 2013).

In contrary, the field encompasses dozens of challenges during production. For instance, investigative journalism in western countries such as the UK and US is now in a deep crisis because of cuts to news room budgets (Waisbord, 2000). In addition to budget insufficiency, investigative journalists face a severe challenge on their career. Intimidation against reporters, insufficient time for in-depth report, credibility of sources of information, the legal and physical attacks, unsupportive owners, lack of qualified trainers are some of the obstacles hindering the practice (Kaplan, 2013).

Like, the liberal countries, the economic and professional situation in African newsrooms is generally difficult. “Media houses have limited means and capacities to support reporters. Overall, the pre-conditions are not conducive to investigative journalism” (Lublinski J, 2015).

Since, 2008 Ethiopian broadcast media has been growing exponentially right before our eyes both in government and private side. But, as we have been observing, the practice of investigative journalism is limited in depth and narrow in content. Instead, entertainment and informative programs have dominated much of the airtime basically for getting numerous audiences and to get sponsored. Eventually, now a day the fate of the practice of investigative journalism seems dimed at the grass root level from Ethiopian print and broadcast media.

Ethiopian broadcast media like *FBC 98.1 radio*, *Amara TV*, *Addis TV*, *Sheger102.1 radio* are presently likely practicing investigative journalism in their program.



Among all, FBC 98.1 radio station is perceived currently operating an investigative program called “*Teguazh Neqash*” almost reaching the nationwide audiences. But, the extent to which the program does investigation aimed at playing media watchdog role and address issues of priority public concern is not known and a full-fledged research was not conducted so far.

Thus, the study probes to describe the extent to which the program does investigation designed for playing media watchdog role, the relevant public subjects being covered through the program and features that push back against practicing investigative journalism in FBC in general and “*Teguazh Neqash*” program in particular within the last three years (2014-2017).

Therefore, the study up on the practice of investigative journalism in FBC empowers in shading light in the research gap and serves as a stepping stone for further research in the area.

### **1.3. Objectives of the study**

#### **1.3.1. General objective**

The general objective of the research is to assess the practice of investigative journalism practice in FBC 98.1 radio station the case of “*Teguazh Neqash*” program.

#### **1.3.2. Specific objectives**

The following are the specific objectives of the research;

- To find out the extent to which “*Teguazh Neqash*” FBC’s investigative report program does investigative journalism.
- To identify the nature of issues covered by the program in FBC.
- To identify the challenges (if any) of investigative journalism practice in FBC.

### **1.4. Research questions**

The research could answer the following basic research questions.

- To what extent “*Teguazh Neqash*” FBC’s investigative program does investigative journalism?
- What are the natures of issues covered by “*Teguazh Neqash*” investigative program in FBC?
- What are factors that can (if any) influence against practicing investigative journalism in FBC?

### **1.5. Significance of the study**

The study describes the practice of “*Teguazh Neqash*” investigative program in FBC 98.1 radio station and reached in a number of findings. Therefore, it creates opportunity for the media house to provide the intended and necessary attention towards strengthening investigative journalism practice. So, the study is significant for future smooth investigative journalism practice in EBM in general and in FBC in particular.

The thesis reveals the research gap of the existing investigative journalism practice in FBC. Therefore, the study is significant in opening door for further research on the practice of investigative journalism in EBM in general and in FBC in particular.

### **1.6. Scope of the study**

As a result of time and budget constraints the scope of this research is limited on Fana Broadcasting corporate 98.1 “*Teguazh Neqash*” investigative radio program. The researcher will focus on the programs disseminated during the last three years (2014-2017) on systematically 12 programs for analysis. Accordingly, the researcher merely focuses on the practice of “*Teguazh Neqash*” and critically analyzes challenges of journalist against the use of investigative journalism.

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

The excessively complicated administrative procedure to get the intended archives was the basic limitation against the study. As a result, the researcher was allowed only to collect the first episode of the program, though a single report extends more than one. Thus, the study reached onto finding and conclusion based on the available data.

The student researcher has used qualitative method as a research approach through only in-depth interview with existing eight samples supported with the content analysis of

systematically selected 12 investigative stories to find the research problem and address the research objective. In order to investigate the role of the program in addressing issues of public concern as per expected as a media institution, the audience satisfaction ought to be included as part of the study through employing a mixed research approach. Using quantitative data inquiry approach or focus group discussion it could be better assessed the extent of FBC's investigation towards playing its agenda setting and gate keeping roles.

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

The study is organized in five chapters. The first chapter deals with introduction: background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, research questions, significance of the study, scope of the study, limitation of the study and organization of the study. Review of related literature, methodology of the study, and the findings are discussed under chapters 2, 3 and 4 respectively. Finally, the fifth chapter concludes and gives recommendations based on the research findings.

## **2. CHAPTER TWO: REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

The purpose of this portion is to discuss scholarly articles related with the research topic's problem to acquire adequate knowledge up on the practice of investigative journalism practice that helps the researcher during data analysis and discussion. Agenda setting and Gate keeping theories were used as theoretical framework to inform the study.

### **2.1. Defining investigative journalism**

The definition of investigative journalism is multifaceted (Houston, 2010). It is known as expose journalism, adversarial journalism, in-depth journalism, muckraking journalism, advocacy journalism, public service journalism, watchdog journalism and journalism of outrage. These nomenclatures come from different investigative reporting by investigative journalist in different time based on the area and content of the investigation report. Therefore, one could identify investigative report from conventional report after looking the content, if he/she is not familiar with the terminologies.

Like its rich name, different scholars define investigative journalism differently based on the content and issues entertained in global scenario. Some scholars consider Investigative reporting as watchdog journalism. It aims checking the abuses of those who have wealth and power. It exposes wrongdoing so it can be corrected, not because journalists and their patrons benefit from exposure (Coronel, 2009).

In this sense, investigative journalism is taken as watchdog journalism as long as it exposes wrongdoings of the wealthiest and the powerful. However, the problem with this definition is, it limits abuse as if always and only committed by the wealthiest. Hence, the watchdog role must be played on anyone who abuses.

The world largest non-profit investigative journalism association, defined investigative journalism as “systematic, in-depth, and original research and reporting, often involving the unearthing of secrets, heavy use of public records, and computer assisted reporting, with a focus on social justice and accountability”(Editors., 1983 p.166). On this regard, investigative report has direct relation ship with scientific research, except their

difference in content wise. While the first deals with exposing and attesting hidden public secrets, the later entertains academic issues.

There are also scholars like Waisbord who contended “investigative journalism varies according to dissimilar press traditions and conditions for journalistic practice in a country” (Waisbord S. , 2001 p.166). This point of view gives sound when we compare the practice of investigative journalism that dwells in the authoritarian with democrats. Consequently, what is ought to be as a principle and what is going on the ground in poor media institutions is inconsistent as one can easily observes in authoritarian countries.

Likewise, the practice of investigative report in Ethiopia has to be compatible and pertinent with the existing practice around the globe. Moreover, if the term and the practice on the ground are mismatched, it is an achievable for researchers on the area to find out vivid findings. To fill the gap, it is a good idea if journalists and media houses in these countries are able to adopt and contextualize the practice by taking into account their countries media policy, democracy, tradition, culture, press freedom and legal liability.

In contrary, scholars like Protesse who argue it is an awkward to differentiate investigative journalism from any other kinds of journalism. He posits that, any journalist becomes an Investigative journalist when his/her story grows in scope and depth beyond a routine report (Protesse, 1991).

Generally, based on Forbes, (2005, p.6) and according to previous other scholars together with the student researcher’s belief, parameters like in-depth reporting, long-term process of planning, information gathering and corroboration using a diverse range of sources, the application of variety of techniques to cross-examine and piece together meaning from fragments of information provided by various sources, independent from special interests, envisioned to serve the public trust and enrich public debate and inspiring positive change through informed public debate and outrage could be concluded as the basic tenets of investigative journalism.

## 2.2. Common trends in investigative journalism

### Budget, time and effort

There has been a series of arguments among scholars and journalists regarding the unique characteristics of the field with conventional journalism. Unfortunately, they didn't reach in consensus to connect the dots. But, most investigative reporters and writers contended that, there is a visible difference with the routine journalism practice. The researcher attempted focusing on points that he believed different and special.

An investigation, similar with the conventional report is carried out through the use of journalistic standards, principles and professional skills. But, it is dissimilar with the later in bringing light the activities of the nefarious. Nevertheless, investigative journalism requires;

*More than just going out, seeking out sources, asking questions and recording the story. There is an important organisational aspect to investigative journalism where an organisation is putting money, time, effort, person power and resources beyond the normal and routine activities of the newspaper environment. Most investigative journalism is a thankless endeavour, time- and energy-consuming, that will get your editor impatient and powerful people annoyed with you. Therefore, expense, time allocated and journalists effort exertion are new concepts in exercising investigative career (Forbes, 2005 p.3).*

The budget and time allocated by media owners for investigative report is by far significant than the conventional broadcast environment. Hence, investigation is not all about asserting sources for any information granted to be free from defamatory statements in the court of law. Rather, each sources and informations are verified technically. Doing so, extra budget and time are needed unlike the routine journalistic activities.

Investigative journalists effort exertion is incomparable with the conventional broadcast producers. Because, the field inquires, the application of more complicated mechanisms

to obtain and piece together meaning from fragments of information provided by various sources.

## **Content**

Hunter (2011), agreed that it is an enquiry and indefinite for many that the meaning of investigative journalism, how it is done, How we should do for about half a century until Watergate. Nevertheless, he doesn't hesitate on pointing out some distinction from conventional journalism as follows.

*Conventional news reporting aims to create an objective image of the world as it is. Investigative reporting uses objectively true material that is, facts that any reasonable observer would agree are true toward the subjective goal of reforming the world. That is not a license to lie in a good cause. It is a responsibility, to learn the truth so that the world can change (Hunter, 2011;8).*

As we have already discussed earlier, the concept of investigative journalism seems contradicting among scholars on the field. The reason is, it is different from the conventional news reporting style, content, commitment etc. for instance, in the case of conventional reporting the fact is found from credible sources. But in case of investigative reporting the fact is searched by the journalist himself/herself after many ups and downs responsibly. In addition, the conventional reporting strives on informing what's happening in the world we are living. The later strives on reforming the world from obscure activities committed by individuals or a group of people in our day today activities.

## **Watch dog role vs. making business.**

Investigative journalism is not profit oriented activity. Rather, it digs beyond the obvious facts that normally kept hidden from the public domain and expose it for the public interest. Thus, except investigative journalism, it is difficult to find an institution who strives in safeguarding the public interest without profit.

*An investigative journalist is a man or woman whose profession it 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 closely connected to publicity(Burgh, 2000).*

### **2.3. The role of Investigative Journalism**

These days' corruption and lack of good governance become enormous global catastrophe for healthy development of any country. Specially, Africa has seriously affected and suffered a lot in deed. As a result, the continent has exposed for poverty, access to job and under development. Eventually, for most African expectation shattered, promise broken and their bright future has been deemed as a result of maladministration. But, the question is why does Africa have unable to avert these problems? What is the gate keeping role of African media across the problems? What are the challenges of exercising investigative journalism in the nation wide, if it has a role dealing with the problem?

This part of literature review is not intended to answer all the above questions. Rather, the researcher attempts to discuss on showing the role of investigative journalism in unearthing wrong doings which have a positive impact for developing countries like Ethiopia. Hereby, Cooper has pointed out that "Investigative journalism is a key to democratic governance and national development for developing countries. Investigative journalism has over the years helped uncovered some corrupt conducts, which has been costing nations huge sums of money and transform the credibility of many media houses. Investigations by journalists into the conduct of those who hold power are essential to a fully functioning democracy" (Cooper, 2009).

Thus, as it is contended above, the practice of investigative journalism has a positive effect on good governance and national development. Thereof, it is a learning opportunity for african media to inculcate and exercise the fieldinorder to gate rid off it's headache, if it hasn't been done so far.Hereforth,countries who are partly working on it, the researcher recommended to strengthen the practice by delivering a critical



attention for the field in addition of working on equipping the journalists with an intensive training and hiring best qualified investigators for a better team work.

In the context of Ethiopia, compared with the rest of the world the role of investigative journalism is not seen satisfactory in both government and private owned media, Even though, there is no full fledged researches conducted on the area, probably the problem resides from the limited practice of the field in the media tradition of the nation.

Whatsoever, according to researches on the field coupled with the verry nature of the report, it has incredible role in fighting against corruption and maladministration in general. For instance, (Asemah, 2010) from his conclusion methaphorically, a country without investigative journalism is as similar as denying a steak meat for a lion after throwing it up. That is, a lion in any country will never regret and chase ones you allow him to eat the meat. Hereby, the lions represent those who engaged in wrongdoings following the gap of media detterant role.

*Findings show that investigative journalism plays a very crucial role in the fight against corruption in any country. Investigative journalism, as noted by the majority of the discussants exposes corruption in high and low places and this tends to deter others who wish to carry out corrupt practices in the society. Based on the findings, the society needs investigative journalism for several reasons, one of which is to fight corruption; a country where there is no investigative journalism will surely experience a lot of corruption (Asemah, 2010,p.286).*

#### **2.4. Challenges of Investigative Journalism**

The researcher has categorized and discussed the challenges of global investigative journalism practice in to two as follows

## **Challenges emanated from the nature of the genre**

There is no simple task in any field in achieving the desired goal. It has its own challenges and drawbacks during the race. In contrary, passing through massive ups and downs the outcome is quenching for the expertise as well organisation. But, most people don't have the courage of passing across inevitable obstacles. Thus, an alternative route that is shorter than the one usually is up taken to achieve the desired goal. In the meantime, the result is not spicy apart from its problem arose legally and ethically.

Compared with other professions, the job of journalism is a bit tougher. Since, ones the program is aired or published there won't be another chance across correcting or amending the committed mistake. This is taken as a common decency for conventional journalism in general.

Investigative report as its name indicates, it's an in depth work done after plenty of research and investigation. So, nobody will consider it as a slip of tongue in case of pleading. Therefore, there are multiple challenges faced by journalists in the process.

Among the challenges;

*Investigative reporting on corruption is time-consuming, and relies heavily on property records, company business registers, asset declarations and a range of other documents that are increasingly available to the public. The best investigative journalists take a very critical approach to their own work, questioning the accuracy of all documents, the motives of sources, and overall fairness of the report. They do not just ask sources what they know; they ask how the sources came to know it (UNCAC), 2014;6-7).*

Appropriately, investigative journalist will confront with suspected corrupters probably with the wealthiest and authorised whilst unearthing the hidden fact. In addition, they deal with different and confusing aspects coupled with obstructive sources that might deceive the report. Therefore, managing time, verifying sources, dealing with allegations and self-decision are some of the challenges in investigative report.

## **Challenges emanated from being investigative reporter**

Showing the general challenges of investigative reporters David Kaplan, Director of the Global Investigative Journalism Network (Kaplan, 2013, p.7) says “Investigative journalists in some respects are kind of the Special Forces of journalism, they are better trained, they go after tougher targets, and their stories and investigations tend to be more complex.”

In 2012 research was conducted by global investigative journalism to center for media assistance (CIMA) about a host of challenges. The research is conducted based on the responses of 24 non-US, Investigative journalism nonprofit organizations. Accordingly, the finding shows that, a host of challenges have so far limited the success of developing investigative reporting in many dimensions as it is indicated in the following chart.

<b>Challenges</b>	<b>Perc enta ge</b>
Legal challenges such as libel, and defamation lawsuit	70%
Harassment, threats or intimidation by private individuals	70%
Harassment, threats or intimidation by government officials	45%
Physical assaults	25%
Criminal prosecution	15%

*Source; Center for Media Assistance*

Therefore, statistics and written documents evidenced that, in western and developed world investigative journalism is practiced well in both broadcast and private media and achieved its goal successfully. However, journalists are facing enormous obstacles in the process. The challenges may vary from the simplest harassment and intimidation up to life sacrifice.

The sources of threats are ranging from private individuals up to government officials who have already engaged in concealed and obscured misconduct from the public at large. Investigative reporters are the victims of this group while they are unearthing to expose these hidden facts for the benefit of the public at large.

### **2.5. Good qualities of investigative Reporters**

In the previous discussion, we have concluded that investigative journalism is different from conventional journalism in a vital aspects. Whatsoever, there are a number of good qualities has suggested by different scholars and senior investigative reporters. According to (Forbes, 2005) and and some other writers coupled with the researcher's point of view the following are taken as good qualities of investigative reporters.

Investigative reporters needs to be patient and exert their maximum efforts towards revealing the concealed facts through time taking in-depth investigation. Inquisitive reporters towards consuming new events and initiative for doing their preliminary checking are best fit for being good investigators.

It is a good idea that if investigative reporters are well prepared, to rethink and redesign their research than staying wedded to their first ideas. Eventually, a journalist having good team working and communication skill will end up with magnificent stories.

experienced with how to identify sources, plan story research, conduct good interview, write accurately and informatively and have the humility to ask for advice or help during difficulty, good writing and reporting skills, being motivated and ethical, driven by personal conviction to contribute skills to the society as a citizen and confidence on the course of investigation can be taken and generalized as good qualities of investigative reporters.

### **2.6. Ethical considerations in Investigative Journalism**

Ethics plays a decisive role in human's day to day activity in achieving the desired success. Every formal sector has their own ethical guidelines that must be followed by their employees. Unfortunately, unlike other sectors this days the practice of journalism

seem lacking its credibility as a result of misuse of ethical guidelines. Stressing on this point, Margaret Freivogel on ethics for new investigative news room discussion says "... it is obvious that new guidelines are needed because journalism's credibility is in shambles. On the Internet, misinformation outruns facts, and opinions "outshout" reporting. Ethics is considered to be "quaint" and old-fashioned. In this context, journalists need to clarify the need for ethics" (Ward, 2010, p.6). So, investigative journalists must follow ethical guidelines as per expected. Doing so, they can safeguard themselves as well the media they are serving from hazards.

The general concept of ethics for investigative reporters is paradox. But, most scholars agree on the tendency of identifying or distinguishing the right from wrong is stated as being ethical. Waisbord has pointed out showing the difficulty of putting the standard of ethics in investigative job; rather it is easy talking about the legal action taken as a result of reporters' action. But he has put marvelous questions that might guide reporters;

*Whose interest does investigative journalism serve by publishing a given story? Does the press fulfil its social responsibility in revealing wrongdoing? Whose interests are being affected? Whose rights are being invaded? Is the issue at stake a matter of legitimate public interest? Or is individual privacy being invaded when no crucial public issue is at stake? Most discussions about ethics in investigative journalism have focused on methodology, namely, is any method valid to reveal wrongdoing? Is deception legitimate when journalists aim to tell the truth? Is any method justifiable no matter the working conditions and the difficulties in getting information? Can television reporters use hidden cameras to get a story? Can journalists use false identities to gain access to information?*  
(Waisbord S. , 2001 p.15-16)

Hence, the concept of ethics is contradicting among journalists and different media house, it is a better idea that journalists have a discussion with their colleagues, editors, etc. before the report is get published. But, as much as possible investigative journalists should be governed by their conscious mind than the written documents.

*...There are no easy, ready-made answers to ethical issues. Codes of ethics, despite some merits, do not offer clear-cut solutions that can be applied in all cases. Most analysts agree that journalists must remain sensitive to issues such as fairness, balance, and accuracy. Reporters continuously need to ask ethical questions throughout different stages of the investigations, and be ready to justify their decisions to their editors, colleagues, and the public. They need to be sensitive to whose interests are being affected, and operate according to professional standards (Waisbord, 2001;16).*

From the very nature of investigative journalism, as Waisbord posits “Its demands for a great deal of time, human and financial resources frequently conflict with profit expectations and production cost controls. Also, the fact that stories might result in expensive lawsuits makes news companies nervous about supporting investigations” (Waisbord, 2001;15). In contrary, the nature of the field might trigger the journalist by self being exposed for corruption. “...corruption is also another important ethical issue in investigative journalism. Corruption includes a variety of practices, ranging from journalists who accept bribes, or quash exposes, or pay sources for information” (Waisbord, 2001;16).

The overuse and abuse of undercover cameras, misrepresentation, and payment of money for information all are nettlesome issues that must be dealt with. Such ethical and professional shortcomings affect not only investigative reporting but all of the news media and need to be part of basic journalism education (CIMA, 2007).

On the other hand, according to Stiftung (Stiftung, 2011;16). “ the primary job and aim of investigative reporters is exposing official corruption and other wrong doings that dwells in the public.” What the author has suggested as ethical guidelines for investigative reporters coupled with the researcher’s point of view are listed below:

- Investigative reporters shouldn’t report for personal gain. Hence, Accepting bribes and the appearance of personal gain taints have a negative impact on the credibility of the reporter and the news organization.

- While investigative stories can flow from a reporter's political awareness or perspective, they should not be slanted against the facts for the sake of ideology or to further a pet cause.
- Despite their personal beliefs, investigative reporters should rely only on the facts on the ground and need to report the stories the way they are.
- Investigative Journalists must be independent from the people and institutions they probe.
- An investigative reporter will inevitably work on a story that involves someone she/ he knows. The reporter must do her/his best to be as tough on a friend as she/ he is on a stranger.
- While investigative stories don't have to be boring, they must avoid hyping or exaggeration.
- The investigative reporter does not steal documents during fact finding. She/he doesn't ask someone to steal them, although they may consider using documents that have been leaked by insiders at their own initiative.
- Investigative journalists shouldn't lift another journalist's language or reporting without attribution.

Eventually, the researcher adequately believes that the above magnificent points should be taken as ethical guidelines for investigative journalists in Ethiopia in general and FBC "*Teguazh Neqash*" investigative journalism program producers in particular. Thus, journalists will have a full-fledged response for any kind of legal action instituted against him at the end of the job in addition to supporting the practice development and growth.

## **2.7. The global practice of investigative journalism**

The world's largest cross-border collaborative reporting project called the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, or ICIJ, which is made up of 190 journalists in 65 countries based in Washington, D.C. in collaboration with other investigative projects has resulted in hundreds of stories worldwide. As a result, Investigative journalism is privileged and taken as a tradition in both commercial and nonprofit media houses (Buzenberg, 2015).

According to Kaplan, fuelled by globalization, international aid, and the efforts of journalism groups, the worldwide practice of investigative reporting has grown dramatically since the fall of communism began in 1989.

*The field's emphasis on public accountability, targeting of crime and corruption, and demonstrated impact have attracted millions of dollars in media development funding from international donors, who see it as an important force in promoting rule of law and democratization. Thus, the field produced impressive results both in fostering public accountability and in building a professional news media globally (Kaplan, 16 January 2013 p.7).*

The following are some of fruitful results gained as a result of investigative report practices in different part of the world.

### **The Chinese kidnapping story**

In 2011, the Chinese magazine *Caixin* revealed that local officials in a southern county were kidnapping babies and selling them on the black market, prompting an official investigation and international attention. The magazine, known for digging into hidden stories, was founded by journalist Hu Shuli, who pioneered investigative journalism in China after completing a 1998 Knight Fellowship at Stanford University. (Caixen, March 14,2007)

### **The Brazilian criminal investigation**

In the Brazilian state of Parana, home to 10 million people, the *Gazeta do Povo* newspaper and RPC TV spent two years building a database to reveal how the legislative assembly systematically pilfered as much as \$400 million in public funds. The 2010 series drew 30,000 people to the streets in anti--corruption protests and resulted in more than 20 criminal investigations. (Secretos, Octobor,18 2011)

### **The Bosnian prime minister scandal**

In 2007, the Bosnian centre for Investigative Reporting used public records to expose how Nedžad Brankovic, prime minister of the Bosnia and Herzegovina's Republika Srpska, received a nearly free apartment through a dubious government privatization



deal. The investigation led to public protests, an indictment of Brankovic, and ultimately his resignation. (Izvor, July 15, 2009 & September 4, 2007)

### **The Georgian “Rose Revolution”**

In 2003, the Georgian TV channel *Rustavi-2* was heralded as the voice of that nation’s peaceful “Rose Revolution,” helping overturn a rigged election and force the resignation of President Eduard Shevardnadze. *Rustavi-2*’s staff, trained by Western journalists, had built much of its credibility through investigative reporting on government corruption and organized crime. (Anable, 2006)

### **The hidden story of Philippine’s president**

In 2000, the Philippine centre for Investigative Journalism ran an eight month investigation into the hidden assets of Philippine President Joseph Estrada, detailing how Estrada had amassed luxury homes and held secret stakes in a dozen companies. The series goaded the Philippine media into action, helped form key charges in an impeachment trial, and led to Estrada’s downfall months later. (Jackson, 2002)

What these cases have in common is that they were the result of determined, in-depth investigations by journalists in developing and democratizing countries. Supporting dedicated teams and individual reporters to do in-depth investigations has always been a struggle, even in Western countries where the practice is well established. It is risky, expensive, and often controversial.

But investigative reporting has earned a unique and honoured place in the profession. Investigative reporters are, in a sense, the “special forces” of journalism. They tend to be better trained, go after tougher targets, and have greater impact than beat and daily news reporters.

In the United States, investigative journalism is best known for helping topple a president for abuse of power. But in American journalism schools, those hoping to emulate Watergate reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein are quickly taught that

they belong to a century-old tradition, to a craft that dates back to the nation's proud muckrakers, such as Ida Tarbell and her *History of the Standard Oil Company* and Lincoln Steffens and his *Shame of the Cities*. These crusading journalists helped set a standard for tough, in-depth reporting in the public interest, taking on corrupt politicians, organized crime, consumer fraud, and corporate abuse. (Kaplan, 2013, p.7)

## **2.8. Investigative journalism in sub-Saharan African context**

So far, almost all media effects research has been conducted in Western countries (Schmitt-Beck, 2012) and little is known about the effects of investigative journalism in Sub-Saharan Africa. This is probably because of the limited tradition of African's against investigative journalism practice compared with liberal countries. In-depth and investigative journalism that goes beyond reporting the daily events is an essential element of liberal democracies (Votmer, 2006: 2; Waisbord, 2000: 45) but rare in Sub-Saharan Africa (Mudhai, 2007; Steyn and De Beer, 2004: 45), and yet it exists under difficult circumstances.

But, this doesn't necessarily mean that there are no investigative reports conducted on behalf of journalists so far. Rather, there are a pivotal stories published as a result of both national and regional reporters indeed. The author attempted to show an insight of investigative journalism practices and challenges in sub-Saharan Africa (Kenya, Uganda, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Nigeria Senegal and Rwanda) from the research conclusion of (Lublinski J, 2015) on how investigative journalists in sub-Saharan countries contribute to solving problems in society. Lublinski with his corporate authors analysed 12 cases of investigative journalism in Sub-Saharan Africa (see appendix 1 the cases), through qualitative explorative approach. Hereby, the vital research findings and conclusions are presented in order to show the overall practice of investigative journalism practice in African context.

## **Research Results**

Accordingly, the stories presented deals with urgent matters that affect large part of the population: problems in health systems, environmental dangers, and major difficulties for farmers and human rights violations. Based on the selected investigative stories, the

article identifies four different types of achievement that have an inclusive of impact on societal change processes (Lublinski J, 2015, p.8).

1. **Getting an important issue on the public agenda.** Several of the stories work by getting a topic first to public attention. The administration then knows that the public is aware and, in some cases at least, it acts.
2. **Helping to solve an immediate problem.** There are several cases where this was achieved the delivery of condoms, bed nets, tuberculosis (TB) drugs and CD4 machines.
3. **Triggering structural changes.** Of course, short-term action is easier to achieve than changes in government policies. In only a few cases were structural changes achieved: in the case of the Buruli ulcer infection (story 7), a new policy was issued; after the delivery of weather station equipment (10), the administration now offers a forecasting service on national TV stations as a news ticker. For other stories, this kind of impact was intended but could not be achieved: the story on the state of health centres, for example, was able to achieve better drug delivery but not hiring of more nurses and doctors.
4. **Supporting science uptake.** Only the weather forecast story (10) clearly helped to convey scientific information to the public. Other stories (5 and 7) had this potential, but here the reporters were not focusing on knowledge transfer into society.

The aim of the researcher is not pioneering investigative stories done throughout Africa. Rather, it is intended to show the impacts of the genre on societal problems through the continents media tradition as indicated above. Next, based on the research conclusion of (Lublinski J, 2015) the overall investigative journalism practice and challenges in sub-Saharan Africa in particular is discussed below.

The findings of the research article show that, investigative journalism holds great potential for societies in Sub-Saharan Africa. The authors recommended that, its processes and its effects need to be better understood.

The authors have gotten the cases studied in their article are somewhat simpler in their structure, and solutions are often found in a more straightforward, cooperative way. The mere threat of public outrage as observed in the United States does not seem to work

here. In their research sample, the reporters focused more on identifying faulty systems and processes which the government need to address, and the journalists made sure they advanced their cases in cooperation with other actors.

The research finding shows, journalists in Sub-Saharan Africa work in specific cultural and political contexts, and investigative journalism is adapted to this environment. Their cases have shown that they are not necessarily engaged with the unveiling of secrets and wrongdoings related to powerful actors. Instead, their focus is on support for reform and change, and they sometimes take over the roles of activist-reformers or change agents.

In general, the research output conclude, African investigative reporters are primarily inspired to collect relevant information from other actors, but then dig deeper than is usual, sometimes forming coalitions with relevant actors, hoping to trigger change. In these processes, NGOs and other actors play a key role by drawing the journalist's attention to an urgent issue that needs to be addressed and by providing necessary information. This kind of engagement and support seems vital since African journalists encounter numerous difficulties in their everyday work: major financial problems, resource constraints in the newsrooms and difficulties in getting access to sources and background information. So their interest is not necessarily to reveal major scandals, such as the phone hacking scandal in the United Kingdom. Rather, African investigative journalists tackle problems that more directly affect the lives of ordinary people. These problems can generally be identified quickly and are often solved with the involvement of the right alliances (Lublinski J, 2015, p.12-14).

## **2.9. Profile of Fana Broadcasting Corporate (FBC)**

Fana Broadcasting Corporate Share Company (<http://www.fanabc.com>) is the Nation's first commercial National Broadcaster and multi-lingual Radio Station, used to be a clandestine anti-Dergue voice of Liberation (Voice of EPRDF) before its establishment as "Radio Fana S.Co." in 1994. With the defeat of the notorious military regime by the EPRDF led popular struggle, Radio Fana has been re-organized under the ownership of the four Regional Endowments. The major shareholders of the company are: EFFORT, TIRET, TUMSA and Wondo.

As of January 2011, Radio Fana Share Company grew to Fana Broadcasting Corporate Share Company so as to enter into the TV business. FBC's current capital is ETB 100 million and operates three SW, one MW and 7 FM transmitters Nation-wide. FBC has incorporated commercial and public service values and advocates developmental journalism to foster nation building and fight against poverty. Currently FBC have around 360 employees in the main branch and 304 employees in the regional stations, a total of 664 very strong employees.

FBC is established with a vision of providing a favorite, progressive and popular voice of Ethiopians and Africans.

The primary mission of this broadcast media is to provide quality media services by providing informative, educative and entertaining programs that help build democratic and prosperous Ethiopia where all citizens benefit from such developments. FBC is also working on establishing a world class engineering support for national broadcasting equipment.

FBC among EBM entertains investigative journalism program since its establishment November, 1994 on its nationwide frequency. The media had an investigative program called '*Hizbu min yilal*' which literally means 'what do the people say' when it started broadcast. The program was produced and broadcasted by FBC journalists by touring in different parts of the country and assessed any problem hidden in the community by asking the community itself.

After FBC launched its 11 regional radio channel in *Dessie, Gonder, Debre Birhan, Haromaya, Jimma, Wollega, Assella, Shashemene, Mizan, Wolayita, and Mekele* from sept, 2005 onwards the nationwide frequency had terminated. Meanwhile, all regional FM radio stations begin and have been producing an investigative program called '*Hello Fana*' covering social issues around their closer vicinity.

Like the regional FM radio frequencies, sept.2005 was a time for the establishment of FM 98.1 for covering issues related with Addis Ababa. Thus, as '*Hello Fana*' is an

investigative program for regional states “*Teguazh Neqash*” or its previous name ‘*Arada Neqash*’ is launched for cases related with Addis Ababa and federal states.

The program has only a difference in nomenclature with both the pioneer nationwide ‘*Hizbu min yilal*’ and the regional ‘*Hello Fana*’ investigative program.

“*Teguazh Neqash*” is a weekly investigative program produced and hosted by interested and committed FBC journalists by raising social, political and economic issues depicted in the society and set up solution for communal benefit of the society and government.

## **2.10. Theoretical frame work**

Two theories have been chosen to provide the theoretical frame work for the study; they are: the media gate keeping theory and agenda, setting theory.

### **2.10.1. Gatekeeping Theory**

Gate keeping theory, one of the original theories to come from mass communication research, has remained important since its debut shortly after World War II. While not necessarily the most interesting or controversial of mass communication theories, a series of scholars has advanced it during the past decades (Roberts, 2005).

The evolution of gate keeping theory sparks back more than half a century by Kurt Lewin (1890-1947) a Prussian born scholar. He was best known as an experimental psychologist whose focus was “field theory” or group dynamics; the study of how a person’s behaviour may change based on his/her connection to a group of people. He was a proponent of Gestalt psychology, which argues that individuals are “open systems” who are in “active interaction with their environment” (Roberts, 2005)

Right after the evolution of gate keeping theory by Kurt Lewin, other researchers have spent the succeeding decades defining and refining the original approach of gate keeping theorists (Roberts, 2005). But, David Manning White was the first specifically to apply gate keeping theory in a journalism context by studying the decisions made by a newspaper wire editor in selecting stories that should be published. White concluded that, overall, the editor’s decisions were highly subjective and based on the gatekeeper’s

own set of experiences, attitudes and expectations as to what constitutes the news (White, 1950)

Gate keeping theory has been called “one of the most easily accessible theories” (Singer, 2005) and is certainly one of the most enduring in mass communication research (Shoemaker, 2001). Shoemaker writes that the basic idea of gate keeping that there is some selectivity in how and how many news items are presented has always been apparent (Shoemaker, 1991, & Stacks, 1996). Initial inquiries into gate keeping theory looked at the decisions of a lone gatekeeper (White, 1950 & Snider, 1967).

However, subsequent analyses of that research contend that the work of those individual gatekeepers was influenced by other levels of gate keeping forces, such as the professional routines of journalists and the influence of the news organization, (James Ettema and D. Charles Whitney, 1987, Paul M. Hirsch, 1977 & Ballinger, 2001: 641-658) thus revealing gate keeping to be more complex than previously thought. In fact, Shoemaker, Eichholz, Kim and Wrigley assert that “gate keeping in mass communication can be seen as the overall process through which the social reality transmitted by the news media is constructed.” (Shoemaker E. K., P:233).

Generally, the basic tenet of the theory is that, the media select what to emphasise and what to de-emphasise. Gate keeping applies to decision about distribution and marketing of existing media products. Put more succinctly, gate keeping refers to the power to give or withhold access to different voices in society and it is often a locus of conflict. This means that some media topics are chosen to be presented to different audiences through different forms of media. The gate keeper decides which information will go forward and which will not (Asogwa, 2012).

Through this theoretical framework, the professional role conceptions of journalists can be seen as their ideas about which potential news items are newsworthy (Reese, 1996). In other words, professional role conceptions are the “core belief systems” of journalists (Wilhoit, 1996). Therefore, the implication of the theory on this study is that, the

broadcast news media should select stories that are hidden deliberately but have a vital role for developing countries like Ethiopia after get aired.

### **2.10.2. Agenda setting theory**

Journalism professors Maxwell McCombs and Donald Shaw first referred the agenda setting function of the mass media after the 1972 water gate report by Washington post. This two paragraph reports had resulted for more than 90% of American adults to know what water gate was about. They contended that water gate is a perfect example of agenda setting theory (Griffin, 2012 eighth edition).

The basic tenet of agenda setting theory according to these scholars is that, the mass media have the ability to transfer the salience of issues in their news agenda to public agenda. They aren't suggesting that broadcast and print personnel make a deliberate attempt to influence listener, viewer, or reader opinion on the issues. Most reporters in the free world have a deserved reputation for independence and fairness. But McCombs and Shaw say that they look to news professionals for cues on where to focus our attention. They judge, as important what the media judge as important. (Shaw, April 18–27, 1974, p. 28.)

The major assumption of the theory is that the media set agenda for the public to follow. The theory holds that most of the pictures we store in our heads, most of the things we think or worry about, most of the issues we discuss, are based on what we have read, listened to or watched in different mass media. The media make us to think about certain issues, they make us to think or feel that certain issues are more important than others in our society (Asogwa, June, 2012).

In our day to day local news consumption most of broadcast news agenda enables us what to think through their news coverage. But according to University of Wisconsin political scientist Bernard Cohen's "The press may not be successful much of the time in telling people what to think, but it is stunningly successful in telling its readers what to think about" (Cohen, 1963). most agendas covered by investigative reports has the



tendency to make the public what to think about than the conventional journalism agenda indeed.

According to Clifford Christians former director of the Institute of Communications Research at the University of Illinois,

*Journalists have a social responsibility to promote the sacredness of life by respecting human dignity, truth telling, and doing no harm to innocents. With an emphasis on establishing communal bonds, alienated people on the margins of society receive special attention from communitarians (A moral responsibility to promote community, mutuality, and persons in- relation who live simultaneously for others and for themselves.) Christians ultimately judges journalists on the basis of how well they use the media's power to champion the goal of social justice.*(Nordenstreng, Vol. 19, 2004, pp. 3–28.)

Hereof, investigative reporters primarily strive for social justice. Thus, their agenda must be emanated from the heart of truth in the way that benefits their society.

Wimmer and Dominick (2006) observe that the theory on agenda setting by the media proposes that the public agenda or what kinds of things people discuss, think and worry about is powerfully shaped and directed by what the media choose to publicise. This means that if the news media choose to give the most time and space to relevant investigative reports, it will become the most important item on the audiences' minds. The implication of the theory is that the media can focus on the issue of corruption, maladministration, lack of good governance, human right violation and other social issues, the people will pay attention to it, since most of the things that members of the society worry about are the issues raised by the media.

### 3. CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1. Research Design

This chapter deals with the method used to address the research objectives. The research approach is qualitative and the findings are based on content analysis of 12 systematically selected “*Teguazh Neqash*” investigative reports broadcasted during the last three years (2014-2017) in FBC and follow up in-depth interview with 8 participants. The samples are investigative reporters, editor in chief and director of the program and they are selected based on their knowledge and experience they have up on the issue.

Content analysis is based on the extent of investigation and subjects of the investigation and importance of the issues coverage from the point of media watchdog role for the benefit of the public at large. Using checklists designed from investigative journalism practice worldwide as it is discussed in literature review the content of the practice in FBC media is qualitatively analyzed.

The interview is open-ended and the interview guide is divided based on the role and responsibility of the samples. The ultimate goal of in depth interview is to collect data up on the practice of investigative journalism practice the case of “*Teguazh neqash*” FBC’s investigative program.

The full break down of in depth interview questions are reproduced in appendices.

The objective of this study is to analyze investigative journalism practice in FBC 98.1 radio station. To do so, qualitative data inquiry method is employed for the following multiple reasons.

Firstly, as of using qualitative descriptive research approach in this study, it enabled the researcher to analyze the contents of 12 “*Teguazh neqash*” programs in FBC and analysed and discussed to what extent the program does investigation in addressing media watch dog role and assessed the investigative journalism environment in the media house subjectively.

Second, the nature of the research problem is descriptive than experimental. Therefore, the method is chosen for qualitatively describing the extent, role and areas of issues in FBC investigative program

Third, according to Hughes, "...if there are new situations to deal with, or if an institution has intractable problems that do not seem to be explained by existing theories, qualitative research is stereotypically seen as the chosen method" (Hughes, 2003 p.66). Eventhough, the concept of investigative journalism is not new in Ethiopia, much is not researched on the area. Thus, to get the job done, the method is selected.

Finally, as a result of limited number of practioners running "*Teguazh neqash*" investigative program in FBC qualitative research approach is adopted on this study. There are only 8target interviwees had been found in the media house. The target samples who are relevant in providing adequate information in relation with the research problem weren't exceed from the adopted number, the study has to focus on the quality of the data than quantity.

Therefore, qualitative approach is best practiced whenever the aim of the researcher is reaching in generalization from a small number of samples that can represent the whole.

Under qualitative research methodology there are multiple methods employed to answer the research questions and describe the investigative report scenario in FBC.

*Personal experience, introspection, life story, artefacts, cultural texts and productions, observational, historical, interactional and visual texts that describe routine and problematic moments, meanings in individuals' lives, Participant observation, interview method, archival or other documentary analysis, ethnographic studies etc. are among the methods used for data collection (Denzin, 2000, p.3).*

Amongst, in depth interview and archive (document) analyses are adopted as an instrument of data collection.

### **3.2. Data source**

To get adequate and appropriate information to answer the research questions and addressing the research objectives, the researcher used both primary and secondary sources during data collection.

#### **3.2.1. Primary data source**

The primary sources in this study are “*Teguazh neqash*” investigative journalism program journalists, editor and director in order to collect a potential data regarding the overall investigative journalism practice environment in FBC. The researcher has gotten adequate and sufficient information from these sources regarding the existing investigative journalism scenario than anyone else.

#### **3.2.2. Secondary data source**

Secondary data source was essential for this qualitative data driven study for analysing the contents of twelve systematically selected investigative stories broadcasted during the last three years (2014-2017) in FBC. The researcher used secondary source for knowing issues covered on “*Teguazh neqash*” program and assessing their relevance as media watchdog role. Whilst, using secondary source the researcher has restrained from analysing external factors that can affect the story. Because, as Linda states;

*Secondary data have some disadvantages. When we use already existing data, we do not have control over how the data were collected, what data were collected and what problems may have occurred during the collection. We can only use what is there, which may not be exactly what we are looking for. We cannot go back and ask people about the circumstances or the meaning of their responses; we have to make interpretations based solely on what is available. (Linda Kalof, 2008, p.111)*

Therefore, the study has used 12 archive of “*Teguaz Nekash*” investigative program as secondary sources to analyse the practice of investigative journalism practice in FBC.

### **3.3. Instrument of data collection**

There are several instruments in scientific research for collecting the appropriate data which differ considerably in context of money costs, time and other resources

(C.R.Kothari, 2004). On this study, at the disposal of the researcher in-depth interview, and archive analysis are used as an instrument of data collection method for vital reasons as it is discussed below.

### **3.3.1. In-depth interview**

In-depth interview is commonly used in social science researches. Specially, “on phenomena related with quality or kind, in depth interview is best practiced” (C.R.Kothari, 2004, p.20). Interviews were the most suitable method to use in gauging the views of FBC journalists, editors and program directors regarding the practice of investigative journalism, apart from the information obtained from the archived investigative stories. Because, it offered in-depth details from practitioners, who, are experienced during their course of duty.

Interviews according to Knight are important because they can be a “warmly inter-subjective means of exploring human experience” (Knight2002, p.50).

Whilst, carrying out an in-depth interview, it is an indispensable way to probe phenomena such as journalistic attitudes and perceptions. One cannot understand human actions without understanding the meaning that participants attribute to those actions their thoughts, feelings, beliefs, values, and assumptive words. The researcher, therefore, needs to understand the deeper perspectives captured through face-to-face interaction (Berger, 2010; Marshall & Rossman, 2010).

In this study, eight FBC media practitioners consisting of six investigative reporters, one program director and the chief editor from different backgrounds, roles and experience, were asked open ended questions providing to collect qualitative data on the knowledge and experience of the participants up on the practice of investigative journalism practice in FBC.

For adequate safeguards of bias and unreliability, the questions are well examined and are made to be unambiguous. The content of the interview inquiry is designed differently based on the role and responsibility of the samples

### **3.3.2. Content Analysis**

It is true that, collecting archive is an expensive task for qualitative researchers. Because, to reconstruct a past broadcasted stories, they may turn to official media house documents. In this case, works of journalists can be useful in identifying details of the past and people's lives. thus, high quality data sets are available from data archives (Linda Kalof, 2008).

Accordingly, to analyse the content of investigative journalism practice in FBC the researcher has collected 12 investigative stories broadcasted in FBC during the years 2014-2017. Because, as Wimmer and Dominick (2003, p.141) say that the main advantage of using content analysis is "its potential to identify trends over a long period of time."

The goal of content analysis is to assess the nature of issues covered and the extent of the investigation and role of the stories in addressing public issues using checklists that underpin the worth of a good investigative story. The checklists used are reproduced in appendices.

### **3.4. Sampling techniques**

The study has used both probability and non-probability sampling techniques during data gathering from primary and secondary sources for performing research operations.

#### **3.4.1. Probability sampling technique**

Among probability sampling techniques, systematic random sampling is used in this study for selecting 12 stories of "*Teguazh Nekash*" program.

##### **3.4.1.1. Systematic random sampling technique**

The researcher wanted to analyse a representative of 12 investigative stories disseminated during the last three years (2014-2017) in detail regarding the extent to which "*Teguazh Nekash*" investigative program does investigation in entertaining relevant public issues and addressing media watch dog role. To do so, the researcher has used systematic random sampling technique during the selection of 12 stories disseminated in the given years.

“*Teguazh Nekash*” is a weekly investigative program broadcasted every Wednesday taking one hour and half from 10:30am-06:00am in FBC. The program after it delivers a 15’ investigative report production up on the selected topic, it allowed the public to participate on the live telephone discussion. The existing tangible scenario of FBC investigative journalism radio program coupled with the public discussion would take an average of one month to finalize the issue being started before it proceed onto investigating another topic. On this regard, averages of 12 investigative programs are entertained annually. Thus, in three years the program probably addresses around 36 programs. The researcher believed that four programs per year and a total of 12 programs can represent for the last three years to analyse the practice of investigative journalism practice in FBC.

In this study systematic random sampling is employed in order to select and analyse four programs per year and a total of 36 in three year in-order to address the research objective. This sampling technique is being employed because of sampling frames are organised and sequentially available in FBC archive room lists.

Thus the investigative program broadcasted on January 2014 is selected randomly as a starting sample. Accordingly, every<sup>3rd</sup> program broadcasted after January 2014 until it reached the required 12 sample up to January 2017 was selected.

Therefore, of employing systematic random sampling technique on this study, variety issues of “*Teguazh Neqash*” investigative stories broadcasted during the last three years has gotten a chance of inclusion in the sample for analysis. Finally, the checklists used to analyse the contents of these 12 investigative stories are reproduced in the appendices.

### **3.4.2. Non probability sampling techniques**

Non-probability sampling according to Kothari, (2004 p.32) is that “sampling procedure which does not afford any basis for estimating the probability that each item in the population has of being included in the sample”. Therefore, from non-probability

sampling technique purposive technique is preferred and administered deliberately by the researcher whilst gathering data from FBC host journalists and investigative report editors to get adequate information. On the other hand, volunteer non probability sampling technique is used in the selection of media house authorities for indispensable reasons.

#### **3.4.2.1. Purposive**

Out of Ethiopian broadcast media, FBC is purposely selected as case study to analyse the practice of investigative journalism. Because, compared with other broadcast media's in Ethiopia, FBC is currently operating investigative journalism reaching mass audience throughout the country. Thus, purposive selection of the case study helps to reach in general findings and conclusion up on the practice of investigative journalism in EBM.

Purposive non probability sampling technique was also used when selecting FBC's "*Teguazh Nekash*" investigative program investigative reporters, program director and editor in chief for interview and to gather information about the overall investigative environment in FBC. Purposive sampling is being used in selecting eight participants by establishing a few characteristics to ensure the accuracy of the information gathered.

Compulsory characteristics include the respondent must be either current or former investigative reporters, director or editor of investigative reporter in FBC. Next, they must have experience in practicing investigative journalism, which were, in turn, relevant to the research topic.

### **3.5. Sample size**

This study aims at analysing the practice of investigative journalism practice in FBC. The investigative program under this story is "*Teguazh Neqash*".the study analysed the contents of five investigative stories in FBC broadcasted during the last five years (2012-2017).



The program is selected because it is a broadcast investigative program reaching the wider population in the country. The sample was determined by issues of the program.

### **3.6. Procedures of data collection**

Six out eight journalists interviewed for this study are currently working in FBC as investigative reporter, editor in chief and program director. The interview with the remaining two previous “*Teguazh Neqash*” investigative program producers was conducted at *Walta* TV the place where they are working now.

The procedure of data collection was fairly random, first, the student researcher held the face to face interview with eight target samples and then moved to collect 12 investigative stories broadcasted during 2014-2017 to FBC’s Archive room.

The interview section was held depending on the availability and locations of the interviewees. Except two investigative reporters, at *Walta* information centre around ‘*Temenja Yazh*’ in Addis Ababa, the place of interview was at FBC’s office in front of Ministry of Tourism around Black Lion hospital.

The first section is designed for six investigative journalism reporters in FBC and offers subtle questions upon the general practice of investigative journalism in FBC the case of “*Teguazh Neqash*” program and their Personal experience as investigative report practitioner to address the research objective and find solutions for research problem. An average of half an hour had taken to complete the interview with each participant.

The next section of respondent was the editor in chief who has enormous role in investigative report. The interview questions designed for editor, has offered a special opportunity for the researcher to collect information on how the editor consider investigative stories during an investigative story treatment plan is proposed and after the investigation is taken place by journalists. The interview with the editor consumed around 25 minutes.

Finally, the director of “*Teguazh Neqash*” in the media house was interviewed to understand weather investigative report aired in FBC has addressed public problems. In addition, the attention given for the field including the budget allocation and the way they safeguard the journalists from internal and external threat are entertained. The student researcher had spent more than an hour to finalize the in-depth interview.

The data collected through in-depth interview were converted to CD and submitted with the final thesis.

The next procedure followed directly after the interview session was collecting 12 investigative reports. The archived “*Teguazh Neqash*” stories were physically collected from FBC’s library which was digitally stored in the head office 5<sup>th</sup> floor and were digitally converted in a compact disc for final submission with the thesis.

### **3.7. Method of data analysis**

The aim of my research was to assess the practice of investigative journalism practice in FBC. My approach has been qualitative and the findings are the interview with eight target samples and content analysis. I chose the interviewees on the basis of their roles and responsibilities in the practice of FBC’s investigative journalism. The interviews were open-ended and the interview guide was divided into three sections based on the roles and responsibilities of the interviewees. That is, 15 questions for investigative reporters, 10 questions for the program director and 5 questions for the editor in chief and a total of 30 in-depth interview questions were reproduced and conducted. All sections of the guide centered around the extent, areas of issues coverage and challenges of the practice of investigative journalism in FBC and analyzed based on the theories and practices of investigative journalism practice in general as it is discussed in the literature.

The analysis of systematically selected 12 “*Teguazh Neqash*” FBC’s investigative reports were the starting points of the thesis, which examines the extent of investigation in addressing public priority issues and areas of issues coverage of the program as investigative report based on the checklists designed for analysis that are considered as values that underpin a worth of good investigative stories it is discussed in the literature.

The analysis of the data was accompanied by thematic coding based on the objectives and questions. The codes weren't pre-set but they rather grew out of the data gathered. The interview was recorded and then translated by the researcher from the media house working language *Amharic* to English. Then the sample programs were analyzed by the parameters discussed in the review of related literature. The analysis is presented qualitatively and for further understanding the researcher has raised and described some crucial points from the discussion of investigative journalism in review of related literature. The discussion presented the response of journalists, editor and director and the analysis of the content of systematically selected 12 investigative stories broadcasted during the last three years differently so as to compare what was being said by respondents with the existing practice. The presentation of the data is structured in a narrative and descriptive form. To keep the anonymity of respondents, the researcher has preferred coding. They were coded based on their job as follows:

R----Reporter (no.7) E---editor (no.1) D---director (no.1)

### **3.8. Ethical Consideration**

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

#### **4. CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION**

This chapter deals with data presentation, analysis and discussion based on the collected data from both primary and secondary sources. This part presents a simultaneous analysis and discussion of the data generated from the interviews with FBC investigative journalism practitioners and a content analysis and discussion of the findings from the systematically selected 12 investigative report were presented.

##### **4.1.Data from the interview**

The interview questions were all open ended and designed in three different types based on the roles and responsibilities of the respondents. Investigative reporters, program director and editor of the program have an indispensable role in realizing and practicing the existing “*Teguazh Neqash*” investigative journalism in FBC. Here, six investigative reporters, one program director and editor in chief of the program were selected as informants to express their own view from their experience on the current practice of investigative journalism in FBC to address the research objectives.

##### **4.1.1. The practice of investigative journalism in FBC**

In this part, the overall practice of investigative journalism including the practice of investigative journalism in the context of FBC, sources of agenda for investigation, investigation procedures, a winning editorial approval for “*Teguazh Neqash*” investigative program, areas of issues coverage, the role of the program, the extent of the investigation and the challenges of the practice was presented, analyzed and discussed based on the response of the interviewees respectively.

The results reveal that almost all samples have contended similar meaning for their investigative program with that of the global practice with a slight difference in expression. Most of them agreed investigative journalism in the context of FBC is a distinctive parts of the profession of journalism that involvesIn-depth reporting on any matters which affect the public interest.

The director of (DI) “*Teguazh Neqash*” investigative program has noted the following meaning for the term:

*Investigative journalism, as per our practice and from the academia, is the genre of journalism which is practiced by in-depth investigation. It has a starting and turning point up on any issues which have been concealed temporarily from the public at large. Because, there is nothing obscured forever from the public. So, I can call it as one and big genre of journalism we use to expose issues like problem of good governance, corruption etc. It helps to inform the public and let the government to take correction on the issue.*

*(Personal interview, 29/04/2017)*

The meaning given by (DI) is a bit similar with Coronel, (2009) who contends that investigative journalism aims at checking the abuses of those who have wealth and power. It exposes wrongdoing so it can be corrected, not because journalists and their patrons benefit from exposure. The difference is the prior focuses on the abuse than the abuser.

“Teguazh Neqash” investigative journalist (JI) said the following:

*In my understanding, investigative journalism is a voice of the voiceless which encompasses deep searching to get to the bottom of stories that involve abuses committed unlawfully and unfairly for the sake of personal gain affecting the benefit of the public at large. The aim is to offer a proper solution to eradicate of the problem for once and forever.*

*(Personal interview, 03/05/2017)*

From the perspective of FBC “Teguazh Neqash” investigative journalism journalist (JI) the following is said:

*In my understanding, investigative journalism is a voice of the voiceless which encompasses deep searching to get to the bottom of stories that involve abuses committed unlawfully and unfairly for the sake of personal gain affecting the benefit of the public at large. The aim is to offer a proper solution to eradicate of the problem for once and forever.*

*(Personal interview, 01/05/2017)*

The meaning given by (JI) is quite similar with the definition noted by the world's largest non-profit investigative journalism association. The association defines investigative journalism as “systematic, in-depth, and original research and reporting, often involving the unearthing of secrets, heavy use of public records, and computer assisted reporting, with a focus on social justice and accountability” (Editors., 1983 p.166). because, both of them believes investigative journalism primarily strives on settling social justice which is abused through improper use of power. But, they have differences on top of the mechanism they use to unearth the reality.

(EI) is currently working as the editor in chief of “*Teguazh Neqash*” investigative program in FBC. But, working as investigative journalist, producing and hosting different programs in FBC allows him to acquire multiple experiences on the field. For that matter, the researcher beneath discusses his opinion up on the tenets of investigative journalism in FBC, believing it can represent the rest of respondents.

*In general Investigative journalism is a profession which can observe and broadcast hidden issues from the public or issues that are difficult to be seen by the community. I mean to do so a lot of things are needed. First it needs research depending on the significance of the topic to be broadcasted. Exposing anything concealed from the public as well as government is not an investigative journalism unless the output has a positive impact for both. Therefore, I can call this genre as the biggest and last job in discipline of journalism.*

*(Personal interview, 29/04/2017)*

Thus, “*Teguazh Neqash*” investigative radio program could be considered as an in-depth reporting program that exposes issues hidden behind the curtains that affect the public interest following long-term process of planning, information gathering and corroboration using a diverse range of sources from the public to the public.

#### **4.1.2 Sources of investigation**

From the response of research sample respondents “*Teguazh Neqash*” is a weekly investigative program produced and broadcasted on FBC 98.1 radio channel for half an hour by setting an investigative agenda for discussion in order to implicate a solution on significant issues so as to bring improvement nationwide. The program and the editorial policy of the media house set an agenda for investigation based on three basic parameters. First, the problems that afflict the community and the relevance of the investigative agenda output for the public at large. Second, the timeliness of the issue in regards to societal problem. Lastly, based on the depth and scope of the issue to be handled within the given human, budget, and time capacity of the media house.

The program obtains agenda to be investigated and aired from three sources mainly. That is, inputs from the community, “*Teguazh Neqash*” investigative journalists and from other FBC journalists.

The main sources of the report are the public. The community provides a set of agenda they want to be entertained on the program through phone calls, SMS or by coming in person to their office. Having the agenda on the table, the investigative crew starts researching keeping the anonymity of the source.

Investigative journalists themselves are also other sources of investigative report. That is, journalists as part of the community witness abuses, improper use of power and maladministration among others. Thus, the journalists propose issues to be investigated on their editorial sessions.

The last sources of investigative report are other journalists of FBC. There is ‘educative programs meeting’ every Friday in the media house. It brings together FBC journalists who have programs that focus on education. This is additional plat form where investigative idea is proposed for “*Teguazh Neqash*” investigative team.

#### **4.1.3. Investigation procedures**

The investigative crew follows the aforementioned three basic parameters in deciding the agenda or topic to be investigated. As a journalist (JII) narrates “*Teguazh Neqash*” investigative program follows the following overall procedures:

*The starting point for investigation is either the tips we have gotten from the society or our own three-month investigative team plan. On both cases the procedures we follow are similar. That is, we collect an input from all members of the FBC educative program ranging from reporters up to directors during the weekly 'educative programs meeting' regarding what we to do next, how long it has to take/stay, who else has to be included, where else we have to review or glance about, how we can work on it and so on. This is taken as a preliminary plan before the actual trip. After having this, the nominated investigative journalist goes to the actual place and researches the allegation. Material and human sources are collected from all stake holders. After the intended investigative research is conducted and finished we let the public know the issue and invite concerned authorities live in the studio to answer questions raised by us and by the audience.*

*(Personal interview, 02/05/2017)*

The student researcher has raised similar question for the entire participants and the response was more or less similar with what (JII) investigative journalist explained above. But one of the journalists (JIII) who has served more than ten years in FBC has emphasized and added a bit on the procedure and the mechanism they use to identify the trustworthy of tip offs directed from the public before the actual investigation:

*Mostly the tips that come from the community have two opposition angles. That is tip comes from the right claim of the allegation or from the actors themselves. The procedure we follow to check the authenticity of the tips is conducted through investigation. The investigation starts by asking: what are the conflicting ideas? What went wrong? Does it have a negative impact on the public? What are the consequences? Who are the actors? What are the causes of the conflict? Why it is not solved? Who is responsible? What has to be done for the future? Our investigation follows after answering these questions altogether.*

*(Personal interview, 01/05/2017)*



Using these procedures, the investigative journalists produce a 15' production and broadcast it in order to alert millions of audience to participate on live studio discussions with the invited stakeholders. Accordingly, the concerned bodies 'would be interrogated by the public and the radio hosts live on air. Depending on the investigative agenda, the discussion would go longer up to two, three or even four episodes.

But, “*Teguazh Neqash*” investigative program journalists have a weakness in assessing the action and measurement taken on behalf of government body to solve the problem. However, they believe their program has registered enormous results in solving societal problems which are discussed in details in the study's further part.

#### **4.1.4. A winning editorial approval of “*Teguazh Neqash*” program**

As indicated in chapter two, Forbes( 2005 p.14) has suggested some important points that editors are likely to consider in deciding a winning editorial approval for investigative ideas when commissioning an investigative story. The researcher has asked the editor in chief (EI) of “*Teguazh Neqash*” investigative program the procedure he used to approve an investigative idea proposed by journalists and he replied as:

*In the case of “Teguazh Neqash” and in the existing reality of the media house I don't have the full discretion to decide in approving the proposed investigative idea. For approving as well for dumping the issue it is a cumulative decision of a member of all quality circle. Once we have received an investigative tip either from the community or from the journalist's observation, altogether we discuss by raising substantive questions on the merits for approving or rejecting the proposed idea in our quality circle meetings. The objective and goal of the issue, the depth and breadth of the problem and its effect up on the public at large, the extent of the issue in addressing the mass audience, access to sources are the basic questions and steps we follow before we go onto the actual investigation.*

*(Personal interview, 29/04/2017)*

Mostly, procedures for approval of investigative ideas in FBC are similar with what Forbes has suggested. They differ, in FBC investigative journalism practice, the crew or the investigative team is in charge of decision making whilst, as Forbes suggested the

editor is a potential decision maker. Thus, in FBC investigative journalism practice the liability as well the success is shared among the investigative crew.

I the student researcher asked EI what kind of criteria they follow in deciding the researched investigation report whether to broadcast or reject. Their major criterion is the relevance and importance of investigated issue for the public at large. If the issue doesn't entertain the mass, it will not be entertained.

#### **4.1.5. Nature of issues coverage of “*Teguazh Neqash*” program**

As it is discussed in the review of related literature, investigative reporters raise and investigate issues ranging from private individuals up to high government officials in the global as well African investigative journalism practice. As a result According to (Kaplan, 2013 p.7) “the field produced impressive results both in fostering public accountability and in building a professional news media globally.”

Through in-depth investigative reporting issues like, corrupt politicians, organized crime gangs, consumer fraud and corporate abuses, social and economic issues that afflict the society, urgent matters that affect large part of the population, problems in health systems, environmental dangers, and major difficulties for farmers and human rights violations etc. are some of the areas of issues investigated so far globally (Kaplan, 2013 & Lublinski J, 2015).

On this sense, the global investigative journalism practice is said to be boundless on areas of issues coverage. Hence, all public matters (social, political and economic) issues have been investigated and reported at different time in different part of the world.

Having this in mind, the researcher has intended to know areas of issues coverage of “*Teguazh Neqash*” investigative journalism practice. Before the researcher go onto the discussion up on the selected 12 investigative story broadcasted in the last three years (2015-2017), it is a good idea discussing the information gotten from primary data source for variety.

Accordingly, the director (DI) of the program replied as follows regarding areas of issues coverage on their weekly investigative journalism program called “*Teguazh Neqash*”

*“Teguazh Neqash” in terms of scope our investigative program is limited in entertaining issues happening in Addis Ababa and federal offices. For the rest part of the country our branch stations deals with it. Basically our focus areas of issues coverage are characterized by timeliness of the issue and as per it assess the mass problem. Quite often, we don’t focus up on individual issues. Hence we believe that we are the voice of the public. Mostly we prioritized on areas like Ethiopian revenue and customs authority, federal public procurement and property disposal agency, land grabbing and the stake holder land development and management, mega project management, road constructions and the like. Hence, these are hotspot areas for committing corruption and they result for public complaint and grievance.*

*(Personal interview, 29/04/2017)*

On the other hand, JIV replied similar question as;

*There is no issue which is not raised by our program in regards to any activity committed deliberately by private individuals or groups that can directly affect the benefits of the public at large. For instance, we had deeply investigated the issue of land grabbing around Addis Ababa and we were successful in making decision makers held accountable.*

*(Personal interview, 06/05/2017)*

On behalf of EI “*Teguazh Neqash*” investigative program merely focus on areas;

*Areas of issues coverage in any country is depended based on the political economy the country follows. For example, an amazing private scandal investigative story published in America might not be considered even as news in Russia. Hence, in Russia, story dealing about the majority is likely privileged. The angle of issue selection for news coverage is apparently different in Africa, china,*

*Europe, America and elsewhere you go based on the political economy nature of the country. Therefore, as Ethiopia a country that follows a developmental journalism in a state level in promoting and preserving group right, our areas of issues coverage deals with social problem.*

This is a pivotal issue while dealing with investigative journalism. The researcher believes that investigative journalism has called as (Houston, 2010) expose journalism, adversarial journalism, in-depth journalism, muckraking journalism, advocacy journalism, public service journalism, watchdog journalism and journalism of outrage based on the area of issues coverage in different parts of the world.

To sum up, “*Teguazh Neqash*” is broadcast investigative program which covers issues related with public concern which strives to bring social justice for the majority and attempt to hold accountable those involved in abuse.

#### **4.1.6. The role of investigation**

As it is attempted to discuss previously investigative journalism practice has enormous role for a given country. According to (Asemah, 2010,p.286), “investigative journalism plays a very crucial role in the fight against corruption in any country. Investigative journalism, as noted by the majority of the discussants exposes corruption in high and low places and this tends to deter others who wish to carry out corrupt practices in the society.” As Asemah posits investigative journalism has a role in acting as a deterrent against corruption. Though, he has specified the scope of the practice in only fighting against corruption, many scholars agree its role go far beyond.

One of the research questions of this study is intended to know the role of “*Teguazh Neqash*” investigative journalism practice registered in the last three years. The analysis of selected 12 stories based on the checklists reproduced in appendices probably implicates the role of the program in the next part of the discussion. For now the opinion of program practitioners (i.e. journalist, editor, and director) up on the role of their investigative report has played since its beginning is presented.

### **Problem solving role of “*Teguazh Neqash*”**

According to the program director (DI) their program has a significant role by echoing the social problem of the society and let the government know where the problem resides in order to take a quick correction.

He believes countries like Nigeria and Kenya who has well organized military but unable to devastate Boko Haram and Al-Shabaab respectively is because of corruption. So, the role of investigative journalism is a finding solution for problems of the society from the very grass roots before they reach peak.

Compared with rest of the world investigative journalism practice, “*Teguazh Neqash*” program scope is narrow and in-depth and content. As the program merely focus on issues of lack of good governance and corruption, it has a vital role in assisting government to take measure towards bringing good governance and fighting against corruption. He noted the program has role for the application of stable socio-political economy in the country and in working to bring trust between government and the public by exposing wrong doers and held them accountable. In a simplest term he states “our program is the voice of the public which strives for national development and prosperity.”

### **The role model role of “*Teguazh Neqash*”**

On the other hand JVI believed their program has some deficiency in investigation like other world. But it has a role in acting as stepping stone for the emergence of the genre on other media. Almost all of the participants assume FBC is the pioneer media in beginning investigative journalism in the history of modern Ethiopian broadcast media. Following this, they contended other regional media of the country started the program. For instance “*ye ketemoch medrek*” in Amahara TV, hello fana in the rest of Fana regional frequencies can be called as an example.

He has also pointed out that their program has also role in solving variety of social problem in the community in addition to implicating the source of wrong doings for government. He noted, water was supplied for Harar city as a result of our program.

Generally, the samples response reveals that “*Teguazh Neqash*” program has a potential role in magnifying/echoing the hidden problem within the society in order to bring a solution before they get into chaos.

#### **4.1.7. The extent of the investigation**

The extent to which “*Teguazh Neqash*” investigative program does investigation is clearly discussed in the analysis of 12 programs using the criteria. But, the researcher has also inquired all samples the extent to which they think their program does an investigation.

Accordingly, they asserted their investigative program were strong enough in investigation and challenging the actors back to few years. As a result there was a time they remember when their program had changed a policy, fired high government official, and brought various changes in the community.

They mostly agreed that their current program is not as strong as the previous one in dealing and investigating with serious issues and in registering a quenching result.

However, they clearly assure that their program is the pioneering and the leading broadcast investigative program compared with the rest of Ethiopian broadcast media.

#### **4.1.8. Challenges of investigative journalism practice in FBC**

As it is discussed in the review of related literature, globally the practice of investigative journalism as well as the practitioners face different challenges that can undermine the practice. For instance, currently in western countries such as UK and US cuts to news room budgets for investigative journalism are among the challenges affecting the practice. (Waisbord S. , 2000). On the other hand, ranging from legal challenges to criminal prosecutions are challenges faced by investigative journalist.

Having this, the researcher has asked FBC investigative journalism practitioners whether they are facing any challenges in running the program. The director (DI) of the program replied the following:

*...you can call investigative journalism as exposing journalism. As a result, the challenge will reach up to life sacrifice in global practice. In our case, we had*

*never faced severe challenge so far. Because, we strictly follow our editorial policy during investigation in order not to cross redlines. In addition, the media has legal advisors. So, before we go to the actual investigation, we have an open discussion with the legal expert up on the do and don'ts of the issue. However, cajolement is the biggest challenge we always face. We are provided life changing money from the actors in order to stop investigation. If we restrain to accept the provided money, Harassment, threats and intimidation would follow in order to stop our investigation.*

*(Personal interview, 29/04/2017)*

Lack of time for in-depth investigation, refusal of government officials to provide the required documents for investigation and lack of man power are also mentioned as common challenges by the director. For tackling the problem they face, government gives them protection as it is given for ordinary citizens. They don't have a special privilege on behalf of the media house. But he stressed the media will never restrain itself from cooperating with them regardless of what happens. The researcher inquired the same question for the editor in chief (EI) and he replied:

*...the time, energy, budget and effort we exert in finding the intended information which is deliberately hidden by actors are our major challenges we face. Previously, the challenges of investigative journalism were reaching to the extent of death. These days the challenges have changed their features. That is, the actors attack as indirectly by our own media officials. Eventually, we are abused by our bosses. They affect people around as.*

*(Personal interview, 29/04/2017)*

According to informants EI, there are institutions that are not open for media investigation. These institutions are the main sources of income for the media house through sponsorship. If they are investigated, they can terminate their sponsorship and the media house would have lost the income gained through these companies. Thus, the conflict of interest between the media house and this giant corporation will challenge objectivity of the practice.

In general, based on the discussion the researcher held with all respondents, the points discussed below were found as the common challenges of investigative journalism practice in FBC.

Lack of commitment on behalf of media house authorities in decision making is factors that push back the practice. That is, media house authorities lack a commitment of determination on some areas proposed for investigation.

Lack of well trained, interested, committed investigative journalist in FBC is also another factor. Quite often, FBC journalists are not willing to take part in investigation.

External factors like, rent seeking behaviors, Harassment and intimidation against investigative journalists is also factors that militate against the practice. Journalists are either provided a big amount of money by actors or harassed and intimidated in order to quite investigation.

On the other hand, during in depth investigation, the credibility of sources information and the time takes for cross-examining is the challenge of “*Teguazh Neqash*” journalists.

The job “*Teguazh Neqash*” Investigative program journalists is not limited to investigation. They are expected running other tasks of the media house. Thus, the work load of investigative journalists resulted in a superficial investigation

To sum up, Lack of access to information, lack of legal protection for journalists, improper use of power by government officials and the perception of sentimentality, lack of sufficient training for practitioners, the loose and gain bond of high government officials and the wealthiest and external threat of actors against people around journalist the challenges of investigative journalism practice in FBC.

#### **4.2. Findings of data from the interview**

The finding of in depth interview with eight target sample respondents reveals that “*Teguazh Neqash*” is an in-depth reporting program in FBC that strives in exposing issues hidden behind the curtains that affect the public interest following long-term



process of planning, information gathering and corroboration using a diverse range of sources from the public to the public.

The program obtains agenda to be investigated and aired from three sources mainly. That is, inputs from the community, “*Teguazh Neqash*” investigative journalists and from other FBC journalists.

Selecting priority issue for investigation → investigation → 15 minute investigation production → live telephone discussion with audiences → inviting concerned stakeholders to reply for public complaint is the major procedure of the investigation program in FBC.

“*Teguazh Neqash*” is broadcast investigative program which covers issues related with public concern which strives to bring social justice for the majority and attempt to hold accountable those involved in abuse.

The finding reveals that “*Teguazh Neqash*” program has a potential role in magnifying/echoing the hidden problem within the society in order to bring a solution before they get into chaos.

Finally, lack of access to information, lack of legal protection for journalists, improper use of power by government officials and the perception of sentimentality, lack of sufficient training for practitioners, the loose and gain bond of high government officials and the wealthiest and external threat of actors against people around journalist were found as the challenges of investigative journalism practice in FBC.

### **4.3. Data from archives**

On this part the systematically selected 12 “*Teguazh Neqash*” investigative programs in the last three years are qualitatively analyzed based on the checklist reproduced in the appendices. The descriptive analysis would follow three steps. First, the brief overview of the report is high lightened in order to assess areas of issues coverage in the program. Next, the extent to which the program does investigation is described. Finally, the role of the issue for the public at large is critically analyzed through the strength and

weakness discussion of the report from the perspective of both agenda setting theory and media get keeping theory framed in the study.

### **1. The story of brokers (commission agent's) job and its socio-economic problem (Jan 23, 2014)**

#### **The brief overview of the investigation**

The story of brokers' job and its socio-economic problem is an investigation made by “*Teguazh Neqash*” program and broadcasted in 23/01/2014. The program after gathering public opinion and brokers themselves up on the job of brokers and interlinked problems revealed that unethical act activity of brokers has caused a socio-economic impact in the day to day activities of citizens. The unavailability of legal sector that can control illegal brokers, the nature of the profession (i.e. anyone can join it without education, training, experience), the ultimate decision making power of brokers are taken as the major causes for market fluctuation and inflation within the community.

#### **The extent of the investigation**

The program depending on its investigation on the public opinion plays its agenda setting role by framing the issue of discussion gathered from the public to the public.

The story kick-off its investigation by citing studies conducted on the area, brokers or the commonly said commission agent is a privileged and respectful profession in the rest of the world by simplifying the task of buyers and sellers and in facilitating service for any contracting parties.

The investigation after gathering opinions from clients and brokers in Addis Ababa revealed there is no market that takes place without the involvement of brokers in Ethiopia in general and in Addis Ababa in particular. The report has also identified brokers as licensed agents and unlicensed. The unlicensed brokers are considered as unethical and made responsible for the sky rocketing price of goods and services. The investigation also implicates these brokers have unlimited potential in deciding market price through informal deal with service providers. As long as brokers are paid 10%-

20% out of the total amount of the argued price from both contracting parties, they are made responsible for the rapidly increasing price of goods and services for their own benefit. Specially, for Addis Ababa city rent price increment the investigation makes these kinds of brokers.

The investigation on its part two gathered the opinion of brokers themselves up on the public complaint and claim. Accordingly, brokers replied that it is only allegation and rather they had contributed a lot in facilitating jobs for the jobless, clients with variety of service providers. Brokers on their side claim that even some consumers fraud them by dealing with the service provider once they have received the necessary information from them.

The investigation after broadcasting the argument rose from clients and brokers it opened its airtime for live public discussion up on the issues root cause, its intention and any way out for tackling the problem.

Hot discussions were raised from clients, service providers and brokers counter parts. Mostly, the opinion provided from all parties showed the ultimate involvement of brokers in every market has caused socio-economic problems in the community. The conflict of interest aroused between buyers and sellers, clients and variety service providers are taken as social problems. The sky rocketing price of goods and services was taken as economic problems.

The investigation concluded after inviting a participant who has conducted a research on the area taking *Bahir Dar* city and a mini research in Addis Ababa as a case study. The researcher had based his samples on 51 brokers, 33 rental house owners and 33 lessees. The finding showed out of 51 brokers all of them have mobile phone but none of them have office and more than 90% of them are unlicensed. In addition the finding shows that there is no legal sector that can control the unlimited involvement of these brokers. Most of them are uneducated and untrained on the field but experienced according to the final speech of the researcher from his finding. The program had also summarized based on the opinion of participants from different parts of the country and back ground.

## **The strength and weakness of the investigation**

The investigation raised issues of public concern and topic of priority. Since, without the involvement of brokers a facilitated market is probably can't takes place, it could have an impact on the socio-economic life of the public at large and issues on the system concerns the public taking into account an increasing complaint of Addis Ababa city residents on unethical behavior of brokers the topic under investigation made under priority.

Even though the investigation is not supported by statistical evidences, it able to set a public agenda that can trigger the public feeling and attempted initiating the public opinion.

The investigation on its part two has also attempted to collect factual information among participants who conducted a research up on the topic by giving him priority.

But, the investigation failed in challenging the concerned authorities towards cross examining the said claims, allegation and public complaint.

In addition, the investigation reveals nothing whether brokers are responsible for the sky rocketing price increment of goods and services in cities in Ethiopia in general and in Addis Ababa in particular.

The report ought to investigate all actors involved ranging from clients, service providers, buyers, sellers, and stake holders. So that it can possibly found where the problem really resides and emanates. That helps the story to make the actors responsible and implicate the desired solution. Thus, it can be concluded that the investigation is too superficial and failed to play a media gate keeping role.

## **2. A story of rapidly growing begging activity in the cities (April 23, 2014)**

### **The brief overview of the investigation**

The story of rapidly growing begging activity in the cities was an investigation program made by “Teguazh Neqash” program and broadcasted on 23/04/2014. The program after collecting public opinion on the rapidly growing begging activities in the cities of

Ethiopia set agenda for public discussion and revealed that participants in begging activity in the cities are not only those really in need of but also those who consider begging as easy but profitable sources of income. It also revealed the offertory or giving culture of Ethiopian society taken as a major cause and source of the rapidly growing begging activities.

### **The extent of the investigation**

The story begins revealing the result of the investigation which is based mainly on the opinion of Addis Ababa city residents in regards to begging activity in the city. Accordingly, the story mentioned that begging activities in the cities of two types. That is, those who engage in begging because they are really in need of support and have no other means for survival and those who consider begging as the better and the easiest means of profitable income generation. These types of beggars are considered as people with low self-esteem and suggested blaming such kind of individual and societal behavior. The story also tried to include religious thoughts on the act of begging and revealed involving in the activity of begging while one is capable of working is accused and considered as a sin.

The story continuing included live public participation and Ethiopian society offertory/giving culture is taken as the main cause for the increase and evaluating before whether he/she is really in need or not, is he/she is capable of working or not is suggested as a solution to decrease the rapidly growing begging activity.

The story continued in its part two by including the opinion of authorities on the raised issue and the measures taken up on the activity to tackle down the problem.

Finally, the story concluded by stressing on the point that begging activity in the cities is a rapidly a rapidly growing phenomena and causing a negative impact on the image of the country in general. The investigation report suggested an immediate solution and measure is necessary before the situation become out of control.

## **The strength and weakness of the investigation**

The story showed begging activity in the cities is seen as rapidly growing and widely spreading throughout the country. Particularly, as the activity is highly related to urbanization and becomes the major complaint of urban dwellers and causing a negative impact on the image of the country the story is solution demanding. Thus it can be said that the issue of the story is a public concern and a priority. It tried the authorities responsible by inviting them in the studio in live discussion to give reply for the public complaint.

But as investigative program the story is expected to include deep investigation that can reveal system failure, if any and hidden truths behind the rapidly growing begging activity that the people might not aware of. It is also expected to include deep investigation whether there is an involvement of other actors in the activity and can make influence on policy, administration or public debate.

The overall investigation based only the opinion of the public and failed to conduct independent investigation. In addition it didn't include the opinion of beggars. It simply gathered public opinion and frames the issue and broadcasted the same thing for the public. Therefore, the extent of application of investigative journalism in the program is too weak.

### **3. The story of Lessor and Lessee relations (Aug 6, 2014)**

#### **The brief overview of the investigation**

The story of lessor and lessee relation in Addis was an investigation made on the lessee and lesser relationship broadcasted in FBC. The program after gathering public opinion on the issue from both parties revealed to the public that lessor and lessee relation on house dwelling and for business is unregulated and rent price is freely fixed by the lessor and the involvement of brokers become the cause for an expected rent price increase particularly on dwelling houses.

### **The extent of the investigation**

The story included public opinion participated while the story is on air and revealed greediness on the part of lessor and the involvement of brokers as a middle man being the main cause for the sky rocketing of house rent price in Addis Ababa. Eventually salary increment for public servant is being taken as a good justification for lessors to make continuous and un-proportional rent price increment.

The story added unregulated lessor and lessee relations had a negative impact on social and economic life of Addis Ababa dwellers and the public is demanding government intervention. The story continued in its part two inviting government authorities to answer the public demand and revealed that the problem is known by government and very little is done to avert the problem. Finally the investigative report concluded cause for continuous increase in the price of house rent house rent, particularly those using for dwelling purpose in Addis Ababa is attributed to the greedy behavior of most lessors. On the other hand the involvement of middle men in the transaction, the absence of the formal lease agreement and poor bargain power of lessee.

### **The strength and weakness of the investigation**

The issue is being a public concern and solution on demanding, particularly in Addis Ababa. The topic under investigation can be taken as a priority and it revealed greedy behavior of most lessors is a major cause the problem under investigation and unacceptable but growing up behavior in the society. Therefore, the topic under investigation being public concern priority identifying unacceptable behavior in the society and trying to seek solution from both the public and government can be taken as the strength of the investigation.

On the other hand, the investigation fails to assess and present statistical data showing the number of dwellers and business men using rental houses in the city versus the total number of the city population and the available and their standards for the purpose and indicating other available options to harness the problem. Since, the absence of formal lease agreement is indicated as one cause for improper lessor-lessee relation in Addis, the investigation fails to indicate the legal gaps in the law governing the relations at the

issue and digging out the cause behind the problem and making the responsible authority or actors responsible.

So that, even if the program sets agenda which is a public concern and priority, and attempted playing its media get keeping role the extent of investigation is a superficial and lacks deep investigation, fails to indicate system failures, and making impact on policy and administration.

#### **4. A story of professional's ethical problems (Dec 3, 2014)**

##### **The brief overview of the investigation**

A story of professional's ethical problem is an investigative program by "*Teguazh Neqash*" program broadcasted on Dec 3, 2014. The report mainly focused on unethical behaviors of experts such as corruption, mal administration, and lack of good governance, rent seeking behaviors and improper use of profession and its consequence on the countries' socio-economic development.

##### **The extent of the investigation**

The investigation aims in identifying the act of corruption, mal administration, and lack of good governance, rent seeking behaviors and improper use of profession in both government and private sector institutions and implicating solution for continuing the socio-economic development of the country.

The program offered the public to actively participate on the live telephone discussion up on ethical problems observed in healthcare services, justice, arts and government office customer service provisions. The story also stressed the impact of professional misbehaving for the countries devastation in order to initiate the stakeholders to take part on the discussion.

The ordinary citizens were the major participant on the live discussion. After they had appreciated the issue set for the discussion, they had continued complaining about different private and government institutions professional miss conduct behaviors.



Ethiopian road authority driving license provision office, health care centers, code enforcement offices, university instructor advisors, Ethiopian Electric Corporation and many other government customer service provider offices were among the public complaint as a place where unethical professional dwells.

After gathering claim and complain from the public, the story is concluded by inviting a couple of authorities to reply for the public complaint.

### **The strength and weakness of the investigation**

The story of professional unethical behaviors is a national concern so as the program made it agenda for public discussion to implicate a solution for alleviating the problem is the strength of the program.

But, the program is just framed for public discussion with no content of investigative journalism. The only effort made by the program is setting the agenda without any prior investigation made and let the public to discuss up on the issue.

Though the topic being selected is a national concern and priority, it is too general and broad for managing and achieving the hidden fact behind the cause of professional misbehavior in both private and government sectors. The story failed in making the content of the issue achievable through investigation. It ought to make it like ethical problem of Addis Ababa road authority driving license provision, professional misconduct of government referral hospital Doctors and the like.

Doing so, the investigation would find out the grassroots causes of unethical behaviors, its intention, system failure, actors behind the stage and it can implicate the desired solution.

Next, the program is fully relied on public opinion from the beginning up to the end. The program hadn't exerted any effort to collect statistical data up on the issue which might assisted the story in confronting the authorities up on the public complaint and made them responsible.

Therefore, the topic under investigation made by under the program is a national concern and priority but it is superficial as investigative journalism practice

## **5. The story of Ethics of traffic police officers and traffic (car) accidents (Jan 28, 2015)**

### **The brief overview of the investigation**

The story ethics of traffic police officers and traffic (car) accident is an investigation program made by “*Teguazh Neqash*” program in FBC and broadcasted on Jan 28, 2015. The reportage reveals that unethical behavior of traffic police officers is considered as a contributing factor for the rapidly increasing traffic (car) accidents in Ethiopia in general and in Addis Ababa in particular.

### **The extent of the investigation**

Traffic police officers ethical conduct and traffic (car) accident revealed that unethical behavior of the traffic police officers resulted in for over increasing rate of traffic accidents. The investigation invited drivers, traffic police officers, and other participant of the community who take part in the live telephone discussion.

The investigation shows the extent of the accident that nine people per day and over three thousand people are exposed for death injury in the country, over eleven thousand people are exposed for common and grave injury and one billion birr material property damage is sustained per year. Moreover the traffic accident disrupts large number of family through psychological, social and economic problems.

Having taken an interview of some victims the investigation also mentioned driving with over speed, drivers’ negligence, lack of competence and awareness plus greediness of drivers are considered as the major source of the traffic accidents. The investigation has also inquired Addis Ababa traffic police office public relation director the causes of traffic accidents. The investigation revealed that the violation of traffic rules and regulations, provision of the driving license, the arrogant behavior of the drivers as the main causes of traffic accidents.

The investigation after asking the director of ‘ *Tsehay* vehicle owners association’ have found lack of effective implementation of rules and regulations, the fault of pedestrian, absence of standardized road infrastructure, ethical problem and use of drugs are mentioned as source of accident.

The investigation stressed on psychological, social and economic impact and multiple consequences of traffic car accident recommended so that due attentions should be given to the problem. As long as most accidents are occurred where traffic police officer is not available drivers should develop a sense of respecting the law elsewhere. Furthermore, the investigation suggested, CCTV cameras should be installed for surveillance, considering the gravity and the repeated nature of the violation the punishment should go to the extent of revocation and suspending the driving license, effective implementation of laws, creating awareness of the society and building the capacity of drivers up on the impact of traffic accident, adjusted structure of vehicle owners and stakeholders, are among suggested solution as part of investigation so as to minimize the traffic accidents.

Finally, the program after broadcasting fifteen investigative reports the host journalist opened the air time for public to provide their opinion through telephone up on the role of traffic police misconduct for traffic car accidents. Drivers and non-drivers are among major participants and complaints. Meanwhile the discussion revealed that some of Addis Ababa traffic police officers and most traffic police officers in regional states are engaged in unethical misconduct. Improper use of authority and corrupted behaviors are found to be the major source of the complaints. Furthermore, inaccessibility of penalty payment stations and unnecessary bureaucratic procedures of the road authority is also prodded drivers to get involved in an illegal deal with the traffic police officers.

### **The strength and weakness of the investigation**

Traffic car accident is a communal and holistic problem of citizens which brought wider psychological, social and economic impact and results a deterioration of the countries development in general and social chaos of individuals’ life in particular.

As far as the unethical conduct of traffic police officers is concerned, as a contributing factor for the causes and rapid increase of traffic accident, the investigation made both national and public concern, moreover the issue under investigation is a priority.

The story of traffic police officers and traffic accidents is an overwhelming issue in order to make the actors liable and eradicate or minimize the problem. The investigation is appreciated for raising public and national concern that it can be said it has played its agenda setting role and acted media watch dog journalism.

The attempt made by investigation to find out the source of the problem and the possible solution suggested from the government organs, the vehicle owners association and the victims is the best quality of the investigation. Hereby, the investigation has used enough credible sources than relying on allegation and claim up on the sources of traffic accidents. Statistically supported information of personal and material damage sustained is also mentioned as a good quality.

Though the investigation has above mentioned strengths it failed to address its objectives that while the issue of the investigation is unethical conduct of traffic police officers for over increasing problem of traffic accidents it hasn't given a room for unethical conduct of traffic police officers for the contribution of the problem. It also failed to address the legal measures that are taken forthwith, neither to make guilty nor found innocent. Although the public complaint during live discussion is entertained and shows the improper behavior and corrupted nature of traffic police officers. Therefore, as long as the investigation failed to support the public compliant and opinion through deep investigation it makes the investigation weak.

In general, it can be said the issue under investigation has played its agenda setting role and get keeping role through identifying the source of the problem and implying the desired solution.

## **6. The story of Plagiarism (May 6, 2015)**

### **The brief overview of the investigation**

A story up on plagiarism is an investigation program made by “*Teguazh Neqash*” program in FBC and broadcasted on May 6, 2015. The investigation is conducted during the time the national exam is ready to be administered for grade 10 and 12 students by ministry of education. The story is about the act of plagiarism among students in academic endeavor and its source and its appropriate solution to be taken to avert the problem. The issue is selected for investigation after the investigative crew held an evaluation up on the critical problem nationwide in the quality circle meeting.

### **The strength and weakness of the investigation**

The investigation provided a background for its audience the act of plagiarism in the context of India and in some part of America state. The investigation reveals in these countries even families of the pupils involved in the act of plagiarism.

The investigation after strongly remarked the impact of plagiarism for countries socio-economic development, it seriously condemns it before it goes to the actual investigation report.

The investigation reveals the extent of plagiarism is rapidly growing in Ethiopia in primary, secondary, preparatory and even in higher institutions. Stakeholders like government, family, students, teachers, supervisors and other actors are made responsible for the up growing act of plagiarism in the country by the investigation.

The gathered public opinion and complaint by the investigations reveals that consciously or unconsciously everyone has passed through the act of plagiarism during the course of education. Most of the public opinions reasoned lack of confidence for their act though they believed it is unethical and felt resentment of the action.

The investigation reveals the manner of plagiarism has continued today by changing its form and techniques. These days the act of plagiarism is incorporated by technology through smart phones which is the easiest way for tricking the invigilator.

Finally the story invited the public audience to participate through telephone conversation for the entire time to have a discussion up on the source, consequence, and solutions of plagiarism from their experience.

### **The strength and weakness of the investigation**

Since the habit of plagiarism is a major factor that can push back the countries development for ones and forever the topic under investigation are a national concern and a priority. As long as the program has set the agenda for public discussion and awareness it is appreciated.

The topic under investigation is conducted and presented timely as the time when the national exam is ready to be administered. The story would have a positive impact to click a sort of homework on the concerned stakeholders to consider plagiarism seriously into account. Thus, the topic under investigation has national importance and it is taken as the strength of the program.

But, the investigation has failed in answering basic questions for the raised issue that can implicate a solution for the problem and to make responsible the actors. For instance questions like, why do students prefer plagiarizing? Do the educational statuesque is responsible? Why do educational curriculums changed very often? Why teachers involved in plagiarizing? Why the concerned body unable to alleviate or minimize the action? It is not possible to acquire a system that can help to crackdown the problem? Ought to included and found through the investigation. So that the investigation can disclose actors or stakeholders in order to made them responsible for the rapidly growing problem of plagiarism.

Therefore, the topic under investigation is said to be very critical and serious which is necessary being selected for investigation. Eventually, the investigation made is too superficial in exposing the hidden facts beyond the curtain and in implicating a bedrock solution for the problem to eradicate it for ones and forever. So, it can be said that the program has played its agenda setting role and failed its gate keeping role.

## **7. The story of products that lack the desired quality and standard (Aug 11, 2015)**

### **The brief overview of the investigation**

The story of products that lack the desired quality and standard is an investigation made by “*Teguazh Neqash*” investigative program in FBC and broadcasted on 11/08/2015. The investigation is about both products imported from abroad and local which lack the regulated standard and the expected quality in the market process. The investigation basically focused on electronic materials, drugs, construction inputs, raiment that is either imported from abroad both legally and join the market illegally. Aliment/food related problems has also revealed in the story as the main problems happening locally.

### **The extent of the investigation**

The story sighting the research conducted by Ethiopian food and drug control agency and based on the proposed discussion issue by ministry of trade inspection and regulatory directorate most of construction inputs like corrugated iron/tin have incredible quality problem.

The story also gives an insight of those unethical local merchants who add or mix foreign body into the cereal.

In general the story aims to reveal up on products completely dissimilar with its category or with its sealed brand and their impacts on social, economic, health of the consumers.

### **The strength and weakness of the investigation**

During the production of this program, quality and standard of products were a big concern in Addis Ababa. Thus, raising this kind of timely and public issue can make the story under priority.

In addition, the investigation attempted to implicate and alarm most uniformed citizen regarding the situation.

As far as the story has raised multiple moral issues in the society it can be taken as the good quality and strength of the story.

To some extent the investigation attempted to challenge those in power (Ministry of trade) to be responsible to the public, regarding the scenario.

Above all the report fully lacks in exposing hidden truths behind the stage. They were only relied on the opinion of the public and the research conducted by the concerned body. The investigation hasn't revealed anything factual based on data.

The get stuck on generalizing from the contexts of the rest of the world. Mostly the report is supported by allegation and claim. Thus it can be said that the issue being selected for investigation is significant for solving the complaint of the community, the investigation made is too superficial.

## **8. The story of higher institution students ethical conduct (Nov 15, 2015)**

### **The brief overview of the investigation**

The story of Ethical conduct of higher education students is an investigation program made by 'Teguzh Neqash' program in FBC which broadcasted on November 15 2008 G.C.

The story focusing on the type of business services opened around colleges and their effect on ethical conduct of college students revealed that students of higher education are becoming exposed to addictive drugs such as chat, *shishah* and etc because of low control on business services opened around campuses. The story also added that higher education students particularly females are seen engaged in commercial sex work in addition to being addicted to drugs. The story shows peer pressure and involvement of middle men (brokers) are taken as a leading cause for their miss conduct.

### **The extent of the investigation**

The story begins after conducting a pilot study on ethical conduct of higher education students and based on public opinion on the issue revealed that business services opened around colleges are becoming a major cause for an increasing unethical conduct of



higher education students and chat chewing and *shisha* smoking houses are overwhelmingly flourished, moreover rapidly increasing pensions around campuses are left unregulated and their effect on ethical conduct of students seems negligently haven't given a room by concerned stakeholders particularly higher education institutions and ministry of education. The story added that hotels and brokers are working on commercial sex work by facilitating and providing female students for their customer's sexual desire. Then the story continued including the opinion of live participants and revealed that the situation of higher education students around campuses is unregulated and an immediate measure should be taken by the concerned organ of government. Families are sending their children to colleges trusting the institutions but complained on their failure to control the ethical conducts of their students and they suggested there should be a regulated distance between addictive drug selling houses and colleges, furthermore, there need to control of the students by colleges.

The story in its part two includes the opinion of invited authority and included the opinion of college students and field observation with in campus. Likewise the story shows that the unethical conduct of higher education students begins while they were at high school level and suggested that the controlling mechanism should be taken there at earlier stage. Adding to this the ministry of education should also facilitate a regulating system that can make colleges, families and police to work cooperatively on the area.

The story finally mentioned that student's ethical conduct controlling system started at Mekele University as a model for other higher educational institutions. The mechanism explained as Mekele University followed an integrated approach which made every hotels and pensions to register identification number of any college students using their services and inform to police. Then the university will communicate with the families of the student according to the information obtained from the police. Besides the mechanism of night attendance check list is prepared in each dormitory of the students.

## **The strength and weakness of the investigation**

Ethical conduct of higher education students is a concern of the public in general and families in particular because the existence of unethical conduct means loss of generation for the country. Thus the issue of investigation can be taken as public concern. As far as the story is concerned the ethical conduct of higher education students is becoming worse and unsupported behavior especially by the melting pot society. The topic of investigation is the one to be given priority. Besides, the story tried to include the actual field observations and the opinion and reply of the concerned authority. Likewise it has also included the opinion and compliant of families and model works being done in some higher educational institutions. Hence, it can be said that the issue being a public, the topic of investigation being a prior concern and having credible sources and revealing unwanted societal behavior are to be considered as a strong side of the investigation and it can be said that the story played its agenda setting role very well.

On the other hand, even if the story tried to base its investigation on credible sources by including most stakeholders but lacks depth in identifying the real actors behind the issue and including their opinion. Plus it failed to conduct deep investigation to reveal the hidden truth, if any, and to hit the real head of the problem. As long as the role of the program is to be a media get keeping besides its agenda setting role, it is expected to challenge and made responsible the concerned authorities and made impact a policy, administration and public debate. It must also indicate a policy or system failure, if any, and suggest a plausible solution based on the actual source of identified problems. Although the story mentioned the business services opened around campuses as the major cause for the existence of unethical conduct of higher education students, no investigation is made and included on how and why the businesses are opened, it does also fails to pinpoint any hidden hands behind the Vail who should bear the responsibility. Above all the story was expected to include the opinion of the alleged brokers and hotels candidate female college students to engage in commercial sex work. Therefore the story can be described as best agenda setting program and included few

media get keeping role elements but lacks depth to reveal facts beyond public knowledge.

## **9. The story of the causes of traffic (car) accident (March 16, 2016)**

### **The brief overview of the investigation**

The story of causes of traffic accidents is an investigation made on the causes of motor vehicle traffic accidents and broadcasted by “*Teguazh Neqash*” investigative program in FBC. The program has conducted an investigation on the causes of traffic (car) accidents in Ethiopia in general and Addis Ababa in particular. The story revealed that drivers fault is the major causes for traffic accidents recorded within the last five years (2009-2014). The current driving license (i.e. the time the reportage is conducted) law is condemned being weak and attributed for the major cause.

### **The extent of the investigation**

The investigation based its story on the opinion and complaint of the public and statistical data conducted by the federal road transport authority and others. The result is revealed to the general public for further opinion and compliant. In the story traffic accident become worse and a threat for life of human kind. Factors such as drivers fault, professional insufficiency, negligence, and technical insufficiency are mentioned as major causes of traffic (car) accidents in the country. The story has also opened the stage for the public to break the silence.

In relation to the type of accidents, the story reveals that in Addis Ababa, accidents on pedestrians and property are high while accidents on passengers and property are high in the regions. Overall, accidents on persons are registered as the highest. In addition, the years between 2010 and 2014 in Addis Ababa, out of a total of 74,815 traffic accidents registered on persons 2,037 are death accident. From a total of 21,962 accidents in Oromiya region 6,303 are human death and in Ahmara region 3,749 are death on the other hand.

The story pointing the study conducted by national road traffic safety office on the causes of traffic accident within the country added that 84% of the accidents resulted

due to drivers fault, 4% due to technical problems, 1% due to road engineering aspect and the rest 9% is attributed to other factors.

The story continued and triggered public participation on the issue. Drivers are among the active participants in the live phone call discussion and thoroughly they complained up on the currently operating driving license law and the manner of the providing driving license. The previous driving license law, now repealed, and manner of license provision is appreciated by the public and suggested that the current law needs a revision.

Finally, the story in part two replied invited authorities from road transport and traffic authority to provide answer for causes of accidents claimed from the public and investigation. The story end up by concluding drivers fault, vehicles (cars) technical problems, pedestrian faults and problems in engineering aspects of road are being taken as the major causes for traffic accidents in Ethiopia in general and in Addis Ababa in particular. Finally the story recommended the stakeholders to work hard in order to alleviate traffic accidents.

### **The strength and weakness of the investigation**

The investigation able to set a public agenda that can trigger the public feeling and attempted initiating the public opinion. The story is supported by statistical data that shows the gravity of the problems and the causes of the problems. Thus, as the media setting investigation, the issue under investigation is a priority and a public concern.

The issues emanated from the public and a revision or a replacement of the current driver's license law is suggested. So, it can be said that the investigation attempted to expose system failure by indicating the repealed license law and manner of providing license was better in tackling the major cause of traffic accidents. It also made a good attempt in inviting and concerned government authorities based on the investigation and claim posited on behalf of the public even though weak in challenging and making responsible to the issue. But, it is an encouraging one.

On the other hand, the investigation fully relied up on the public opinion and studies conducted by the federal road transport authority.

The investigative program failed conducting independent study or at least cross examining the credibility of the findings and reliability of information of the research. It also, failed in revealing if there is a hidden truth behind the cause of accidents. By conducting in-depth investigation it might have revealed system failure and the existence of unacceptable social behavior. Had it not been superficial investigation it might have impact on actors, like those involved in license provision as trainer or a middle man or even on vehicles and spare part owners, sellers and repairers.

Therefore, the investigation having raised issue of public concern and priority can be taken as good investigation story. But, lack of in-depth investigation makes the story superficial.

#### **10. The story Public procurement and Auction (Jan 1, 2016)**

##### **The brief overview of the investigation**

The story of public procurement and auction is an investigation program made by “*Teguazh Neqash*” program in FBC and broadcasted on Jan 1, 2016. The story in order to show how public procurement and auctions are conducted and identify whether public procurement auction related are observed, invited individual authority from public procurement and disposal agency and revealed and how a public procurement should be conducted and when auction is necessary. Stakeholders also gave their opinion and complaint on the lack of transparency on the manner of public procurement particularly in conducting auction. Thus the story showed government institutions lack transparency in public procurement and auction procedures and mostly seen procuring while the budget year is elapsing for the fear of unused budget return.

##### **The extent of investigation**

The story begins by introducing a discussion issue to be public procurement and auction and invited the public to give their opinion on the issue and make comment on whether public procurement and auctions are conducted or not according to the rules and

regulations. The story included the opinion of individual authority from public procurement and disposal agency and revealed to the public how public procurement and auctions should be conducted and when and why Performa procurement is used instead of auction. Public opinion, most of them are contractors, and complaints are included in the story while the program is running and revealed that government institutions lack transparency in conducting auctions. The institutions described as being non-transparent, partial and inconsistent with the laws, particularly in the areas of construction procurement and auctions. Then the story continued to part two and received additional public opinion and comments and the invited authorities gave a reply for the complaints. The reply mainly focused on describing what ought to be public procurement and auctions than giving specific answers for specific complaints.

### **The strength and weakness of the investigation**

Since public procurement is buying of goods and services by the government through its agencies based on budgets allocated to them and the public is the one who conquers power up on them and sourced the budget, it is no doubt that an investigation is conducted on public procurement is a public concern. As the public opinion showed on the story, the way public institutions procured goods and services and conducting auctions is said to be problematic and the institutions are described being focusing on the total consumption of the allocated budget than in its proper utilization, the topic under investigation also be considered as a priority. Of course, the way issue framed is misleading because it seems public procurement and auctions are separate things, but not.

Procurement is the act of purchasing goods and services while auction its manner. It is one, but major, way of public procurement. Thus the story is appreciable in raising issues of public concern and priority, but it is to be described very weak as investigative story.

The story depends solely on the public and an individual authority opinion and even failed to conduct a pilot study before setting the agenda for public discussion. It simply raised issue of discussion and received opinion of the invited authority and let the public

to give their opinion. No further investigation on the actual working conditions of government institutions and the extent of applications of the relevant laws of procurement. No attempt is made to reveal a hidden truth by conducting in-depth investigations on government institutions and other actors that involve in the act of procurement and the process of auctions. The relevant laws (proclamations, regulations and directives) applicable to public procurement and the extent of their application are not revealed in the story.

Thus, it is difficult to take the story as complete investigative program. Because it is simply an agenda sated for public discussion without conducting deep investigation. The story failed even to include a pilot study.

Therefore, the story highly failed to play its media gate keeping role as investigative program and it can be said it is simply a public discussion program than real investigative program having the role of agenda setting and media gate keeping function.

## **11. A story of public transport problems in Addis Ababa (Nov 12, 2016)**

### **The brief overview of the investigation**

The story of public transport in Addis Ababa was an investigation made by “*Teguazh Neqash*” program in FBC. The program after gathering public opinion on the issue revealed to the public that public transport problem in Addis Ababa is a repeatedly is raised issue and factors, such as shortage of transportation, traffic jam due unfit road sand avenues are found being a major causes for the problem. Eventually, it exposed the public for over tariff and travelling in overcrowded conditions.

### **The extent of the investigation**

The program depending on its investigation on the public opinion plays its agenda setting role by framing the issue of discussion gathered from the public to the public. Stakeholders invited in the program to provide reply for complaints and opinions gathered during the investigation and received while the program is running.

The story included studies made on the total number of people expected to use transport service in the city in a day and out of this the share of mass transportation service. It also mentioned measures taken and being taken to tackle the problem.

Being motivated by the issue of the story the public participated and gave their opinion on the issue. They complained up on the unplanned construction of the roads, unnecessary placement of traffic lights, symbols and avenues. Poor traffic management is mentioned as the real factor behind the problem.

The story revealed as the studies showed in the city of Addis Ababa over 2.6 million people are expected to use transportation system per day. Out of this, less than 40% use public (mass) transportation system. To crackdown the existing (i.e. the time when the reportage is broadcasted) transportation problem of the city increasing transportation vehicles and traffic police officers, building tributary roads and constructing new roads in newly emerging villages are mentioned by stakeholders as a solution sought by the government.

Finally, the story concluded summarizing the problems raised on the issue and solutions recommended by the public and sought by the government.

### **The strength and weakness of the investigation**

The investigation raised issues of public concern and topic of priority. Since, public transportation system is meant for the public, it could have an impact on the socio-economic life of the public at large and issues on the system concerns the public taking into account an increasing complaint of Addis Ababa city residents on transportation problems the topic under investigation made under priority.

The program invited the concerned stakeholders to give reply for the allegations if there is any sought solution. So it can be said that the program played its role by raising issue of public concern and priority taking from the public to the public.

On the other hand, the story didn't reveal any hidden facts behind mass transportation problems in Addis Ababa. It simply focused on the obvious truths that any residents of Addis can aware of. No investigation conducted that can challenge and make



responsible the concerned authorities or that can indicate any unacceptable behavior in the society. Even though, the investigation has mentioned poor traffic management as the source of the problem, it failed in digging out if there is a system failure that the public might not be aware of and make impact on policy, administration or public debate.

As media gate keeping role the investigation was ought to make independent investigation on relating the issue with the number of transportation vehicles, roads and their equivalent quality. Further, the investigation was able to rise why roads are dug and excavated after construction? And, it has to sort out the existence of lack of cooperation among road, water and electric suppliers. Thus, it can be concluded that the investigation is too superficial and failed to play a media watchdog role.

## **12. The story of the service of Addis Ababa light rail way line (Jan 18, 2017)**

### **The brief overview of the investigation**

“*Teguazh Neqash*” investigative program broadcasted its investigation on the service of Addis Ababa light rail way lines on 10/05/09EC. The program highlighted on the countries fast growing economy and mega projects started and to be started to make the development strong and sustainable. The project on Addis Ababa light rail way service taken as one manifestation of the development. It is described as the first city rail way among the sub-Saharan African countries. It stated that the service started operation before two years having 39 stations and providing transportation service for more than 120,000 peoples in a day. Then raising a media discussion and participation issue on how Addis Ababa light rail way lines is providing the transportation service, revealed the result of the investigation made the what was the expectations of the public during construction, the reactions at the time of starting operation versus the reaction and the complaint of the public now.

### **The extent of the investigation**

The investigation revealed that creating a positive image of Addis Ababa transfer of technology and skills and creating transportation alternative is taken as the outcome of the project. On the other hand the service failed to meet the prior expectation of the

public due to the un-fulfillment of the promise given by the land rail Way Corporation and authorities.

Particularly, the number of trains made available for the service, the arrival and dispatch time between stations, ticketing and security systems are mentioned as a major public complaint areas on the service.

The program went on presenting the opinion and complaint of public percipients and made the complaints. It revealed that even though the promised arrival time between two trains was to be six (6) minutes. The service started within 15 minutes gap and currently it takes up to 30 minutes or beyond that. The number of trains providing service decreased and most double track trains operating at the beginning of the service lowered to single track trains. Eventually, passengers are forced to be late for work, school and other social and economic matters in their arrival.

Lack of maximum limit of passenger's carriage, late station arrival, delay due to technical and power outage exposed the passenger's theft and unsafe over crowded voyage. In addition the investigation revealed the rail way service is unfit for passengers who need special treatment, though an entry and exit way to station was constructed for those who are in need. The story on its next episode invites concerned authorities to provide a reply for the public complain and inquiry. The story reveals, an attempt is being made to improve the situations. Finally delay, shortage of trains, the absence of maximum limit of passengers carriage, inappropriateness of the service for those who needs special treatment, lack of ticketing and security control are mentioned as major problems in the service of Addis Ababa light rail way.

### **The strength and weakness of the investigation**

Since the existence of public transportation problem in Addis Ababa is the unhidden public complaint and the railway service is projected to be an alternative transportation service and harness the problem, the issue under investigation can be taken as a public concern. In addition due to the problem gravity the topic under investigation is a priority one.

The story indicated that taking care of and giving priority in using priority in using transportation for those in need is a long lasting Ethiopian culture and needs to be applied the same in the newly established railway service.

The story also showed that the issues are emanating from the public at large by lifting the public to give their opinion and solution and made their complaint. Thus the story being public concern, priority, indicating unacceptable social behavior and able to make the issues emanated from the public can be taken as the strength of the investigation.

However, besides investigating what the public says and the authorities reply the investigation failed to make a deep investigation in order to reveal the hidden truths behind the problem seen in the rail way service. Like the real fact behind the non-operation of the special entry and exit way to the station, shortage of trains frequent technical errors occurred in the operation, and the uncertainty observed in traffic management of the rail way service. So, this would have an impact on policy or administration and made decision makers accountable and held liable.

The investigation didn't attempt to investigate whether there is a construction design failure in the project and had contributed to problems seen in the service. The investigation also lacks depth in supporting the story with statistical data. Particularly, the number of passengers using the service with the estimated number of the city's population likely to use the service and the percentage that should be given to the rail way service in relation to the place occupied by the project and the area covered with other (alternative) means of transportation.

Therefore, even if the investigation made is good in selecting issue of public concern and the topic under investigation is a priority, it failed to conduct a deep and depth investigation and reveal hidden truths behind the problem.

#### **4.4. Analysis and discussion**

Two theories have been chosen to inform the study; they are: the media gate keeping theory and agenda, setting theory. the implication of gate keeping theory in the study is that, the broadcast news media (FBC's) investigative journalism program should play a

watchdog role by revealing stories hidden deliberately that have a vital role for the public at large.

On the other hand the implication of Agenda setting theory in the study is that the investigative program in FBC should set public or national agenda that can benefit the public. On the other hand, issues that have public relevance emanated from the public should be framed by the media in general and by the investigative program in particular for finding and implicating a sort of solution for public compliant.

The study found “*Teguazh Neqash*” investigative radio program in FBC is practicing investigative journalism mainly focusing on issues of public and national concern. Though, the informants believed their investigation program is as strong as reaching in influencing policy and administration, the content analysis of the investigative report showed the extent of “*Teguazh Neqash*” investigative radio program investigation is found superficial and lacked in-depth research to reveal the probable hidden facts behind the curtain.

The program uses inputs come from the community and investigative journalists as a major source for areas of issues to be investigated. Failures to challenge the stakeholders and making the actors accountable expose system failure and making impact in policy, administration or public debate and support public complaint and claims with factual based investigation were found as the major problems of the program.

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.

The student researcher has reached in multiple valid and reliable conclusions for the study conducted under the title the practice of investigative journalism in Fana Broadcasting Corporate (FBC), the case of “*Teguazh Neqash*” radio program with a general objective of analyzing the practice of “*Teguazh Neqash*” radio program as investigative journalism and with the specific objective of explaining the extent of investigation, knowing or identifying the issues being covered by the program and identifying the challenges of investigative reporters of the program. Agenda setting and media gate keeping roles are employed as a theoretical framework based on the role of “*Teguazh Neqash*” investigative radio program is established and a critical descriptive analysis is made through qualitative research method.

The descriptive analysis is made based on twelve (12) systematically selected programs among investigative programs made and broadcasted by “*Teguazh Neqash*” investigative radio program within the last three years ( 2014-2017) and in-depth interview results taken from 8 (eight) target samples.

Thus the study found that “*Teguazh Neqash*” investigative radio program in FBC is working as investigative program on Addis Ababa and Federal issues of public and national concern and as to the extent of its investigation the program set agenda for the public based on the public opinion and complaint obtained on pilot study and open room for public participation on the framed issue and in most of the programs invited concerned government authorities to give reply for investigative report made and the public complaint and allegations on the issues framed.

The role of the program is to identify areas of public complaint and creating a media complaint breathing room for the public before it reached into point of no return and the complaint before burst out to mass crises seeking and indicating a solution. The program lacks to indicate hidden facts, moral values, challenging and marking responsible to the issue those in power and didn't seen making held accountable public figures or decision makers. So, the extent of investigation of “*Teguazh Neqash*” program is weak and lacks deep investigation to play a media gate keeping role and serve as a watch dog of the public.

In spite of the finding that the extent of investigative journalism in “*Teguazh Neqash*” radio program is weak and superficial, the issues being covered by the program are issues of public and national concern and the topics under investigations are priority. Hence, the program is playing well its agenda setting role. However, the finding of the study shows government informant of public complaint than revealing hidden truths from the public and making impact on policy and administration by identifying system failures will put in red line as investigative radio program regardless of any political or regime change.

## 5. CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

### 5.1. Summary and conclusion

This research was conducted to investigate the practice of investigative journalism in Fana Broadcasting Corporate (FBC) the case of “*Teguazh Neqash*” investigative radio program. Qualitative research approach was employed to conduct the study. In-depth interview with eight target sample respondents and content analysis were employed as instrument of data collection. The collected data were analyzed in order to address *the practice of investigative journalism practice in FBC* as a general objective of the study and finding out the extent to which “*Teguazh Neqash*” FBC’s investigative report program does investigative journalism, identifying the nature of issues covered by the program in FBC and identifying the challenges (if any) of investigative journalism practice in FBC were the specific objectives of the study.

The analysis and the finding of the study were framed by Agenda setting and Gate keeping mass media theories. The scope of is limited to Fana Broadcasting corporate 98.1 “*Teguazh Neqash*” investigative radio program. The researcher focused on the programs disseminated during the last three years (2014-2017) on systematically selected 12 programs for analysis.

### 5.2. Major findings

The study found “*Teguazh Neqash*” investigative radio program in FBC is practicing investigative journalism mainly focusing on issues of public and national concern. Though, the informants believed their investigation program is as strong as reaching in influencing policy and administration, the content analysis of the investigative report showed the extent of “*Teguazh Neqash*” investigative radio program investigation is found superficial and lacked in-depth research to reveal the probable hidden facts behind the curtain.

The program uses inputs come from the community and investigative journalists as a major source for areas of issues to be investigated. Failures to challenge the stakeholders and making the actors accountable expose system failure and making impact in policy, administration or public debate and support public complaint and

claims with factual based investigation were found as the major problems of the program.

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.

### **5.3. Conclusions**

The student researcher has reached in multiple valid and reliable conclusions for the study conducted under the title *the practice of investigative journalism in Fana Broadcasting Corporate (FBC)*, the case of “*Teguazh Neqash*” radio program with a general objective of analyzing the practice of “*Teguazh Neqash*” radio program as investigative journalism and with the specific objective of explaining the extent of investigation, knowing or identifying the issues being covered by the program and identifying the challenges of investigative reporters of the program. Agenda setting and media gate keeping roles are employed as a theoretical framework based on the role of “*Teguazh Neqash*” investigative radio program is established and a critical descriptive analysis is made through qualitative research method.

The descriptive analysis is made based on twelve (12) systematically selected programs among investigative programs made and broadcasted by “*Teguazh Neqash*” investigative radio program within the last three years ( 2014-2017) and in-depth interview results taken from 8 (eight) target samples.

Thus the study found that “*Teguazh Neqash*” investigative radio program in FBC is working as investigative program on Addis Ababa and Federal issues of public and national concern and as to the extent of its investigation the program set agenda for the public based on the public opinion and compliant obtained on pilot study and open room



for public participation on the framed issue and in most of the programs invited concerned government authorities to give reply for investigative report made and the public complaint and allegations on the issues framed.

The role of the program is to identify areas of public complaint and creating a media complaint breathing room for the public before it reached into point of no return and the complaint before burst out to mass crises seeking and indicating a solution. The program lacks to indicate hidden facts, moral values, challenging and marking responsible to the issue those in power and didn't seen making held accountable public figures or decision makers. So, the extent of investigation of "*Teguazh Neqash*" program is weak and lacks deep investigation to play a media gate keeping role and serve as a watch dog of the public.

In spite of the finding that the extent of investigative journalism in "*Teguazh Neqash*" radio program is weak and superficial, the issues being covered by the program are issues of public and national concern and the topics under investigations are priority. Hence, the program is playing well its agenda setting role. However, the finding of the study shows government informant of public complaint than revealing hidden truths from the public and making impact on policy and administration by identifying system failures will put in red line as investigative radio program regardless of any political or regime change.

However, "*Teguazh Neqash*" investigative journalist produces the program across passing through different challenges a number of factors were found as factors that push back the practice and hold responsible for the current superficial investigation report of the program.

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.

According to (Forbes, 2005 p.3) investigative report requires “more than just going out, seeking out sources, asking questions and recording the story. There is an important organisational aspect to investigative journalism where an organisation is putting money, time, effort, person power and resources beyond the normal and routine activities of the newspaper environment” here forth, Lack of time, skillful, interested and well trained manpower and resources were also found as factors that militates against the practice of effective investigation. As long as we believed and reached in consensus that investigation is a time taking task, the need to make “*Teguazh Neqash*” a weekly investigative program by itself is paradox and unachievable to produce an in-depth and fruitful reportage. The program is running its investigation surprisingly with only four man power. In addition, other FBC employee journalists are not willing and interested to join it in fearing its suffering during investigation.

Refusal of government officials in provision of the required documents and information for investigation and journalist’s limited access to information were found as factors hindering the practice. Hereby, lack of awareness of government officials towards the role of investigative journalism were also cited by the interviewees.

External factors like harassment and intimidation against investigative journalists were found as a threat for the practice. The abusers either harass or intimidate or engage in a corrupting behavior to stop the investigation made on them. These were found as a factor for the smooth flow of the practice in FBC.

In addition to the above challenges, lack of legal protection for journalists, improper use of power by government officials and the perception of sentimentality, lack of sufficient training provided for practitioners, the loose and gain bond of high government officials and the wealthiest and external threat of actors against people around journalist were also the findings of the study as the challenge of “*Teguazh Neqash*” journalists and factors that can push back the practice and considered as a reason for the existing superficial investigative report made by the program.

#### 5.4. Recommendation

On the basis of the conclusions drawn, the student researcher forwards the following recommendations:

- The analysis of the systematically<sup>12</sup> selected investigative stories shows “*Teguazh Neqash*” investigative program in FBC practices investigation as government informant of public complaint than revealing hidden truths from the public and making impact on policy and administration by identifying system failures will put in red line as investigative radio program. In addition, the extent of investigative journalism in “*Teguazh Neqash*” radio program is weak and superficial, though the issues being covered by the program are issues of public and national concern and the topics under investigations are priority. Thus, FBC’s investigative journalism should continue raising public and national issues. But, the extent of the investigation should be strengthening to expose hidden facts as to make actors involved responsible.
- Refusal of government officials in provision of the required documents and information for investigative journalists was found as factors hindering the practice of investigative journalism in FBC. Therefore, high government officials should open their door to provide information needed for investigative report.
- The study found that media house authorities unfairly engage in on the jobs of investigative reports on what to investigate and not FBC media house authorities should get rid of fear or favor up on areas of investigation proposed by journalists as far as the topic is national or public concern or both.
- Job overload on investigative reporters and limited number of investigation report was found as a major challenge and cause for superficial investigative report in FBC. Thus, the media house should make investigative reporters free from other media job burdens. In addition the media has to hire some more investigative reporters and support the existing with intensive trainings.
- The right to have access to information should be applicable in every sector of the country.

- Intimidation and harassment were found as the challenges of investigation crew by actors involved in the wrong doings. Thus, Investigative journalists should be protected from threat by the government and the media house they are serving for.
- Responsible, transparent and committed investigative journalism department should be established in all Ethiopian broadcast media free from external intervention or alone.
- Lack of sufficient time for cross examining source's information was also the critical problem of investigation team. So, the community should actively participate in providing credible information to fight against the abuses.
- Government and other stakeholders should support and strengthen the practice as a bridge to listen to public complain in order to crack down the problem before it reached into the peak ladder.
- Government, media institutions, higher education institutions, citizens of the country, private sectors, journalists should cooperate towards strong investigative journalism practice in Ethiopian Broadcasting Media in general and FBC in particular for the common good of the country.

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## **Appendix**

### **Appendix I**

#### **Index of cases of investigative reporting studied**

*Story 1: Triggering the urgent delivery of condoms, Kenya.*

*Story 2: Triggering the delivery of CD4 machines for HIV patients, Uganda*

*Story 3: Improving supplies for health centres, parliamentary debate on maternal mortality, Uganda.*

*Story 4: Delivery of anti-malaria drugs and bed nets, Uganda*

*Story 5: Accelerating government plans to fight Striga weed, Uganda*

*Story 6: Supporting action against the abduction of women, Burkina Faso*

*Story 7: Setting up a new policy for treatment of the Buruli ulcer infection, Cameroon*

*Story 8: Raising public awareness about dealing with toxic waste, Cote d'Ivoire*

*Story 9: Mitigating shortages in anti-tuberculosis drug delivery, Cameroon*

*Story 10: Improving national weather forecasting to help farmers, Cameroon*

*Story 11: Problems of science funding in Uganda, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal and Rwanda*

*Story 12: Supporting a farmer who fights the desert, Burkina Faso*

## Appendix II

### Interview questions for investigative journalists

*This Interview questions are designed for FBC investigative journalists on the practice of investigative journalism taking “Teguazh Nekash” program as a vantage point in addition to their overall experience on the field.*

This is an in-depth interview designed for data analysis and presentation for the topic entitled as “The practice of investigative journalism in Ethiopian broadcast media the case of ‘Teguazh Neqash’ in FBC 98.1” which is basically, an input for the partial fulfillment of Master of Arts in Journalism and communication. Hence, you are selected purposely; you are solemnly urged to answer deeply the questions truthfully.

1. What is investigative journalism on the context of your program and FBC?
2. What are the criteria’s undertaken when you are employed as an investigative reporter?
3. What are major area ‘Teguazh Neqash’ your program focus?
4. Where do you find stories to be investigated for ‘Teguazh Neqash’ program?
5. What mechanical procedures do you follow for investigation?
6. Tell me about the strength and allocation of man power and material when you go for investigation?
7. What kind of ethical consideration taken into account during investigation?
8. In your media house who is awarded or praised of having good qualities during investigation? And what are those things considered as good qualities?
9. How do you verify and disclose your sources? And do you always believe information’s provided from the sources?
10. In what ways your program plays media watchdog role? For example in fighting against corruption, in maintaining good governance etc.
11. To what extent your investigative report exposed hidden facts from the public so far? How? And can you list some of them?
12. Please briefly mention a kind of succinct challenges you have faced internally (i.e. from your own media house) and externally (i.e. government authorities, private individuals

etc.) Of being investigative reporter so far? What do you think are the reasons? What kinds of mechanism do you use to overcome such challenges?

13. Tell me the extent of such challenges affected you and your job so far and how such challenges hinder the future investigative journalism in Ethiopian broadcast media? What do you suggest as a solution?
14. To make you a professional investigative reporter and of getting a competitive investigative story, how often you are provided trainings and professional support on issues related with investigative journalism from FBC?
15. What do you suggest for a better/strong future investigative journalism practice in Ethiopian broadcast media in general and in FBC in particular?

### Amharic for journalists

ይህ መጠይቅ ለተጓዥ ነቃሽ ፕሮግራም ጋዜጠኞች የተዘጋጀ ነው። አላማውም ተሳታፊዎች በተጓዥ ነቃሽ የምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት ፕሮግራም ዙሪያ ያላቸውን አጠቃላይ ምልክታ ለማወቅ ነው።

በመጨረሻም ከተሳታፊዎች የሚሰበሰበው መረጃ ለ“The practice of investigative journalism in Ethiopian broadcast media.” *The case of “Teguazh Negash” (2014-2017) in FBC 98.1 radio station. ተሰኘው የሁለተኛ ደግሪ ማሟያ ፅሁፍ ግበአት ይውላል።*

1. በFBC ባንተ ግንዛቤ የምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት ምንድን ነው?
2. በFBC ለተጓዥ ነቃሽ ፕሮግራም የምርመራ ጋዜጠኛ ሆነ ስትቀጠር እና ስትሰራ በምን መስፈርት ነው?
3. በአብዛኛው ተጓዥ ነቃሽ ፕሮግራም ምን አይነት ርዕሰ ጉዳዮች ላይ ያተኩራል?
4. ለተጓዥ ነቃሽ ፕሮግራም ለምርመራ የምታነሷቸውን ርዕሰ ጉዳዮች ከየት ነው የምታገኙት?
5. ለተጓዥ ነቃሽ ፕሮግራም ለምርመራ በምትወጡ ጊዜ ምን አይነት ቅደም ተከተሎችን ትከተላለህ?
6. ለተጓዥ ነቃሽ ፕሮግራም ለምርመራ በምትወጡ ጊዜ ያላችሁን/የሚመደብላችሁን የሰው እና የምርመራ ስራችሁን ሊያቀላጥፍ የሚችል ቁሳቁስ አቅም እና ጥንካሬ እስቲንገረኝ/ገረኝ?
7. ለተጓዥ ነቃሽ ፕሮግራም ለምርመራ ስራ በምትወጣ ጊዜ ምን አይነት የስነ-ምግባር መርሆችን ከተላለህ/ሽ?
8. በFBC በተጓዥ ነቃሽ ፕሮግራም አንድ የምርመራ ጋዜጠኛ ጥሩ/ጎበዝ የምርመራ ጋዜጠኛ ነው ተብሎ ሊሸለም/ሊመሰገን የሚችለው በምን አይነት መስፈርት ነው? ወይ ምን ምን አይነት ተግባሮችን ሲፈፅም ነው?
9. ለተጓዥ ነቃሽ ፕሮግራም በምርመራ ስራ ወቅት ከምንጮች የምታገኟቸውን መረጃዎች ስለእውነተኛነታቸው እንዴት ታጣራለህ? ምንጮችን እና ከምንጮች ያገኘከውን መረጃ ሚስጥር አድርገ እንዴት ትጠብቃለህ?

10. የእናንተ ተጓዥ ነቃሽ ፕሮግራም በምን አይነት አግባብ እንደ ሚዲያ የህዝብ ጠባቂ ሆኖ አስተዋፅኦ አበረከቷል? ለምሳሌ የሀገሪቱን የመልካም አስተዳደር ችግር በመፍታት፣ ስርዓትን በመዋጋት ወዘተ ረገድ ያደረገው አስተዋፅኦ?
11. እስከ ዛሬ ተጓዥ ነቃሽ የእናንተ የምርምር ጋዜጠኝነት ፕሮግራም ምን ያህል ከህብረተሰቡ የተደበቁ እውነታዎችን አጋልጧል? እንዴት? ዋና ዋና የሚባሉትን ዘርዘርልኝ።
12. እስከ ዛሬ በFBC የተጓዥ ነቃሽ ፕሮግራም የምርመራ ጋዜጠኛ በመሆን/ሆነ በመሰራትህ ምክንያት ከውስጥም (FBC የሚዲያው ባለስልጣናት፣ አርታኢ ወዘተ) ሆነ ከውጪ (ባለስልጣናት፣ ባለሀብት፣ ግለሰቦች ወዘተ) የገጠሙ/የሚገጥሙ ችግሮችን/ተግዳሮቶችን ዘረዘርልኝ። የችግሮቹስ ምንጮች ምንድን ናቸው? የሚገጥሙህን ችግሮችስ በምን አይነት መንገድ ትፈታቸዋለህ?
13. እስከ ዛሬ ኢነዚህ ችግሮች አንተን እና ስራህን በምን ያህል ደረጃ ጎድተውታል? ለወደፊትስ ለውጤታማ የምርመራ የጋዜጠኝነት ስራ እንዴት ስጋት ይሆናሉ? መፍትሄ ይሆናል ብለህስ ምን ታስቀምጣለህ?
14. በምርመራ የጋዜጠኝነት ዘርፍ በሙያ ብቁ እንድትሆን እና ስራህ ተወዳዳሪ እንዲሆን ድርጅቱ ምን ያህል እና በምን ያህል ጊዜ ስልጠና እና ድጋፍ ያደርግልሃል?
15. ለወደፊት ውጤታማ/ጠንካራ የምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት ስራ በኢትዮፕያ ብሮድካስት ሚዲያ ባጠቃላይ እና FBC (ተጓዥነቃሽ) እንዲኖር/ ተጠናክሮ እንዲቀጥል ምን መደረግ አለበት ባለህ ታስባለህ?

**Interview questions for the director**

*In depth interview is designed for “Teguazh Neqash” investigative program directors in order to find out their general opinion regarding the overall practice of investigative journalism in FBC.*

To that end, interview has been designed to collect data for the topic entitled as “The practice of investigative journalism in Ethiopian broadcast media.” *The case of “Teguazh Neqash” (2014-2017) in FBC 98.1 radio station.* The study is conducted for the partial fulfillment of Master of Arts in Journalism.

1. What is the aim of “Teguazh Neqash” program in FBC?
2. What are basic issues you would like to cover on your reportage? Who are your target audiences? Tell me the necessity and importance of your program for Ethiopia based on the media watchdog role for the benefit of the public at large?
3. To what extent “Teguazh Neqash” does investigative journalism?
4. What special attention is given for the field on the behalf of the media house both for the practice and journalists?

5. Do you have special budget for “Teguazh Neqash” program on behalf of the media house? If yes how much and how do you spend? And if no why?
6. Quite often investigative journalists are exposed for internal (i.e. media house) and external (i.e. Government officials, private individuals) threat because of being investigating and exposing hidden histories from the public. Have you ever heard when “Teguazh Neqash” journalists faced such challenges/threat? If yes, what kind of mechanisms do you use in order to tackle/solve the problems and safeguard journalists from internal and external threat?
7. What is the drawback against exercising a better investigative journalism in FBC?
8. What are the criteria’s in your media house to hire investigative journalists?
9. After investigative reporters are hired to what extent you provide them training and support the journalists in order to make them professional and qualified investigators?
10. What do you suggest for a better/strong future investigative journalism practice in Ethiopian broadcast media in general and in FBC in particular?

**Amaharic for Directors**

ይህ ቃለ መጠይቅ ለተጓዥ ነቃሽ ፕሮግራም ለዳይሬክተሮች የተዘጋጀ ነው። አላማውም ተሳታፊዎች በተጓዥ ነቃሽ የምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት ፕሮግራም ዙሪያ ያላቸውን አጠቃላይ ምልክታ ለማወቅ ነው።

በመጨረሻም ከተሳታፊዎች የሚሰበሰበው መረጃ “The practice of investigative journalism in Ethiopian broadcast media.” *The case of “Teguazh Neqash” (2014-2017) in FBC 98.1 radio station. ተሰኘው የሁለተኛ ድግሪ ማሟያ ፅሁፍ ግበአት ይውላል።*

1. የእናንተ የምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት ስራ (ተጓዥነቃሽ ፕሮግራም) አላመው ምንድነው
2. የእናንተ የምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት ስራ (ተጓዥነቃሽ ፕሮግራም) ምን አይነት ርእሰ ጉዳዮችን እንዲያነሳ/ምልክታዎች እንዲኖሩት ነው የሚፈለገው? ማንንስ በአብዛኛው ያማከል ነው? የእናንተ የምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት ስራ ስለ ኢትዮጵያ በምን መልኩ ያስፈልጋታል፤ይጠቅማታል?
3. እስከዛሬ በምን ያህል ደረጃ ተጓዥ ነቃሽ የምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት ሰርቷል? ምን አይነት አመርቂው ጤቶችንስ አስመዝግቧል?
4. በፈ.ቢ.ሲ ለምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት ዘርፍ (ተጓዥነቃሽ) እና ለምርመራ ጋዜጠኞች ምን አይነት ትኩረት ይሰጣል
5. ከሌላው ክፍል በተለየ መልኩ ለተጓዥ ነቃሽ የሚበጀት በጀት አለ? ካለስ ምን ያህል፤ ከሌለስለ ምን? የተበጀተው በጀትስ ለምን ይውላል?

6. አብዛኛዎቹ የምርምራ ጋዜጠኞች ከህዝብ የተደበቁ እውነታዎች በማጋለጣቸው ምክንያት ከውስጥም (ከራሳችሁ ሚዲያ ሰዎች) ሆነ ከውጪ (ከግለሰብ፣ ከመንግስት ባለስልጣናት) አደጋ እንደሚደርስባቸው ይነገራል። በዚህ ጉዳይ ላይ ስለ እናነተ ሚዲያ ጋዜጠኞች የሚታወቅ ጉዳይ አለ? ችግሮች እንዳሉ ከታወቀስ በምን አይነት አግባብ ነው የምትፈቷቸው?
7. በፈ.ቢ.ሲ ስኬታማ የሚባል የምርምር ጋዜጠኝነት ለማስኬድ ተግዳሮት የሆነባቸው ጉዳይ ምንድን ነው?
8. የምርምር ጋዜጠኛ ስትቀጠሩ/ለመቅጠር ምን አይነት መስፈርት ትከተላላቸው?
9. ከተቀጠሩስ ብቻ ጋዜጠኞችን ለማብቃት በምን ያህል ደረጃ ድጋፍ እና ስልጠና ይሰጣቸዋል?
10. ለወደፊት ውጤታማ/ጠንካራ የምርምራ ጋዜጠኝነት ስራ በኢትዮፕያ ብሮድካስት ሚዲያ ባጠቃላይ እና FBC (ተጓዥነቃሽ) እንዲኖር/ ተጠናክሮ እንዲቀጥል ምን መደረግ አለበት በለሀታስባለሀ?

**Interview questions for editors**

*In depth interview is designed for “Teguazh Neqash” investigative program editors in order to find out their general opinion regarding the overall practice of investigative journalism in FBC.*

To that end, interview has been designed to collect data for the topic entitled as “The practice of investigative journalism in Ethiopian broadcast media.” *The case of “Teguazh Neqash” (2014-2017) in FBC 98.1 radio station.* The study is conducted for the partial fulfillment of Master of Arts in Journalism.

**Section I**

1. Could you please tell me the procedures you follow for rejecting or approving when an investigative story treatment plan is proposed by journalists?
2. After journalist’s treatment plan is approved what are the criteria’s you follow to reject or approve investigative stories already conducted/done by journalists before they get broadcasted?

**Section II**

3. What is your special knowledge/skill you have for editing investigative stories?
4. To what extent investigative stories produced by journalists are quenching and raise public issues as per expected?

5. Do you have an ultimate power to decide up on investigative story plan already done?
6. What kind of pertinent attention is granted for all FBC investigative practitioners on behalf of your media house?
7. Do you have any suggestion for a better investigative journalism practice in Ethiopian broadcast media in general and FBC in particular?

**Amharic Interview questions for editors**

ይህ ቃለ መጠይቅ ለተጓዥ ነቃሽ ፕሮግራም አርታኪ የተዘጋጀ ነው። አላማውም ተሳታፊዎች በተጓዥ ነቃሽ የምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት ፕሮግራም ዙሪያ ላቸውን አጠቃላይ ምልከታ ለማወቅ ነው።

በመጨረሻም ከተሳታፊዎች የሚሰበሰበው መረጃ ለ “The practice of investigative journalism in Ethiopian broadcast media.” *The case of “Teguazh Neqash” (2014-2017) in FBC 98.1 radio station. ተሰኘው የሁለተኛ ድግሪ ማሟያ ፅሁፍ ግብአት ይውላል።*

**ክፍል 1**

1. እስካሁን ባላቸሁ አሰራር የተጓዥ ነቃሽ የምርመራ ጋዜጠኞች የምርመራ ስራ ለመስራት የምርመራ ሀሳብ ዕቅድ ሲያስገቡ (Treatment plan) በምን መስፈርት ነው የምታፀድቁት?
2. የምርመራ ሀሳብ እቅድ ለጋዜጠኞች ከጸደቀ ቡኋላ ጋዜጠኞች የምርመራ ስራቸውን ሠርተው/ጨርሰው ካመጡ ብኋላ ፕሮግራሙ አየር ላይ እንዲውል ወይ ደግሞ እንዳይውል ምን እይነት መስፈርት ነው የምትከተሉት?

**ክፍል 2**

3. የምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት አርታኪ ለመሆን ምን የተለየ እውቀት እና ክህሎት አለህ?
4. በምን ያህል ደረጃ በተጓዥ ነቃሽ ፕሮግራም የሚዘጋጁት የምርመራ ስራዎች ለህዝቡ በሚያስፈልገው ልክ አጥጋቢ ናቸው?
5. የሚዘጋጁት የምርመራ ሀሳቦችን/እቅዶችን ውድቅ የማደረግ እና የማሳለፍ ሙሉ ስልጣን አለህ?
6. ባጠቃላይ ለተጓዥ ነቃሽ ፕሮግራም ተሳታፊዎች እና ለምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት እድገት የተለየ ትኩረት በድርጅቱ በምን መልኩ የሰጣል?
7. ለወደፊት ለውጤታማ ዕና ስኬታማ የምርመራ ጋዜጠኝነት በኢትዮፕያ ብሮድካስት ሜዲያ እና በ FBC መደረግ ያለባቸው ነገሮች አሉ ብለህ ታስባለህ?

### **Appendix III**

*This checklist is basically designed for a critical analysis of 12 randomly selected investigative stories aired during 2014-2017 from the experience of global and sub-Saharan investigative journalism practice and assessment criteria's taken from books as it is discussed in the review of related literature.*

- Is the story of national or public concern? Who would benefit from this story?
- Is the topic or issue under investigation a priority?
- What hidden truths would the story reveal?
- What moral values does the story raise?
- Does the story challenge those in power to be responsible to the public, taxpayers, voters, consumers?
- Does the story indicate what type of behaviour is unacceptable in our society?
- Does the story expose failures in systems that the public might not be aware of? Examples include highlighting bad policy, corruption in government, nepotism in business, insurance fraud and so on.
- Are public figures or decision makers held accountable?
- Has anybody addressed the same problem or story before?
- The story has an effect on other actors?
- The issues are emanating from the public at large?
- The story has enough credible sources?
- The story has an impact on policy, administration or public debate?