



Mapping Nepal's News Media Landscape: Different Dimensions and Emerging Issues

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Abstract

Nepal is a South Asian country and shares frontiers with two giant countries India and China. Nepal has witnessed political ups and downs that impacted its all realms but after the reinforcement of newly formulated constitution in 2015, its condition is being improved. Now, the full press freedom is guaranteed by Nepalese constitution. Similarly, like other areas development of media is also taking place. Analysis of secondary data and in depth interviews unfolded the different dimensions, emerging trend and challenges before Nepalese media. With the increasing use of technology, functioning of media has become easier but at the same time lack of professionalism, skills and media literacy are the major challenges. That is why regulation of media needs more attention. Thus, media council bill is under the consideration of parliament to replace press council Nepal as the media spectrum is widening. Since, the constitution is new so they are learning by doing. Despite so many issues Nepalese journalists were optimistic for the future of news media in their country.

Keywords- Nepalese Media, Press Freedom, Trends and Challenges

Introduction

The history of journalism starts with a weekly newspaper 'Gorakhapatra' in 1901 under Rana oligarchy. In 1951, this regime was removed and democracy came but for a very short span of time again an authoritative regime came in power. In 1990, multiparty democracy was introduced in Nepal. It was a time when global context was favorable and rescued democracy. In the same year Nepal proclaimed a democratic constitution wherein a kind of press freedom, right to access public information etc eschewed thus it was a warship moment for press freedom in Nepal. Despite Maoist insurgency, direct rule by King Gyanendra and political crisis, 2015 was the benchmark when Nepal got new constitution wherein 'complete press freedom' was given to its citizens.

Media enjoys the title of fourth pillar of democracy. News media act as a bridge between government and citizens. The importance of news media cannot be ignored in democracy.

Mapping of Nepalese news media is a way to get an overview and real picture of news media. Mapping is not confined to the numbers of media; it is about knowing facts, insights, issues and trends of news media.

Significance of the research

Nepal is in a transitional phase where a new constitution has been enforced and previous laws are being replaced. Due to the technological interventions, internet penetration and a change in political system in the country have drastically impacted the dimensions and functioning of Nepalese media. Against such backdrop it will be imperative to examine the current state, latest developments and issues in Nepalese media.

Research Methodology

This research was based on mixed methodology. Both quantitative and qualitative methods were employed for this paper.

Research Objective

This research attempted to achieve following research objectives.

- To map the current media status in Nepal
- To examine different emerging issues and trends in Nepalese media

Research Questions

The paper aimed to find out answers of following research questions.

RQ1 What is the current state of media in Nepal?

RQ2 What are the regulatory frameworks for Nepalese Media?

RQ3 What is the status of press freedom in Nepal?

RQ4 What are the reasons behind the current status of Nepalese Media?

Paradigm and Approach: This study comes in interpretive paradigm. The interpretive paradigm of research provides space to see world from subjective perspective of respondents. Qualitative approach is the best approach to carry out this research.

Universe and sample: Firstly, secondary data was collected and analyzed to have a basic understanding of the topic. Nepalese journalists are the universe of the study in order to achieve



the objectives. Snowball sampling was employed to obtain requisite data. According to **Cambridge dictionary journalist is a person who writes news stories or articles for a newspaper or magazine or broadcasts them on radio or television.** Since the study is focused on Nepal’s news media then journalists working in Nepalese journalism were approached to gather desired information.

Data Collection Method: Keeping in view the nature of the research questions in depth interview method was used and secondary sources were also analyzed to collect requisite data. For that, 5 Nepalese journalists were selected for in depth interviews. A semi structured funnel style interview guide was prepared to ask questions. Two interviews were conducted in each English & Hindi language and one was conducted in Hinglish language.

Theoretical Framework: Normative Theories- Democratic- Participant Media Theory

Normative theory tries to explain the ways in which social structure and culture impinge on mass media structure and performance. According to Siebert, Peterson and Schramm (1956, 1960), the press tends to assume the form and coloration of the environment within which it operates. Social and political milieus affect the functioning of media.

Theoretical framework draws a periphery for a research paper, so is Normative Theories will do for this study. Normative Theories were coined by Fred Siebert, Theodore Peterson & Wilbur Schramm in their book ‘Four Theories of The Press’ (1956), later on two more theories were added to the bunch.

Normative Theories deal with the domestic environment where media function. It emphasizes on relationship between political system and media system in a country. The political milieu actually determines the functioning of media. Democratic- participant media theory argues that the people’s participation is vital in media. Participation in small scale media works better. People should have all the rights of receiving and sharing communication.

Since this study aims to examine state of Nepalese news media, therefore the postulates of Democratic- participant media theory will be tested in conclusion part of this paper.

State of Nepalese Media

Nepalese news media is broadly divided into four sections; print, radio, television and online. The recent data along with a number of working journalists is also mentioned below.

Media	Year 2020- 2021
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Print	4789
FM Radio	880
Television Channels	164
Online	3120
Journalists	13077
Sources- Center For Media Research, Nepal	

According to Nepal's newly formed constitution 2015, the country was administratively divided in seven provinces. The classification of media among provinces is as below mentioned.

Province	Print	FM Radio	Television	Online	Journalists
Karnali	85	57	3	91	859
Sudur Paschim	208	113	1	97	1212
Gandaki	280	110	18	213	1013
Bagmati	2657	183	101	2110	5776
Lumbini	320	152	23	234	1806
Madhes	710	116	12	159	799
Pradesh No. 1	529	149	6	216	1612
*Source- Center For Media Research, Nepal				Year 2020- 2021	

Media Ownership

In Nepal, media ownership has diverse nature. After 1990, multi party democratic restoration led to private investment and corporate media in this sector. Nepalese media is owned by both government and private entrepreneurs. Furthermore, the private media is categorized in three areas private media, commercial, community/cooperative. Government owns all types of media



but practically not autonomous in functioning. Different journalist organizations extend support to political parties and vice versa.

Nepalese media is pluralistic in nature generally. Due to the absence of media ownership data it is tough to know the exact situation. Unofficially It is said that one newspaper has foreign (Indian) ownership. Nepal does not have rules for foreign ownership of media. In 2006, The High Level Media Commission (HLMC) recommended allowing 49% foreign ownership of all media including newspapers. It further recommended, the government classifies radio stations in public, commercial and community categories plus reserving frequencies for different broadcasters categories. (Kharel, 2013)

Print

According to Infoasaid (2011) “Nepal has a vibrant newspaper industry.” Newspapers are not as popular and reachable as radio and television but “they have a great deal of influence on decision makers in government and business.” Newspapers are more admired by elite and office workers, educated class, this class is urban area centric. Gorakhpatra is the oldest newspaper in Nepal. In 1901, it was started as a weekly newspaper and became daily in 1960. Private weekly newspaper appeared in 1960s. Some famous names are **Saptahik Bimarsha, Nepal, Deshantar, Ghatana Ra Bichar, and Jana Aastha.**

Daily newspapers majorly stress on politics and their editorial policies specifically support a political ideology. Newspapers are dominated with political news and commentaries but they also cover social happenings and entertainment based news. Weekend editions cover more vivid issues. Most of the newspapers are published in Nepali language. Moreover, some weekly and daily newspapers published in local languages. For instance, Simanchal a daily newspaper from Janakpur publishes in Maitheli. It is a largest minority language in the country. Deshay Maru Jhya and Jhigu Swaniga are two weeklies publish in Newari language that is widely spoken in Kathmandu Valley. Numafund, a weekly newspaper publishes in Limbu local language from eastern city of Dharan. Furthermore, many political weeklies are directly associated with political parties. For instance, Bimarsha and Ghatna Ra Bichar linked with Nepali Congress. Chhalphal and Drishti connected to Communist Party of Nepal - United Marxist Leninist (CPN UML).

This industry is affected by political elites. Kantipur Daily claims highest circulation 448,000 and its English daily The Kathmandu Post claims readership of 600,000 including web and print. Total press circulation is low due to tough geographical terrain; Newspapers are established and read in Kathmandu valley nevertheless very influential on policy making. Popular news papers are Kantipur, The Kathmandu Post, Nagrik, Republica, Gorakhpatra, The Rising Nepal, Annapurna Post and Annapurna Express.



Radio

Binod Bhattarai with Ghanendra Ojha (2010) highlight the Radio Nepal was the first radio channel, established in 1950. However, Nepalese people had been listening radio from stations of India, a neighboring country. Broadcasting scenario was drastically changed in 2005 when FM radio stations were made allowed to broadcast entertainment based programmes. Earlier they were confined to news and current affairs programmes.

Ujjwal Acharya (2018) says the state radio broadcast started in 1951 and in 1995, FM radio transmission was initiated. Radio Nepal is the state owned and enjoyed its monopoly since its inception to 1997. It had established broadcasting centers in all five development regions and reached to countrymen through short and medium waves. In 1997 first non government radio station Radio Sagarmatha started as community FM radio. It was managed by Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists (NEFEJ). It paved path for other private FM radio channels including community radios. The network of radio is in whole country, mostly household has radio sets. Most of them are community radio stations. In Nepal, Community radio have had played a crucial role in the developmental works. This audio medium is quite helpful to reach out to illiterate citizens including disadvantaged sections. The role of radio in social transformation has been appreciated by the entire nation. Nepal's Vice President considered it as "The community radios are the voices of people... the focus of community radios is to provide the accurate and credible news to rural communities", in 2017.

Furthermore he asserts that Nepal allows private radio stations to broadcast news. This medium generates huge amount of revenue. Radio kantipur and Image FM are other actors in the market. Political involvement, unprofessionalism and unhealthy competition are challenges before them.

According to Ministry of Information and Communication (Nepal) in 2017, 740 licenses were issued to radio stations in the country.

There are numerous organizations or association that provides support to indigenous radio stations in Nepal. They are the Community Radio Support Center (CRSC) within the Nepal Federation of Environmental Journalists (NEFEJ), the Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (ACORAB), the Broadcasters Association of Nepal (BAN), the Far Western FM Broadcasters' Forum, the Kathmandu Valley FM Broadcasters' Forum, and the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC). International NGOs, for instance Equal Access, Search for Common Ground, Internews, the BBC World Service Trust and the Radio Netherlands Training Centre, extends support through, content development training, technical support and specialist programming. (infoasaid, 2011)

Television



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The history of Television in Nepal starts with Nepal Television in 1985. It was a part of a project launched under the sixth development plan (1980- 1985) having the slogan “Communication for Development. It had a mission to "Produce and telecast programs on educational, religious and cultural conservation to promote national unity, conserve heritage and promote national interest". Nepal Television enjoyed the monopoly for fifteen years in the country. After twenty seven years, Nepal has total 16 television broadcasters, it included government owned Nepal Television and NTV Plus. Apart from them, there are private broadcasters also. Like Kantipur Publication runs Kantipur Television, Image Groups of Companies runs Image Channel. July 2007 onwards Avenues Television started broadcasting, owned by Avenues Ad. After this more news channels were started, Sagarmatha Television for instance, July 2007. In 2008, National TV and ABC TV Nepal and in 2010, Mountain Television, News 24 and Himalaya Television were begun. The journey of entertainment channels begun with TV filmy in 2009 and E-24 Television was launched in 2012. Importantly, Regional channels i.e. Nepal Mandal, Makalu Television and Tarai Television launched in 2010. Recently launched Mission Star and Nepal 1 are transmitted from India. In 2011, Channel Nepal was discontinued. It was the first Nepali language satellite channel. (P. Parajuli, 2020)

Nepal Television celebrated full monopoly since 1984 until the private channels enter in 2003. Most of the channels are situated in Kathmandu valley.

As per Sharecast Initiatives survey, 2019 60% households own Television set and about 70% people watch television every day. (Chapagain, 2019)

Kantipur TV and Image Channel are famous channels after Nepal television in viewership. According to the available data on the official website of Ministry of Communication and Information Technology (Government of Nepal), in year 2019, 116 television channels have received license for broadcasting.

Television came late in Nepal but now it has become the major source of entertainment and news broadcasting in urban areas. The government owned Nepal Television leads with highest number of audience nationwide due to its free to air terrestrial broadcast. Thus, it can be anywhere in the country. Nepal television is the sole TV station in many rural areas whereas Kantipur television is considered to be more popular in urban audience. Wherever electricity supply available, most families own a TV set. Majorly radio dominates in broadcasting. In big cities, Kathmandu or Pokhara per say, generally two TV sets per family or household. (infoasaid, 2011)

Television satellite signals transmitted to the entire nation but the access is dependent on electricity. 40% plus countrymen are connected through central grid system and rest of the 60% has no ways to reach television programmes. (UNESCO Report, 2013)

Online



BB Acharya (2013) asserts, due to the multiple features like accessibility, transparency, interactivity and inexpensiveness, online news has become popular medium now a days. There are not legal provisions to regulate online media. Press Council Nepal does not keep a record of online media platforms. In 2013, registration of online news websites was started to make these platforms professional and accountable to its consumers. Many newspapers have their websites also wherein they broadcast and publish news content. In addition, many journalists in the country dependent on online media including social media to find issues and clues for news and develop them as stories. Moreover, personal blogs and other social media forms are in the phase of development. This medium is confined to techno savvy class and urban areas.

Ujjwal Acharya (2018) states that Nepalese digital media landscape comprises of four different types of news websites. The first consists of digital forms of the printed newspapers/ radios / televisions, that archives and share content from such platforms on web. The second, online news portals of the newspapers/ radios / televisions that utilize the resources of media to operate such outlets. The third category is of independent news portals, whose presence are only on digital word and the last fourth, news websites run by Nepalese Diasporas.

Ujjwal further adds that The Kathmandu Post went online in 1996 and became South Asia's first newspaper to be digitally presented. Nepalese digital outlets present news free of cost and reliant on advertisements of revenue generation. As per Nepal Telecommunications Authority (NTA) 65% of the population has access to internet and around 98% of them use internet through mobile phones. Famous and impactful digital media outlets- ekantipur.com and nagariknews and independent news portals- onlinekhabar, ratopati, setopati, bahraakhari, and deshshanchar. Many digital news outlets also have free mobile applications for browsing contents.

Online platform is increasingly popular. People access internet through their mobile phones. Internet penetration is majorly in urban settings. According to Alixa.com Social networking sites Facebook and Youtube are popular than news websites. Google is the most popular search engine. Top news websites- Ekantipur.com, Ratopati.com, Onlinekhabar.com, Khabarhub.com, News24nepal.tv and Setopati.com

News Agency

National News Agency (Rashtriya Samachar Samiti- RSS) is the only news agency of Nepal. It was established in 1963 by merging two privately owned news agencies under an act, in order to facilitate print and broadcast media in the country.

According to the official website, it has more than 100 subscribers including traditional and new media, and has a nationwide network of journalists and stringers. A pool of permanent reporters and stringers is scattered in the entire country and contribute through news reports and



photographs daily. The agency has news exchange system with international news agencies including Agence France Presse, Associated Press, Kyodo, Press Trust of India and Xinhua. (About Us, 2022)

Constitutional Provisions

Constitution of Nepal guarantees freedom of press and civil liberties. Preamble clearly states “**full freedom of the press**”. Article 17 (2) (a) ensures ‘Freedom of opinion and expression’. Right to Communication is mentioned in Article 19. Constitution of Nepal, 2015 ensures press and publication rights to its citizens. As per the article, there is **no prior censorship** for any media whether print or broadcasting. “Similarly, the article also guarantees that no news media will be closed, their registration will not be cancelled and their equipment will not be seized for the offence of printing, publishing or broadcasting any materials.” However these rights are delimited by reasonable restrictions and they are vague. (Acharya, 2018)

Media Laws in Nepal

Usha Kiram Regmi (2019) highlights that the Press and Publication Act, Press Council Act, National Broadcasting Act, Working Journalist Act, Right to Information Act, Electronic Transaction Act, Copyright Act, Secrecy of Document Act, Nation News Agency Act, Gorkhaptra Corporation Act and Communication Corporation Act are the instrumental laws to regulate the media in Nepal (NIC, 2016)

Press Council of Nepal

According to the official website of Press Council of Nepal, it was established in 1992 with the aim and objective of strengthening journalism in the country. It is a statutory, autonomous, permanent and corporate body. The requirement of such body was first felt in 1957 by the first press commission.

In 1992, separate Press Council act was promulgated. This act defines its responsibilities, functions and principles. “It shall, like a person, have right to acquire, enjoy, sell or otherwise dispose of movable and immovable property. The council may also sue on its behalf or be sued against it.” It gives suggestions to the system for the betterment of journalism as a profession. It receives complaints against journalist code of conduct and ethics and submits annual report to the government. (About Us, 2022)

Press Freedom in Nepal

Year	Nepal's Rank	Total Countries
2018	106	180
2019	106	180
2020	112	180
2021	106	180



2022	76	180
Source: Official Website of Reporters Without Borders		

After becoming a republic country the political atmosphere has become eventually better for journalists but the Nepalese society is highly politicized. Most of the political parties have links with trade union and journalist's organization that lead to conflicts of interests. Inclusion of some provisions in the penal code in 2018 obstructs investigative journalism as it controls criticism of public figures. Furthermore, less representation (15%) of women and marginalized castes in Nepalese journalism is a noticeable fact along with safety issues of all journalists during crisis news reporting. (Index, 2022)

Number of instances has been noticed by media when Nepalese journalists treated unfavorably. In May, 2019 three journalists of government owned news agency 'Rashtriya Samachar Samiti'(RSS) were probed for translating and disseminating a news article on Dalai Lama. (Giri, 2019)

Nepalese Media: Challenges

Despite many criticisms Binod Kumar Paudel (2017) argues that the situation of media is not as critical as it is portrayed by international media. International reports do not cover all aspects of press freedom. Interference of corporate and violations of ethics by journalists are completely ignored by them. Journalists have political affiliation that affects press freedom. Abuse or harassment or murder of a journalist is not surely because of his profession there could be other angles also of the story. Physical safety of journalists is the main issue in press freedom after signing of peace agreement, 2006.

Usha Kiran Regmi (2019) said Investigative journalism is not specifically recognized as a beat of journalism like education, parliament or crime. People who cover other beats, if find irregularities than only they pursue such cases. Inception of digital world and after the enactment of RTI act some progress is visible.

Like Binod Paudel, Usha Kiran Regmi (2019) also stated that "Besides, the lack of professional media practice, fledgling democracy, and the impact of nexus between media and interest groups have constrained the smooth practice of investigative journalism in Nepal. Poor wage conditions make the journalists more vulnerable to corruption and bribery, and a number of journalists flee to better opportunity such as INGOs and abroad for better life". (Messel, 2017)

Bhanu Bhakta Acharya (2018) identifies and describes the six major challenges before Nepalese media that obstructs professional growth of journalists, they are legal constraints, digital divide, political influence, unprofessionalism, investment and sustainability and ineffective press council.

In Depth Interviews

For in depth interviews five journalists were approached. Since the distance was a valid issue the researcher used face to face and technology mediated platforms for interaction. The list of interviewed journalists is as follows.

Profiles of Interviewees			
S.No	Name	Designation and Organization	Mode
1.	Mr. Ujjwal Prajapati	Researcher, Center For Media Research, Nepal	Face to face interaction, New Delhi
2.	Mr. Ram Singh Thagunna	Bureau Chief, Western Province Nepal Province	Technology Mediated Platforms
3.	Mr. Rajesh Mishra	Bureau Chief, Kantipur National Daily The Kathmandu Post, New Delhi	Technology Mediated Platforms
4.	Mr. Shiv Gaaule	Editor in Chief, Onlinekhabar.com	Technology Mediated Platforms
5.	Mr. Lekhanath Pandey	Columnist and Assistant Professor, Tribhuvan University, Nepal	Technology Mediated Platforms

Keeping in mind all important aspects of Nepalese media an interview schedule was prepared for experts consisting 12 questions. The findings can be categorized into five broad categories.

Press Freedom

All respondents unanimously said that Nepalese constitution guarantees complete Press freedom and absence of pre publication censorship to it citizens. Other dimensions of press freedom like freedom of speech and expression, right to information, right to receive and disseminate information are also considered by the constitution. They also said that the previous political instability had harmed press freedom but after the formation of new constitution, situation is much better. Moreover, despite all constitutional provisions state and non state actors try to hinder press freedom in Nepal.

Regulatory Frameworks



Press Council Nepal is a quasi judicial body for all media. It handles complaint and redressal system against media. For self regulation, PCN has given a code of conduct and it is suppose to be followed by journalists but Lekhanath Pandey and Shiv Gaaule asserted that the PCN works in political influence. Ramsingh Thagunna said that the big media houses have board of editors and they are careful about self regulation. Similarly, Shiv Gaaule also emphasized that the self regulation is a part of newsroom discussion but this is not formalized like ombudsman in western countries. Three out of five journalists stressed on functioning of Federation of Nepali Journalists. This organization is an umbrella organization for Nepalese journalists. It fights for the rights of media professionals in the country. Whenever government tries to curtail the powers of media this organization comes forward to protect media interests.

Latest Trends

Trends are basically notable phenomenon that impacts the functioning of media. All interviewees believed that online media is remarkably growing. Now, media is shifting from print to online mode. Internet penetration through mobile phone in human life has changed the media consumption habits as well as media functioning. Shiv Gaaule and Ramsingh Thagunna found the convergence of print, television and radio over online platforms. Social media is now a new place for discussion where people ask questions to journalist and politicians. Lekhanath Pandey said that social media is a place of distribution for other media where they can share their content. He further said that online media is easier to start, maintain and reach. Ramsingh Thagunna argued that the federal regime has changed everything. Earlier news was Kathmandu centric but now entire country is being covered. Earlier only political news was covered but now agriculture, tourism etc also get space.

Challenges

All interviewees were concerned about the political affiliation of journalists in Nepal. This political affiliation led to partisan media which is against the basics of journalism. Nexus between political parties and media professionals questioned the trustworthiness of this profession. Fake news is another important issue that has affected media industry. Social media democratized the world of media but the news contributors are not skilled and learned. News content is usually not verified before being circulated. Lack of media literacy among social media users made situation more critical. Government advertisements are confined to big media houses only, small or middle scale starves for government ads. Number of media organization growing but due to small market they struggle for advertisements. Lack of skilled journalists is also an important issue. Training opportunities are requisite for Nepalese journalists. Minimum salaries are not given by news organizations. This is also a reason that why journalist get affiliated with other organizations. Media space is continuously increasing but the quality of

news content is decreasing. Specifically, online media works on copy paste culture. It does not spread researched and critical content. Small and middle scale media organizations are still away from latest technical skills.

Future

Despite having so many challenges all journalists were quite optimistic about the future of media in Nepal. Though none of them was satisfied with the current situation of press and its freedom but they had experienced political instability, insurgency and crisis in Nepal, hence, they believe a room for improvement in media. They also compare Nepal with other South Asian countries and find themselves in a much better condition.

Discussion

After going through the secondary data and conducting expert interviews the following broad areas were emerged.

State of media in Nepal

Nepal is a developing country and the state of media is also continuously developing. Radio is the most popular medium of information. After radio television is popular. Print is more visible in Kathmandu and its adjacent parts. But now online media showed a notable growth in news sector. After Covid-19 this phenomenon has become more widen.

Regulatory frameworks for Nepalese Media

There are not separate bodies to regulate different media, Press Council Nepal (PCN) is the apex body for regulations. PCN had also issued code of conduct for all journalists. Big media houses discuss issues of self regulation but this concept is not institutionalized like western countries in Nepal. Small or middle media organizations are far away from self regulations. Federation of Nepali Journalists (FNJ) works to protect journalists' rights in the country.

Status of press freedom in Nepal

Secondary data showcased that in these 5 years the status of press freedom Nepal is almost remained same but the recent year's ranking shows a remarkable change. Though expert argued that there are minor improvement current state of the press but the major change in ranking is because of the criteria of press freedom by Reporters Without Borders have been modified and that brought a big improvement in ranking.



Theoretically, complete freedom is given by the constitution but practically numerous factors affect its works. Political affiliation of journalists, lack of skills- critical approach, unprofessionalism, adverse use of social media, state interference, poor perks- salary, job security, lack of government support and poor news content are the major concerns that put press freedom in peril.

Reasons behind the current status of Nepalese Media

Tough terrain and illiteracy have made radio & television popular in Nepal. Despite this print is still in agenda setting role. Print is more popular among literate and urban setups around state capital. Nepal have had a history of political instability and crisis that put press freedom in danger but now due to the federal republic regime press freedom is in much better state than earlier. Online media does not require big setup and capital, thus, due to the technological enhancement it becomes popular among masses. Social media usage is almost free so people who do not familiar with the fundamentals of news they also post news content without verifying facts and figures.

Conclusion

As per the Normative Theories, political and social systems effect the functioning of media in any society. Democratic- participant media theory was utilized as the theoretical frame work. This theory more emphasizes on participation of people in small scale media along with all rights of communication and dissemination of information. This theory basically empowers the citizens. Similarly, Nepalese constitution strengthens masses. Hence, people's participation is increasing due to the constitutional provisions and the advent of online media particularly because of social media but simultaneously problems are also arising that need solutions.

Media can only be flourished in a democratic setup. Nepal has emerged as a democratic federal republic. This would become a strong reason for its progress. Despite of so many issues its growth is commendable but it has to work hard to conquer the challenges. Nepalese media should have a democratic participatory character to be more people centric and should also foster a spirit of journalism by kept away from political affiliations.

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