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The Influence of Mobile Phones on Newsroom Production in Contemporary Indian Journalism

Dr. Rishabh Bhardwaj¹, Dr. Taha Siddiqui², Deepika Rawat³, Tauseef Iqbal⁴, Neeraj Kotiyal⁵, Rajdeep Kundu⁶

1, Lecturer Journalism and Mass Communication YS College, Punjab. 2, Associate Professor, Journalism and Mass Communication, Graphic Era Hill University, Dehradun. 3, Assistant Professor Journalism and Mass Communication Tula's Institute, Dehradun. 4, Assistant Professor Journalism and Mass Communication Tula's Institute, Dehradun. 5, Assistant Professor Journalism and Mass Communication Tula's Institute, Dehradun. 6, Media Educator and Professional in Newsroom Production, Dehradun.

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Abstract

Journalism over the past two decades has changed tremendously. From analogue to digital, the paradigm shift can be seen from both the journalism point of view and consumption patterns. This change can be witnessed in the manner of reporting strategies, production formats, to new forms of dissemination of news. In the past, journalism was primarily utilized by the public as a means of obtaining information. Initially, the dissemination of news to the public was accomplished through journalism, with one side consisting of the audience or readers and the other side being the broadcasters. However, due to the emergence of network society and modernization, journalism has evolved with the presence of cutting-edge technologies, data journalism, AI generated reports coupled with the use of mobile devices as the new form of journalism that has become popular and user-friendly. Additionally, the news consumers are also active audiences that have evolved over time with digital media, and customising news according to their interests. Mobile phones have become a critical tool for modern-day journalism, and this research article offers insights into the evolving landscape of journalism in a mobile-dominated world.

Mobile phones have made journalism easily accessible in today's modern era but have also posed some challenges. This research paper examines how mobile phones have impacted journalism in the contemporary world, specifically how they have linked journalism to public opinion ideas, and how mobile journalism (MOJO) has become a part of society as a medium of communication. This study also an attempt to understand the future of digital journalism by looking at the present trends and the various new dimensions it opens for the media industry.

Keywords: mobile phones, journalism, MOJO, digital journalism, and communication.

Introduction

Various types of news are disseminated to our homes from around the world through a range of media, including newspapers, television, radio, the internet, and social media platforms. Journalists employed by news organizations transform events of national and global significance into news stories, which are then communicated to the public. To accomplish this, journalists collect daily information and present it in the structured format of news reports. This whole process is called 'journalism'. The word journalism is considered to be a Hindi adaptation of English 'Journalism'¹. The word 'Journalism' is derived from 'Journal' which means 'daily', and 'Roznama' which means that there is a description of daily work. Today the word journal has become indicative of 'magazine', newspaper, daily newspaper. The meaning of 'Journalism' is called newspaper, business related to magazine, news compilation, writing, editing, presentation, distribution etc. In today's era, there are many mediums of journalism such as newspapers, magazines, radio, television, web-journalism, social media, internet and our smart mobile phones etc².

Communication is a fundamental process intrinsically linked to the development of human society. Without the presence of communication, it is unlikely that human civilization would have achieved such significant advancements. Communication is a continuous process, perpetually in motion. The mechanisms that facilitate this process are referred to as media, which serve to complete and sustain the flow of communication. Through these media, the public can engage and connect, enhancing the overall communicative process. The term "media" thus denotes the various means by which communication is carried out, acting as a conduit for connecting and transmitting information among people. In order to complete the communication process, media has been completing its work with mediums of many formats such as print media, electronic media and in the context of today's modern era, digital media etc³.

Since its inception, the media has been doing the work of conveying news from one place to another. The work of gathering information, disseminating information in a systematic manner, converting social information into the form of news, etc. is included in the category of journalism. The work of conveying the news to the masses through different mediums of media is done by journalists, meaning journalists, and if it is said in simple words, then this is called journalism⁴.

The media has achieved remarkable efficiency in bridging the ideas of the social world with the general public, utilizing platforms such as newspapers, radio, and television. Through journalism, the dissemination of news has been greatly facilitated by these mediums, simplifying and streamlining the process. Journalism emerged as a pivotal medium through which every minor incident or piece of social information, whether political or religious, could be effortlessly communicated to society. This process effectively completed the task of delivering news to the public, with media acting as a bridge to connect the news with its audience.

Modern Media and Smart Phone Based Journalism (MOJO)

Modern media has undergone a transformative shift with the advent of smartphone-based journalism, commonly referred to as MOJO (Mobile Journalism). This innovative approach leverages the capabilities of smartphones to produce, edit, and disseminate news. Equipped with high-resolution cameras, advanced video and audio recording functions, and internet connectivity, smartphones have become essential tools for journalists. MOJO represents a significant departure from traditional journalism, where bulky equipment and extensive resources were necessary for news production. Smartphones offer portability, immediacy, and flexibility, allowing journalists to report from virtually anywhere. This capability is particularly valuable in fast-paced news environments or remote locations where traditional news equipment might be impractical ⁶.

The integration of social media platforms with smartphones has further revolutionized journalism. Journalists can now instantly share live updates, photos, and videos with a global audience, enhancing the immediacy and reach of news dissemination. This real-time engagement fosters a more interactive relationship between journalists and their audience, encouraging public participation and feedback. Moreover, MOJO has democratized journalism by lowering the entry barriers. Independent journalists and citizen reporters can now contribute to the news landscape, providing diverse perspectives and fostering a more inclusive media environment. Overall, smartphone-based journalism exemplifies the evolution of modern media, promoting efficiency, accessibility, and a more dynamic interaction with the global audience. This is understood as Mobile Journalism i.e⁵.

History of Mobile Journalism

In Florida, USA, in 2005, using mobile by Gannett Newspaper, the reporters here started collecting news from mobile. This was the period when mobile phones were first used for journalism. After which NDTV announced Mobile Journalism in India and in a very professional manner, the work related to Mobile Journalism i.e DWSHRW was completed by its journalists. After that many news channel were using mobile phone for its journalism-related works. Mobile phones became more popular in the journalism world only because of the state-of-the-art resources available in mobiles. Because of which journalists got more benefit in collecting news and disseminating it⁷.

In traditional journalism, the dissemination of information to the audience was conducted through various communication mediums such as newspapers, news channels, and radio. However, this was typically a one-way transmission of communication, where the presenter conveyed information, and the audience or reader received it without the opportunity for immediate feedback or participation. In contrast, new media has enabled not only the immediate broadcasting of information but also active public participation in the dissemination process. This shift transformed communication into a two-way interaction, involving both the general public and the journalists. This dynamic interaction has been made possible by mobile journalism, or MOJO.

MOJO has ushered in a digital revolution, providing journalism with a new dimension by integrating mobile phones with virtually unlimited resources. This advancement has allowed for real-time reporting and feedback, enhancing the immediacy and inclusivity of news production and consumption. As a result, mobile journalism has significantly expanded the reach and engagement of modern media, fostering a more interactive and responsive media environment⁸.

Mobile Journalism & Resources

Since its inception, the mobile phone has been world-famous for the telecommunication process. With the help of mobile phones, the convenience of telecommunication was obtained at anytime and anywhere. This made it easy to connect with any person from one country to another by breaking boundaries. In its early days, the mobile phone proved to be an accessible resource of communication through communication⁹. There was no better resource than the mobile phone, for conveying messages from one place to another, in getting person movement and information. By the early part of the year 2005, mobile phones made their reach to people all over the world. After which the companies making mobile phones

filled it with many other facilities from time to time, which later changed into the form of today's smart phone¹⁰.

In today's time, mobile phones include many such features which have made journalism very easy such as-

Audio Recording: Due to this facility was provided to take audio byte of any person and political or social special persons anytime anywhere through mobile phone. Whereas earlier journalists had to carry an audio recording device/device with them for audio recording, whereas in today's time, due to audio recording facility in mobile phones, there has been more convenience in journalism. Now you do not have to carry any big audio device along with you, rather your work is done easily with a small mobile phone.

Video Recording and Photography: Having the facility of camera in the mobile phone has brought more benefits in the journalism world, such as recording the video of the news, recording the information of the incident site in the form of a video, taking its photo etc. The phone started being used more by journalists. With the facility of camera in the mobile phone, the journalists now got rid of the problem of keeping the camera with them and carrying the camera to the scene of the incident. Mobile phones can be taken with you from one place to another in a convenient manner, due to which mobile became more popular in the journalism world.

Live Streaming: Earlier, live broadcasting team accompanied the reporter to the spot for live telecast of the news, which was called Out-door Broadcasting Ven (OB-Ven). In which the facility of a direct satellite antenna transmission connection was added for live broadcast. Through which broadcast connection was connected with the camera and live broadcast was done. But in today's time, this facility is also being done very easily through our mobile phones. Internet and social media platforms in mobile phones have made it very convenient to complete the live broadcast and also made the broadcast of the event successful in reaching the public immediately. Now with a single click, you can present your thoughts to the public by connecting live with social media anywhere anytime using your smart phone, which does not require much technical arrangement. All it requires is internet connection and a social media account like Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Twitter etc. from where you can connect with the live broadcast with your news channel ID. Which is made more convenient by our smart mobile

The resources required by a reporter or journalist to compile the news were available in a mobile phone, which gave more impetus to mobile journalism in the journalism world. Such as the facility of clicking photos, the facility of making videos, the facility of recording audio, the facility of live streaming, the facility of connecting with the masses through social media, the facility of instant dissemination of news, etc¹². That's why in today's modern era, smart phone-based journalism got more importance in the context of new media because-

- It connects instant news to the masses with ease.
- It is convenient to carry from one place to another at low cost.
- Excessive technical arrangements are also not required etc.

Due to which mobile journalism has been included in the modern resources of new media. Which has been included in the world of journalism as mobile phone-based journalism. Which in today's time is called MOJO i.e. Mobile Journalism¹³.

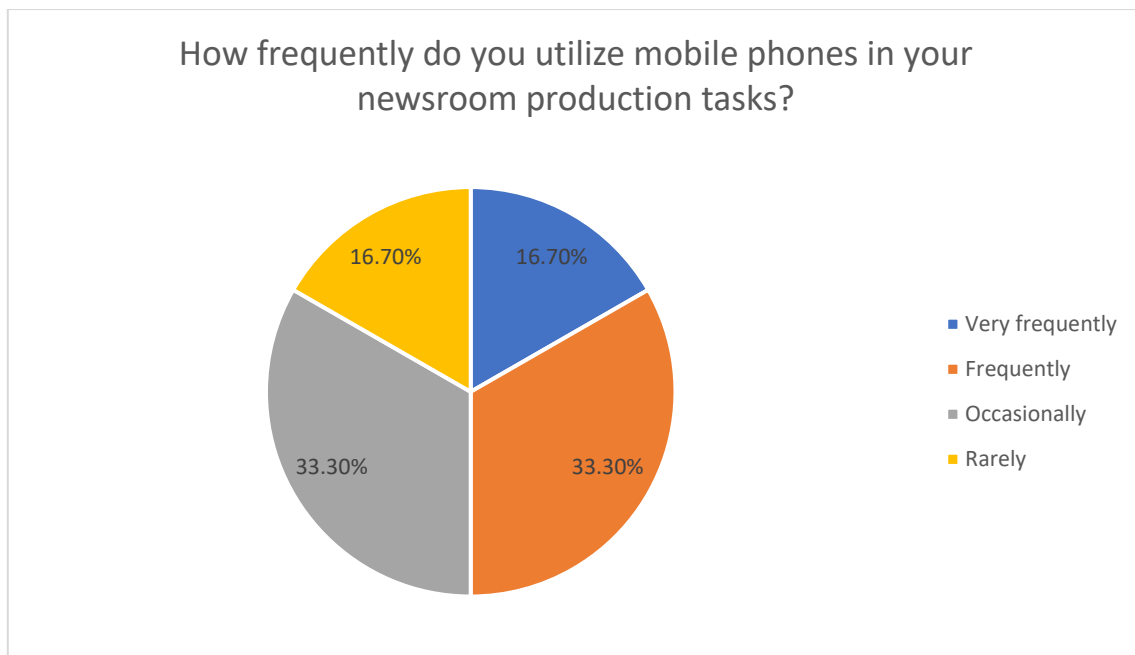
According to the data collection and Analysis Report

The population for this research data analysis is 200, and the data was collected solely from individuals working in news production houses and channels in India. The aim of this survey report analysis is to comprehend the utilization of mobile phones in newsroom production in today's new digital journalism era. According to the research paper, we selected four questions specifically to gain insights into the use of mobile phones in the production room.

Question – 1: How frequently do you utilize mobile phones in your newsroom production

Very Frequently	33.4	16.7%
Frequently	66.6	33.30%
Occasionally	66.6	33.30%
Rarely	33.4	16.7%
Total	200 Population	100%

task?

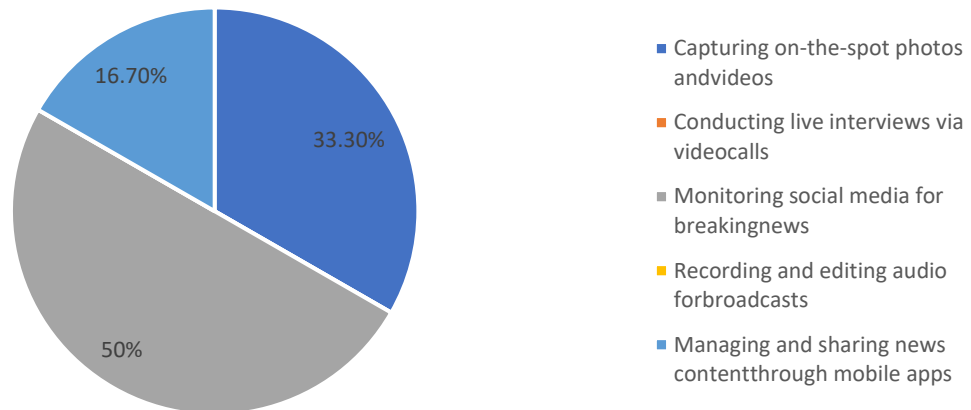


Based on this question, we discover that most people in newsroom production are using mobile phones as production tools. This serves as a reflection for us that professionals are now also using mobile phones for news production as a new tool in new media.

Question – 2: In what specific ways do you find mobile phones most useful in your newsroom production?

Capturing on the spot photos and videos	66.6	33.30%
Conducting live interviews via video calls	00	00%
Monitoring social media for breaking news	100	50%
Recording and editing audio for broadcasts	00	00%
Managing and sharing news content through mobile apps	33.4	16.7%
Total	200	100%

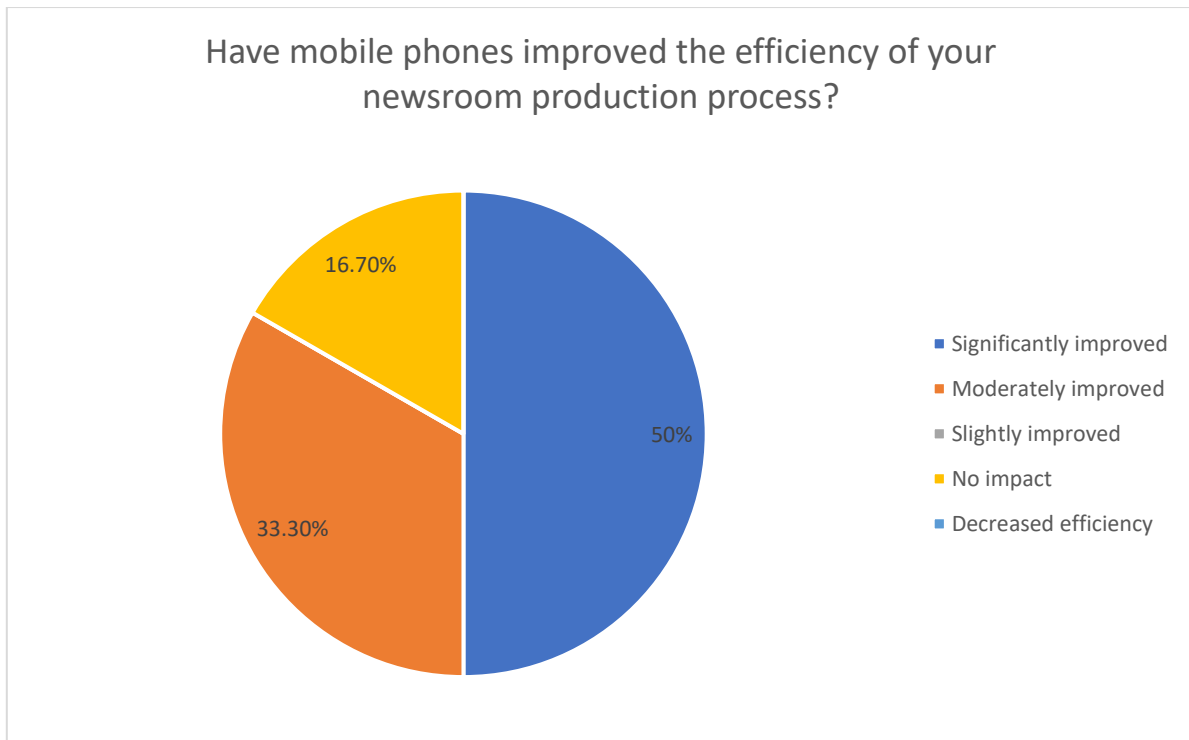
In what specific ways do you find mobile phones most useful in your newsroom production? Please select all that apply.



Most news production professionals use mobile phones based on their specific production needs. This includes tasks such as capturing on-the-spot photos and videos, monitoring social media for breaking news, and managing and sharing news content through mobile phone apps.

Question – 3: Have mobile phones improved the efficiency of your newsroom production process?

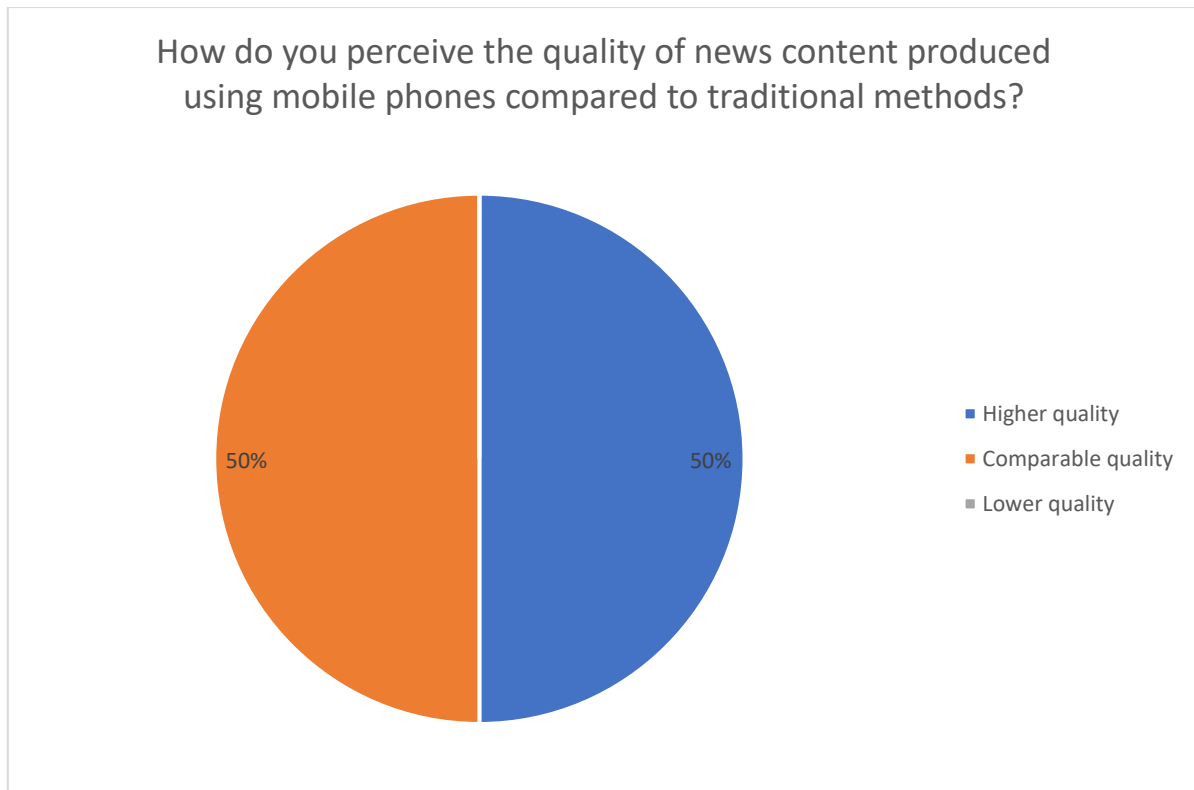
Significantly Improved	100	50%
Moderately Improved	66.6	33.30%
Slightly Improved	00	00%
No Impact	33.4	16.70%
Decreased Efficiency	00	00%
Total	200	100%



According to this question “have mobile phones improved the efficiency of your newsroom production process?” We find that there is more than 60% Professionals are agreeing with that mobile phone improved the efficiency of newsroom production process.

Question – 4: How do you perceive the quality of news content produced using mobile phone compared to traditional methods?

Higher Quality	100	50%
Comparable Quality	100	50%
Lower Quality	00	00%
Total	200	100%



This question reveals that mobile phones provide high-quality content for newsroom production, leading many professionals and news channels to use them as essential production tools and equipment.

"Based on the data collected for this research, we have found that professionals use mobile phones for newsroom production, there also a various types of usage based on their production room requirements and their needs of production also."

One-Sample Z-Test Data Analysis

The collected data from a population of 200 individuals and interested in testing whether the proportion of professionals using mobile phones in newsroom production is significantly different from 100%, so here we test this one-sample z-test with the following details:

1. Hypotheses:

- Null Hypothesis (H_0): The proportion of professionals using mobile phones in newsroom production is 100% ($p = 1.00$).

- Alternative Hypothesis (H_a): The proportion of professionals using mobile phones in newsroom production is different from 100% ($p \neq 1.00$).

2. Sample Size (n): 200

3. Calculate the sample proportion (\hat{p}):

- In this case, we found that 100% of the professionals are using mobile phones, $\hat{p} = 1.00$.

4. Calculate the standard error of the sample proportion (SE):

- $SE = \sqrt{(\hat{p} * (1 - \hat{p})) / n}$

- $SE = \sqrt{(1.00 * (1 - 1.00)) / 200}$

- $SE = \sqrt{0 / 200} = 0$

5. Calculate the z-statistic:

- $z = (\text{Sample Proportion} - \text{Hypothesized Proportion}) / \text{Standard Error}$

- $z = (1.00 - 1.00) / 0 = 0$ (since the standard error is 0)

6. Determine the p-value:

- In this case, since the standard error is 0, the z-statistic will be 0 as well. When the standard error is 0, it means there is no variability in the sample proportion, and the p-value will be 1 (indicating that the observed proportion is exactly equal to the hypothesized proportion).

- Since the p-value is 1 (or very close to 1), that's mean its fail to reject the null hypothesis.

-Therefore, based on this research data, there is no evidence to suggest that the proportion of professionals using mobile phones in newsroom production is significantly different from 100%. Sometime It appears that 100% of professionals are using mobile phones.

that with a sample size equal to the population size ($n = 200$ in this research), the one-sample z-test essentially provides a precise estimate of the population proportion, which is 100% based on data.

Conclusion

Based on data according to this research paper, we found there is most of the professionals are using mobile phones in the newsroom production. According to the z-test the null hypothesis is rejected because we found the $p=1.00$.

Null Hypothesis (H₀): The proportion of professionals using mobile phones in newsroom production is 100% ($p = 1.00$).

But the alternative hypothesis is accepted: - Alternative Hypothesis (H_a): The proportion of professionals using mobile phones in newsroom production is different from 100% ($p \neq 1.00$). In other words, we testing whether there is evidence to suggest that not everyone in the newsroom is using a mobile phone for production, and the proportion may be greater than or less than 100%.So sometime professionals using the mobile phones for news production or sometime they will not into the use.

According to recent data, it is evident that in the contemporary era, mobile phones have become integral tools in the field of journalism. Mobile phones have significantly contributed to accessing necessary resources, making them indispensable in modern journalism. Equipped with features such as cameras, video recording, audio recording, and photography, mobile phones serve as highly successful tools in the journalism sector. Furthermore, the integration of internet and social media capabilities in modern smartphones has enhanced their effectiveness as journalistic tools. This era of smartphones has ushered in a new form of journalism known as Mobile Journalism, or Mojo, which has gained recognition within the journalism community.

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