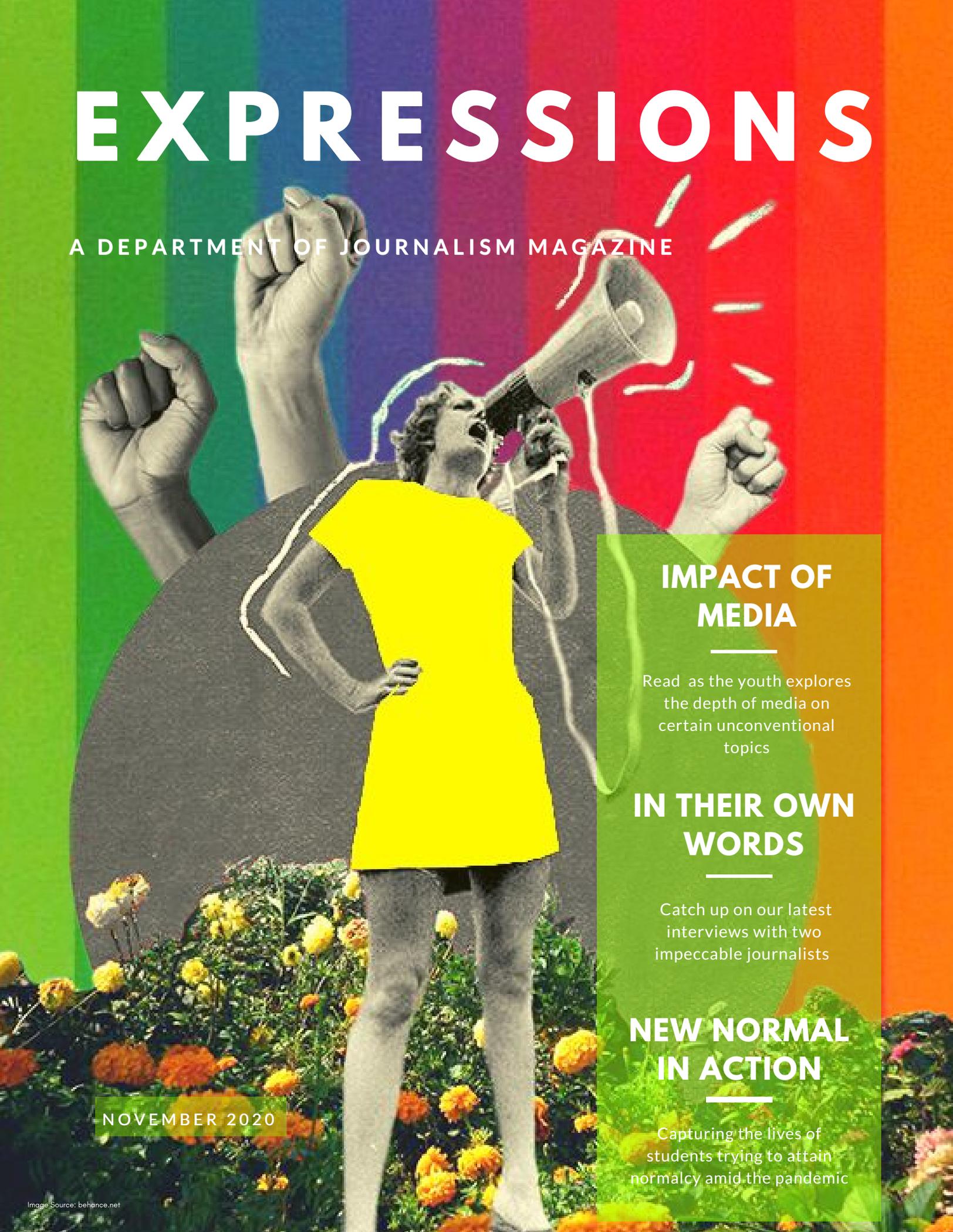


# EXPRESSIONS

A woman in a bright yellow dress is shouting into a megaphone. She has three raised fists around her head, symbolizing protest or activism. The background is a vibrant rainbow gradient. The woman is standing in a field of colorful flowers.

A DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM MAGAZINE

## IMPACT OF MEDIA

---

Read as the youth explores the depth of media on certain unconventional topics

## IN THEIR OWN WORDS

---

Catch up on our latest interviews with two impeccable journalists

## NEW NORMAL IN ACTION

---

Capturing the lives of students trying to attain normalcy amid the pandemic

NOVEMBER 2020

# FROM THE DESK

The days with Novel Coronavirus have been very tough on both teachers and students alike. The transition from the offline to the online pattern has been hard indeed. However, it is my pride to say that everyone has done an exceptional job to make it almost seamless.

College is the initial milestone from where students begin their journey to become professionals. In present times, as the media industry faces very challenging situations, where media ethics are in the line of questions at national and international fora, it becomes very crucial for our journalism students to learn true professionalism.

I am glad that the Department of Journalism and Mass Communications at G.G.D.S.D. College, Chandigarh, has since the inception, helped develop a strong passion for the field of media and Journalism as well as instilled professional standards among the students. This magazine is one such fine example of learning to combine the two aspects of creativity and discipline.

I wish the students the best of luck for their future endeavors.

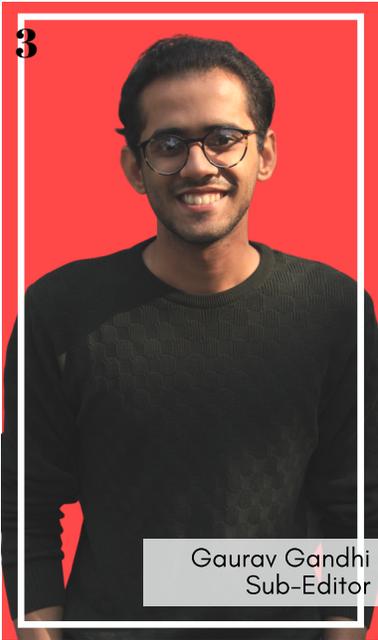


**Dr. Balraj Thapar**  
Principal

**Dr. Priya Khanna Chaddha**  
Head, Dept. Of Journalism

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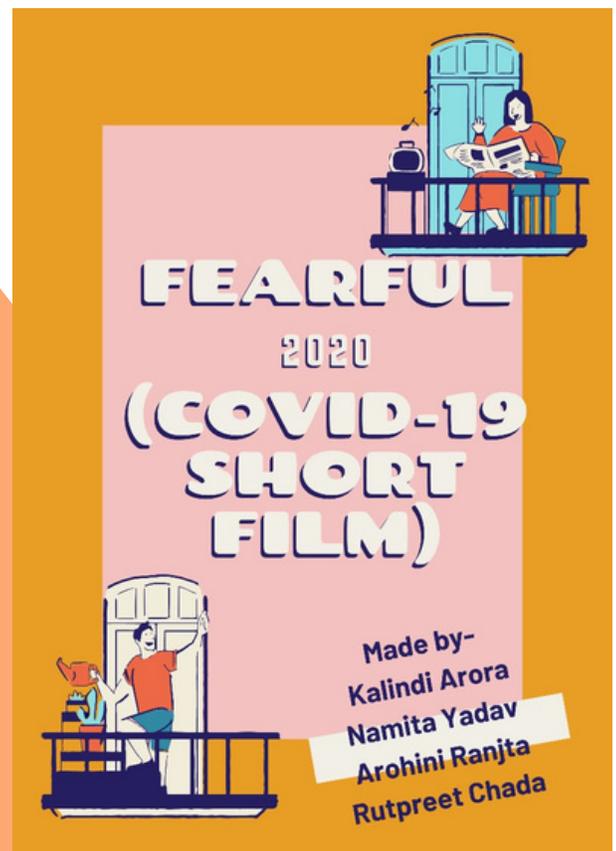
# Short Films\*\*



## KUCH BHI HO SAKTA HAI

'Kuch Bhi Ho Sakta Hai' is a short film intended to spread awareness on Covid-19. It starts with a beautifully portrayed skit and ends off with a clear message to the audience which is intended to make people aware of the about the consequences of the widespread and dangerous Covid 19 virus.

A star of his previous school DAV- 15, Harshwardhan Sharma is a first year journalism student in GGDSD College, Chandigarh. A prolific theatre artist 'Kuch Bhi Ho Sakta Hai' is his first short film as a director. In his school years he had been a part of numerous skits, Nukkad Nataks and plays, so much so that he was the Head of Dramatics.



## FEARFUL 2020

Our short film which was titled as "fearful 2020" is a team effort of students of journalism who are Kalindi Arora, Arohini Ranjta, Namita Yadav, Rutpreet Chadha.

The film setting is in the year of 2050 where the students are curious to know about the happenings / history of 2020 . When the students came across the real life experiences of their grandparents ,they concluded that the pandemic had both sides of the coins (positives and negatives) . We deliver the message that we can enjoy oneself and can find positivity in hard times as well.

# Media and Entertainment

YAMINI  
BA-III

**M**edia has been an important source of entertainment since the beginning. In contemporary society, there is an astonishing array of entertainment options: sports, movies, parks, museums, television, radio, magazines, bars, eateries, nightclubs, theatres, etc. With so many forms of entertainment, consumers are spreading their attention across multiple platforms. These platforms struggle to feed entertainment to hungry viewers and to stay on top of the charts. Media is convinced that in order to gain viewership, some element of entertainment is necessary.

However, Indian Media has started focusing only on providing entertainment to the viewers. Entertainment news has completely overshadowed news which is comparatively more relevant and of utmost importance. Instead of providing information, news channels provide infotainment.

A recent example of this is how the news channels are covering the ongoing Farmer's Protests in India. On 25th September 2020, when farmers in India decided to conduct a rally to show their disagreement against the 'New Farm Bill' released by the government, the media instead of covering this story, focused only on Deepika Padukone being summoned by the N.C.B. The foremost reason for this turncoat from real journalism to the current farcical shell is the hunger for profits. Journalism has taken a backseat in these incessant times to turn profits and to mint money.

To curb this trend where the media is afraid to speak the truth and instead focuses on petty issues; there is a need for strict oversight from relevant authorities on how and what content is being shown on different media channels. Another solution can be nationalising news channels, as at the end of the day, media is the fourth pillar of democracy and this fourth pillar should be accountable to the public.

Image Source: behance.net

## Media: A Watchdog or A Puppet

SEEMANT SINGLA  
BA-III

Media, often regarded as the fourth pillar of democracy is the mirror of the society which has the power to strongly influence public opinion in one way or the other. For all questions outside his/her immediate personal sphere a person is almost totally dependent on the mass media for the facts and for his evaluation of climate of opinion.

This media dependability is what makes mistrust germane in the case of the public reception of the mediated opinion climate. This mistrust is the result of audiences' resentment of the cynical and strategic media framing of politics. These days, it is a common notion that mainstream news outlets will sacrifice accuracy and precision for personal and commercial gains. The outreach of crony capitalism in the media is destroying the profession and ethics of journalism. The media has been receiving private treaties involving share transfers in lieu of advertisement space and favorable coverage disguised as news.

As Cappella and Jamieson argue, "The cynicism that has undermined every social institution is undermining the institutions of news, which less than twenty-five years ago were the paragons of trust, even for those least trusting the government."

Elected leaders in many democracies, who should be press freedom's staunchest defenders, have made explicit attempts to silence critical media voices and establish channels for political meddling. Populist leaders impersonate themselves as the defenders of an aggrieved majority against liberal elites and ethnic minorities whose loyalties they question, and argue that the interests of the nation—as they define it—should override democratic principles like press freedom, transparency, and open debate. Though the press is not always the first institution to be attacked when a country's leadership takes an antidemocratic turn, repression of free media is a strong indication that other political rights and civil liberties are in grave danger.

Fortunately, press freedom is resilient. It can rebound even from lengthy stints of repression when given the opportunity. To reverse the decline in global press freedom, the people and governments of the world must act now to roll back threats to independent media. The future of democracy runs on it.

# the great media circus

ISHAAN BHARGAV  
BA-III

There were times when people used to visit 'Circus', having all those jokers, the animals, the stunts, and a ringmaster controlling all of them, for their entertainment. These are the same times where media is your circus, your anchors as your jokers, your reporters as the animals, and finally an influential man as your ringmaster. Except the old circus was supposed to be an escape from the real world, as a mere recreation but the modern circus is a systematic fraud, devised to drift you away from the reality and to waste your power of questioning on topics of utmost indifference.

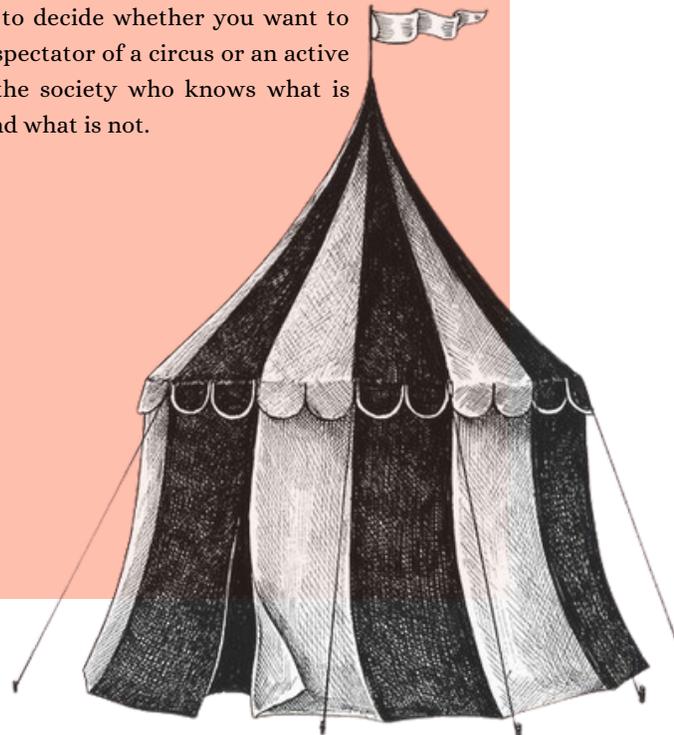
According to the World Health Organization, a new symptom of the COVID-19 virus has been observed. They claim that the virus has degraded the levels of journalism to such an extent that it is now nothing more than an entertainment channel, and that too of the poorest form. If you somehow believed what I said then I'm extremely sorry to say that you have lost your common sense. But it is not entirely your fault, for you are consuming what you are being fed and presently you are being fed breaking news that consists of nothing but the rubbish equivalent of a metro city dump. As one may observe that the center point of our media is not the topics that matter but the ones that bring more viewers and in turn more sponsors. One may question that sponsors are an integral part and I say yes they are, but not at the cost of news reporting.

The present scenario of our media is both hurtful for me as a student of journalism and even more destructive for the audience which is unable to differentiate between worth discussing and otherwise. Running behind cars screaming names, rampaging outside homes of people, poking microphones on people in all sorts of places thus trespassing their personal space are some of the dastardly actions committed by 'the reporters' and the blaring debates, overly aggressive behaviour, the exaggerated headlines are some of the near crime actions committed by 'the anchors'.

**"I avoid the media circus, keep my head down and try to keep growing and learnings things."**

**-Georgie Fame**

The change of the reader or the viewer is necessary because the media won't change and neither will their conquest of diverting the audience from the actual topics. So now it is for you to decide whether you want to be a lifeless spectator of a circus or an active member of the society who knows what is important and what is not.



# the perils of fake news

DARSHPREET SINGH  
BA-II

Fake news refers to misinformation or disinformation which is spread through word of mouth and more recently through digital forms of communication such as edited videos, memes, unverified advertisements, and social media propagated rumors. For a country like India, largely driven by polarized opinions, the authenticity of information has become a longstanding issue.

**"Our understanding of what is really 'news worthy' is a misunderstanding"**

The effects of any information spreading within a few minutes via social media platforms holds an immense potential to cause real-world impacts within minutes, for millions of users. When posted on such platforms, distorted, inaccurate, or false information acquires an immense potential to wreak havoc.

Fake video clips, news stories with distorted media logos, and paid commentators (being used even by big news forums) for favorable online reputation are not uncommon.

The government has been accused of using threats for fake news to clamp down on free speech. The authenticity of media has time and again, been questioned with unqualified know-it-all's acting as journalists with a device as common as a smartphone. One of the most common platforms for promoting the spread of fake news is WhatsApp, for which it has been sarcastically awarded the title 'WhatsApp University'.

Upon severe criticism, companies like Facebook have acted upon this and started campaigns such as the 'Facebook Journalism Project' and the 'News Integrity Initiative'. However, with sites like Quora, which are flooded with public generated answers, there is no inbuilt algorithm to judge the authenticity or factual accuracy. This is undeniably problematic and thus, it is us who need to act as responsible citizens and take time out to verify the accuracy of the information provided to break the chains of fake news.



# in BAZM VERMA'S words

Yashvi Bhandari  
BA-I

## According to you how the media has changed over the years?

Media has changed a lot and has actually turned into a business now. They go by the motto 'More the TRP, more the money'. Today's media is too different from old media. People like the hype for viral stories and media is providing it to them. Media is feeding the people a lot of hatred. These days they show a lot of violence regarding Nations and different communities. There are very less media organisations which are actually working rightfully and portraying facts.

## What are the challenges while covering news on the LGBTQ community?

There are a lot of narrow minded people who look down upon transgenders and other members of the LGBTQ community. For them marriage between the same sex is a taboo and is not acceptable in the society. We see in Europe, US and other foreign countries that they allow and accept the members of the LGBTQ Community. But over here, society despises it; despite the law allowing its members to make their choices freely.

## What should the media focus on while covering these issues?

Media's focus should be neutral. First of all it should hear the voice of both the parties. It should listen to those who are actually against it and should also listen to those who are with them. But it should keep the law in mind because the law is the main priority for the constitution of any country.

## Apart from social media have the news channels of our country been able to cover the issues related to the LGBTQ community effectively?

I don't think so that they have covered it in a vast manner and that's a major issue. They have been focusing more on different political parties and different news stories. They don't want to get in a serious or sensitive topic. That's why overall media has not touched that issue properly.

## Do you think media has a gigantic influence over the minds of people and makes them reconsider their opinions about different issues?

I don't think people get that highly influenced by media. Most people think for themselves. Though most people watch news for entertainment these days; I on the other hand believe people should watch the news for awareness but also shouldn't leave their own principles and morals behind. That way they won't get influenced by the news.

The scrapping of Article 377 brought a well-deserved change in the Indian society. While everyone rejoiced at the decision, our media houses did little to cover a historic move. As the scenes are today, we can do nothing but ponder over the role of media in the society and also question their choices for topics of importance where they often leave sensitive issues aside. In order to get informed on media's stance, our team had a chat with Mr Bazm Verma who is currently working as a reporter in Zee Media especially for Zee Punjab, Haryana and Himachal.



"I don't think people get that highly influenced by media; most people think for themselves"

Our team got an opportunity to get the opinions of Senior Journalist Mr. Baltej Pannu on the role of media in present day India. He works for the 5AAB TV and also for Connect Radio, British Columbia in Canada. Following are the excerpts from the interview;

## "Rat race of TRP is eating the media"

### What according to you is the role of media in a democracy?

Media has a great role to play in a democracy that's why media is called fourth pillar of democracy. Source of information for the ordinary people is media only. It can be print media, electronic media and to a large extent in this time it can be social media as well. If media can publicise or propagate the message of rights and responsibilities of the public then I think media is doing its role properly and the public also can play its role in a democracy effectively. If the public knows its rights and responsibilities, only then they can choose the right government. Media can tell the public about their rights and responsibilities. That's why media has a big role to play in a democracy.



# BALTEJ PANNU

Ashriya Satija  
BA-III

### In your opinion, is Indian media playing a desired role adequately? (In general)

As far as print media is concerned, certain good things are alive there. Print media is justifying its role to a large extent with a mature editorials and responsible articles. But the electronic media, I mean the news channels, are not doing their duty effectively and efficiently barring negligible exceptions. Actually, according to me, the fundamental reason behind this whole scenario is that there is a rat race among the news channels to show the news instead of telling the news. The fundamental reason behind this rat race is the TRP. Whereas, in case of news, there is nothing like TRP. The concept of TRP is a misnomer in case of news channels. If your reporting has got the required content, then you don't need to spend money to get more TRP. Those who need that information with required content; they will track down the source of right information by themselves. Electronic media is not playing the desired role. Need of print media is definitely more but public is going away from the print media because they don't have the time to read. This is actually the reason of betrayal or self-defeat.

### Media in India is often accused of behaving a little too much political. Being a senior media person how do you take the accusation and how do you defend yourself?

The media people are living in the patronage and protection of political people and they talk more like the spokesperson of a political party than a media man. They conveniently target the people who try to raise the issues of the public interest. Here I would like to quote an example of Kanhaiya Kumar, just because he talks of the matters of public interest, the entire electronic media of the country targets him as if he is the worst traitor. All this is only because they have a set agenda and they are doing it to satisfy their political masters, they are doing as they are ordered by their political masters. They are doing this to prevent the educated youth of the nation to enter into the politics. The politicians have converted the politics into a family business. Nepotism is the right word for Indian politics now. About myself I can't comment, those who read or hear me can better explain about me and how's much have I succeeded in that matter.

### How do you perceive the concept of freedom of speech vis a vis comments of Chief Justice of India SA Bobde on Arnab Goswami case, "I can't stand it" and seeking an assurance of responsible reporting from Republic TV?

Well, in that case, I must say limits and boundaries are bound to be always there. Media has got the freedom of speech and expression. But your freedom ends where other person's nose begins. From there, his freedom starts. If you can grant the other person to exercise his freedom of expression and speech then it's fine, but if you start claiming that only you are right and only you have the freedom of speech and expression. If you don't let anyone else speak or express one's opinion then it's not freedom of speech- it's called imposing your opinion on others.

# THE ENSLAVED MEDIA

UDAY WADHVA  
BA-I

**M**edia is called the watchdog of democracy and is considered to be its fourth pillar. Its task is to inform people about the government's actions in an unbiased manner. But does all of this hold any truth today? Does our media represent contemporary reality? How free is our media?

The machinery of media has a long history of being exploited by people with malicious intent, whether it was by the Nazis to portray the Jews in a negative light to justify the holocaust, or countries like China and North Korea where the media is totally under the state's control to propagate certain propaganda. India faced a similar incident during the National Emergency in 1975, wherein institutional media was attacked by enforcing heavy censorship laws to keep the information away from the public.

As we all know 'With great power comes great responsibility'. But, is the media following all the ethics and principles?

Today, in India, the power to control the media has just been concentrated in a few hands which leaves the system prone to exploitation.

The government can influence the media for political leverage by rewarding or punishing the media outlets through the partial allocation of government advertisements and taxes. This is very dangerous because it will prompt the publications to publish only pro-government content. Other issues like paid media and fake news are also plaguing the media industry. It makes the media deviate from its responsibility of being credible and following the core principle of unbiased reporting.

Violence against journalists has also increased. More than 40 journalists have been killed since 2014 and 200 faced deadly attacks. In the end, the media is a very powerful weapon that can be easily exploited. Thus, independence should always be maintained. It has the power to make an innocent guilty and to make a guilty innocent, because they control the minds of people. It is well said that whoever controls the media, controls the minds of people.

ARIHANT SINGH THAKUR  
BA-I

Media is an important and indispensable organ of every nation. It can be correctly regarded as one of the pillars on which a nation stands. But what happens if this pillar starts getting rusty and weak? One of the major duties of all the media houses is to provide relevant news to the citizens of their nations and the news should be in its purest form, which means that the news should be free from any sort of personal bias.

Have you ever seen a debate on any topic on a TV news channel? If yes, then you must have also seen the anchor who shouts more than the panel. The anchor sometimes even stops the person on the panel who's speaking just because he does not like what the other person is saying. This kind of news presentation is toxic, as it may lead a viewer to perceive that the person on the panel is against the truth and will lead to hatred for the person. If a journalist adheres to this behavior he is abusing the ethics of journalism.

Objectivity means being open to interpretation. In the news world, it refers to the information which is free from the personal bias of a journalist. The objectivity of news is necessary for a receiver to form their perspective.

Most of today's journalists have switched to a new method of presenting the news in a spicy and sensational way to maximize the viewership. They do it to sell their news and stay ahead of their competitors for which they are not afraid to kill the objectivity.

This trend has to change and it's us as an audience who would have to take a step. It's the media houses' moral duty to work for the betterment of their nation by providing relevant and pure news. As an audience, we should refuse to consume news which is not pious, so that the golden days of ethical journalism return.

# THE ART OF KILLING OBJECTIVITY



# Life in Quarantine



Parikshita Bhandari



Rupakshi Kalra



Dhriti Loomba



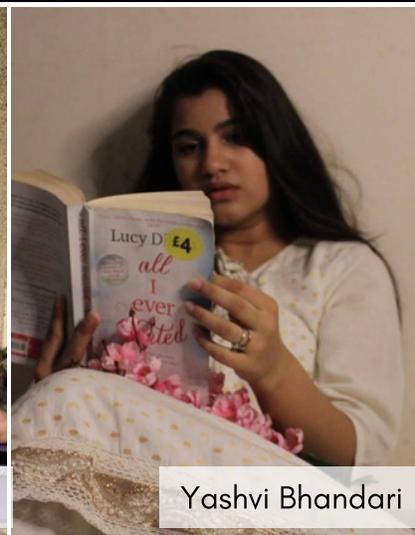
Anushka Gosian



Prabhleen Kaur



Mehtab Singh



Yashvi Bhandari



Oindrilla Saha



Karan Taluja



Smriti Duhan



Gaurav Gandhi



Vineet Saklani



Riya Bishnoi



Anushka Chauhan



Jatin Wadhwa



Surbhi Jain

# THE BIG QUESTIONS

Do you believe the media's portrayal of the LGBTQ characters has changed public views and led to grown acceptance in the society regarding the LGBTQ Community?

## Q.1



I believe media's take on LGBTQ community has definitely led to a change in the people's perspective towards them. But we still have a long way to go. It is going to take a lot of hard work for the society to unlearn the stereotypical way in which this community has been institutionalised and conditioned into their minds. While I do appreciate how movies like Super Deluxe, Aligarh, Bombay Talkies portray the daily life and struggle of this community. I still believe that there is a lack of representation in the mainstream cinema.

-Rishika Mehta  
BA-III



LGBTQ is now getting greater coverage in the media. Awareness spread through digital platforms is conspicuous in movies and web series like 'Shubh Mangal Zyada Savdhan' and 'The Tale of The City.' Such portrayals have led to the change in mindset of society towards this community which made these people to come out and live their lives with same pride as others.

-Vandana Batra  
BA-II



My answer would be a yes. From the past decennium, LGBTQ people have gained more and more tolerance and acceptance among people. Increase in representation of gay people in news, television and movies acted as a catalyst in this. To exemplify- talk show Tedx gave a platform to a transgender, Gauri Sawant, to bring her story forward. Adding to this Indian reality show, big boss has also had gay participants. Television debates have had gay participants as well. Thus, media has aided the acceptance of LGBTQ Community in the society.

-Dhriti Loomba  
BA-II

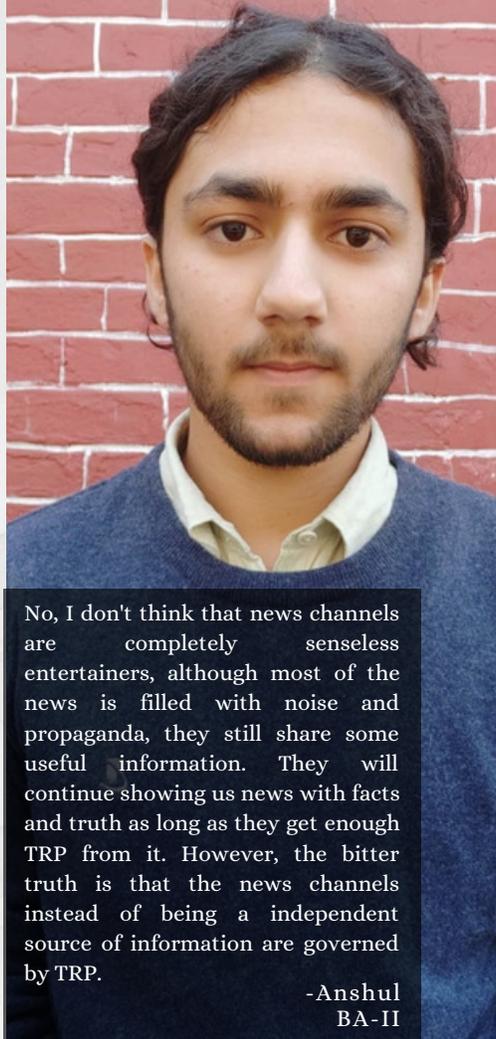


Yes, I personally believe that media's portrayal of LGBTQ community has led to their grown acceptance. In India, since Article 377 has been abolished our media houses have started to accept and show their stories and discuss their **problems** more openly than ever before. Although there is still a long way to go for LGBTQ community in India to gain the normal status. Media should serve as the eyes and ears to help the community gain the much-delayed acceptance.

-Prabhsimar Singh Chawla  
BA-II

# Q.2

Do you think media channels still give relevance to the facts and the truth or have they just become senseless entertainers displaying content beneficial for TRP?



No, I don't think that news channels are completely senseless entertainers, although most of the news is filled with noise and propaganda, they still share some useful information. They will continue showing us news with facts and truth as long as they get enough TRP from it. However, the bitter truth is that the news channels instead of being an independent source of information are governed by TRP.

-Anshul  
BA-II



I feel there are quite less Media channels today, which actually keep terms with unbiasedness, truthfulness and clarity. It has always been a difficult lump to gulp in when we realise that media today sensationalise the news, forgetting its very own essence of educating the masses.

-Suhana Arora  
BA-III



The news providers just feed us what we consume. News now is not just information, but it is also entertainment. So the more entertaining a channel is, the more we people watch, which means more TRP for them. And who doesn't like more money without putting much effort? So while I agree that the media TRP thing is a huge ethical issue on their part, I feel that most of the blame goes to the viewers too.

-Amarjot Lamba  
BA-III

# 17 WHY FOCUS ON MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS?

- Mehtab Singh  
BA-I

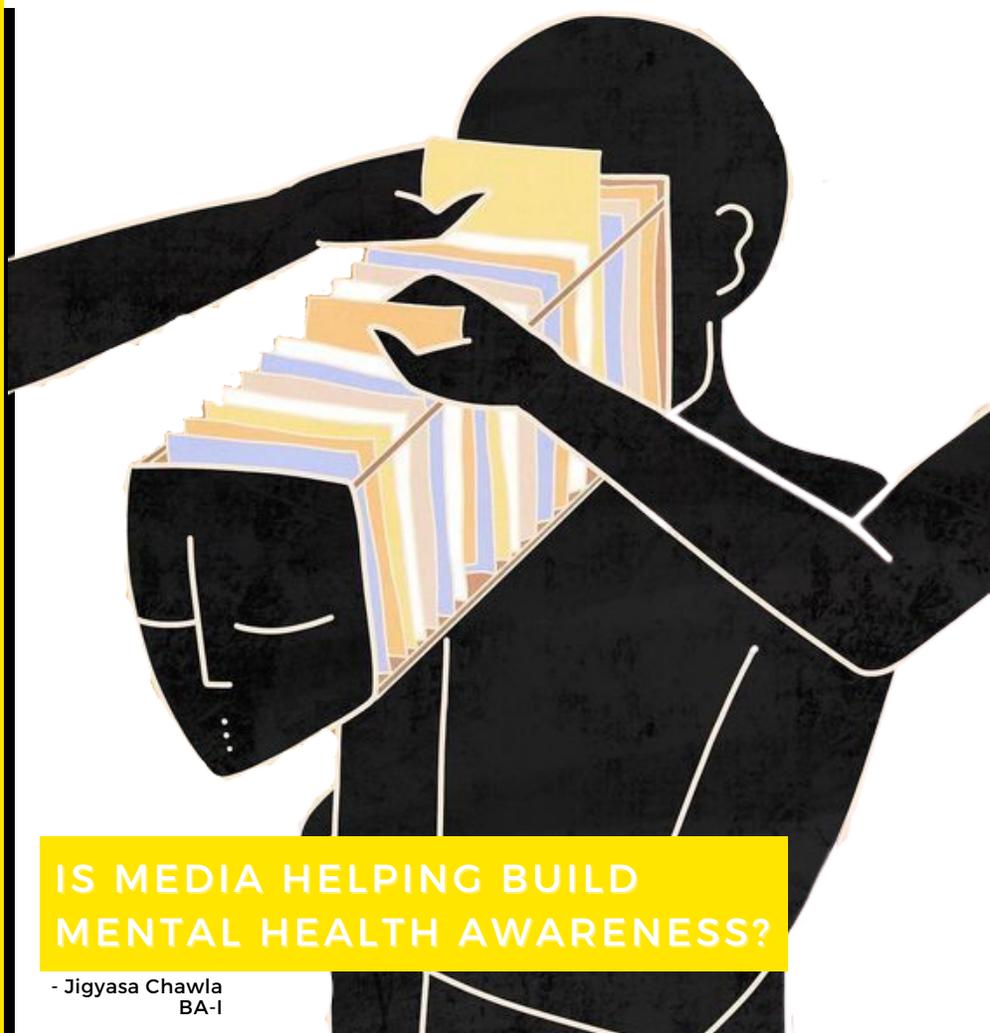
Mental health is the degree of psychological well-being or the absence of any mental illness. It is essential for every human being to have stable mental health as our life choices, relationships, and ability to handle stress depends upon it.

India has been a country where there's always been lack of sensitivity and awareness about the same. What makes the people of our society to neglect this issue is that there's still stigma attached to psychological illnesses. People who want to seek help are called lunatics and a chain of shame, looking down on the person, and isolating them, starts.

In a country where media plays such an important role in shaping or changing people's opinions, what matters is how it represents or educates its audience about this very topic. In the case of mental health, media hasn't been able to transform the masses idea about mental health; rather it has further deteriorated it. The way in which it reports crimes by the mentally ill, further prejudices people's opinion about this issue. It inculcates the idea that all mentally ill people are dangerous and violent. Mental illnesses are of various types and severity. The media however tends to overlook these specifications and fails to report them to the audience.

Just like there're two faces of a coin, similarly the media doesn't always talk about mental health as a pessimist. For example, some movies or documentaries do leave a positive impact on people. 'As Good as It Gets' is a movie that accurately showcases the image of psychiatric illnesses and their sufferers. At times, electronic and print media in their newspapers and magazines have published write-ups about psychiatric illnesses and their cures. Now, through various live interviews and chat shows, psychologists and psychiatrists actually connect and communicate with people and educate them about mental health.

Therefore, it can be concluded that if we want to change people's perception, responsible media coverage and representation is essential. An accurate portrayal of mental illnesses can alter the negative image about them. Hence, the media can and should try to talk positively about this topic.



## IS MEDIA HELPING BUILD MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS?

- Jigyasa Chawla  
BA-I

**“Mental health is not a destination, but a process. It's about how you drive, not where you are going”**

Mental Health is a very serious issue that is not given adequate importance. Mental health is defined as a state of well-being in which every individual realizes his or her potential, cope with normal stresses of life, work fruitfully and productively, and contribute to the community. People's mental health determines how they think, feel, and act.

In India, 6.5% of people suffer from mental health issues. The average suicide rate in India is 10.9 for every one lakh people. The majority of the people who commit suicide are below the age of 44.

Indian Media has a responsibility to guide people towards the truth. It must be conducive to mental health issues. The media is singularly susceptible to the topic when it is related to celebrities or other famous people.

In the light of recent events, we have observed that the media coverage on some issues was because they had affairs related to mental health.

But moving further, they diverged and strayed to the path which focussed on trivial day to day celebrity lives and petty politics thus shoving the burning topic aside.

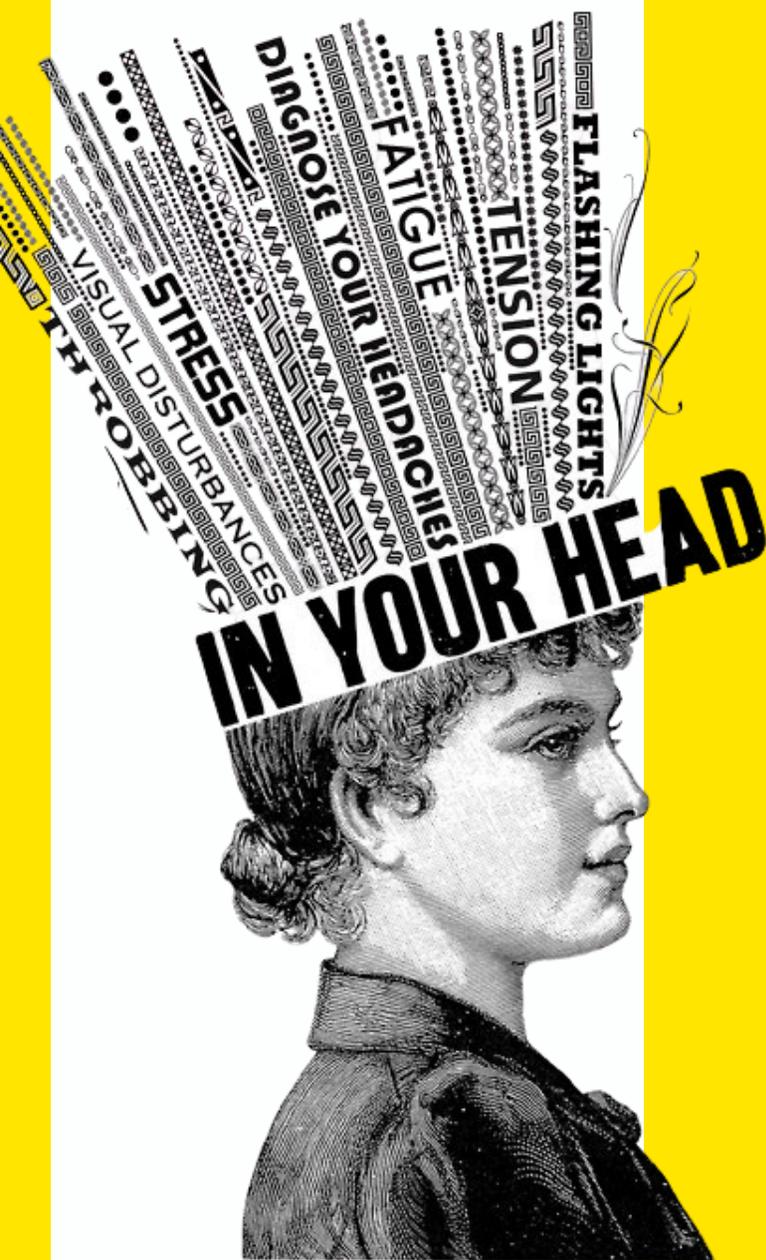
The media holds the power to influence people but ends up having a negative effect because of their focus on profiteering. They represent mental health in comical images and provide inaccurate information about mental health.

The media should put more effort into reflecting this serious issue. Awareness programs should be started where there are instructions for people who are suffering, or are around people who are suffering. This issue is greater than we think and can destroy a person's life.

**“Give yourself the same care and attention that you give to others and watch yourself bloom”**

# IS MEDIA DOING ENOUGH FOR MENTAL HEALTH?

SHAINA PAHUJA  
BA-I



**"What mental health needs is more sunlight, more candor and more unashamed conversation"**

- Glen Close

**I**n the 21st century, social media and media influence our viewpoint and outlook about other social aspects more than we realize. Whatever we receive on social media, newspapers or on television has an impact on our perspective to some extent. This gives media the power and responsibility to sensitize people and spread awareness about important social issues.

Mental health in India is not getting its due attention. Mental health is considered a taboo because people are not much aware and educated on the subject. When a person is seeing a mental health expert, people say ignorant things like 'there is something wrong with his brain' or 'he is mad'. Even though using such slangs has been normalized, they should be considered as health or psychological problems.

During last 2-3 years, things have improved a little because public is opening up on social media. The media contributes to propagating mental illness as a stigma through the exaggerated, inaccurate, and comical representation. Also, whenever a celebrity commits suicide, the media completely disregards the possibility of depression or mental illness and ropes in new angles to make the news interesting for the sake of TRP.

Two theories of mass communications, cultivation theory and social learning theory work in tandem for construction and perpetuation of mental illness stigma. Cultivation theory proposes that those who spend more time 'living' in the virtual world of television are more likely to assume a television worldview of mental illness. Social learning theory suggests that learning is achieved not only through direct experience but also through observation. Television teaches or reinforces social conventions about how to treat persons with psychiatric disorders.

These two theories point to the fact that an individual who is exposed to the media is wrongfully influenced about mental illness therefore, as a result people going through it will continue to be silent about their problems, and the suicide rates won't come down.

# FREE FROM THE SHACKLES

SUHANA ARORA  
BA-III

Freedom lies in the ability of being free from the shackles that do not let us and the world around move ahead. In this world, where people like us blow the trumpet of progress, freedom and education, there still exist notions where we turn our volume knob down or relentlessly act hypocritical. In this technologically intellectual world, called global village, media has enabled the voices of people like us, reach infinitely colossal amount of people all around. But it is quite appalling and important to put forth the fact that there still is a huge fraction of population that prefers to stay inside the closet. This is because the world we survive in is comprised by people like us, who conceal their barbarism under the veil of humanity.

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LGBTQ people have recently gained more visibility for the positive contributions to movements for social change. It is quite wonderful to witness that Social media platforms are being an aesthetic and a strong source to let people push themselves, and accept themselves unapologetically. Moreover, several accessible and influential brands like Myntra, Tanishq and Fastrack are fulfilling their social responsibilities through their advertisements to let the rainbow augment the beauty of the sky we live under.

## LGBTQ- MEDIA'S ROLE AND IMPORTANCE

GAURI JALAN  
BA-I

'LGBTQ' is an acronym used for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer. These terms are used to describe a person's sexual orientation or their gender identity. Talking about our own nation, on 6th September 2018, the Supreme Court unanimously ruled that Section 377 is unconstitutional as it infringes the fundamental rights of autonomy, intimacy, and identity, thus legalising homosexuality in India.

Represented by a rainbow flag, the community welcomes and respects people coming from all identities. Though the initial movement started around the early 1970s, the community has gained a lot more importance, respect and acknowledgement in the 21st century, primarily in the last decade.

But if we ask people or even ourselves about how we got to know about this community, most of us would say 'from the internet'. And that is where the media steps in.

Right from the coverage of LGBTQ parades to its portrayal in the cinemas, media has played a major role in spreading awareness about the community. Speaking of the role, this representation was often misinterpreted at times. Talking about the movies, these characters were represented in a highly stereotypical way and were often seen as 'abnormal'. Many of these films were often shown under the graphic or adult label and hence, hardly reached out to the audience.

But now the time is changing and so is the mindset of people. Many YouTube channels and Bollywood movies have been on a path of normalising the very existence of the community. Watching TED talk speeches of famous personalities from the community and the activists boosts their strength.

Social media platforms have been both supportive and de-motivating at times. We should remember that it takes immense courage to come out in a judgemental society. All one wants is to be treated equally as a fellow human-being. Hence, it is expected from the media to be a source of support, power and guidance at a time where all of us are trying to make our lives and humanity better.

# WHY IS THE RAINBOW IGNORED?

RASHMI  
BA-I

It is a common fact that the media shapes opinions, beliefs and cultural understanding of the public. These days, there is a paradigm shift in the representation of the LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer) community in the mainstream media. There was a time when this community was portrayed in a derogatory manner and that made this community undesirable in the society. Representation of bisexual or transgender often included their depiction as corrupt or mentally unstable. The gay or lesbian characters portrayed the role of stereotypical supporting-characters and were depicted as victims or villains. Vito Russo in 'The Celluloid Closet' said, "The big lie about lesbian and gay men is that we do not exist." Whereas, the inadequate and negative representation of the LGBTQ community in past has led to the spread of hatred and biases amongst people in the society towards this community.

## "Whoever controls the media, control the mind"

In 2009, when Delhi High court decided the case that decriminalized same-sex relations in India, the media played a positive role in its coverage. In retrospection, that one judgment of 'Naz Foundation case' ended up in recognizing the unique worth of each person as a person and not by his sexual orientation. This lent momentum to the concept of 'inclusiveness'- which has increased the participation of the LGBTQ community on the media platforms. Statistics from GLAAD (Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) in their annual 'Where We Are on TV' report 2019 declared that out of 882 TV characters, 90 are from the LGBTQ+ community. Leading brands like Nike, Sephora, Levi's, Starbucks, etc. are promoting and donating funds for this community. Some brands have included the queer community in their brand promotions.

Media has played a pivotal role in educating people about gender pronouns, gender expressions, gender sensitivity and sexual orientation. Gordon Allport, a famous psychologist, says that, "Under the right conditions, interpersonal contact is one of the best ways to reduce prejudices between majority and minority groups." Thus, keeping this in mind, we can also say that 'imagined contact' between the majority society and minority queer community will help to overcome the prejudices.



# CRIMINALIZED OR MISUNDERSTOOD?

GUNJAN  
BA-I

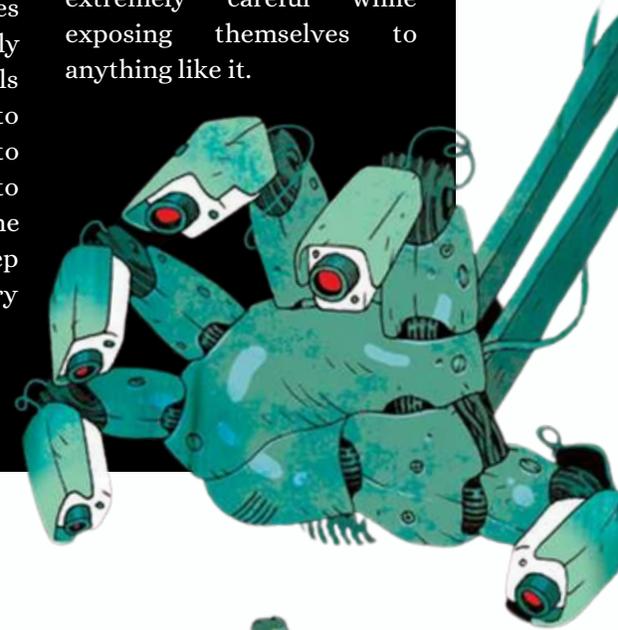
The dark web is a decentralized network of internet sites that try to make users as anonymous as possible, by routing all their communications through multiple servers, and encrypting it at every step. Some people feel the unnerving urge to protect their privacy and prefer to hang out where they can't be watched, even if they are just playing online chess. Other people want to communicate out of governments' watch, they consider tyrannical. Many believe that the dark web is mostly accessed by criminals. But, how much of the dark web is about illegal activities?

DANIEL MOORE AND THOMAS RID made a herculean attempt to find out. They identified 5,205 sites nearly 48% inactive and containing no content.

Of those that seemed active, well over half appeared unlawful, hosting a widely diverse set of illicit activities. At the top of the list were 423 sites trading or manufacturing illegal drugs, including illegally obtained prescription medicines. 327 sites are facilitated by financial crime, such as money laundering, counterfeiting, or trade-in stolen accounts or credit cards.

One key characteristic of the dark web is its instability. Sites quickly come and go, especially illegal sites run by criminals who have been known to repeatedly move operations to evade the police. If you decide to explore the darker side of the internet then you have to keep in mind some necessary precautions to protect yourself and others.

You must fully educate yourself about the dark web before diving right in. Sometimes people may think that the messages they deleted will never resurface, but that is not the reality. For an instance, we have been listening to the news related to Sushant Singh Rajput, as the narcotics angle has alleged a lot of celebrities to have been a part of the circuit based on the previous WhatsApp chats they had deleted. We come to realize that nothing is ever 'deleted'. The dark web is a well-managed platform but it isn't for everyone to use for daily browsing. One must be extremely careful while exposing themselves to anything like it.



# THE DARK SIDE OF THE WEB

STUTI BANSAL  
BA-I

'The deeper you'll go, the darker it'll get into one's secrets, into one's space, into the web. One universe, one rule!' Dark web is the part of the 'World Wide Web' that is only accessible by means of special software, allowing users and website operators to remain anonymous and untraceable. It is that part of the internet which is not indexed by search engines. It is the hotbed for criminal activity. A number of crimes that have taken place or might take place include buying credit card numbers, all manners of drugs, guns, counterfeiting money, hacking Netflix accounts, breaking into other people's computers, key logging, exploiting and phishing. Major dark web sites may be 'Dream Market' and 'AlphaBay'.

It comes as a major surprise that information on the dark web and ways to access it are so easily and readily available. However, do not leave with the impression that everything on the dark web is illegal. Sometimes people use it with legal permission like in several countries where there happens to be a suspicion of eavesdropping and sometimes also in places where the internet access is criminalized. After linking the dark web with social media, people have been found having a large number of connections. Social Media platforms bring the dark web closer than we think.

These platforms have been thoroughly exploited by the cyber criminals to openly sell their stocks, tools and expertise so much so as that the lines between clear web platforms and dark web equivalents have been blurred. At least forty percent of the social media platforms have been examined for having a hacking service available. There also have been found a number of videos throwing out content on tutorials using tools like malware and ransomware. The effect of dark web has been incredibly brazen on social media. With the help of such popular and extensively hackneyed platforms, it makes it easier for the cyber criminals to extend their reach and offer their services to a wider audience, ultimately leading to cyber attacks. Today, in the modern times this type of crime has become so cliché that there is hardly any difference between legitimacy and illegitimacy.

Therefore, we should be well educated and well aware of our surroundings. Awareness to a vast population is the key and we should not be afraid to impart any information that could prove to be of utter importance for those around us.

## FEIRY WATERS OF THE *dark web*

RIMJHIM GARG  
BA-I

The dark web is a shrouded part of the web that utilizes exceptional programming. 'Pinnacle', or 'The Onion Router', is a famous unknown perusing network used to associate with the dark web. While the dark web offers secrecy and an approach to sidestep web restriction, it is normally connected with criminal operations, for example, the purchasing and selling of medications and other stash. The dark web alludes to scrambled online substance that isn't recorded by customary web indexes. Now and again, the dark web is likewise called the dark net. The dark web is a segment of the profound web that portrays the more extensive expansiveness of a substance that doesn't show up through normal Internet perusing exercises.

Most profound web content comprises of private records facilitated on Dropbox and its rivals. Explicit programs like the 'Tor Browser' are needed to arrive at the dark web.

Using the dark web frequently gives significantly more protection than simply utilizing 'Tor' to get to the web. Numerous dark sites essentially give standard web benefits more mystery, which benefits political non-conformists and individuals attempting to keep ailments hidden.

Tragically, online commercial centers for drugs, trades for taken information, and other criminal operations get the greater part of the consideration.

The dark web engages customary individuals, yet a few people will unavoidably mishandle that power. The dark web can make it simpler to carry out a portion of the most noticeably terrible violations. For instance, the mix of the dark web and cryptographic forms of money hypothetically makes it a lot simpler to enlist somebody to submit a homicide. While the dark web guarantees security to its clients, it can likewise be utilized to disregard the protection of others. Private photographs, clinical records, and monetary data have all been taken and shared on the dark web.

In the event, that you choose to investigate utilizing the dark web, avoid potential risk to ensure yourself. It's not hard to meander into sketchy substance, so you shouldn't bring the jump into utilizing the dark web without teaching yourself early. Furthermore, as usual, be certain you're utilizing integral assets.



**"The focus is what is right before you- to give it your best. It sows the seeds of tomorrow."**

**Dr. Kiran Bedi**