

CHAPTER 28

ROLE OF A PHOTOJOURNALIST

MEANING

Photojournalism is the profession where news is covered with the help of Camera. It provides real time photos/visuals of any current happening which the photojournalist covered. Back bone of photojournalism is the photojournalist. A good photojournalist is both a skilled photographer who uses the camera and other equipment to his best advantage. He must also be a thinking creative person who mixes technique and judgement to capture images as they happen because news events do not wait for the photographer.

PREPAREDNESS OF PHOTOJOURNALISTS

- A photojournalist must be prepared to act fast and have his camera always at hand.
- The interesting pictures are most often a result of the alertness of the photojournalist who is at the right place at the right time.
- Photojournalist should always be alert if he is casual about his job, he is likely to miss many important chances.
- A photojournalist should think about important location and best place and position for coverage.

- There are some events about which a photojournalist has advance information. So he can be there well before the action begins.

ETHICS AND THE PHOTOJOURNALIST

- Ethics is an important word in journalism. Ethics are the moral principles that influence the conduct of people.
- Journalistic ethics are the moral principles that govern the practice of all forms of journalism.
- They guide the photojournalist in deciding what is right and what is wrong.
- Truthfulness is a core journalistic ethic.
- A photojournalist must always strive to take pictures that tell the truth.
- This issue of ethics has become more important in the digital age when it is very easy to change the photograph on the computer.
- It is believed that the camera never lies. But now with a few clicks of a computer mouse, you can completely change a photograph.

- Most importantly, it is also against journalistic ethics to stage or create a picture by having people pose for the camera.

PHOTOJOURNALISM IN INDIA

Photography came in India when British ruled .

- British photographers started taking pictures of the country, its scenery and monuments.
- When the first, war of Independence happened in 1857, it was one of the first incidents of war photography in the world.
- Later on when the camera became smaller, photojournalism gained greater popularity.
- Raja Deen Dayal was one of the first notable Indian photojournalists. He was a court photographer in India during the rule of the sixth Nizam of Hyderabad.



Raja Deen Dayal

Sunil Janah

A political activist and journalist, **Sunil Janah** began to photograph while writing assignments for his newspaper. At the time of India's independence, Janah photographed the significant events in the country and made a record of the transition from British rule to independent India. His photographs of India's partition, its people, specially the tribals as well as pictures of industries and temple structures are very famous.



Homai Vyarawalla

- Homi Vyarawalla was known as the first woman journalist In India.
- Her work was first published in 1938 in the Bombay Chronicle, and later in other major publications of those times.
- She also worked for the Illustrated Weekly of India.
- During World War II she covered every aspect of wartime activities in India.
- Her documentation of the events of the freedom movement are significant.
- She remained a freelance photographer until 1970 and was highly respected amongst all photojournalists.



Henri Cartier Bresson

There are several international photojournalists who loved photographing in India. Amongst them, the name of Henri Cartier Bresson is famous.

Henri Cartier Bresson was French and his name is counted amongst the best photojournalists of the world.

He travelled to India in the 1940s and then kept coming back here in later years.

His most famous photograph is that of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru announcing the death of Gandhiji.

His book called 'Henri Cartier Bresson in India' is very well known.



Raghu Rai

- Amongst the photojournalists after Independence, the name of Raghu Rai is most famous.
- Rai's photographs are still seen as he continues to do photography.

- Raghu Rai started his career in photojournalism in the 1960s in Delhi.
- He started working for important national newspapers like the Hindustan Times and The Statesman.
- Later he became the Chief Photographer for 'India Today' where he worked for a long time.
- Raghu Rai has covered all important events that have taken place in the second half of the last century. The Bhopal gas tragedy and the Bangladesh war.
- He has brought out books on various subjects such as Delhi, Taj Mahal, Sikhs, Benaras etc.
- Rai's early pictures are mostly in black and white but later he has photographed in colour. They all have a beautiful quality about them.

EXTEND YOUR HORIZON

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- Homi Vyarawalla was known as the first woman journalist In India.
- Henri Cartier Bresson was French and his name is counted amongst the best photojournalists of the world.
- Among the photojournalists after independence, the name of Raghu Rai is most famous.

DO YOU KNOW

Preparedness of a photojournalist

- Events for which a photojournalist is prepared
- Judgement and sensitivity of a photojournalist
- Role of a photoeditor
- Approach of a photojournalist while taking photographs

EVALUATE YOURSELF

Relate the names of photojournalists given below with their respective work.

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|---------------------------|---|
| i) Homai Vyarawalla | a) photographs of India's partition |
| ii) Henri Cartier Bresson | b) photograph of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru announcing the death of Gandhiji |
| iii) Prashant Panjiar | c) photograph of World War II |
| iv) Raghu Rai | d) photographs in 'Outlook' magazine |
| v) Sunil Jannah | e) photograph of Mother Teresa |

