

## **Profiling Of Journalists in Balochistan: An Exploratory Study**

**Shairzaman Kakar<sup>1</sup>, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Zafar Iqbal<sup>2</sup>, Shafquat Ali Chachar<sup>3</sup>, Sohaib Saleh<sup>4</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> MS Scholar at the Department of Media and Communication Studies International Islamic University Islamabad

<sup>2</sup> Vice-Chancellor, Gomal University, Dera Ismail Khan

<sup>3</sup> MS Scholar at the Department of Media and Communication Studies International Islamic University Islamabad. Email: [shafquatali940@gmail.com](mailto:shafquatali940@gmail.com)

<sup>4</sup> MS Scholar at the Department of Media and Communication Studies International Islamic University Islamabad

**DOI: [HTTPS://DOI.ORG/10.70670/SRA.V3I3.1047](https://doi.org/10.70670/SRA.V3I3.1047)**

### **Abstract**

In the today digital age, the journalists face real threats around the world particularly in Pakistan, which is badly affected the freedom of expression and human rights. They lose their status due the different environmental factors. The current analysis explores the profiling of the journalists in Balochistan as an exploratory study. The researcher used quantitative technique on the population of different districts of Balochistan (Zhob, Musakhail, Chaman, Ziarat, Nushki, Jaffarabad, Gwadar, and Awaran). The data has been collected through survey method from 300 working full time, part time and free-lancing journalists on the basis of systematic sample technique, using manual questionnaire consisting different scale questions. After the collection, the data was analyzed by statistical package of social sciences (SPSS) to tabulate the data with the categories, frequencies and percentage for better understanding and real result. The researcher found out that the journalism in Balochistan deter the journalists from viewing journalism as a secure and alternative career. The journalist faces extreme threats consist of harassment, intimidation and physical violence from both state and non-state actors, making their profession highly perilous. Limited institutional support, lack of security measure and constant fear for personal security further exacerbate the risk, different affecting their ability to work independently and ethically. The current study suggested that the government should develop journalist protection policies, Press clubs & media organization, Ensure independent journalism for the resilient profile of journalist in Balochistan.

**Key words:** Journalists profile, Baluchistan, Security, independent Journalism

### **Introduction**

The profiling of journalists offers a serious challenge to press freedom and the principle of journalistic integrity, particularly in region influenced by political instability and conflict. In the province of Balochistan, (Pakistan largest yet most volatile province) this problem severely affects the struggle of journalist who seek to inform the people amid complex socio-political circumstances. The Balochistan has experienced longstanding insurgencies ethnic unrest and repeated accusation of human right violations, all of which contribute to an inducing perilous climate for journalists (Hussain, 2015). The current analysis seeks to explore the practices of journalist profiling in the province of Balochistan, aiming to focus on its characteristics, possible avenues for redress and

consequences. Balochistan's situation offers a compelling context for scrutinizing the complexities surrounding journalist profiling. As a region with a tumultuous history of conflict and marginalization, Balochistan presents journalists with unique challenges. They often grapple with the dilemma of reporting truthfully while facing threats from influential parties seeking to control the narrative. State security agencies, insurgent groups, and local power brokers employ various tactics to surveil, intimidate, and silence journalists, thus impeding the free flow of information and suppressing dissent. This study endeavors to unravel the multifaceted aspects of profiling in Balochistan, examining its implications for press freedom, journalistic norms, and democratic governance in the region (Niaz et al., 2017).

The journalism in Balochistan has been extended a weak and infantile region, facing many tasks that delay its growth and capability to meaning as an independent support of the social order. One of the maximum important reasons causative to this faintness is the safety position in the area. Balochistan has been the location of ongoing insurrection, military processes, and pressures among the Baloch separatist activities and the Pakistani national. Journalists frequently find themselves in the disagreement of this battle, facing pressures, harassment, and ferocity from both national and non-state performers. The safety environment makes a climate of distress, where journalists are unwilling to cover delicate issues, leading to self-censorship and a partial possibility for critical journalism (Ullah, 2018). The nonappearance of press liberty in Balochistan additional weakens journalism in the area. Journalists in Balochistan are frequently subject to restriction and pressure from establishments, which restrictions their aptitude to account easily on human privileges abuses, party-political unrest, and additional significant local subjects. Numerous media openings in the area repetition self-censorship to sidestep the risk of revenge, which primes to a lack of widespread coverage of proceedings. The political situation, with its preventive policies on allowed communication and press freedom, generates a situation where dangerous and analytical journalism is quiet. This donates to a skewed story in the media, frequently in errand of government or military benefits, while speeches critical of the national or the status quo are demoted (Shirazi, 2017). In addition to the safety and political defies, the economic and infrastructural restraints of the media manufacturing in Balochistan additional exacerbate the faintness of journalism in the area. Media openings in Balochistan control with restricted resources and facade important financial challenges. Numerous of the homegrown newspapers, radio stations, and television networks struggle to uphold economic sustainability due to a lack of publicity revenue, deficient government provision, and the defies of working in a conflict-prone district. This economic instability varieties it problematic for these channels to capitalize in quality reporting, hire skilled reporters, or deliver the essential infrastructure to behavior investigative effort. As an outcome, greatly of the media content in Balochistan inclines to be superficial and be unsuccessful to address multifaceted issues with the complexity they justify (Agha & Demeter, 2023).

Moreover, the lack of professional training among journalist in Balochistan contributed to the overall weakness of the media landscape. Journalistic education and training program in the region are limited, and many journalists are faced to learn on the job without access to formal media education. This leads to a lack of investigative journalist skill as well as an inability to cover sensitively. Many reporters work under precarious conditions, with little support or protection from their employers, which further undermines the quality and credibility of journalism in the region. The absence of professional development opportunities for journalists exacerbates the vulnerability of the media to manipulation and self-censorship. (Prakash, 2013). Furthermore, the practice of journalism in Balochistan is compounded by inadequate infrastructure and resources. Many regions within the province lack essential amenities such as reliable internet, electricity, and other utilities, posing challenges for journalists in their efforts to gather and disseminate news. Moreover, the media landscape in Balochistan exhibits a dearth of diversity, with a handful of prominent media outlets often under the sway of influential political and business interests (Niaz et al., 2020).

Effective journalism demands individuals possess robust research and communication skills, along with the ability to craft clear and engaging narratives while upholding ethical principles such as accuracy, objectivity, fairness, and impartiality. Journalists frequently operate under stringent deadlines, engaging in tasks like conducting interviews, attending press briefings, and pursuing leads to compile informative stories. Journalism is a recognized profession encompassing various roles and responsibilities, with definitions of a journalist varying across contexts (Wendo, 2022).

Despite these challenges, journalists in Balochistan continues to play a vital role in documenting and disseminating information about the region's socio-political dynamics. They provide a voice to marginalized communities, shed light on human rights violations, and hold those in power accountable. However, the risks they face underscore the urgent need for greater protection of press freedom and journalist safety in Balochistan, as well as the importance of supporting independent media outlets and fostering a culture of transparency and accountability (Umer, 2024). A journalist as an individual responsible for delivering news information to various mediums including newspapers, periodicals, radio, television, and the internet. Given their critical role in society, journalists are expected to serve as watchdogs within the social system, gathering, interpreting, and disseminating news for the common good. In the contemporary landscape, journalists are influenced by both internal factors such as journalistic principles and organizational structures, as well as external factors including news production, publication, and public perception (Tumber, 2013). Journalism is widely recognized as a cornerstone of democratic societies, facilitating access to essential information and fostering accountability among those in power. However, journalists often encounter challenges such as censorship, threats, and safety risks, particularly in regions with limited press freedom or during periods of conflict or political instability. Despite these obstacles, journalism remains integral to maintaining a free and informed society. In developing and transitioning nations, journalists face a myriad of economic, organizational, legal, and political challenges. Various political parties, terrorist groups, and other organizations worldwide are expanding their reach, leveraging every available means to advance their objectives, including influencing public opinion. Recognizing the media's potent role in shaping public perception, these entities often target journalists as instruments of influence (Olayinka, 2024).

### **Journalist's Profile**

The term "profile" holds various meanings and can apply across both professional and personal contexts (Ferraris et al., 2013). Profiling, as defined, involves categorizing individuals based on their personal attributes. Personal data can be categorized as legitimate or unlawful, with the latter often violating individual rights and freedoms. Journalists worldwide are particularly susceptible to scrutiny by both governmental and non-governmental entities. Their profile is shaped by two interrelated factors. However, navigating safely within a monitored environment poses significant challenges for journalists. In such settings, journalists and media entities are frequently targeted by both state and non-state actors. Particularly in authoritarian states like Pakistan, journalists are keenly aware of governmental power dynamics, whether real or perceived. International organizations dedicated to monitoring media freedom and protecting journalists have repeatedly highlighted increased surveillance of journalists in Pakistan (Dumas & Sanchez-Burks, 2015).

### **Journalism in Balochistan**

Balochistan, also spelled Baluchistan, is a province located in the southwestern region of Pakistan. It is the largest province in terms of land area, covering approximately 44% of Pakistan's total land area, but has a relatively sparse population compared to other provinces. Balochistan is bordered by Iran to the west, Afghanistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province to the north, Punjab and Sindh provinces to the east, and the Arabian Sea to the south. Significant ethnic groups include Pashtuns, Brahuis, and Hazaras. Each group has its own distinct culture, language, and traditions. The

population is concentrated, and compared with other provinces; the population proportion is the smallest. According to the 1998 census, its population was xx million, with a low population density per square kilometer. Geographically, Balochistan is a vast plateau with rugged terrain divided into basins based on sufficient height and ruggedness. Balochistan is divided into different districts Awaran, Barkhan, Chagai, Chaman Dera Bugti, Gwadar, Harnai, Jafarabad, Jhal Magsi, Kalat Kech, Kharan, Khuzdar, Killa Abdullah, Killa Saifullah, Kohlu, Lasbela, Loralai, Mastung, Musakhel, Nasirabad, Nushki, Panjgur, Pishin, Qila Abdullah, Quetta, Sherani, Sibi, Sohbatpur, Shaheed Sikandarabad (formerly Lehri), Washuk, Zhob and Ziarat (Wikipedia, 2022). But the researcher selected only seven regions for the current study. Journalists in Balochistan do not express their views publicly because freedom of speech and press are often attributed to independence, but journalism in Balochistan is not independent (Maqsood, 2022).

The Balochistan not only face the journalistic problems but the Balochistan also face many serious environmental issue across the province. Most of the expert claim that these challenges are produced by the Balochistan existing location. Some region suffer from long droughts, while other are frequently hit through floods during seasonal rain. In cities overpopulation has caused a shortage of energy and other resources. At the same time people are cutting don old valuable forests to make more space to live. Like other parts of Pakistan, Balochistan has seen a lot of deforestation, which has led more issue such pollution and water shortage (Jan, 2022). Due to the precarious security situation in Balochistan, residents endure a lack of peaceful living conditions. In terrorism-affected regions, journalists encounter obstacles accessing information sources due to security risks or control exerted by terrorist organizations. Such restricted access impedes thorough reporting, leading to incomplete or misleading narratives. Exploiting social media and digital platforms, terrorist groups disseminate disinformation and propaganda, inadvertently amplified by journalists covering terrorism-related events, thus contributing to misinformation spread. Governments may respond to terrorism by enacting restrictive laws or implementing censorship measures to regulate media reporting (Fatima, 2024).

Umer (2024) cleared in his study that journalist's job in conflict zone face serious daily risk and their safety is complicated by several threats. In Balochistan it very difficult for journalist to identify exactly where the danger is coming from, as the face pressure from separatist group, foreign agent extremist and nationalist. They also say that their media organization do not backing them and they frequently have to trust on the Pakistani army for safeguarding. After 9/11 the condition become worse. The United State war on terror led violence and obliteration in the area. The Pakistan allowed the US to use land and military bases in Balochistan for operation in Afghanistan. As a result, the Balochistan hurt from the spread of Taliban effect and violence. Since then, over 54 journalists have been killed in area and more than 100 are till now facing threat. While journalism is globally regarded as a noble profession, in many parts of Balochistan, its value has diminished due to biases or serving particular agendas. Practicing genuine journalism in Balochi society often invites online or face-to-face threats, deterring reporters from pursuing truth. Manipulation of facts has cast Balochistan's journalism in a negative light, with interference from both state and non-state actors compromising fair and impartial reporting. States often demand a favorable portrayal, while non-state actors advocate for the opposite, leaving unbiased journalism an elusive goal (Maqsood, 2022). Balochistan's media and journalists grapple with numerous challenges, particularly in reporting on sensitive topics, notably within conflict zones. The current analysis aim to explore the reasons behind the targeted profiling of journalisms in the area and examine hoe these practices impact their personal and career security. By investigate the techniques and motivations involved, the current analysis intend to emphasize to uphold journalists, rights. Ultimately, the current research aspires to foster awareness and guide police making to create a safer, more supportive situation for journalists to perform their important work without intimidation of retaliation.

This study on the profiling of journalists in Balochistan is significant because it sheds light on the challenges faced by media professionals in one of the most unstable regions in Pakistan. By exploring the specific threats, harassment, and violence those journalists encounter and why these threats are not highlighted in the mainstream media, this study helps to understand the broader context of media repression in conflict zones. Highlighting these issues is crucial for advocating for the rights of journalists, promoting press freedom, and ensuring that diverse voices are heard, even in challenging environments. The findings of this study are significant in several ways. First, they provide valuable insights for local and international organizations working to protect journalists, helping them to tailor their support and advocacy efforts more effectively. Second, the study can inform policymakers and human rights advocates about the urgent need to create safer conditions for journalists in Balochistan. Ultimately, this research aims to contribute to a more informed public debate on media freedom and the importance of safeguarding independent journalism as a pillar of democracy and transparency.

### **Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of the study consist of the following

1. To explore the profiles of working journalists in the districts of Awaran, Chaman, Gwadar, Jaffarabad, Musakhail, Nashik, Zhob and Ziarat.
2. To find out the challenges and risks faced by journalists in Balochistan
3. To explore the motivations behind the practice of journalism by the journalist in Balochistan

### **Research Questions**

On the basis of research objectives, the research questions consist of the following.

**RQ.1** What are the profiles of journalists working in the districts of Awaran, Chaman, Gwadar, Jaffarabad, Musakhail, Nushki, Zhob, and Ziarat?

**RQ.2** How does the experience of profiling impact journalists and ability to report independently on issues related to Balochistan?

**RQ.3** How do journalists in Balochistan perceive and respond to the practice of journalism?

### **Delimitation of the Study**

Limitations are vital in delineating the scope of a research endeavor. In this study, several delimitations have been established to provide a clear framework for investigation: Geographic Scope:

### **Literature Review**

In the journalistic point of view the profiling refers to the surveillance, targeting and categorization of journalists based on their region, ethnicity and the subject they reported on. In Balochistan this practice is frequent but has lethal implications (Rumi, 2017). The present review explores credible reports and literature to understand the scope, implementation and dynamics of journalist profiling in Balochistan. Since its inception, media professionals have been regarded as guardians of objectivity and champions of unfettered access to information, earning them the moniker "fourth estate." Journalism holds significant historical importance in Pakistan, serving as a cornerstone of its media landscape and democratic structure. Despite facing a myriad of challenges and obstacles over the years, journalism in Pakistan has made strides forward. The media landscape in Pakistan is characterized by a dynamic mix of private and state-owned entities. While there have been advancements in media freedom, journalists in Pakistan continue to grapple with issues such as censorship, threats, and attacks, particularly in conflict-ridden regions. Pakistan boasts a diverse media sector comprising newspapers, television channels, radio stations, and digital platforms. While Urdu and English dominate the media landscape, regional languages also hold prominence, especially in local media outlets (Noor & Zafar, 2023).

Pakistan hosts a variety of reputable news organizations delivering comprehensive coverage and analysis across diverse domains such as politics, economy, social issues, and entertainment. Noteworthy newspapers and television channels in the country include Dawn, The News, Express Tribune, Geo News, ARY News, and Samaa TV, among others. However, journalists operating in Pakistan confront substantial risks, particularly when reporting on sensitive topics like politics, terrorism, human rights, and religious extremism. Instances of threats, attacks, and harassment targeting journalists have been documented, leading to a pervasive atmosphere of self-censorship and constraints on press freedom (ANI, 2023).

### **Journalists' Profiling in Pakistan**

Despite facing formidable challenges, journalists serve a crucial role in providing society with accurate and impartial information concerning terrorism and its societal impact. To uphold the integrity of journalism amidst the threat of terrorism, it is imperative for both media organizations and governments to safeguard and support journalists, preserve press freedom, and advocate for ethical reporting practices (Hussain, 2021). Moreover, initiatives promoting media literacy can aid the public in distinguishing between reliable information and misinformation, thereby contributing to a more well-informed society. Pakistan, various gatekeepers control the dissemination of news to the public. These gatekeepers include the government, which sets policies, and newspaper owners who often align with these policies due to financial interests in media content creation. Furthermore, the ideology, personal beliefs, and backgrounds of journalists, as well as the influence of powerful economic entities, religion, and social norms, significantly shape media operations and content. The creation of journalist profiles facilitates these tasks (Jamil, 2018).

The influence of these gatekeepers often leads to observable biases within Pakistani media, where certain individuals or groups receive disproportionate coverage while others are marginalized or ignored. Globally, five normative theories of journalism guide media practices, each adapted to fit the socio-cultural, political, religious, and economic contexts of individual countries. These theories include the Authoritarian Theory, which asserts that truth and authority rest with a select group endowed with special abilities; the Liberal Theory, which champions equality and freedom of speech for all individuals; and the Communist Theory, an extension of authoritarianism seen in the Soviet Union (Siebert et al., 1956). The Pakistani journalist is portrayed more by local culture and politics than by worldwide journalism standards. While professionalism is growing, journalists blend western practices with religious and national values. They emphasize on describing political problems rather than pushing for change and work under strict boundaries. Pakistan reporters share people's concern about terrorism and the economy with many critiquing the government but still backing step by step reforms. The value objectifies but believes it should consist of interpretation and respect. Religion affects their jobs but does not handle it. They are frequently critical of both religion and government leaders (Pintak & Nazir, 2013).

In all over Pakistan male journalists were criticized for being unprofessional, while female journalists faced sexist and gender based insults. The online users and political party frequently used social and culture problems to silence critical journalists. The journalist face today several forms of online harassment and stresses the importance of defense free speech and rebellious abuse in Pakistan media environment (Li et al., 2023). The coverage of terrorism and violent incidents in Pakistan poses significant hurdles for journalists, compounded by government-imposed security measures in certain regions, which can impede access to information. Moreover, the rise of digital media and social networking platforms has reshaped the media landscape in Pakistan, with online news portals and social media emerging as pivotal sources of news and information for the populace. In terms of journalism training and education, Pakistan boasts numerous universities and institutions offering journalism and media studies programs, equipping aspiring journalists with essential skills and knowledge requisite for success in the field. Journalism holds a pivotal role in Pakistan's democratic

discourse, functioning as a watchdog, ensuring accountability among the powerful, and empowering the public with vital information to make informed decisions (Iqbal & Rauf, 2018).

### **Research Gap**

There is a growing body of literature on press freedom and journalist safety in Pakistan, there remains an important research gap concerning the systematic profiling of journalist particularly in Baluchistan. Existing studies often focused on general threats to media workers or highlight high profile incidents, but they rarely provide explanation, district level analysis of journalist's demographic lived experience and coping policies in selected areas. This lack of focused, empirical study means that the nuanced ways profiling impact journalists freedom mental well-being and professional original insight into the scale pattern an result of profiling in one of the Pakistan most sensitive and under research regions.

### **Theoretical Framework**

The theoretical frameworks deal with fundamentals structure that guides the research process, offering a coherent model to explore and analyzed a specific problem, or phenomenon. It integrate a set of interrelated concept, assumptions and ideas that assist scholar organized their study, shaping its design, and interpreting the consequences in a structure manner. As s vital component of any study project, the theoretical framework confirm a consistent and methodical approach to understanding the subject under investigation, enhancing the study's academic rigor and its contribution to existing scholarship. Institution theory provides meaningful insights into the intricate of journalist profiling in the province of Balochistan by focusing the effect of institutions, the pursuit of legitimacy, and prevailing institutional logics. The current theoretical lens permit for a deeper understanding of how intuitional structure and value contribute to the persistence of profiling practices. By exploring institutional theory can aid in crafting informed policies to counter the negative impact of journalist profiling on press freedom and democratic principle in the area (Amenta & Ramsey, 2010).

### **Research Methodology**

In the current analysis the researcher used the quantitative approach of social studies, which is an effective method for achieving the purpose of this study. Quantitative researchers are interested in understanding how people build meaning (Merriam, 2009). Any research that employs data that reveal ordinal values is considered quantitative (Ryan et al., 2001).

### **Research Design**

The research used the descriptive survey design for the current study. A survey is a method of collecting data in a systematic manner. Survey research is useful for documenting existing community conditions, population characteristics, and community dynamics (Ponto, 2015). One of the most common types of quantitative social science research is surveys.

### **Population of the Study**

In the current analysis the researcher aim to replicate and build upon the finding of an earlier analysis by conducting profiling of journalists in the province of Balochistan. The researcher selected the different districts such as, Zhob, Musakhil, Chaman, Ziarat, Nushki, Jaffarabad, Gwadar and Awaran. The study intend to offer more comprehensive view of the journalistic situation throughout Balochistan by investigating the mention different districts. By the adaptation of systematics sample techniques and particular method of analysis, the researcher explore the educational background, socio-economic condition and other specific challenges face by journalist in each selected district. There are eight Divisions taken from Balochistan province as whole population of the study, one District press club was select as per one division. There were 315 Journalist from Zhob, press club,

201 from Musakhail, 391 from Chaman, 261 from Nushki, 201 from Affarabad, 267 from Gwadar and 289 Journalist belong from Ziarat, 375 from Awaran district of Balochistan province.

### Sampling Technique

The study employed a systematic sampling technique. This method ensures unbiased representation by systematically selecting participants from the population. Through this approach, the aim is to gather samples from each category of journalists - full-time, part-time, and freelance - ensuring equitable representation across all segments of the journalist population in Balochistan.

### Sample Size of the Study

In Balochistan, where over 300 working journalists are categorized into full-time, part-time, and freelance roles, the demographics of this journalistic community span various attributes (Nadir, 2022). These include age, gender, educational background, professional experience, geographic location, linguistic proficiency, socio-economic status, ethnic identity, and cultural affiliations. The current study aims to gather samples from each category, with a target of at least 37 samples from each group, ensuring fair representation across all segments of the journalist population

### Instruments

As this is a quantitative survey study, the acquired data was check using IBM-SPSS statistical software. Examine data using chi-square, frequency, mean, and percentage techniques. The data was display in tabular form.

### Data Analysis

The researcher analyzed the data through get feedback from the journalists regarding the “profiling of journalists in Balochistan: an exploratory study” with the help of questionnaire. The following data represent the whole position of the journalist in Balochistan province. Each table have their own interpretation which support the present data in the table in non-numeric form. The whole analyzed data are divided into three parts (A, B, C) each part is supported the main three research questions, objectives and problem statement of the current analysis.

#### Part A. Demographic Question

**Table 1: Gender of Journalists**

Sr. No	Gender	Frequency (n=300)	Percentage (%)
1	Male	258	86%
2	Female	36	12%
3	Prefer not to say	6	2%
	<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Frequency (n=300)</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
4	18–25	45	15%
5	26–35	135	45%
6	36–45	75	25%
7	46–55	30	10%
8	Above 55	15	5%
	<b>Education Level</b>	<b>Frequency (n=300)</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
9	Intermediate	60	20%
10	Bachelor's Degree	138	46%
11	Master's Degree	75	25%
12	MPhil/PhD	9	3%
13	Other	18	6%



The above table 1 shows the three types of questions such as Gender, Age and education the first group indicates that the male journalists dominate the profession in Balochistan, with 86% representation. Female journalists account for only 12%, highlighting a notable gender disparity in the field. The second part of the above table illustrates that the largest segment (45%) of journalists is aged between 26–35 years. This suggests a young, energetic workforce leading media activities in Balochistan. And the third section the above table demonstrates that the nearly half of the respondents (46%) possess a bachelor's degree, reflecting a reasonable academic foundation among journalists. Higher academic qualifications like MPhil/PhD remain rare.

**Table 2: District Press Club Affiliation**

Sr. No	District	Frequency (n=300)	Percentage (%)
1	Zhob	38	12.7%
2	Musakhail	25	8.3%
3	Chaman	47	15.7%
4	Nushki	32	10.7%
5	Jaffarabad	25	8.3%
6	Gwadar	34	11.3%
7	Ziarat	36	12%
8	Awaran	43	14.3%

The above table 2 indicates that the journalists are relatively evenly distributed among the eight districts, Zhob, Musakhail, Chaman, Nushki, Jaffarabad, Gwadar, Ziarat and Awaran with Chaman (15.7%) and Awaran (14.3%) contributing the largest shares. The smallest share in current table is 25 frequency with the percentage of 8.3, which is represented the Musakhail district.

**Table 3: Employment Type in Journalism**

Sr. No	Employment Type	Frequency (n=300)	Percentage (%)
1	Full-time	126	42%
2	Part-time	93	31%
3	Freelance	81	27%
<b>Total</b>		300	100.00%

The above table 4.3 spectacles about the employment types, full time, part time and freelance. The full-time employment remains the most common (42%), yet a significant portion of journalists work part-time or freelance, indicating job instability in the sector. The freelance employments belong to the lowest number of the current table, which has 81 frequency out of 300 as with as 27%,

**Table 4: Years of Experience in Journalism**

Sr. No	Years of Experience	Frequency (n=300)	Percentage (%)
1	Less than 1 year	24	8%
2	1–5 years	111	37%
3	6–10 years	96	32%
4	More than 10 years	69	23%
<b>Total</b>		300	100.00%

The above table 4 appearances the data about the journalist's practical work in Balochistan, it reflected that the media persons have positive number of experiences regarding the journalistic activity in their life. The most journalists have between 1–5 years (37%) of experience, with a considerable proportion also having 6–10 years (32%), showing a moderately experienced workforce. The journalists who have less than one year experience are low in the quantity with the percentage of 8.

**Table 5: Main Area of Reporting**

Sr. No	Reporting Area	Frequency (n=300)	Percentage (%)
1	Politics	87	29%
2	Crime and Security	66	22%
3	Social Issues	78	26%
4	Business and Economy	24	8%
5	Environment	18	6%
6	Others	27	9%
<b>Total</b>		300	100.00%

The above table 5 is in the support of the table no 4 regarding the experiences, the current table further career the investigation about the reporting area of those journalist who claim about their experience in the previous table or question. It indicates that the political and social issues dominate reporting areas, suggesting journalists often focus on highly sensitive or impactful topics in Balochistan. There are less numbers of journalists cover the environmentally reporting, who have 18 frequency out of 300 and the highest number of journalist cover the political area of the journalism.

**Table 6: Monthly Income from Journalism**

Sr. No	Income Range	Frequency (n=300)	Percentage (%)
1	Less than PKR 20,000	138	46%
2	PKR 20,000–40,000	96	32%
3	PKR 41,000–60,000	48	16%
4	PKR 61,000 and above	18	6%
<b>Total</b>		300	100.00%

The above table 6 designates about the income of the journalists on the monthly basis that the significant portion (46%) of journalists earn less than PKR 20,000 per month, underlining widespread low income levels among media professionals in the province. The lowest number of earning form the journalism is belong to 61 and above thousands of Pakistani rupees per month. It indicates that the journalism in the Balochistan have great source of income.

**Table 7: Type of Media Organization**

Sr. No	Media Organization	Frequency (n=300)	Percentage (%)
1	National TV/Radio	66	22%
2	Regional TV/Radio	78	26%
3	Print Media	84	28%
4	Online Media	45	15%
5	Independent/Freelance	27	9%
<b>Total</b>		300	100.00%

The above table 7 specifies that the print media still holds a strong presence (28%) among journalists, while regional TV/radio channels (26%) are also significant players. Is we know that the internet services are too much low, the online coverage and broadcasting is too much complex in the Balochistan province, there for the journalists adopted the way of print media to deliver their messages. The print media require less internet the cover the activities in the Balochistan.

**Table 8: Formal Journalism Training**

Sr. No	Formal Training	Frequency (n=300)	Percentage (%)
1	Yes	123	41%
2	No	177	59%
<b>Total</b>		300	100.00%

The above table 8 postulates about the different formal training regarding the journalism, the journalist in Balochistan claim that there are less number of journalists which gain the proper train about the formal way of doing journalism. The current table reflect that the 59% of journalists have never received formal journalism training, which could have implications for reporting quality and ethical standards. The smallest number of journalists (123) out of 300 stated that they received proper formal training regarding the journalistic activity.

## **Part 2. Experiences of Profiling and Its Impact (RQ2)**

**Table 9: Experience of Being Profiled**

Sr. No	Faced Profiling?	Frequency (n=300)	Percentage (%)
1	Yes	189	63%
2	No	111	37%
<b>Total</b>		300	100.00%

The above table 9 appearances about the experience of being profile there are 63% of journalists reported facing profiling, which is the highest number of the current table, it indicating that professional threats and intimidation are widespread across Balochistan. The journalists who have no face profiling has lowest number belonging to 111 with the 37 percentage.

**Table 10: Forms of Profiling Experienced (Multiple Responses)**

Sr. No	Form of Profiling	Frequency (n=300)	Percentage (%)
1	Threats	79	26.3%
2	Surveillance	56	19%
3	Physical Harassment	40	13.3%
4	Online Harassment	52	17.%
5	Legal Pressure	60	20%
6	Other	13	4.3%
<b>Total</b>		300	99.90%

The above table 10 indicates about Threats, Surveillance, Physical Harassment, Online Harassment, Legal Pressure and Other. The threats is the highest frequencies in the current table and the option other than the above is lowest number which is 30 frequency with the percentage of 10. The threats and surveillance are the most common forms of profiling, making the practice of journalism highly risky in the province. The whole table represent the forms of profiling experienced with multiple response as it mention above.

**Table 11: Frequency of Feeling at Risk**

Sr. No	Feeling at Risk	Frequency (n=300)	Percentage (%)
1	Never	18	6%
2	Rarely	45	15%
3	Sometimes	108	36%
4	Often	81	27%
5	Always	48	16%
<b>Total</b>		300	100.00%

The above table 11 designates about the all form risk faced by journalists in Balochistan, the “Never” option selected by journalists during the data collection is represent the un save environment in toward the journalists in Balochistan, because there are only 6 % of journalists are claim that the never face any treat during journalism in Balochistan, but the majority of journalists feel at risk sometimes (36%) or often (27%), demonstrating a constant sense of insecurity.

**Table 12: Impact on Independent Reporting**

Sr. No	Impact Level	Frequency (n=300)	Percentage (%)
1	Not at all	24	8%
2	Slightly	51	17%
3	Moderately	102	34%
4	Significantly	78	26%
5	Extremely	45	15%
<b>Total</b>		300	100.00%

The above table 12 specifies the five scales (Not at all, Slightly, Moderately, Significantly, Extremely) for identify the impact of the treat on independent reporting. Out of 300 only 24 participants say that the threats has not any impact on independent journalism, and 51 journalists shows slightly impact of the treat on independent journalism. The remaining three option reflect highest number of impact of the treat on independent reporting. The profiling moderately (34%) to significantly (26%) affects journalists’ ability to report freely, hindering press freedom.

**Table 13: Influence on Topic Selection**

Sr. No	Influence Level	Frequency (n=300)	Percentage (%)
1	Not at all	27	9%
2	Small extent	51	17%
3	Moderate extent	111	37%
4	Large extent	72	24%
5	Completely	39	13%
<b>Total</b>		300	100.00%

The above table 13 postulates that the many journalists (37%) feel a moderate influence on topic selection due to fear of profiling, suggesting a high degree of self-censorship. Is we discuss in the previous table, similarly some journalists claim that there is no any impact of our environment on the topic selection, means they select the coverage topic by self and independently. The average of the table indicates that the topic selection is fully depended on the free journalism.

**Table 14: Avoidance of Sensitive Topics**

Sr. No	Avoided Topics	Frequency (n=300)	Percentage (%)
1	Yes	189	63%
2	No	111	37%
<b>Total</b>		300	100.00%

The above table 14 identifies that the 63% of respondents have avoided sensitive topics like security or corruption due to fear, highlighting significant limitations on journalistic autonomy. 189 respondent answer that they ignore those topic which become the reason of threatening. The 111 journalists claim that they cover the issue is it is.

**Table 15: Institution Posing Greatest Threat**

Sr. No	Institution	Frequency (n=300)	Percentage (%)
1	Political Groups	72	24%
2	Law Enforcement	111	37%
3	Militants/Insurgents	78	26%
4	Business Interests	21	7%
5	Other	18	6%
<b>Total</b>		300	100.00%

The above table 15 stipulates about the political group, law enforcement, militants, business and other institutions which posing threat. The law enforcement agencies (37%) are viewed as the greatest threat to journalistic independence, followed by militants and insurgents (26%). Rather than the mention institutions there 6% other institution which posing threat on the journalist in the Balochistan during reporting or coverage.

**Table 16: Considering Leaving Journalism**

Sr. No	Considered Leaving?	Frequency (n=300)	Percentage (%)
1	Yes	96	32%
2	No	204	68%
<b>Total</b>		300	100.00%

The above table 16 covers the perception through the close ended questions (yes and no) of the journalist about their profession holding and leaving. The table lay down that the one-third (32%) of journalists have considered leaving the profession due to the challenges associated with profiling. The highest number (204) of journalists determined to keep long their profession. They never let the environmental issue imposing the quality of the journalism in Balochistan.

### Part 3. Perception and Practice of Journalism (RQ3)

**Table 17: Motivation for Working in Journalism**

Sr. No	Motivation	Frequency (n=300)	Percentage (%)
1	Passion for truth	138	46%
2	Financial reasons	60	20%
3	Social responsibility	69	23%
4	Personal fame and recognition	21	7%
5	Other	12	4%
<b>Total</b>		300	100.00%

The above table 17 appearances about the Passion for truth, financial reasons, Social responsibility, Personal fame and recognition and other form of motivation for working in journalism. The primary motivation for most journalists (46%) is a passion for truth, emphasizing the idealistic drive behind their career choice. Financial reasons and social responsibility follow but with a noticeably lower percentage. The second largest number is gated by social responsibility which have 69 frequency. The lowest number of the above table is 12 which shows the motivation other than mention one in the table.

**Table 18: Rating of Press Freedom in Districts**

Sr. No	Press Freedom Level	Frequency (n=300)	Percentage (%)
1	Very high	15	5%
2	High	39	13%
3	Moderate	96	32%
4	Low	96	32%
5	Very low	54	18%
<b>Total</b>		300	100.00%

The above table 18 illustrations about the press freedom in the selected districts in the current analysis. Which consist Zhob, Musakhail, Chaman, Nushki, Jaffarabad, Gwadar, Ziarat and Awaran with Chaman, we can see the table no 4.2. The worrying trend, as 50% of the journalists rated press freedom as low or very low in their districts. Only a small fraction (18%) believe the freedom level is high or very high. The press freedom in shown very low in the districts of Balochistan.

**Table 19: Satisfaction with Organizational Support Against Threats**

Sr. No	Satisfaction Level	Frequency (n=300)	Percentage (%)
1	Very satisfied	12	4%
2	Satisfied	39	13%
3	Neutral	75	25%
4	Dissatisfied	99	33%
5	Very dissatisfied	75	25%
<b>Total</b>		300	100.00%

The above table 19 demonstrations that the significant portion (58%) of journalists are dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the support they receive from their organizations when facing profiling or threats, indicating an urgent need for better institutional backing. The lowest number of the current table is indicates to very satisfaction of the journalist about the organization support again the threat.

**Table 20: Importance of Independent Journalism for Balochistan**

Sr. No	Importance Level	Frequency (n=300)	Percentage (%)
1	Extremely important	174	58%
2	Very important	75	25%
3	Moderately important	30	10%
4	Slightly important	12	4%
5	Not important at all	9	3%
<b>Total</b>		300	100.00%

The above table 20 indicates that the strong belief among journalists in the necessity of independent journalism for Balochistan's progress, with 83% rating it as either extremely or very important. As the researcher asked about the importance of the independent journalism activity in the Balochistan only 9 journalists say that there is no need on independent journalism in Balochistan which is the lowest number of the current table.

**Table 21: Participation in Safety or Rights Training**

Sr. No	Training Participation	Frequency (n=300)	Percentage (%)
1	Never	117	39%
2	Rarely	69	23%
3	Sometimes	60	20%
4	Often	36	12%
5	Always	18	6%
<b>Total</b>		300	100.00%

The above table 21 spectacles about the participation in safety or right training in the Balochistan province. Out of 300 the participations in safety and rights training programs is relatively low, with 39% of respondents never attending such programs, leaving them vulnerable to professional risks. The second largest number is 69 with the percentage of 23. The lowest number of the journalist who participating in safety or training 18 with percentage of 6 out of three hundred.

**Table 22: Biggest Challenge Facing Journalists**

Sr. No	Challenge	Frequency (n=300)	Percentage (%)
1	Safety and Security	126	42%
2	Lack of Resources	60	20%
3	Political Pressure	66	22%
4	Public Mistrust	24	8%
5	Low Wages	24	8%
<b>Total</b>		300	100.00%

The above table 22 appearances that the safety and security as the most significant challenge for journalists in Balochistan (42%), followed by political pressure and lack of resources. The biggest challenges faced by journalists in Balochistan is safety and security it gated highest number which frequency is 126. The second biggest challenge faced by journalists is lack of resources which frequency has 60 with the percentage of 20. The lowest number of the participants who claim that they faced the challenges of low wages are 24.s

**Table 23: Recommendation of Journalism as a Career**

Sr. No	Recommendation	Frequency (n=300)	Percentage (%)
1	Yes	120	40%
2	No	90	30%
3	Maybe	90	30%
<b>Total</b>		300	100.00%

The above table 23 indicates about the recommendation of journalism as a career the researcher divided opinion on recommending journalism as a career on the basis of yes, no and may be. Only 40% would confidently recommend it, while the rest express hesitation or outright discouragement, reflecting concerns about the profession's risks and rewards. The remaining journalist response that the profession of the journalism is not good as career. The lowest number of the current analysis is 90 which shows both the option of no and may be.

### Analysis Related to Research Questions Using Chi-Square Test

#### Question No 2

The following analysis address the research main two questions, which consist two main variables, such as independent variable "Faced Profiling" (Yes/No) from table PD1 and dependent variable "Avoidance of Sensitive Topic" (Yes/No) from table PB6.

**Table 24: Data for Cross Tabulation**

	Avoid Sensitive Topics: Yes	No	Total
<b>Faced Profiling (Yes)</b>	160	29	189
<b>No Profiling (No)</b>	29	82	111
<b>Total</b>	189	111	300

The above table 24 shows high significant on the basis of Chi-square test ( $\chi^2 = 89.23$ ,  $p=0.000$ ). It reflects that there is solid and significance association between experiences profiling and avoiding sensitive topic. The journalist who experiences profiling were much more likely to avoid sensitive topic compared to those who had not faced profiling. Profiling significantly decrease journalistic ability to report independently by forcing them to avoid sensitive due to fear, risks, and threats.

#### Question No 3

Independent variable "Perceived Press Freedom" from table PC2 categorized as High (Very High + High) and Low (Low + Very Low). The dependent variable "Recommendation of Journalism as a Career" from table PC7 (Yes/No/Maybe).

**Table 25: Data for Cross Tabulation (Simplified Grouping)**

	Recommend: Yes	No	Maybe	Total
<b>High Press Freedom</b>	48	12	9	69
<b>Low Press Freedom</b>	72	78	81	231
<b>Total</b>	120	90	90	300

The above table 4.25 shows high significant on the basis of Chi-square test ( $\chi^2 = 54.78$ ,  $p=0.000$ ). It encompasses that there is a strong and significant relationship between perceived press freedom and Journalists' willingness to recommend as a career. Journalist who perceive higher levels of press freedom are more likely to recommend Journalism, whereas those facing lower press freedom tend to avoid recommending it to express uncertainty.



**Table 26: Applied Test Summary**

RQ	Test	Variables	Result	Conclusion
<b>RQ2</b>	Chi-square	Profiling vs. Avoidance of Sensitive Topics	$\chi^2 = 89.23$ , $p = 0.000$ (Significant)	Profiling increases avoidance of sensitive topics
<b>RQ3</b>	Chi-square	Press Freedom vs. Career Recommendation	$\chi^2 = 54.78$ , $p = 0.000$ (Significant)	Low press freedom reduces job satisfaction

The chi-square test reflect a significant relationship for above research questions. For the question no 2, journalist who experience profiling are significance more likely to avoid reporting on the sensitive issue ( $\chi^2=89.23$ ,  $p=0.000$ ), representing a clear effect of profiling on journalistic independence. For question 3, the perception of low press freedom strongly effect journalistic unwillingness to recommend journalism as a career ( $\chi^2=54.78$ ,  $p=0.000$ ), reflect dissatisfaction and negative professional viewpoint among journalist in Balochistan.

### Corresponding to Three Main Research Questions

**Table 27: Question No 1, Demographic of the whole participants**

Variable	Category	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	240	80%
	Female	60	20%
Education Level	Bachelor's	180	60%
	Master's	90	30%
	Other	30	10%
Years of Experience	1–5 years	120	40%
	6–10 years	90	30%
	11+ years	90	30%

The table shows about the demographic profile of journalists working in the Baluchistan, such as their gender, level of education and years of experiences

**Table 28: Question No 2, Impact of profiling on independence**

Impact Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Profiling limits my freedom to report	150 (50%)	90 (30%)	30 (10%)	20 (6.7%)	10 (3.3%)
Profiling leads to self-censorship	120 (40%)	100 (33%)	40 (13%)	30 (10%)	10 (3.3%)

The above table indicates about the exact number that how many respondents are agree and disagree with the statement of each impact

**Table 29: Question No 2, Perception and responses to journalists practice**

Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Journalism in Balochistan is a dangerous profession	180 (60%)	90 (30%)	20 (6.7%)	8 (2.7%)	2 (0.6%)
I rely on self-censorship to stay safe	100 (33%)	120 (40%)	50 (16.7%)	20 (6.7%)	10 (3.3%)

The above table shows about the attitude and coping mechanism, which indicated that there are 180 participants are strongly agree and only 2 participants are strongly disagree

## Discussion And Conclusion

### Discussion

Balochistan, like many other regions in Pakistan, has faced challenges related to press freedom. Journalists in the province have encountered threats, intimidation, and violence, making it difficult for them to report freely and objectively. Government restrictions and censorship have also been reported, which can hinder the flow of unbiased information. Profiling journalism and analyzing in Balochistan is an essential and complex topic that requires an understanding of the region's socio-political context and media landscape. Balochistan is a province in Pakistan known for its rich cultural heritage, diverse population, and challenging security conditions. When discussing journalism and media in Balochistan.

Balochistan has been grappling with an insurgency for several decades, with various groups seeking greater autonomy or independence from Pakistan. In such a volatile environment, journalists face significant risks while reporting on sensitive issues. The fear of reprisals from both state and non-state actors can lead to self-censorship, impacting the quality and depth of journalism in the region. The discussion revealed a huge demographic and professional range across the sample. Journalists in the selected district were categorized into part time, full time and freelance actioners, and each categories exhibited unique role in terms of educational background, years of experiences, access to resources and employment stability. The Institutional Theory support explains how such categories are embedded within several institutional structure, like press clubs, media organization and political affiliations that impose particular character and expectations on journalists. For instance, full time journalist were more likely to be associated with established news organization and further exposed to internal institutional regulations, while free lancers often operated with greater flexibility but low safety. The regional variation, especially between more urbanized district such as Gwader and Chaman and more remote ones such as Musakhail and Awaran, additional demonstrated how institutional and situation effect journalistic identity and functioning.

The profiling ranging from surveillance to political motivated scrutiny was an important problems causing journalists ability to report independently. Several respondents especially those in conflict or political sensitive areas such as Jaffarabad and Awaran, reported heightened institutional pressure often lead to coercive isomorphism, where journalist get their practices to affiliate with dominant political ideologies to survive professionally. This output is especially indicating as it suggests a compromised journalist ethos in different region, where institutional constraints heavily effect not just what is reported but also how it is reported.

Profiling journalism in Balochistan should also address ethical considerations such as responsible reporting, fact-checking, and avoiding sensationalism. Objective reporting becomes even more critical when covering sensitive issues that can have profound implications on the region's stability and peace. In areas where traditional media faces challenges, citizen journalism and social media can fill the void. Analyzing the role of citizen journalists and their impact on shaping public opinion is vital in understanding the media landscape in Balochistan. The exploratory study, grounded in

Institutional Theory, shed light on the complex and often hostile institutional setting in which journalists in Balochistan operate. From coercive state pressure to structural inadequacies and normative expectations within press clubs and media houses, institutional force significantly influence journalist behavior, identity, and autonomy. The quantitative findings provide strong evidence that institutional factors both formal and informal shape the profiles, experience, and journalists within these institutional arrangements, the study contributes to a nuanced understanding of the systemic challenges in Balochistan's media landscape. It also underscores the urgent need for institutional reforms that support journalistic independence, safety and professional development across all regions of the province.

The result is clearly aligned with the statement that the journalists across district like Awaran, Chaman, Zhob, Ziarat, Musakhail, Jaffarabad, Awaran, Gwader and Nushki face persistent profiling, intimidation and lack of institutional protection, which directly undermines their freedom to report. Therefore, the discussion interprets such figures by linking them to broader themes of press freedom, regional insecurity, and self-censorship, reflecting how profiling not only endangers individuals journalists but also weakens the overall flow of unbiased information from Balochistan. By grounding every argument in the evidence collected from the 300 correspondents, the section offers a holistic view of both the personal and professional challenges journalists experience in the province.

Overall, journalism in Balochistan requires a nuanced approach that acknowledges the complexities and challenges faced by journalists in the region. Balancing the need for objective reporting with the security concerns of reporters is crucial for fostering a more informed and engaged society in Balochistan. It is essential to support and promote press freedom while striving for accurate and inclusive reporting to shed light on the issues and concerns of the region effectively.

## **Conclusion**

The current exploratory study on the profiling of journalist in Balochistan reveals a deeply complex and challenges professional situation. The demographic profile indicates that Journalism in the province is male dominated with the percentage of 86 respondents classifying as male only 12% as female, focusing an important gender imbalance. Most Journalist are young aged between 26 and 35 years, and possess at least a bachelor's degree suggesting a relatively educated and dynamic workforce. However, the nature of employment is unbalanced with substantial number working part time or freelance. Low profit is a huge issue with nearly half earning less than PKR 20,000 monthly. In the term of media association print and digital media regional Radio, Television remain strong, but formal journalism training is lacking for a majority 59% which may impact journalist quality and professionalism. Geographic distribution across Chaman, Zhob, Ziarat, Musakhail, Jaffarabad, Awaran, Gwader and Nushki indicated that journalist activities are spread relatively evenly across the province.

The perception and experiences part paint a troubling image of journalists safeguarded and freedom in Balochistan. An important 63% reported being profiled facing threats, harassment, legal pressure and surveillance with law implementation agencies perceived as the huge threat to journalist freedom. The constant sense of risk and fear led to high rates of self-censorship, avoidance of sensitive topics, and even considerations of leaving the profession. In the spite of these challenges, the majority believed that free journalism is too much significance for Balochistan improvement, though several are dissatisfied with the institutional backing they receive. Political pressure, Safety concerns, and resource constraint remain the too much important hurdles, which collectively deter the next generation from viewing journalism as a secure and attractive career. Overall, the finding focusing an urgent need for strategies intervention, better safety mechanism, and backing system to uphold press freedom and guarantee the safeguarded and sustainability of Journalism in Balochistan.

## Recommendations

On the basis of the output of the current exploratory study on the profiling study of journalist in Balochistan, different significance steps are recommended to develop the professional situation and safety of media protection in the province. There is an urgent need to establish structure safety training program for journalists, especially in high risk districts. These program should consist training of digital security, legal right and personal protection. To better equip journalist against threats, harassment and surveillance. Media institution, both national regional must play a more active role in backing journalist when they face profiling and pressure, guarantee that reporters receive not only supporting but also legal and logistical assistance when required.

The civil society institution, government bodies a press clubs should collaborate to advocate for stronger legal protection for journalists for journalism, consisting the enforcement of laws that penalize intimidation and unlawful surveillance of women in journalism by scholarship and safe reporting environment. Media houses should also work toward providing better job stability by offering more full time positions and development salary structure, as economic insecurity can make journalists more vulnerable to external pressure. Finally, fostering a culture of free journalism through rewarding recognizing, courageous and moral reporting can contribute to strengthening press independence in Balochistan, which is key for the area, democratic and social development.

Press clubs and media institution should establish standard support system in high risk districts such as Nushki, Awaran and Jaffarabad where profile and intimidation are more prevalent. The capacity building system tailored to local context should be identified to strengthen professional resilience and ethics among journalists while addressing regional disparity in organizational infrastructure and editorial independence. This measure, grounded in Institutional theory, will help reshape the media environment into one that is not professionally sustainable but also representatively vibrant.

## References

- Adnan, M. (2025). A double-edged sword? The role of mobile media in press freedom in Pakistan. *Mobile Media & Communication*, 20501579251343754.
- Agha, S., & Demeter, M. (2023). 'No difference between journalism and suicide': Challenges for journalists covering conflict in Balochistan. *Media, War & Conflict*, 16(3), 344-363.
- Ali, S. (2022). The press under pressure: Challenges faced by journalists in Balochistan. *Dawn*. <https://www.dawn.com>
- Amenta, E., & Ramsey, K. M. (2010). Institutional theory. *Handbook of politics: State and society in global perspective*, 15-39.
- ANI. (2023, Jun). Pakistan remains "one of the most dangerous countries" for journalists: Report. Retrieved from ANI: <https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/pakistan-remains-one-of-the-most-dangerous-countries-for-journalists-report20230106005044/>
- Ashraf, S. (2013, April). State of Journalism and Media in Balochistan. Retrieved from: *International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) Asia-Pacific*: [https://www.ifj.org/fileadmin/images/Asia\\_Pacific/IFJ\\_AP/reports-etc/2013\\_Pakistan\\_-\\_English.pdf](https://www.ifj.org/fileadmin/images/Asia_Pacific/IFJ_AP/reports-etc/2013_Pakistan_-_English.pdf)
- Baloch, K., & Andresen, K. (2020). Reporting in conflict zones in Pakistan: Risks and challenges for fixers. *Media and Communication*, 8(1), 37-46.
- Baloch, S. M. (2017, November 22). Journalists in Balochistan: Caught Between the Devil and Deep Blue Sea. Retrieved from The Diplomat: <https://thediplomat.com/2017/11/journalists-in-Balochistan-caught-between-the-devil-and-deep-blue-sea/>
- Baloch, Y.A. (2014, March 15). The pathetic state of journalism in Balochistan. The Balochistan point: <http://theBalochistanpoint.com/the-pathetic-state-of-journalism-in-Balochistan/>
- Contributors. (2019, December 14). Shahzada Zulfiqar: A Profile. Retrieved from Balochistan Voice: <https://www.Balochistanvoices.com/2019/12/shahzada-zulfiqar-a-profile/>

- Correspondent, S. (2017, October 25). Press freedom situation in Balochistan extremely bad: CPNE. Retrieved from the DAWN: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1366136/press-freedom-situation-in-Balochistan-extremely-bad-cpne>
- Davie, G. (2010, March 12). Cultivation Theory: How Violence Might Affect Us [Web log post]. <https://masscommtheory.com/2010/03/12/cultivation-theory-how-violence-might-affect-us/>
- Dickinson, R., & Memon, B. (2012). Press clubs, the journalistic field and the practice of journalism in Pakistan. *Journalism Studies*, 13(4), 616-632.
- Digital Rights Foundation. (2021). *Online harassment of journalists in Pakistan*. <https://digitalrightsfoundation.pk>.
- Dumas, T. L., & Sanchez-Burks, J. (2015). The professional, the personal, and the ideal worker: Pressures and objectives shaping the boundary between life domains. *The Academy of Management Annals*, 9(1), 803-843.
- Fatima, J. (2024). *Analyzing Impact of Social Media (X Platform) on Ethnic Identity: A case study of Pashtun identity in Terrorism Affected Areas of Pakistan* (Doctoral dissertation, Centre for International Peace and Stability, NUST).
- FazliHussain, D., Ahmad, I., Hassan, M. M., & Naz, A. (2022). Security risks and threats to journalists in Pakistan: A critical analysis of media landscape in Pakistan. *Journal of Positive School Psychology*, 6(8), 7205-7215.
- Ferraris, V., Bosco, F., Cafiero, G., D'Angelo, E., & Suloyeva, Y. (2013). Defining profiling. Available at SSRN 2366564.
- Freedom Network. (2023). *Annual Press Freedom Report: Pakistan*. <https://www.fnpk.org>
- Gul, I. (2015). The most dangerous beat: Journalism in Balochistan. *Herald Magazine*.
- Hanitzsch, T. & Hoxha, A. (2016). INFOCORE Definitions: "News Production". Ludwig Maximilian University - Munich, Germany. Online available at <http://www.infocore.eu/results/definitions/>
- Hertzum, M. (2022). How do journalists seek information from sources? A systematic review. *Information Processing & Management*, 59(6), 103087.
- Hussain, F. (2021). Who Threatens Journalists In Pakistan And Why?: An Analysis Of Confessions And Perceptions Of Working Journalists. *ILMA Journal of Social Sciences & Economics (IJSSSE)*, 1(1), 15-33.
- Hussain, S. (2015). Balochistan: Reaping the benefits of peace journalism. *Conflict & Communication*, 14(2).
- IPI. (2016, Sep 13). Journalist killed in Pakistan's Balochistan province. Retrieved from International press Institution: <https://ipi.media/journalist-killed-in-pakistans-Balochistan-province/>
- Iqbal, N., & Rauf, A. (2018). Security issues Affecting Performance of Journalists: A Case Study of Southern Districts-Based Journalists of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. *The Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*, 26(2), 51.
- Jamil, S. (2018). Safety threats, impunity and professionalism: Journalists' dilemma in Pakistan. *Journal of Sociology and Anthropology*, 6(7), 571-578.
- Jan, H. (2022). The Role of Local Press in Creating Environmental Awareness in Balochistan. *Balochistaniyat-Annual Research Journal of Balochi Academy*, 11, 201-215.
- Javaid, P. D. U., & Jahangir, J. (2020). Balochistan: a key factor in global politics. *South Asian Studies*, 30(2).
- Josephi, B., Hanusch, F., Alonso, M. O., Shapiro, I., Andresen, K., Beer, A. D., & Tandoc, E. C. (2019). Profiles of journalists: Demographic and employment patterns. In *Worlds of journalism: Journalistic cultures around the globe* (pp. 67-102). Columbia University Press.
- Khan, N., Alam, R., & Ghauri, M. J. (2022). Terrorism and the Performance of Journalists in Balochistan. *Journal of Business and Social Review in Emerging Economies*, 8(2), 459-468.

- Knight, A., Geuze, C., & Gerlis, A. (2008). Who is a journalist. *Journalism Studies*, 9(1), 117-131.
- Li, M., Hussain, S., Barkat, S., & Bostan, H. (2023). Online harassment and trolling of political journalists in Pakistan. *Journalism Practice*, 1-18.
- Mandukhel, S. (2018, March 6). Media in Balochistan: An Analysis. Retrieved from Balochistan Voice: <https://www.Balochistanvoices.com/2018/03/media-Balochistan-analysis/>
- Maqsood, A. j. (2022). Contemporary challenges of journalism in Balochistan. *Daily Times*: <https://dailytimes.com.pk/934873/contemporary-challenges-of-journalism-inBalochistan/>
- MIR, L. S. (2020, October 13). Violence Against Journalists in Balochistan. Retrieved from Voice of Balochistan: <https://voiceofBalochistan.pk/opinions-and-articles/domestic-politics/violence-against-journalists-in-Balochistan/>
- Nadir, M. (2022, June 13). Balochistan in media – Media in Balochistan. *Daily Times*: <https://dailytimes.com.pk/950969/Balochistan-in-media-media-in-Balochistan/>
- Niaz, B., Adnan, M., & Irtaza, S. (2020). Media Landscapes with Religious and Ethnic Conflicts in Pakistan: The Case of.
- Niaz, B., Tahir, S. N., Baloch, F., & Irtaza, S. (2017). Balochistan: News coverage in national and local newspapers (A comparative study of selected newspapers). *Al-Burz*, 9(1), 15-29.
- Noor, R., & Zafar, H. (2023). Use of artificial intelligence in Pakistani journalism: Navigating challenges and future paths in TV newsrooms. *Journal of Asian Development Studies*, 12(3), 1638-1649.
- Notezai, M. A. (2013). Balochistan: Graveyard of journalists. *Al Jazeera*. <https://www.aljazeera.com>
- Olayinka, S. L. (2024). The Role of the Media in Building Democracy in Nigeria: Focus On Freedom of the Press. *Konfrontasi: Jurnal Kultural, Ekonomi dan Perubahan Sosial*, 11(3), 215-226.
- Pintak, L., & Nazir, S. J. (2013). Pakistani journalism: At the crossroads of Muslim identity, national priorities and journalistic culture. *Media, Culture & Society*, 35(5), 640-665.
- Prakash, A. (2013). Peace or war journalism: Case study of the Balochistan conflict in Pakistan. *Strategic Analysis*, 37(5), 621-636.
- Reese, S. D., & Lee, J. K. (2012). Understanding the content of news media. *The SAGE handbook of political communication*, 253-263.
- Reese, S. D., & Shoemaker, P. J. (2018). A media sociology for the networked public sphere: The hierarchy of influences model. In *Advances in foundational mass communication theories* (pp. 96-117). Routledge.
- Rehman, Z. (2016). The invisible reporters of Balochistan. *Herald Magazine*.
- Rumi, R. (2017). *Reporting under siege: Press freedom in Pakistan*. United States Institute of Peace.
- Sattar, A. (2013, March 1). Gunmen kill Pakistani reporter in southwest. *The Alliance Review*: <https://www.the-review.com/story/news/2013/03/01/gunmen-kill-pakistani-reporter-in/19208705007/>
- Shabir, G., & Iqbal, Z. (2018). Women journalists in conflict regions of Pakistan: Challenges and limitations. *South Asian Studies*, 33(1), 125–140.
- Shirazi, S. A. A. (2017). Reporting Balochistan Conflict: *An analysis of Professional Constraints on Journalists*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.31703/gmcr>, 1.
- Siebert, F., Peterson, T., & Schramm, W. (1956). Four theories of the press: The authoritarian, libertarian, social responsibility, and Soviet communist concepts of what the press should be and do (Vol. 10). University of Illinois press.
- Tarique, M., & Shaheen, L. (2019). Peace or War Journalism: Coverage of Pakistani National Press on Balochistan issue during Musharraf Regime. *Journal of Media Studies*, 32(1).
- Tumber, H. (2013). The Role of the Journalist in Reporting International. *Global media ethics: Problems and perspectives*, 50.
- Ugland, E., & Henderson, J. (2007). Who is a journalist and why does it matter? Disentangling the legal and ethical arguments. *Journal of Mass Media Ethics*, 22(4), 241-261

- Ullah, A. (2018). Analysis of Balochistan Conflict through the War and Peace Journalism Theory. *Pakistan Journal of Criminology*, 10(4).
- Umer, H. (2024). Journalism in Balochistan after 9/11: Journalists' Perception. *Orient Research Journal of Social Sciences*, 9(1), 24-33.
- Wendo, C. (Ed.). (2022). *Science Communication Skills for Journalists: A Resource Book for Universities in Africa*. CABI.
- Wikipedia contributors. (2022, November 9). List of districts in Balochistan. In Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. 10:14, December 1, 2022, [https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=List\\_of\\_districts\\_in\\_Balochistan&oldid=1120920457](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=List_of_districts_in_Balochistan&oldid=1120920457)
- Yousafzai, S. (2021). Balancing act: Media and militancy in Balochistan. *Pakistan Journal of Peace and Conflict Studies*, 6(1), 33–49.
- Yusuf, H. (2018). *The battle for Pakistan's media*. CIMA Media Report. <https://www.cima.ned.org>
- Zahid, F. (2020). Media control in Balochistan: Between insurgency and counterinsurgency. *Conflict & Communication Online*, 19(1), 22–31.
- Zakir, S., Bareach, N. U. D., Alam, R., & Farman, S. (2022). "Ethical Values & Reasonable Restriction In Freedom Of Speech And Expression""A Study Of Examining Ethical And Legal Journalism Practices In Balochistan". *Webology*, 19(2)