MOJO A Dynamic and Disruptive Solution In Indian newsrooms

Abstract:

Mobile journalism has transformed newsroom dynamics and workflows across the world prior to and during the Covid crisis (Bui & Moran, 2020)(Murphy 2020). This study is set before the pandemic and investigated the impact mobile smartphone technology had on a New Delhi newsroom during their busiest news cycle, the 2019 General Elections. This paper draws from on-camera interviews and observations garnered during a week-long period immersed with NDTV and their millennial channel HopLive. This qualitative and ethnographic study aligns to newsroom research from Willig (2012) Thomsen (2014) and Perrault and Stanfield (2018) while building on the mobile journalism focus of Burum (2014). Key findings demonstrate that mobile journalism has proven to be both a solution and a disruption for newsrooms, influenced by economic and societal factors. Thematic findings in this journal include, deskilling and role convergence for reporters while the paper highlights the technical challenges and opportunities presented through mobile journalism implementation. Some of the primary recommendations from this study include a more balanced and ethical approach to Mojo enactment while encouraging innovation with what has become a democratising tool for media practitioners.

Keywords: Mobile Journalism, New Media, Digital Journalism, Practice-based research