

The
F. Post
3-9-95

Journalism a moral responsibility

Uzma Anwar is studying at Lahore College for Women, Lahore. She complains about the fact that the newspapers have lost objectivity which is the most important ingredient of their existence. In her view the print media has become an industry and its missionary spirit has spirited away but still she wants to be a journalist and explains why she wants to be one.

“Journalism is the capability to meet the challenge of filling the space.” This definition of journalism fits to every mind and is true for all times even from the time when the first paper was launched on the globe till this very day.

The researchers have declared newspaper as the most effective media and that has been established after they have thoroughly analysed such a long history of this profession.

The basic objective of hiring a large number of people in a newspaper, published in any language, and giving them all possible facilities appears only to meet the challenge of filling space. But, the owners of the newspapers now have an objective to serve with their papers. For example you can print 10 photos on the page and fill the space, you can print two lengthy articles on some unimportant issues and fill the space and you can also have 20 news stories on a page, describing the miseries and problems of the downtrodden section of a country. All these ways would meet the challenge of filling the space, but what is the most appropriate way of doing this job.

As a matter of fact, journalism, in the past, happened to be more of a moral responsibility rather than a lucrative profession. Every journalist used to consider obligatory on his part to reform the society. But, now in the modern age, journalism has undoubtedly become a strong

industry as well as a profitable profession.

However, it does not mean that the real spirit of journalism has died. The reformation of the society is still reckoned as the responsibility of journalists. The rights of journalists have been accepted and their financial status is much better than it was in the past.

In addition, the sphere of journalism has widened to a great extent as compared to that in the past. From merely being the vocal organ of an ideology, as had been the case especially in subcontinent Indo-Pak journalism has now become an organised global or regional network meant for all-out dissemination of information.

Nevertheless, the elementary obligations of journalism remain the same today. The foremost obligation among them is providing a guideline to the leaders of the nation. It is regarded mandatory for the press to hold the government and the political leadership accountable for their misdeeds as well as helping them in formulating policies of national interest.

Coming to the point; the reason I want to become a journalist is because I wish to convey my ideas to others in an appreciable manner. Beside informing the people about what is new and newsy, building a mass opinion through floating maximum ideas is also one of the jobs journalists do.

The former notion which appeals to my aspirations is that only in journalism can I get a chance to tell the ignorant of their rights and duties. Another thing which would enable me to form a sound opinion on any issue is that I would also be able to call on the prominent among the intellectuals or masters in different fields. By sharing my views with them, I would definitely have myself a great deal of exposure which would make me have a closer look at what is going on around me.