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Odisha State Open University, Sambalpur, Odisha  
Established by an Act of Government of Odisha.

# **Master of Arts in Journalism & Mass Communication (MJMC)**

## **JMC-16(A) Advanced Photo Journalism**

### **Block-01**

#### **Nature, Scope and History of Photo Journalism**

**Unit-1: Photojournalism-Defination, Nature, Scope**

**Unit-2: History of Photography**

**Unit-3: Functions of Photography**

**Unit-4: Qualification and Responsibility of Photographer**

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## Course Writer

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**Dr. Tabeenah Anjum**

Senior Journalist/ Visual Storyteller

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## Course Editor

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**Mr. Deeptarka Mukharjee**

Senior Corrospendent

Indian Express, Rajasthan

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## Material Production

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**Dr. Manas Ranjan Pujari**

Registrar

Odisha State Open University



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## **UNIT-01: Photojournalism-Definition, Nature, Scope**

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### 1.0 UNIT STRUCTURE

#### 1.1 Learning Objectives

#### 1.2 Photojournalism – Definition / Nature / scope

##### 1.2.1 Who is a photojournalist?

#### 1.3 Check Your Progress

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### **1.1 Learning Objectives**

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The unit talks about Photojournalism and its importance.

1. Scope of Photojournalism.
  2. Studying Photojournalism
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### **1.2 Photojournalism**

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#### **Definition**

Photojournalism is a form of journalism that involves collection, editing and presentation of photos or images for a newspaper or a broadcast medium. The photos have a story to convey. Just like a pen, camera is also a tool of mass communication. A photojournalist uses the camera to communicate news or a story, just like a reporter uses his pen to write news for the newspaper or multimedia formats.

Unlike a reporter who may cover an incident and its aftermath and ponder before penning down a story, the photojournalist for that matter has to be spontaneous. He has to make swift decisions.

Photojournalism as a descriptive term often implies the use of a certain bluntness of style or approach to image making. A photojournalist is different than a photographer clicking photos of a wedding or a fashion show. Even though his genre is similar to other categories of photography such as portraits, documentary etc., photojournalism is a separate discipline in itself. Just like in content, in pictures also there is a category for hard news as well for features. The difference does not lie in the working methods of the photojournalist but it lies in the topicality, meaning and angle at which a picture is shot.

A photojournalist could be covering a war or capturing events in his home town. Wherever he is working, his job is to bear witness to events and capture them in a way which will evoke something in the viewer or reader.

Ever thought how did a photographer of 1800's evolve into a photojournalist of the present times? There are two major reasons behind this – technical innovations and the introduction of portable lights. From box camera to the mobile cameras the technology may have advanced but everyone cannot become a photojournalist. There's a certain required skill set which not everyone possesses – the ability to capture

and frame great images under pressure, optimizing the exposure and other settings, as well as standing your ground and taking the shots even in dangerous situations.

### **Nature of photojournalism**

Besides adding value to a news item in the form of an accompanying photograph, photojournalism goes much beyond that. Photojournalism enables the creation of documentary evidence of an event which chronicles it with a series of photographs or a standalone photo that itself is as powerful as a long descriptive story. Unlike a reporter, who may gather information while far from the subject or after an event occurs, the photojournalist makes a decision instantly and carries a camera along, reaches the spot and shoots, capturing the milieu, scene and mood of the place in that particular point of time. A photojournalist has a certain bluntness of style or approach to image making – the image that narrates a story to its readers.



**(Source: Creative Commons)**

Photojournalists are especially important when it comes to reporting current events. The best images captured are able to summarize what is being written in the article that may accompany the photo. It supports the statements being made, making the report more effective. This becomes more and more important, as an increasing number of people do not have the time to see or read all of the content that's included.

A single photo can speak much louder than an entire paragraph of words. It has the ability to enhance a news story, making it more understandable to the viewer or reader. In comparison to written news, photographs are unbiased as it captures what is



happening. On the other hand, words may carry the bias of the writer and the reporter, since they are structuring the article but there is no scope for this in the case of photographs, which depict things as they were.

### **Scope of Photojournalism**

Photojournalism covers the latest national and international news developments which are of public interest. A good photojournalist will focus on the latest news which is being discussed by the common man. For example, the current cricket tournament series or the announcement of elections etc. which will be of more interest to the reader. A good photojournalist should be objective and honest. He should present the images as they are with no manipulation. In fact a photojournalist knows that real emotions of people are captured when they are relaxed and busy with their daily chores. These candid and perfect moments are captured by the lens and become timeless classics.

A good photograph should try to answer maximum number of Ws and H. For example, a photo that shows a family of four begging for food and money tells a clearer story than a single person begging for food. Photojournalists follow certain principles to produce photos that catch the attention of different audiences. Photos taken with the right focus, exposure, angle and color are understood better by larger audience as compared to photos in which the subject is not in focus and which lack proper camera angle.

Good photos convey the key points of a story faster than its accompanying text. The photos should focus on the faces of the people and not on their backs. A good photo will show the person doing some action or group of people involved in some activity. Any unusual photograph showing a new phenomenon, emotion or extraordinary act may qualify as a good photograph. The subject has to be in focus and the audience should be able to find the key area to focus on in the frame. For example after a heavy snowfall the focus of one picture can be on the sufferings of the people living in that area and other picture can be on the extent of snowfall i.e. the amount of snowfall.

The photographer through right composition and proper visualization has to convey the right message, one that should be able to tell the audience where to look in the photo. Any two pictures will have two different angles for a story. This sort of work needs careful planning and execution. Always take note of the angle of the shots and position of the camera before taking the pictures. Experienced photographers often take multiple shots from different perspectives. This process is quite easy with digital cameras. Digital Single-lens Reflex Camera (DSLR) manufactured by Nikon, Cannon, Sony, Fuji etc. support memory cards as high as 128 GB or so. They can also at the same time see the output and take many shots without worrying about the storage space.

### **Why Study Photojournalism?**

Photojournalism is the right field for a creative person who has an eye for detail and loves to travel. One who likes meeting people and is prepared to work for long hours in difficult situations can do well in photojournalism. There are lots of job

opportunities for a photojournalist. Websites, news portals, news magazines, TV channels and newspapers are looking for dedicated and efficient camera persons. Apart from joining a company, a good photojournalist can become a freelancer.

A degree from a reputed college or a university can be an added advantage for the student. Qualified photographers can join: Print and Advertising Industry – magazines, adverts and photo libraries; Fashion Industry – creative photography of models and clothing for magazines and catalogues; Event Company- social functions, family, wedding and celebrations photography; And Corporate (industrial/commercial) – company promotional material

### 1.2.1 Who is a Photojournalist?

A photojournalist is someone who photographs, edits, and displays images in order to tell a visual story. They are journalistic professionals who are skilled at interpreting and communicating an event through a photograph(s). The subject matter can vary greatly, all the way from social unrest in a foreign country, to issues and events happening at a local level. Photojournalists can work as freelance photographers, or can be employed by photo agencies, magazines or local newspapers. Employment areas include the internet, print, and television.



(Source: Creative Commons)



A journalist tells stories. A photographer takes pictures of people, places and things. A photojournalist takes the best of both and locks it into the most powerful medium available - frozen images. A photojournalist has thousands of pairs of eyes looking over his shoulder constantly. To tell a story, a sentence needs a subject, a verb and a direct object. News photos need the same construction. Photojournalists tell stories with their images. Also, words are always used in conjunction with photojournalist's images.

**1.3 CHECK YOUR PROGRESS**

1. Define Photojournalism?

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2. What are the scopes of photojournalism?

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3. Who is a photojournalist?

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## **Unit-2: History of Photography**

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### 2.0: Unit Structure

- 2.1: Learning Objectives
- 2.1: History of Photography
- 2.2: History of Photojournalism
- 2.3: In a Nutshell
- 2.4: Check your progress

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### **2.1: Learning Objectives**

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After completion of this unit Learners will able to;

- To understand evolution of photography
- Photojournalism and its history
- Contribution of small cameras

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### **2.2: History of Photography**

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Man has always wanted to record himself. The early cave paintings are proof that several attempts were made by man to record his activities or environment around him. Initially it was the painters who have depicted remarkable historic stories through their brush and canvas. The camera was the later invention that came only in the 19th century.

The word 'photography' was first used by Sir John Herschel in the year 1839. In the same way the photographic process became public. The word Photography, which means 'writing with light' is derived from the Greek words, photo – means light and graphy means writing.



**(Source: Creative Commons)**

There are two distinct scientific processes that combine to make photography possible. The first of these processes was optical. Its example is the camera obscura (dark room) by Leonardo da Vinci and has been in existence for at least 500 years ago. The second process was chemical. The initial experiments were either done by chemists or physicists. Some of the interesting innovations during this period were by Robert Boyle in the 1600's who reported that Silver chloride turned dark under exposure to the air rather than to the light.

Similarly in the 17th century Angelo Sala noticed that powdered nitrate of silver is blackened by the sun. Another revelation in the same period was by Johann Heinrich Schulze who discovered certain liquids change colour when exposed to the sun. After a series of such experiments, the first successful picture was produced in June /July 1827 by Nicephore Niepce, using material that hardened on exposure to light. The photograph required exposure of eight hours.



Pic 1: The first successful picture was produced in June /July 1827 by Nicephore Niepce, using material that hardened on exposure to light. The photograph required exposure of eight hours.

Two years later, in January 1829, Niepce agreed to go into partnership with Louis Daguerre. They discovered a way of developing photographic plates, a process which greatly reduced the exposure time from eight hours to half an hour. He also discovered that an image could be made permanent by immersing in the salt.

After Daguerre, came the Collodion process in 1851 that was introduced by Frederick Scott Archer, in which the exposure time was reduced to two or three seconds.

The next step was the Dry Plate process in 1871 by Dr. Richard Maddox who discovered a way of using gelatin instead of glass as a basis for the photographic plate. This led to the development of the dry plate process. The major landmark came with the introduction of photographic film by George Eastman in 1884. And four years later he introduced the box camera, and photography started to reach the masses. He is remembered for making photography accessible to all. With the slogan ‘you press the button, we do the rest’, he brought photography to masses. With time the other major



landmarks were Polaroid cameras, roll cameras, colour photography and finally the digital photography and the recent mobile photography.

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## **2.3: History of Photojournalism**

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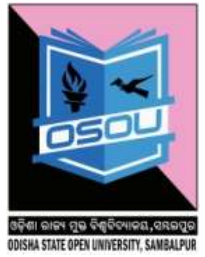
Photojournalism is a form of journalism in which images are presented in a way to tell a news story or an event. As per the Merriam Webster dictionary, photojournalism can be defined as journalism in which written copy is subordinate to pictorial. This happens when photographic presentation of news stories or high proportion of pictorial presentation is used.

In 1952 Henri Cartier-Bresson, a founder of modern photojournalism, proposed one of the most fascinating and highly debated concepts in the history of photography: “the decisive moment.” In his book, *The Mind’s Eye*, Bresson explains the decisive moment, "This moment occurs when the visual and psychological elements of people in a real life scene spontaneously and briefly come together in perfect resonance to express the essence of that situation. Some people believe that the unique purpose of photography, as compared to other visual arts, is to capture this fleeting, quintessential, and holistic instant in the flow of life. For this reason, many photographers often mention the decisive moment or similar ideas about capturing the essence of a transitory moment, when they describe their work".

Photojournalism is no longer limited to traditional news photos or portraits with the aim of showing what a person looks like. The genres that come under photojournalism are documentary, portrait, street, sports, weather, on spot, general news, photo stories etc.

### **Major Factors That Contributed to Rise of Journalism**

There are two major factors that contributed to the rise of photojournalism. Firstly, the technical innovations which include the invention of roll film, small cameras, different lenses etc. Secondly, the introduction of portable light sources.



The technological leaps made from the 18th century till now including the development of transmission devices, has enabled photojournalists to send their pictures across nations especially where there is expansion in the wire services.

Photojournalism has its roots in war photography, with Roger Fenton pioneering the field during the Crimean War. Fenton was the first official war photographer, shooting images that demonstrated the effects of war.

The inception of modern photojournalism took place in 1925, in Germany. The event was the invention of the first 35 mm camera, the Leica. It was designed as a way to use surplus movie film, and then shot in the 35 mm format. Before this, a photo of professional quality required bulky equipment. Now, photographers could go just about anywhere and take photos unobtrusively, without bulky lights or tripods. The difference was dramatic, for primarily posed photos, with people awarding the photographer's presence, to new, natural photos of people as they really lived.

Added to this was another invention originally from Germany, the photojournalism magazine. From the mid-1920s, Germany, at first, experimented with the combination of two old ideas. Old was the direct publication of photos; that was available after about 1890, and by the early 20th century, some publications, newspaper-style and magazine, were devoted primarily to illustrations. But the difference of photo magazines beginning in the 1920s was the collaboration--instead of isolated photos, laid out like in your photo album, editors and photographers begin to work together to produce an actual story told by pictures and words, or cutlines. In this concept, photographers would shoot many more photos than they needed, and transfer them to editors.

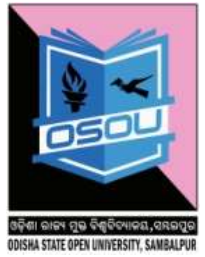
While some say its heyday has long passed with the closure of photo-magazines like LIFE, photojournalists are adapting, using new technology and outlets to continue telling the important stories of contemporary society. We take a look at the origins of photojournalism and its journey through history, from historic firsts to controversies and iconic photographers.



Editors would examine contact sheets, that is, sheets with all the photos on them in miniature form (now done using Photoshop software), and establishment of a similar style of photo reporting in the U.S. Henry Luce, already successful with Time and Fortune magazines, conceived of a new general-interest magazine relying on modern photojournalism. It was called Life, launched Nov. 23, 1936.

The first photojournalism cover story in the magazine was kind of unlikely, an article about the building of the Fort Peck Dam in Montana. Margaret Bourke-





White photographed this, and in particular chronicled the life of the workers in little shanty town's spring up around the building site. As we know, only *Look* and *Life* lasted. *Look* went out of business in 1972; *Life* suspended publication the same year, returned in 1978 as a monthly, and finally folded as a serial in 2001.

During World War II, W. Eugene Smith and Robert Capa became well known for their gripping war pictures. Both were to be gravely affected by their profession and Capa was killed on assignment in Indochina.

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### **2.3: In a Nutshell**

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In a nutshell history of photojournalism can be traced back to the experiments done by Joseph Nicéphore. In 1826 Joseph Nicéphore slotted a pewter (an alloy of tin, copper with antimony) plate into his camera obscura and exposed that plate to the surroundings. He washed this exposed plate with lavender oil after eight hours and found that an image had formed on the plate. This image was not very clear but the scene was more or less visible. Joseph Nicéphore claimed it to be the first photograph, built without a negative. Carol Szathmari a Romanian painter and photographer was among the first who did photojournalism with the help of 167, his engraving and painting technique. This engraving technique was also used in the American Civil war.

The first 35mm Leica camera came in 1925 and this marked the beginning of the Golden Age of Photojournalism. First commercial flash bulbs came in 1927. The early 35 mm camera was small and light. They were more portable and the printing methods used in these cameras were less cumbersome. Prominent photographers in the golden age spanning from 1930s to 1960s included Walker Evans, Dorothea and Gordon Parks.

Homai Vyarawalla is recognized as the first woman photojournalist of India. She was born in Gujarat and it was her husband Manekshaw Vyarawalla who introduced her to the world of photography.



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## 2.4: Check Your Progress

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1. Write a note on evolution of photography?

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2. What were the two major factors in rise of journalism?

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3. Describe the role of cameras.

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## **Unit-3: Functions of Photography**

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### **3.0: Unit Structure**

- 3.1: Learning Objectives
- 3.2: Photo Editing
  - 3.2.1: Post production & Editing
- 3.3: Ethics
  - 3.3.1: Photojournalism & Ethics
- 3.4: Code of Ethics
- 3.5: Check Your Progress

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### **3.1: Learning Objectives**

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After learning of this unit students will be able to;

- Understand the process of Photo Editing
- Learn ethical part of Photography
- Acquire the code of Ethics

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### **3.2: Photo Editing**

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It requires a strong eye to select a photograph or to edit it. Out of hundreds of photos that a photographer files or shortlists, an editor picks one for publishing purposes. He analyses the strengths and weaknesses of a photograph filed by the staff photographers or freelancers. While some are fit for publishing, others require some finishing touch. So a photo editor sometimes selects those pictures which have the substances but requires some editing, which includes cropping, playing with the contrast and brightness in the picture etc. Sometimes by cropping the important feature of the picture gets highlighted which was earlier getting shadowed by other elements present in the frame.

In newspapers there is a constant fight for space. Regardless of how good an original picture is, most of the pictures undergo cropping. But cropping can be good or bad. While a thoughtful cropping improves the frame and makes a picture appealing to a reader, at the same time, excess cropping or chopping off a frame ruthlessly ruins the picture. It fails to translate the meaning. Most of all ruins the mood of a photojournalist the next day after the paper is published.

#### **3.2.1: Post production and editing**

Post production is done for effective communication. Editing is done by selecting, cropping, and enlarging certain photographs for a bigger impact. A photo

editor may not be a photojournalist. The photo editor may crop the image, check the white balance, check noise, remove noise, and improve sharpness. Resizing and scaling of the images is also done in editing. It is always good to work with ‘raw’ images during editing. The image formed through the camera sensor is the ‘raw’ image. Adjustments like conversion into grayscale, and normal toning and minimal colour adjustments are acceptable as long as they restore the authentic nature of the photograph.



(Source: Creative Commons)

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### 3.3: Ethics

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Merriam-Webster defines “ethics” as, “the code of good conduct for an individual or group,” and lists its synonyms as, “morality, morals, principles, and standards.

In terms of ethics in photojournalism, the National Press Photographers Association's *Code of Ethics* reads, in part:

Photographic and video images can reveal great truths, expose wrongdoing and neglect, inspire hope and understanding and connect people around the globe through the language of visual understanding. Photographs can also cause great harm if they are callously intrusive or are manipulated.



Just like the news, a photograph published in the newspaper should be correct, factual as it has to do with the reputation of the paper. The readers trust a newspaper based on the news and photos it publishes. In case a photograph is fake or unethically taken, it creates mistrust in readers. As human beings, Photojournalists should follow the same ethics as everyone else. As of the nature of Photojournalism, this leads to a lot of discrepancies since the characteristics of documentary photography means that photographers find themselves more often than not in areas of conflict that challenge the ethics of photojournalism.

In the documentary and street photography forms, any deliberate distortion by the photographer that does not fulfil this requirement disqualifies the images. This is called 'photo manipulation'. Here are some pointers that explain manipulation further:

### **3.3.1: Photojournalism and Ethics**

Photojournalism provides important information to its audience. This information has to be correct as it is important for decision making. A photojournalist has to show whether the message in the picture is for the larger interest of the society. The photojournalist should also respect the privacy of a person or a family which is involved in the story. Breach of privacy and selling of pictures of a private event is unethical. In a private party or a function it is always good to seek permission before taking pictures. Manipulation is to be avoided. Re-enacting of events or staging of events is seen as manipulation. Adding or deleting of images, substantial background or props is also counted as manipulation.

One has to be careful when taking pictures of a major tragedy like earthquake or an explosion. Mutilated parts of human body are not to be shot and published. Human body and its parts should not be published unless there is requirement as in case of health story. If the publication is for public good then it may be photographed and published. The content of a photograph must not be altered in Photoshop or by any other means. The faces or identities of the subjects must not be altered by image



editing tools like Photoshop. Many media organizations say that the removal of “red eye” from photographs is not acceptable. Photo editor should not manipulate images or add in any way that misleads the viewers.

Honesty, responsibility, accuracy and truth are the backbone of photojournalism’s code of ethics, in accordance with rights and obligations of journalists. These are detailed in documents such as the Charters of Munich or of the National Press Photographers’ Association.

Preamble of the National Press Photographers Association, a professional society that promotes the highest standards in visual journalism, acknowledges concern for every person's need both to be fully informed about public events and to be recognized as part of the world in which we live.

Photo journalists operate as trustees of the public. Our primary role is to report visually on the significant events and varied viewpoints in our common world. Our primary goal is the faithful and comprehensive depiction of the subject at hand. As visual journalists, we have the responsibility to document society and to preserve its history through images. Photographic and video images can reveal great truths, expose wrongdoing and neglect, inspire hope and understanding and connect people around the globe through the language of visual understanding. Photographs can also cause great harm if they are callously intrusive or are manipulated. This code is intended to promote the highest quality in all forms of visual journalism and to strengthen public confidence in the profession. It is also meant to serve as an educational tool both for those who practice and for those who appreciate photojournalism.

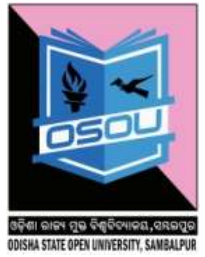
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### **3.4: Code of Ethics**

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Photojournalists and those who manage visual news productions are accountable for upholding the following standards in their daily work:

1. Be accurate and comprehensive in the representation of subjects.
2. Resist being manipulated by staged photo opportunities.



3. Be complete and provide context when photographing or recording subjects. Avoid stereotyping individuals and groups. Recognize and work to avoid presenting one's own biases in the work.
4. Treat all subjects with respect and dignity. Give special consideration to vulnerable subjects and compassion to victims of crime or tragedy.  
Intrude on private moments of grief only when the public has an overriding and justifiable need to see.
5. While photographing subjects do not intentionally contribute to, alter, or seek to alter or influence events.
6. Editing should maintain the integrity of the photographic images' content and context. Do not manipulate images or add or alter sound in any way that can mislead viewers or misrepresent subjects.
7. Do not pay sources or subjects or reward them materially for information or participation.
8. Do not accept gifts, favors, or compensation from those who might seek to influence coverage.
9. Do not intentionally sabotage the efforts of other journalists.
10. Do not engage in harassing behavior of colleagues, subordinates or subjects and maintain the highest standards of behavior in all professional interactions.

**Ideally, visual journalists should:**

1. Strive to ensure that the public's business is conducted in public. Defend the rights of access for all journalists.
2. Think proactively, as a student of psychology, sociology, politics and art to develop a unique vision and presentation. Work with a voracious appetite for current events and contemporary visual media.
3. Strive for total and unrestricted access to subjects, recommend alternatives to shallow or rushed opportunities, and seek diversity
4. Avoid political, civic and business involvements or other employment that compromise or give the appearance of compromising one's own journalistic independence.

5. Strive to be unobtrusive and humble in dealing with subjects.
6. Respect the integrity of the photographic moment.
7. Strive by example and influence to maintain the spirit and high standards expressed in this code. When confronted with situations in which the proper action is not clear, seek the counsel of those who exhibit the highest standards of the profession. Visual journalists should continuously study their craft and the ethics that guide it.



**(Source: Creative Commons)**



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### 3.5: Check Your Progress

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1. Why editing is important in photography process?

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2. What are the ethics followed by photo journalist?

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## **Unit-4: Qualification and Responsibilities of Photographer**

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### 4.0: Unit Structure

- 4.1: Learning Objectives
- 4.2: Roles & Responsibilities of a photographer/photojournalist
- 4.3: Qualities and characteristics of a photographer/ photojournalist
- 4.4: Understanding the photo desk / Photography department
- 4.5: Careers and Challenges in Photojournalism
- 4.6: Check Your Progress

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### **4.1: Learning Objectives**

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After learning of this unit students will be able to;

- Understand responsibility of a photographer/photojournalist
- Discuss qualities of a photographer/photojournalist
- Understand photo desk and its operation
- Understand the Careers and Challenges.

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### **4.2: Roles & Responsibilities of a Photojournalist**

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Basic photojournalism job duties cover much more ground than merely taking photos. The role of a photojournalist involves communication, leadership and the person should be swift & a go-getter. In addition to capturing news photos, a photojournalist may be responsible for:

- Use a variety of cameras to take photographs of important locations, people, events or moments.
- Process photos by developing negatives or editing digital images to produce clear visuals.
- Compose headlines, captions or other descriptive tag to interpret a photo.
- Use photo editing software such as Print Shop Pro or Photoshop to edit or enhance an image.
- Travel to local and international regions to cover the photo requirements of a story.
- Collaborate with reporters to ensure images correspond with news stories.
- Present photos to editors or supervisors for review and approval.





- Negotiate the price of images and photography services when working as freelance press photographers.
- Manage time effectively in order to achieve assigned tasks.
- Conduct research to verify facts about an event or incident prior to photo shoot.
- Keep record of photographs in an image database.
- Manipulate parameters such as lighting, focus, depth and distance to obtain clear images.
- Capture images of life-threatening situations such as crisis, war or extreme weather conditions.
- Specialize in one or more aspects of photography such as sports, press, documentary or freelance photography.
- Conduct interviews to obtain facts which validate a news story.



"Larry Burrows, on his last story, The Edge of Laos, three days before his helicopter crashed in Laos" © Roger Maltby, courtesy Horst Faas & Tim Page, provided by George Eastman House

(Source: Creative Commons)

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### **4.3: Qualities and Characteristics of a Photographer/ Photojournalist**

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- Respect Truth, irrespective of the consequences for himself/herself.
- Verify all sources.
- Only publish information that can be traced back to its origin.
- Abstain from using any disloyal means to achieve photographs.
- Never pay sources or subjects.
- Treat subjects with respect and dignity and abstain from intruding on private moments of grief unless there is a justifiable and pressing reason for their public disclosure.



- Never interfere with an event or attempt to change its course.
- Never set up or re-enact a situation.
- Always write truthful captions.
- Share with the editor all information he/she has, in order to avoid misinterpretations or wrongful use.
- Choose publications with care to avoid any editorial misuse.

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#### **4.4: Understanding a photo desk / Photography department**

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Photo department is a part and parcel of a newspaper organisation. Depending on the size of an organisation the scale of the number of members of a photo department depends.

A photo department is headed by a photo editor. A photo editor is responsible for the selection of the final photo going for the print. The job of a photo editor also includes allocating and coordinating assignments and approving images. They are also tasked with selecting, editing, and placement of photos in the magazine or newspapers.

1. In some organisations there is a separate multimedia editor who looks after photos on news websites, social media of the same organisation.
2. There is a chief photographer in every organisation and under him are staff photographers.
3. Each photographer is allotted a beat
4. There are also freelance photographers who contribute photos for a newspaper
5. Besides the photographers the photo desk consists of graphic artists, editors, caption writers etc



(Source: Creative Commons)

Some newspaper organisations also have a photo research department where a person appointed is responsible for making archives and libraries of the photos. This could be done by putting photos in separate folders with key words and titles.

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## 4.5: Careers and Challenges in Photojournalism

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### 1. Uncertainty:

With publications shrinking, the future of photojournalism looks dark as far as traditional newspapers are concerned. However with news websites coming up and in wake of the social media boom, photojournalists have a bright future as multimedia journalists. However they need to groom themselves with video skills as well as writing skills.

### 2. Problem of plenty:

With inbuilt cameras in mobile phones, now everyone can press the shutter button. But a good storytelling narrative is the hardest thing that goes unnoticed in photojournalism.

### 3. Digital media:

While digital media is seen as a threat to traditional newspapers, at the same time this could be seen as a platform for many new entrants who want to make a career out of photography.

### 4. Equipment:

Good set of equipment as well as vision necessary

### 5. Collaborative journalism:

Now a day with projects coming up internationally or with a NGO, a photojournalist can look for long term projects or grants.



(Source: Creative Commons)



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## 4.6: Check Your Progress

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1. Define responsibilities of a photographer/photojournalist.

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2. Name any three qualities of a photographer/photojournalist.

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3. Briefly discuss the career and challenges in photojournalism.

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## References:

<https://www.stocksy.com/blog/types-of-photography/>  
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## Further Readings

### Photography

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